OVERVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS
NATIONAL OUTCOME EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Presented by
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Social Science Research & Evaluation, Inc.
Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS)

- Discretionary Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (SAMHSA/CSAP).
- Five-Year Grant (9/30/15 – 9/29/20).
- $1.65 million per year to support 16 municipalities.
- Flagship initiative
- Across PFS-II, PFS 2013, PFS 2014, and **PFS 2015**, SAMHSA/CSAP has funded 69 states, territories, and tribal entities and 641 sub-recipients.
MA Subrecipient Communities (n=16)
• The primary outcome is to lower 30-day prescription drug misuse/abuse rates among high school-aged youth.

• The *primary* target population is high school-aged youth – which can be reached both in and/or outside of the school setting. *Secondary* target populations (e.g., parents, prescribers, etc.) can be served provided that the effects are likely to have an impact on past 30-day use of prescription drugs among high school-aged youth.

• This is **not** strictly an opioid grant. It can be any type of prescription drug (pain relievers, stimulants, tranquilizers, sedatives).

• A sub-set of programming can target OTC drugs if this emerges as a local issue and is related (based on data) to Rx drug misuse.
• SAMHSA/CSAP has mandated that all PFS 2015 sub-recipient communities collect **bi-annual** high school student survey data on:
  • Past 30-day use of prescription drugs and alcohol
  • Perception of parental disapproval of use; perception of peer disapproval of use; **and/or** perceived risk/harm of use of prescription drugs and alcohol.

• The survey must occur for the first time either in:
  • FFY 2016 (10/1/15 – 9/30/16)
  • FFY 2017 (10/1/16 – 9/30/17) – **Early fall 2017-2018 academic year at latest**.

• If the site does not have an existing high school survey in place or is unable to add these items to an existing survey, you are required to work with the Center for Survey Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston to implement the Brief Community Survey.

• Even if you have existing surveys in place, this opportunity it still open to you (i.e., in addition to what you are doing, alternating years, etc.).
Outcome Evaluation Requirements

6 the number of measures reported for each subrecipient*

3 the number of **underage drinking** measures reported for each subrecipient

The number of **consumption** measures that need to be an annual exact or approved substitute PFS Required Outcome Measure.

3 the number of **prescription drug** measures reported for each subrecipient

The number of **consumption** measures that need to be an annual exact or approved substitute PFS Required Outcome Measure.
OVERVIEW OF MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH HEALTH SURVEY and YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Presented by
Dragana Bolcic-Jankovic
Center for Survey Research University of Massachusetts Boston
Background
• For over 20 years, DPH has been conducting surveys of students in MA public schools.
• DPH and Center for Survey Research at UMass Boston (CSR) worked on developing a more thorough survey.
• In 2004, DPH and CSR began conducting Massachusetts Youth Health Survey ([YHS]).
• 6\textsuperscript{th} - 12\textsuperscript{th} grade.
• Middle school YHS survey is somewhat different.
• Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is conducted nationally.
• DESE has been conducting YRBS in MA since 1993
• 9th - 12th grade.
• YHS and YRBS cover many of the same topics & both conducted in MA public high schools → collaboration to help both surveys and put less strain on schools.
• Initial collaboration took place in 2007 → success and joint report.
• Effort was replicated in 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015.
• In addition, in 2015, CDC funded two targeted health initiatives
  1. 1305 focused on Chronic Disease prevention
  2. 1308 focused on HIV prevention

• 1305 and 1308 use YRBS survey instrument
• CSR’s involvement:
  1. Recruit selected schools in targeted districts.
  2. Mail materials with instructions but schools administer surveys on their own and send completed surveys back to CSR.
Sample Design and Selection
• Sample of HS selected by CDC
• Sampling procedures - consistent across all states.
• Probability proportionate to size.
• Sample: 75-80 schools.
• Not mandatory, each school is contacted to enlist cooperation.
• ~3 classes to administer YRBS and ~3 to administer YHS.
• Target 3000 completed YRBS and 3000 YHS questionnaires.
• CDC selected additional 29 high schools to participate in 1305 and 1308.
  ✓ 16 schools part of 1305, 4 overlap with regular state sample.
  ✓ 15 schools part of 1308, 8 overlap with regular state sample
  ✓ 2 schools part of both 1305 and 1308, but not part of regular state sample.

• Approx. 6-8 classes per school.
• Only YHS in 6\textsuperscript{th} to 8\textsuperscript{th} grade.
• Target 3000 completed questionnaires
• Sample: 116 middle schools.
• Within middle schools, 2 randomly selected classes
Sample Recruitment
• Enlisting schools’ participation - critical.
• In most cases - principal decides whether the school would participate.
• In some instances - town school board or superintendent need to approve.
• Important to allow enough time to enlist participation!
• Recruitment begins with mailing each school principal a packet (copy to superintendent).
• Packet includes a DESE/DPH letter, a fact sheet, a sample parental consent form, sampling instructions, and a copy of the questionnaire.
• Telephone follow-up.
• To encourage participation, schools are offered 200 YHS questionnaires to obtain their own school-based estimates.
• 200 YHS questionnaires are offered free of charge.
• CSR provides postage, instructions, all processing costs and sends each school a school-based frequency report.
• Schools only need teachers to administer questionnaires in selected classrooms.
• DPH and DESE do not have access to these school-specific survey results.
1. Schools doing their own in-house assessment.
2. Regional surveys (e.g. MetroWest).
3. Principals do not want to make a decision without consulting with superintendent, teachers, or both.
4. Principals do not want to give up class time / MCAS, PAR-Q…
5. Middle school principals concerned that some questions may be inappropriate for their students.
6. Weather issues

**Obstacles to Gaining Cooperation**
• CSR randomly selects classes from the list of all English or all Social Studies classes (3 YHS +3 YRBS).

