

## **TOOLS FOR IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS: VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY PROFILE DATABASE [9512]**

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### **Workshop Summary**

Using a risk and protective factor model requires analyzing data to develop a community profile that can help set priorities and strategies for community action. Gathering needed data may prove challenging, however, especially when dedicated grant writing or research staff are not available.

In Virginia, state agencies involved in prevention are collaborating. The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention convened the GOSAP Collaborative, representing 13 state agencies that have prevention responsibilities, to enhance Virginia's prevention efforts. Collaborative members focus on common goals, communication, supporting each other's efforts, and sharing resources.

The Collaborative has developed a database tool to provide community-level, archival data, including risk factors, through the Internet. The database includes indicators from a variety of areas, including criminal justice, child and family services, education, health and mental health, and substance abuse. It also includes demographic and economic information.

Because the database is accessed through the Internet, it is available for use by everyone, and it can be used for a variety of purposes. For example:

- Virginians can set benchmarks and monitor progress toward achieving outcomes.
- Citizens can see what is happening in their communities and become involved.
- School children and college and graduate students can find facts and analyze real data for projects and papers.
- Professional researchers can pull the data they need to for statistical analysis.
- Public and private organizations can access uniform data to develop grant applications.
- State agencies can compare data to target resources to high need areas and issues.
- Local government workers can find consistent data to assess their needs and plan local programs to address them.
- Planners can link to research-based, best-practice guidance on program and service strategies.

The system provides a wide variety of data and, where possible, gives users options for selecting data across localities, user-defined regions, and system-defined age, race/ethnicity, and gender groups. Users can view selected data through basic maps, graphs, and reports. Additionally, maps, graphs and reports can be downloaded in various formats for use in documents, presentations or additional analyses.

Should they wish to compare their data to data in other states, users can activate links to Websites for national data. They can also link to research and evidence-based programs so that needs identified through the data component of the system can be addressed effectively and efficiently. And they can find information on programs operating in Virginia.

This workshop will focus on Virginia's Community Profile Database for assessing needs and targeting prevention/early intervention efforts. Its purpose is to inspire other states to build similar tools to support the use of proven practices, including the risk and protective factor planning model and evidenced-based

prevention and intervention programs. The workshop is appropriate for all levels of practitioners interested in using risk and protective factors or Web-based data tools.

## **Workshop Goals**

Participants will be encouraged to use research-based prevention practice, including risk-based prevention planning and evidence-based programming, to improve school safety

## **Workshop Objectives**

1. To provide information to participants about a risk-based prevention planning model. Virginia's Community Profile Database is based on risk and protective factor theory and is designed specifically to support gathering archival data, identifying some of the community's program resources and linking users to research and evidence-based programs to address identified needs.
2. To familiarize participants with Virginia's GOSAP Collaborative experience. Building and maintaining a system such as Virginia's Community Profile Database require a high degree of collaboration among data-keepers and key members of the prevention community. Virginia's collaboration model is working to produce resources, such as Virginia's Community Profile Database, for use by state and local prevention practitioners.
3. To teach participants how to use Virginia's Community Profile Database planning tool. Although the primary data contained in Virginia's Community Profile Database are specific to Virginia's localities, linkages to national data sources, research, and evidence-based programs may be helpful to users from other states. Additionally, participants may obtain information and contacts for evidence-based programs operating in Virginia.
4. To inspire participants to collaborate with prevention professionals in their localities to build and use similar tools to support risk-based planning and evidenced-based programming. Virginia's Community Profile Database has been well received, and it has generated much excitement in Virginia's prevention community. It can meet the data needs of a variety of users for numerous purposes. We hope that Virginia's Community Profile Database will serve as a model for other states, and we are willing to share our experience with others interested in developing such resources.

## **Workshop Activities**

Participant questions and comments are encouraged throughout the session.

