



2020-2021 Project WISE Program Summary

Aggregate Report

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October 22nd, 2021
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Background

Wisconsin Project WISE

Wisconsin Project WISE (Wisconsin Initiative for Student Empowerment) aims to strengthen coordination of adolescent health programs at the state and local level to reduce unintended teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes for primarily high school-aged adolescents in the state. WI Project WISE is committed to centering health equity at every step of programming from program planning to implementation and evaluation.

Five sub-awardees provide programming in Wisconsin: Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Healthfirst Network, Neu-Life Community Development, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center and United Community Center.



What is TOP?



Wisconsin's Project WISE utilizes the evidence-based Teen Outreach Program (TOP). TOP is a nationally recognized, Positive Youth Development program designed to build educational success, life and leadership skills and healthy behaviors and relationships. Middle school youth meet weekly in a TOP club led by trained, knowledgeable facilitators. TOP achieves outcomes for young people with engaging curriculum lessons and meaningful, youth-led, Community Service Learning.

Award Information

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS), Division of Public Health (DPH) announces the availability of funds for the Wisconsin Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program (SRAE).

The SRAE Program is authorized and funded by Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 710), as amended by Section 50502 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law (Pub. L.) No. 115-123, and extended by the CARES Act, 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116-136).

Why have a program summary?

The purpose of this evaluation report is to highlight Project WISE program outcomes and to inform continuous quality improvement measures. It also serves as a document that can be used for engaging stakeholders and promote discussion within your organization and with partners about strengths and gaps in youth programming.



Background Cont.

Evaluation Context and Limitations

There are numerous contextual considerations and limitations to the 2020-2021 Project WISE program summary evaluation:

1. The UWPHI Adolescent Health Evaluation Team does not track individual youth responses specifically on the SRAE entry and exit surveys. This helps protect youths' anonymity but does not allow us to compare how sexual health knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of individual youth have changed as a result of programming.
2. GLITC did not conduct any clubs for the 2020-2021 program year so there is no sub-awardee survey data or Community Service Learning (CSL) data to include in this aggregate report.
3. Silver Spring Neighborhood Center experienced challenges with 2020-2021 programming so there is no sub-awardee survey data or Community Service Learning (CSL) data to include in this aggregate report.

In spring 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic caused most Project WISE sub-awardees to shift their program implementation to a virtual environment in order to continue serving youth. Program and evaluation adaptations occurred rapidly and created learning curves for both curricula delivery and data collection for the 2020-2021 programming year.

1. In response to the shift in educational demands due to the impacts of COVID-19, Project WISE was forced to pivot and offer programming virtually for youth. Sub-recipients were given flexibilities to meet the educational needs of their communities, therefore, the program fidelity was compromised due to various delivery methods of asynchronous and/or synchronous implementation.
2. Programming was delayed, and sometimes cancelled, throughout the year due to youth and/or staff either contracting COVID-19 or having to go into quarantine as a precaution.
3. Some sub-awardees struggled with obtaining local partnerships because class times were shortened due to virtual education practices.
4. The shift to virtual program implementation influenced the lesson sequencing, CSL hours, and program dosage. In some instances, there were difficulties getting youth to attend synchronous lessons.
5. Some facilitators reported difficulties building a rapport with youth and keeping them engaged in a virtual setting. Sub-awardees also reported youth burnout with virtual learning.
6. Virtual programming came with technical barriers. I.e., not being able to access certain curricula content because of firewalls, issues with audio and video, and issues with internet connectivity.

In addition, there were limitations related to virtual survey administration this year.

1. Youth having to take the survey at home or in another, less monitored, environment lead to overall fewer completed survey responses than in pre-pandemic years.
2. When using Qualtrics' survey mailer, some youth emails bounced back. As a back-up, UWPHI Ad Health Eval gave each facilitator an anonymous survey link to share with youth.

More evaluation information may be found in Appendix A at the end of this report.

2020-2021 Program Overview

Partners

Wisconsin Project WISE sub-awardees partner with a variety of different organizations and schools to deliver programming. Below is a list of each sub-awardee and their 2020-2021 partners.

