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Introduction to Community Reports: Washington State Incentive Grant

A number of reports are available for each of the eighteen SIG communities in Washington State. They describe the communities and their goals, the planned prevention activities, the ways each community implemented them, and, when available, the outcomes of prevention programs among participants and also for the community as a whole.

The reports can be downloaded separately. They are listed as 'a' to 'g' in the following order:

a. Executive Summary of the Community Level Evaluation

The executive summaries are two or three page narrative descriptions of each community and its associated project. They contain site descriptions, prevention histories, progress made toward the five community level objectives contained in the SIG state plan, and successes and challenges experienced by the communities. More detailed information is included later in each of the two full progress reports: for year 1 and year 2.

b. Community Project Description

The project descriptions are two pages of brief narrative and graphics that concisely describe individual project members and partners, project goals, target populations, the prevention programs selected, their associated risk and protective factors, the rigor level of each program, the amount of funding allocated, and, finally, a list of changes that are expected to result from program participation

c. Project Action Plan and Implementation Matrix

Commonly referred to as the matrix, this instrument served as a planning tool and each community's contractual work order. As a planning tool, risk and protection factors are prioritized, the availability of local resources are assessed, and reasons for targeted populations and programs selected are described. As a contractual/implementation tool the number and types of persons to be served are outlined, the number, dates and location of services are specified, and the expected outcomes are identified.

d. Progress Report: Year 1

Research staff completed two comprehensive process evaluation report for each community. The first report covers the first year: the baseline year, mid 1999 to mid 2000, and some previous history of prevention activities.

e. Progress Report: Year 2

The second report covers the major implementation period, from mid 2000 to mid 2001. Four grantees have some information from the third and final year of SIG funding, mid 2001 through mid 2002: King County-Snoqualmie Valley Community Network; Swinomish Tribal Community; Thurston County-TOGETHER!/R.O.O.F.; Yakima County-Toppenish Police Department

f. Program Outcomes Report

It was expected that successful programs would show decreases in selected risk factors and increases in selected protective factors between the start and the end of prevention programs, among program participants.

Participants filled out short anonymous questionnaires before the program started and after the program ended. The questionnaire included one or more sets of questions, which would generate scale scores, each scale indicating the risk or protective factor status of the participant. So a negative change in average risk scores was anticipated, as risks decreased from beginning to end. A positive change in average protective scores was anticipated, as protective factors increased from beginning to end.

The results of these analyses are presented with a table and chart for each program. The program is identified, along with the appropriate scales and the changes in average scales from the start and end of the program.

It should be noted that program outcomes were analyzed only for prevention programs which were defined as ‘science based’ (with rigor level three or above) and for which there was some information on how the program was implemented (with fidelity to the original design or not). Furthermore, results are presented for only those programs which had a large enough number of program participants filling out the short outcome questionnaire in order to allow for meaningful statistical analysis of changes.

g. Community Outcome Report

The expectation is that SIG communities with sets of appropriate and successful prevention programs, reaching many key participants, will show higher decreases in alcohol and drug use, higher decreases in risk factors and higher increases in protective factors than other comparison communities in Washington State.

Increases or decreases through time in overall, community-wide levels of alcohol and drug use, and risk or protection will be presented, when the data will become available in the spring of 2003, and there is funding to analyze the results. The information will be drawn from archival records (CORE-GIS data) and from the results of the 'school survey' administered every two years in the Fall in different school grades: 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th.

Trend data will be available for most SIG communities for the baseline period, Fall of 2000, and the period after SIG funding, the Fall of 2002. Some communities will also have 1998 data.