




Welcome! **WISHES: Working to Improve Sexual Health Education in Schools**






Laurie Bechhofer, HIV/STD Education Consultant
BechhoferL@michigan.gov
Michigan Department of Education

1

Focus of Today's Workshop

- New grant from CDC/DASH to the Michigan Department of Education
- 5 year initiative: HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention in schools
- Partnership with 16 Michigan school districts in 15 counties
- How you can get involved!




2

A Change in Title for Initiative

- Working to Improve Sexual Health Education in Schools (WISHES)

↓




- Sexual Health Initiative for Transformation (SHIFT)

3

Then and Now: CDC/DASH Funding



- Funding since 1988
- Original focus on HIV/AIDS
- Funding to *education* agencies
- Supported a lead in every state education agency
- Focus on school-aged youths

4


Then and Now: CDC/DASH Funding

- Fewer sites, more \$ per site
 - 19 State Education Agencies (SEAs)
 - 17 Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
 - 7 Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)
- Multiple components:
 - Exemplary sexual health education
 - Access to sexual health services
 - Safe and supportive school environments
- Going "deeper" with a focus on priority districts
- Focus on "Youth at Disproportionate Risk" (YDR)

5



CDC-DASH Cooperative Agreement Promoting Adolescent Sexual Health Through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention



- 19 State Education Agencies (SEAs)
- 17 Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
- 7 Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)

NGO Partners working with states:

- Advocates for Youth
- NCSd
- APA
- SIECUS
- ETR

6

In Education Language...

- Reduce chronic absenteeism
- Improve school connectedness
- Decrease barriers to learning
- Increase academic achievement

→ Healthy students
learn better!



7

Four Components

- Approach A: Exemplary sexual health education
- Approach B: Access to sexual health services
- Approach C: Safe and supportive environments
- Approach D: Policy



8

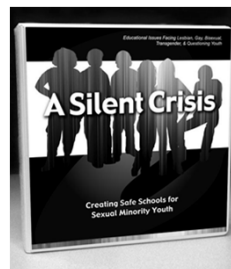
More Intensive Interventions

- Supporting a *Youth at Disproportionate Risk* (YDR) group
 - Michigan → Sexual minority youth (SMY) or lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth
- And taking one of three approaches (A-C)
 - Michigan → Approach C: *Safe and Supportive School Environments*



9

Safe Schools for Sexual Minority Youth



- 5.9% of students in grades 9-12
- 30,000+ students
- At increased risk



10

Focusing Efforts: Making Michigan Manageable!



**800+
School
Districts**

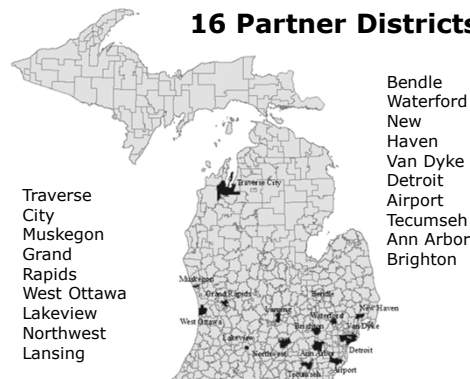


**16 Partner
School
Districts**



11

16 Partner Districts



Partner Districts Activities



- ✓ Sign a Memorandum of Agreement
- ✓ Form a district-level leadership team
- ✓ Identify and review data sources
- ✓ Develop district-specific action plans
- ✓ Participate in face-to-face learning collaborative meetings with other partner districts
- ✓ Participate in PD and TA opportunities on evidence-based policies, programs, and practices



13

District Leadership Team

- Purpose—provide leadership, gather input, build relationships, create action plans
- Balance between district staff, community stakeholders



14

Possible Team Members

- School board members
- Administrators (district/central office)
- Administrators (building)
- Classroom teachers
- Social workers, counselors, psychologists
- Parents
- Students
- Gay-straight alliance advisors
- School-based health center staff
- School nurses
- Community health professionals



15

Key Student Data Source: MiPHY Survey

- Grades 7, 9, 11
- Risk and protective factors
- Data by building, district, and county
- Open until early June 2014
- Encourage MiPHY over MiPHY Basic



16

Michigan School Districts Three Levels of Health Services

1. School-based and school-linked health centers
2. School nurses outside of SBHCs
3. No SBHC and no nurse

Since most schools have no onsite health services, community providers are essential partners



17

Spotlight on Access to Health Services



- Increase utilization of existing school-based services
- Identify youth-friendly sexual health service providers in community
- Strengthen organizational linkages
- Establish referral system



18

Key Sexual Health Services

- HIV testing
- STD screening
- Pregnancy testing
- Provision of contraception
- Provision of condoms
- Provision of condom compatible lubricant
- HPV Vaccination



19



Schools Need Your Help!



- Infrastructure
 - Forming leadership team
 - Assessing needs
 - Developing plans
- Implementing change
 - Exemplary sexual health education
 - Access to health services
 - Safe and supportive school environments
 - Supporting LGBTQ youth



20



Small Group Activity

- What **background** and **skills** do you and your organization bring to the table?
- How could you **partner** with schools?



21



Questions?



Laurie Bechhofer
HIV/STD Education Consultant
Michigan Department of Education
BechhoferL@michigan.gov
517-335-7252



22