Healthfirst Network, Inc.

Adams Friendship Middle School - Adams, WI.

Neu-Life Community Development

Neu-Life Community Development recruited youth using social media and peer-to-peer referrals to attend 2020-2021 programming at their location in Milwaukee. Neu-Life, as well as previous participants of TOP, also distributed flyers in the community to generate interest.

United Community Center

Acosta Middle School and Bruce Guadalupe Middle School - Milwaukee, WI.

Curriculum & Setting

All sub-awardees used the **Teen Outreach Program (TOP)** curriculum for 2020-2021 Project WISE programming.

Most lessons were completed **synchronously online**, dependent on local partners needs, except for the Healthfirst Network, who conducted all programming in-person.

Surveys

Sub-awardees used the TOP curriculum survey and the middle school version of the SRAE survey.

164 youth completed the SRAE entry survey and **159** completed the SRAE exit survey.

For TOP, **156** Pre surveys were completed, and **155** Post surveys were completed.



229

Total youth attended at least one program session



169

Youth attended at least 75% of sessions (74%)



8

Total clubs completed

Youth Demographics



96

Youth identify as **female** (60%)



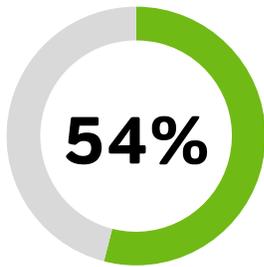
63

Youth identify as **male** (40%)



Most youth speak **English** at home.

Youth can write in languages other than English on their survey. During this programming period, there were 55 youth enrolled who also spoke **Spanish** as their primary language spoken at home.



Of youth identify as **Hispanic or Latino**

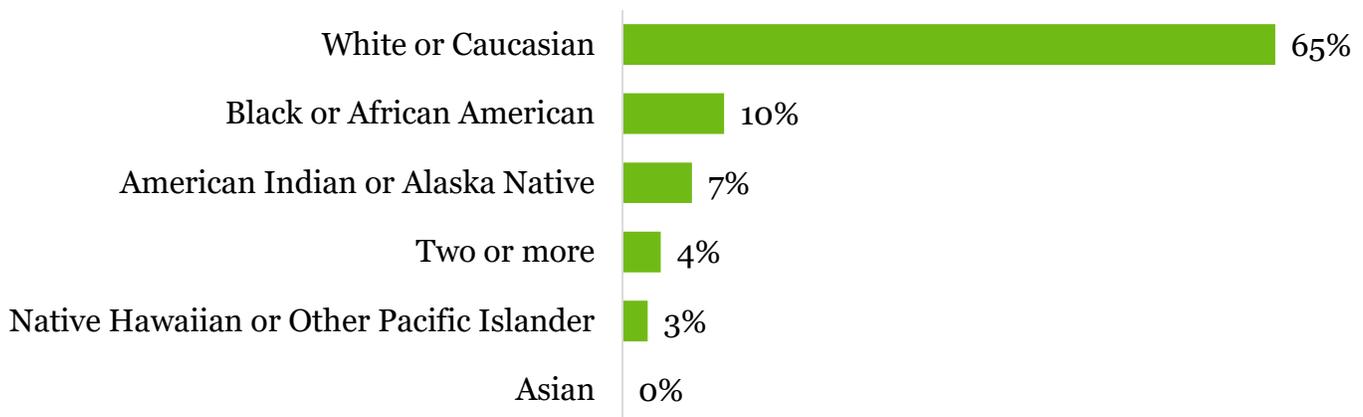


13 was the **average age** of youth served.



7th was the **average grade** youth were enrolled in at the time of programming.

Most youth served identify as **White or Caucasian**



Youth demographics come from the SRAE exit surveys.

Note that youth are only given the option to choose “female” or “male” as their sex. Youth who feel uncomfortable choosing or otherwise do not feel represented with the two choices are instructed to skip this survey item.

