



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Data Sharing and Mapping Committee co-chairs Tyler Brown and Tamara Weaver; upon Committee approval of recommendation from Dennine Smith, Adolescent Health Administrator and Courtney Matlock School Health Coordinator, Maternal Child Health Division, Indiana State Department of Health

Date of Submission: 12/11/2018

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Public Promotion

Other: _____

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance:

Child Safety and services Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Educational Outcomes

Summary of Recommendation:

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). YRBSS was developed by the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with more than 800 representatives from state and local agencies and other federal agencies. YRBSS was developed to monitor priority health-risk behaviors as well as obesity and asthma among youth and young adults.

Indiana obtained weighted YRBS data from 2003 to 2011 and in 2015. In 2017, the state did not have a response rate of 60% among the sampled schools and fell short of obtaining weighted data. The YRBS provides data to educators, mental health, medical, and other professionals who provide services to youth. In addition, this survey provides critical information necessary to support funding for youth programming. Currently, Indiana State Department of Health leadership is exploring various efforts to promote participation in the YRBS. In concert with those efforts, we are recommending a resolution of support and public promotion by the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.

Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem?

In 2017, the state did not have a response rate of 60% among the sampled schools and fell short of obtaining weighted data. The YRBS provides data to educators, mental health, medical, and other professionals who provide services to

youth. In addition, this survey provides critical information necessary to support funding for youth programming. Without current data, supportive services, after-school programming, community based programming may not be meeting the current needs of the youth participants. YRBS data is used to support funding of programming and without the data, there could be areas that are not funded.

To ensure that Indiana obtains weighted data during the 2019 YRBS cycle, school participation among selected schools is critical. Currently, the Adolescent Health section of MCH is conducting outreach to administrators at sampled schools, and working with principals to begin scheduling dates for survey administration. There are some districts that historically decline survey participation, with support and public promotion from this commission, early outreach, and other efforts to connect with schools, we anticipate a successful 2019 YRBS cycle for the state of Indiana.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

Currently, Indiana State Department of Health leadership is exploring various efforts to promote participation in the YRBS. These efforts include a potential expansion of the YRBS, discussions about YRBS legislation, as well as outreach to increase awareness and obtain the support of administrators across the state of Indiana.

What is the recommender proposing, and how will it help solve the problem?

The proposal is that the commission will provide a letter of support or endorsement and promote survey participation among selected schools. Support from the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana will provide a clear connection to the data and may provide school administrators and other decision-makers who are not supportive of the survey to reconsider, increase their knowledge of the survey, and participate.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

The CDC recommends Letters of Support as a means of gaining statewide participation and providing information about the use and value of this critical data. This proposal was developed using historical information about Indiana's challenges with obtaining weighted data due obstacles with gaining school participation.

If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.

The 2017 YRBS is attached (the 2019 survey will be available shortly). Also attached are draft letters of support. The Data Sharing and Mapping Committee will work with the Communications Committee to develop language for the Letter of Support if the recommendation is approved.