

Data Analysis and Logic Model Generation for the West Central Prevention and Wellness Coalition



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Project & Goals

We analyzed a total of four logic models addressing youth uses of the following: opioid, alcohol, marijuana and suicide and depression. These data can be standardized and systematized for the following uses;

1. To prove the need for funds to intervene to support public health in this neighborhood.
2. To document its activities in prevention and show gains made.
3. To tell the story of quality of life in West Central.

Background

In the facet of addressing public health related issues, specifically with local youths from 8th to 12th grade, there is a need to diagnose root causes of social and environmental conditions that may influence youths' decisions. Our project primarily consists of completing an inventory of data that would potentially help with the derivation of policy choices and policy means with limited resources

Partner Organization

The West Spokane Wellness Coalition is a part of the Spokane Prevention Coalitions. Coalitions use a variety of strategies to promote prevention in their communities based on the current needs and ability to leverage resources available. Our work with the organization involves the analysis of the organization's previous logic models from prior years and provide alternatives in identifying root causes and local conditions surrounding the West Central Spokane area. The West Spokane Wellness Coalition's mission is to promote community health and wellness strategies that address preventing substance use and supportive community empowerment to strengthen families in West Spokane.



Figure 1. West Spokane Wellness Partnership

What I Did

Over the course of the semester we worked on compiling data into several logic models. These logic models work to represent the needs of the community using quantitative data. We used data from several sources, including the Healthy Youth Survey from 2018. Our goal was to use our data to create a narrative in the logic models. The narrative went from broad overarching issues to more specific community conditions that could be addressed. Over the course of the semester we also worked to combine all the data from each individual logic model to create a fact sheet that could be given out to members of the community.

What I Learned

Due to the nature of the project, we were able to exercise existing skills applicable outside the parameter of the classroom context throughout the partnership. We had to consider power differences between my group and the community partner that we are working with. This is because our team are people living outside of the community and have very different cultural upbringings. Therefore, based on my previous and current work experience with the research project, we now understand that critical thinking and problem solving encompasses all three dimensions of local thinking, ethical consideration as well as cultural comprehension. An applicable example of this cultural dimension is to take into consideration the diverse population of West Central as a factor through which we can promote our strategies in an under resourced community. Our skills were further reinforced to identify community risk factors and local conditions through an extensive library of data. In this context, it was crucial to apply all three aspects to accurately assess for issues and come up with appropriate recommendations pertinent to specific health-related and drug abuse problems.

What is Next?

Our recommendation for the next team is to attend Coalitions Meeting with all the members of the organization to have a better idea of the relationship that the WPCWP has with their community members. This will also help build a sense of trust and foster relationships with the Coalition members. We felt extremely motivated and found the work we did rewarding upon presenting at the Coalitions meeting. Furthermore, we recommend for the next team to take on this project to expand it by translating our research and the knowledge created to community members through facilitating small groups directed towards community members as well as youths in general. The groups would perhaps help to come up with creative solutions that can be proposed and effectively enacted to resolve issues of our data findings. In other words, our student successors can effectively delegate community members to actively participate in making positive, healthy choices for their kids.

Civic Perspective

Community research is a particular case of a multidisciplinary group of research from individuals from different backgrounds, socioeconomic status and functions. Coming to reconcile with the data from other group members requires commitments, patience and understanding of the community and power structures previously held by the organization with respect to community members to complete the logic models. This is evident with my experience working as we realized that the since the data primarily came from such a vast pool of sources, we would have to make changes for refining and organizing them before we can make any interpretation. This ensure the sustainability of data management for both our community partner and successors in long-term utilization of data for reinforcement and accuracy. Through this experience, we learned that we have to be flexible with both types of research depending on their goals and the audience and whom we work with.

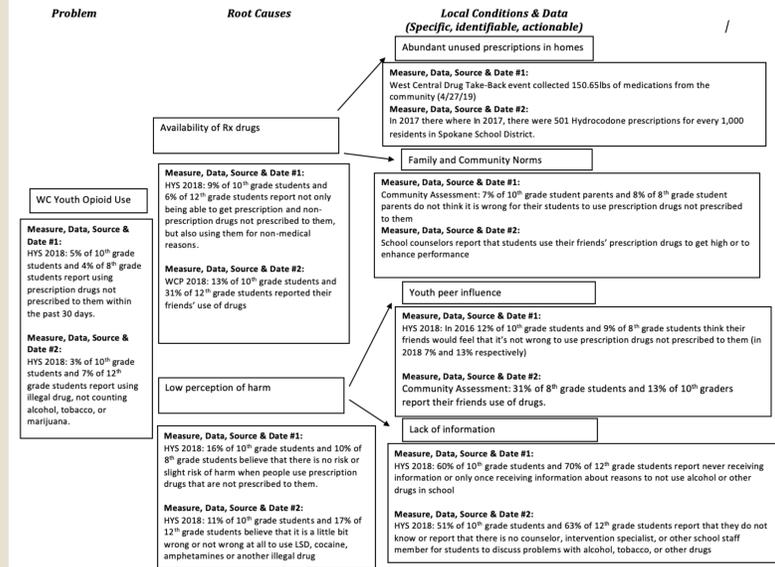


Figure 2. Opioid logic model in Spokane West Central

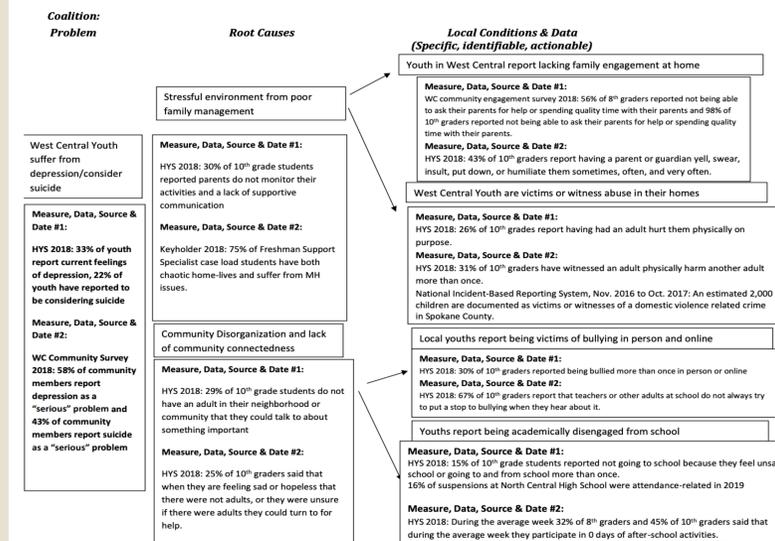


Figure 3. Depression and suicide model in Spokane West Central