N=158-159 - Average response rate of 99%

Youth Behavioral Intention

This section includes select SRAE exit survey items about youth behavioral intentions to act in healthy ways post-programming. The sample size for these items ranged from 152 to 155 youth; an average response rate of 88%.

Most youth experienced changes in knowledge and behavior intentions as a result of Project WISE programming.

Across all Wisconsin Project WISE sub-awardees, 83% of youth are much more or somewhat more likely to **understand what makes a relationship healthy**.

Similarly, 80% of youth are much more or somewhat more likely to **talk to a trusted adult** if they feel pressured or made uncomfortable by a partner.

Most youth experienced positive changes in behavioral intention after participating in Project WISE.

*Percent of youth who said much more or somewhat more likely.



Youth Development Outcomes

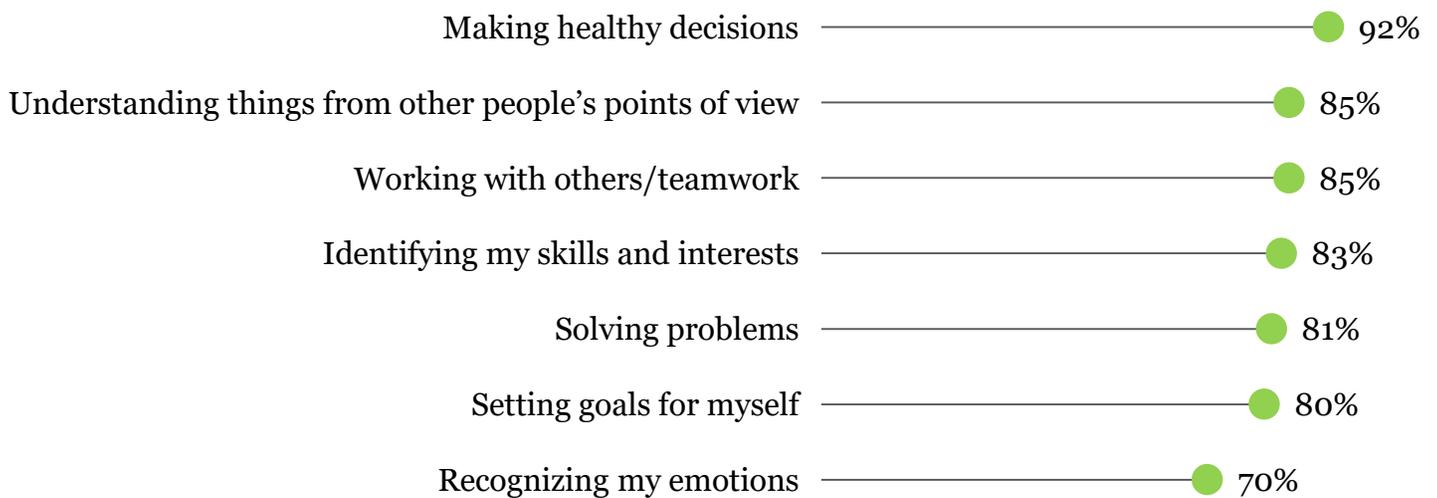
This section includes exit survey items from the TOP survey about positive youth development outcomes. The sample size for these items ranged from 154 to 155 youth; an average response rate of 99%.

Because of participating in Project WISE, using the TOP curriculum, 92% of youth felt they got better at **making healthy decisions**.

85% of youth felt they got better at **understanding things from other people's point of view** and **working with others**.

Most youth experienced positive development outcomes after participating in Project WISE.

*Percent of youth who said yes.



During the 2020-2021 Program Year:



99% of youth **did not get pregnant** nor get someone pregnant.



94% of youth are **moving to the next grade level** for 2021-2022.