1. A brief overview by the presenter of a risk-based prevention planning model, highlighting the steps supported by Virginia's Community Profile Database. The steps include assessing community readiness and community needs, prioritizing needs, selecting corresponding interventions, building resources, implementing selected programs, and evaluating results. (15 minutes)
2. A brief discussion by the presenter of the keys to the success of the GOSAP Collaborative model, so that others might borrow from it to form similar action groups in their states. (5 minutes)
3. Participant use of Virginia's Community Profile Database planning tool. The presenter will introduce the database by reviewing the assumptions for building it and discussing its types of data and its various users, purposes, and components: data, reports, programs. Participants will walk-through a needs assessment scenario, and the presenter will access the database through the Internet to demonstrate using the database tool to:
  - Review basic navigation around the database: Home, FAQ, Tutorial, Privacy Policy, and Feedback

- Review basic features of the database: Surveys, What you need to know about this data, Links to national data, and Links to research and evidence-based programs
- Select at least one indicator to analyze by age group; race/ethnic group; gender; or city, county, or zip code (where data are available at these levels)
- Draw a basic map of the data at the city or county level
- Save the map as a picture file to be inserted into a document
- Draw a basic graph of the data by age group; race/ethnic group; gender; or city, county, or zip code
- Download the graph as a picture or .pdf or Excel file to be inserted into a document
- View a cross tabulation of data by age group; race/ethnic group; gender; or city, county, or zip code (where data are available at these levels)
- Export the cross tabulated data as a .pdf file to insert directly into a document, as an Excel file to manipulate further, or as a .csv file to import into statistical analysis software for additional analysis
- Generate at least one report to view trend data for assessing risk factors
- View at least one program to identify evidence-based programs

(50 minutes)

- 4 Encouragement of participants to collaborate with prevention professionals in their localities to build and use similar tools to support risk-based planning and evidenced-based programming. The presenter will encourage participants to engage in similar efforts to build systems in their states and allow time for questions, comments, and discussion of barriers, solutions, and experiences in Virginia or in other participant efforts.

(20 minutes)

### **Workshop Assessment**

Responses to the attached evaluation form will be tabulated to determine whether the session objectives were met.

### **Resources**

Resources are available through the Internet-based database:

[www.data.gosap.governor.virginia.gov](http://www.data.gosap.governor.virginia.gov) .

### **References**

- Catalano, R.F., and Hawkins, J.D. (1996). The social development model: A theory of antisocial behavior. In J.D. Hawkins (Ed.), *Delinquency and crime: Current theories* (pp.149–197). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Channing Bete Company (2005). *Positive youth development: Risk and protective factors*. Retrieved August 5, 2005, from <http://www.channing-bete.com/positiveyouth/pages/rpfactors/rpfactors.html>.
- Wasserman, G.A., Keenan, K., Tremblay, R.E., Coie, J.D., Herrenkohl, T.I., Loeber, R., and Petechuk, D. (2003). *Risk and protective factors of child delinquency*. Retrieved August 5, 2005, from <http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojjdp/193409/contents.html>.

**Tools for Identifying and Addressing Risk and Protective Factors:**

**Virginia's Community Profile Database**

**Session Evaluation Form**

*Please take a moment to complete this evaluation form and leave it at the back of the room so that we can learn from your responses and improve future presentations of this information. Thanks!*

I **was / was not** knowledgeable about risk-based prevention planning models before this session. The review highlighting how Virginia's Community Profile Database supports risk-based prevention planning **was / was not** helpful to me.

It would have been more helpful if \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I found the information on the GOSAP Collaborative \_\_\_\_\_

It would have been more helpful if \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I found Virginia's Community Profile Database \_\_\_\_\_ to use.

I don't need data on Virginia's localities, but I will be able to use Virginia's Community Profile Database to (please check all that apply):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Research state-level data.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Find out about current research and evidence-based programs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Find out about/contact evidence-based programs in Virginia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Encourage people in my state to create similar tools.

I need data on Virginia's localities, and I plan to use Virginia's Community Profile Database to:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_