

INDIANA PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER

Across Our Desks to Yours

Mining the *Indiana Survey* for Grants

continued

Survey to plan prevention activities and engage the community. All too often, the *Indiana Survey* results create a brief stir when they are released to the media, and then are filed away without any action. However, the statewide data offer a unique basis for getting perspective on the overall trends in ATOD among Indiana youth, and for making comparison's with other states. Such comparisons can be especially useful when applying for grants. Being able to show how Indiana youth are faring in a national context is a powerful way to make your case for the need for new and/or continued funding.

The local data contained in the *Indiana Survey* reports to schools are very useful to prevention organizations as objective indicators of what's working and for whom. Even the best programs don't succeed with everyone, and it's especially important to understand who benefits the most and least from selected strategies. Without objective survey data, prevention planning is just guesswork and good intentions. Thus, any organization that is seeking grants needs to mine the kind data available from IPRC's *Indiana Survey* and *Prev-Stat*, a geographical information system.

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Upcoming Event: "Embrace the Spirit of Prevention Research" is the theme of the 19th Annual National Prevention Network Research Conference. Lexington, Kentucky will host the conference from August 27th through 30th. It's not too late to register at <http://swpc.ou.edu/npn/>.

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Indiana Survey



Download the *Indiana Survey* report at www.drugs.indiana.edu. For grants assistance, call Merrill Hatlen at 1-800-346-3077.

Indiana Survey Highlights

- First use of drugs begins between age 12 and 14 years for Hoosier youth.
- Fewer Indiana youth are smoking, but more are chewing.
- Fewer youth trying alcohol, but more binge drink.
- Nearly 40% of Indiana's 12th graders reported having had a hangover.
- Youth who are involved in after-school activities less inclined to start using gateway drugs (tobacco, alcohol and marijuana).
- One in five 9 through 12 grade youth reported being involved in an altercation while under the influence.
- Close to 30 percent of Indiana 12th graders reported riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking.



Indiana University 2735 East 10th Street, CA110, Bloomington, IN 47408 Phone: 1-800-346-3077 Fax: 812-855-4940 www.drugs.indiana.edu

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By Merrill Hatlen, M.S., C.P.P.

The recent release of the Indiana Prevention Resource Center's (IPRC) *Sixteenth Annual Survey of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents* (otherwise known as the *Indiana Survey*) results and the forthcoming reports to schools provide great opportunities for prevention organizations to make their case for grants—to support what's working and/or to respond to emerging problems. Increasingly, funders want to see evidence that their investments are paying dividends, so using alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use data to show trends is compelling evidence of measurable results. While testimonials can be helpful in getting the attention of grant reviewers, having data on your side is the best way to respond to a key question: How do you know you're making a difference?

For any prevention organization seeking federal funding, such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant, the IPRC survey data is essential for being able to track core measures, such as:

- Age of onset of any drug use (including alcohol, marijuana and tobacco);
- Frequency of use in the past 30 days (including alcohol, marijuana and

- tobacco);
- Perception of risk or harm (including alcohol, marijuana and tobacco).

Although there are alternatives to the *Indiana Survey* for gathering such data, communities without school participation in the statewide survey are at a big disadvantage when competing for grants. Not only are localized surveys expensive and time consuming, but their results are difficult to compare with other communities.

Even if your community is not ready to apply for a federal grant, the *Indiana Survey* can be very useful for seeking funding from foundations, corporations and United Ways. Virtually all of them are steeped in a culture of accountability that's focused on outcomes. Like the rest of us, they are faced with myriad good causes and need to be highly selective in allocating their resources. Data that supports your case can make all the difference in the world when you apply for grants. In view of the fact that many communities are "in denial" about substance abuse, it's especially important to present a well documented appeal for funds.

Likewise, you can use IPRC's *Indiana*

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