Program Experiences

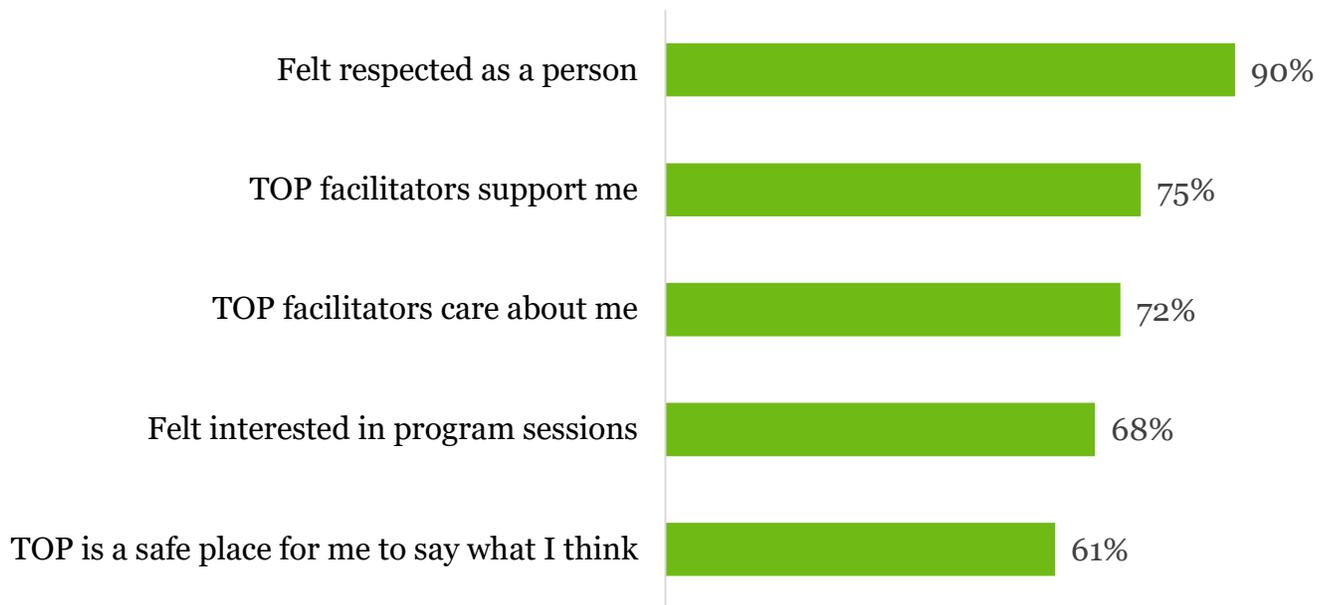
This section includes SRAE and TOP exit survey items about youth perceptions of programming. The sample size for these items ranged from 153 to 155 youth; an average response rate of 99%.

Overall, youth reported positive perceptions of programming. Notably, 90% of youth felt **respected as a person** and 75% of youth felt that **TOP facilitators are supportive**.

61% of youth felt like TOP was a **safe place to say what they think** and 63% would **recommend TOP to a friend**.

Most youth had positive perceptions of Project WISE programming.

*Percent of youth who said all or most of the time or a lot/very much.

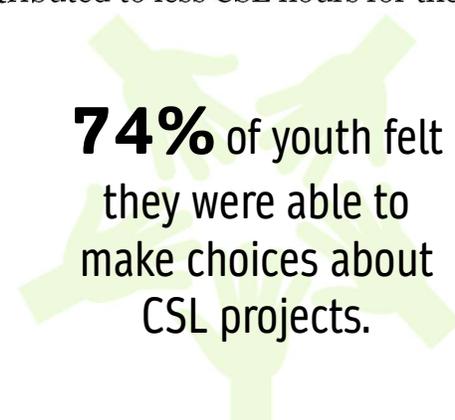


63% of youth would **recommend TOP to a friend**.

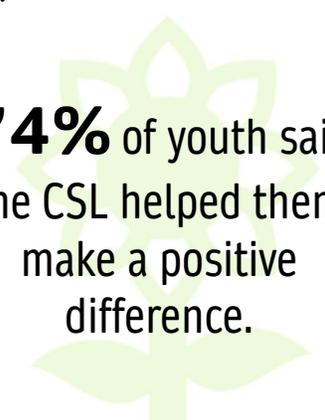
Community Service Learning

The goal of the SRAE grant is to complete 20 hours of Community Service Learning (including timed spent planning on CSL activities).