• Students’ recruitment - by **passive consent**, responsibility of each school (necessary as CSR never has any knowledge of the name of any student in selected classes).
  - Schools send letters to all parents of selected students.
  - Letters informs parents that if they do not return the signed letter refusing students’ participation, it would be considered that they granted their permission.

• A copy of YHS/YRBS surveys is made available for any parent who wishes to review surveys.

• CSR works with each school to select the survey administration day.

**Preparing for Survey Administration**
Survey Administration
• Survey administration begins in January and lasts till early June.
• Majority of schools (2/3 or more) get completed January - March.
• 1-2 administrators go to each school
• On the administration day - survey administrators meet the school liaison and teachers of selected classes.

• With teachers they discuss:
  1) Whether teacher would remain in the classroom.
  2) If teacher not present, work assignment to be placed on the board for students who finish early.
  3) Rules to be enforced for students who request to leave the room during the survey.
  4) Ensure that each student whose parent refused is either removed from the classroom or given a work assignment.

• With students they discuss:
  1) Purpose of the survey, establish control of the classroom, instructions for completing.
  2) Survey is anonymous, voluntary, can skip any question, raise hand if there are any questions.
  3) Once finished, to drop questionnaire in a sealed envelope at the front of the classroom.
• Middle schools (YHS)  
  75.0% (87/116)  

• High schools (YHS/YRBS)  
  74.7% (59/79)

Overall cooperation rate in 2015
• Since 2013, CSR has been working with DPH on designing and piloting the Brief Community Health Survey, based on the YHS survey.

• This short form survey is one-page front and back, and it can be completed within 10 minutes (i.e. a homeroom period or in the beginning of a class).

• Fact-sheet on the following slide discusses the main similarities and differences between PFS Brief Community Survey and YHS/YRBS survey.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveys</th>
<th>Partnerships for Success (PFS) Brief Community Health Survey</th>
<th>Statewide Youth Health Survey/Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YHS/YRBS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why is the survey being done? How will the results be used?</strong></td>
<td>PFS is a federally funded initiative. This survey will assist the state in meeting its federal reporting requirements for this grant. Results will be used to determine whether or not there are any changes in non-medical use of prescription drugs among high school aged youth in funded communities. Data will be reported in aggregate to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and can be used locally to inform ongoing prevention programming.</td>
<td>Survey results are important to (1) determine the extent to which adolescents practice health risk behaviors; (2) monitor how priority health-risk behaviors among high school students increase, decrease, or remain the same over time; (3) evaluate the impact of state and local efforts to reduce high-risk behaviors; (4) develop and redesign comprehensive health education programs and other strategies to help reduce risk behaviors; and (5) monitor progress of intensive projects in select districts and communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When will the survey administration take place?</strong></td>
<td>September 2016 - December 2016</td>
<td>January 2017 - May of 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How many schools are selected?</strong></td>
<td>One high school from each of the 16 Partnerships for Success selected cities/towns.</td>
<td>About 90 high schools statewide will be randomly selected to participate. Within these schools, an average of 4-6 classrooms from grades 9-12 will be selected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How will the survey be administered?</strong></td>
<td>UMass Boston Center for Survey Research (UMASS CSR) will contact selected schools to set a survey administration date and to discuss sampling procedures. UMASS CSR will mail a package to selected schools with questionnaires and other necessary materials. Teachers will administer survey in homeroom periods or in the beginning of class.</td>
<td>UMass Boston Center for Survey Research (UMASS CSR) will contact selected schools for a survey administration date from January - May 2017 and to obtain the class list. Trained CSR staff will administer the survey on the selected date; teachers are not directly involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the survey format and length?</strong></td>
<td>Paper-based survey. Can be completed within 10 minutes (i.e. a homeroom period or in the beginning of a class).</td>
<td>Paper-based survey. Can be completed within 50 minutes (i.e. one class period).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is student participation voluntary?</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Students of the selected community school will be informed that they can choose whether to complete the survey. In addition, parents of students will be provided the opportunity to opt out their children using a passive consent form sent home prior to administration.</td>
<td>Yes. Students of selected classrooms will be informed that they can choose whether to complete the survey. In addition, parents of students will be provided the opportunity to opt out their children using a passive consent form sent home prior to administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will student participation be anonymous?</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Survey administration procedures have been designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Furthermore, no personal identifiers are contained on the answer sheets completed by the students. Neither students’ nor schools’ names are ever used.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will schools or students be identified in the results?</strong></td>
<td>The survey is anonymous at the student-level and does not contain any questions that could be used to identify individual students. A community-level identifier (zip code) will be used when submitting aggregated results to SAMHSA, but school/community identifiers will be removed from any public reports on the project. The participating school will receive a copy of their results.</td>
<td>No. Results will not be reported at the district, school, class, or student level. Participating districts, schools, and students will not be identified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YRBS website: [www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/hprograms/yrbs/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/hprograms/yrbs/) |
| **Who can I contact about the survey?** | Jose Morales, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, MDPH Jose.Morales@state.ma.us | Dragana Bolcic-Jankovic, Center for Survey Research, UMASS-Boston Dragana.Bjankovic@umb.edu |
Thank you!

For more information please contact:
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