Overall, Project WISE sub-awardees completed an average of **16 hours** of CSL during the 2021-2022 programming year. Note that complications due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic likely contributed to less CSL hours for the 2020-2021 programming year.



74% of youth felt they were able to make choices about CSL projects.



74% of youth said the CSL helped them make a positive difference.

CSL Projects for 2020-2021:

Healthfirst Network, Inc.

Healthfirst worked with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Adams County for a sidewalk chalk project where students wrote to individuals that are homebound or isolated due to COVID-19. Youth also worked on:

- Making cards for residents at Villa Pines Living Center in Friendship, WI.
- Making stress balls for healthcare workers.
- Making fleece rope dog and cat toys for area animal humane societies.

Neu-Life Community Development

Youth made thank-you cards and butterfly window décor for Thank a Youth Worker Day in May 2021. Thank a Youth Worker Day is an initiative of the Association of Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) that celebrates Youth Workers who commit themselves to making a difference in the lives of young people. Youth also worked on:

- A community clean up with the Johnsons Park Neighborhood Association in Milwaukee, WI.
- Participating in a Black history campaign
- Painting rocks with kind, encouraging, or inspiring messages and placed them around the neighborhood during a walk for wellness.
- Volunteering to work the Youth Summit for mental health during spring break.

United Community Center

Youth helped with the Mexican Fiesta and Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship foundation at Summerfest. Youth also worked on:

- Making care packages for unsheltered youth in temporary shelters
- Cleaning parks in Milwaukee
- Mentoring younger students during summer school.

Appendix A - Evaluation

Data Sources

Survey Data: Data used are from entry and exit surveys that are administered electronically at both the start and end of all Project WISE components, respectively.

The TOP surveys are developed by the Teen Outreach Program. Questions on the pre-survey gather demographic characteristics and establish baseline information on teen behaviors, helping to understand the strengths and needs of participants. Questions on the post-survey are designed to measure any changes that may have occurred during program participation, as well as to measure teens' opinions about TOP.

There are two versions of the SRAE entry and exit surveys; A middle school version and a high school version. All items on the entry and exit surveys are the same across both versions except for additional questions on the high school version that ask youth about their intention to abstain from sexual intercourse, the reasons for abstaining, likelihood of engaging in sexual intercourse within 3 months, and contraceptive use in the event of sexual intercourse. **Note that all Project WISE sub-awardees use the middle school version of the SRAE surveys.**

The SRAE surveys are collaboratively developed between the Studies of Performance Measures and Adult Preparation Subjects (PMAPS) and Mathematica Policy Research and capture information about youth characteristics, behaviors, program experiences, and perceptions of program effects on youth's sexual behaviors and intentions.

Attendance Data: Attendance data is recorded for the duration of a club by sub-awardees and is used by UWPHI Adolescent Health Evaluation to calculate the total number of youth served by Project WISE, the total percentage of program hours delivered, and CSL hours.

OLDC Narrative Data: Online Data Collections System (OLDC) narrative data is submitted via Qualtrics, an online survey software, by sub-awardee program managers every six months (October and April). Program Managers report on major accomplishments and significant events, dissemination activities, challenges, and planned activities for the next six months of programing.

Data Analysis

Descriptive data is used for this report. We used basic frequencies to highlight youth characteristics, behaviors, and program experiences. Findings are not statistically significant but provide comprehensive information that helps TOP facilitators understand program changes over time.

What Curricula is Used?

All sub-awardees used Wyman's Teen Outreach Program (TOP) curriculum for 2020-2021 programming. The TOP Curriculum is focused on key topics related to adolescent health and development, including building social, emotional, and life skills; developing a positive sense of self; and connecting with others. The TOP program promotes the positive development of adolescents through curriculum-guided, interactive group discussions; positive adult guidance and support; and community service learning.

Reach out to us!

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