



Reframing School Dropout As A Public Health Concern: SBHCs at the Intersection of Health & Education

2009 NASBHC Convention
Hollywood, FL
June 25, 2009

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Presenter Disclosures

Nancy W. Carpenter

- (1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

• “No relationships to disclose”

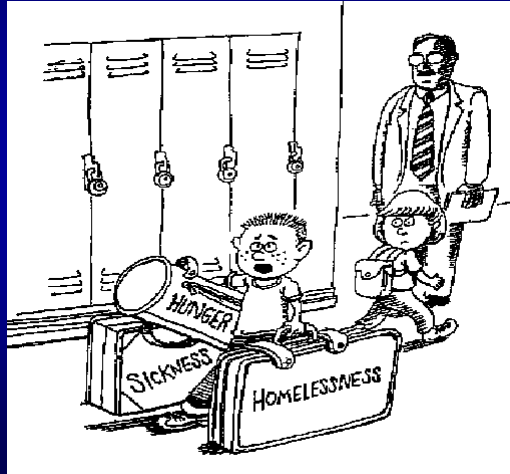
Antonia M. Blinn

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• “No relationships to disclose”



Can someone help me with these,
I'm late for math class?



Objectives

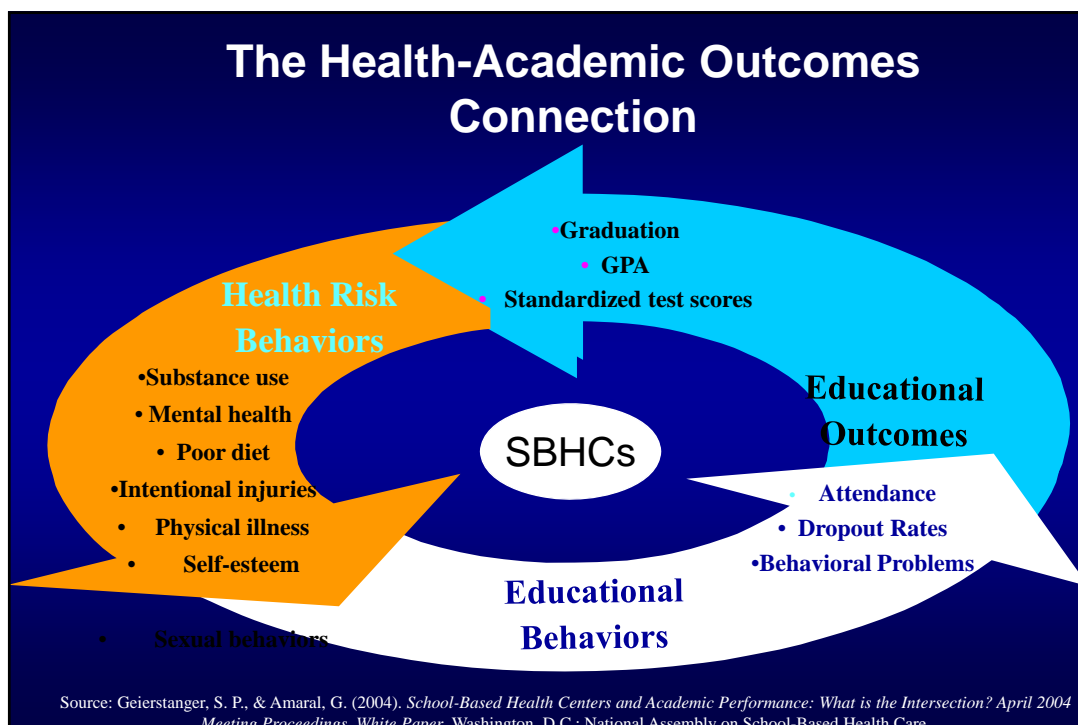
By the end of this session participants will be able to:

- ❖ Understand and recognize the processes of engaging multiple sectors in discussions around school dropout
- ❖ Identify pathways that can lead to new strategic partnerships



Work Plan Strategy

- Engage the public health community in viewing educational achievement goals through a public health lens and take action.
- Broaden recognition among leaders in policy, education, business, advocacy, the media and other concerned sectors about the contribution that SBHCs and other school health services offer in addressing the educational achievement gap.



How education improves health

More education contributes to:

- Higher incomes (and the purchase of better food and housing, more health care, etc.)
- More skills, knowledge and resources to protect health
- More social support and stronger social networks
- Lower rates of unhealthy behavior



* J.W. Richardson, PhD

How better health contributes to school achievement

Healthy children and young people:

- Attend school more
- Pay attention to what goes on in classroom
- See, hear and understand the teacher
- Focus more on education as a goal



* J.W. Richardson, PhD

Freudenberg's Seminal Article

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY

VOLUME 4: NO. 4

OCTOBER 2007

SPECIAL TOPIC

Reframing School Dropout as a Public Health Issue

Nicholas Freudenberg, DrPH, Jessica Ruglis

Suggested citation for this article: Freudenberg N, Ruglis J. Reframing school dropout as a public health issue. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2007;4(4). http://www.cdc.gov/ped/issues/2007/oct/07_0063.htm. Accessed [date].

PEER REVIEWED

such an elixir. Yet health professionals have rarely identified improving school graduation rates as a major public health objective, nor have they systematically examined their role in achieving this objective. Seizing the opportunity to do so can improve health and reduce disparities.



School failure is a public health concern

“ If medical researchers were to discover an elixir that could increase life expectancy, reduce the burden of illness, delay the consequences of aging, decrease risky health behavior and shrink disparities in health, we would celebrate such a remarkable discovery. Robust epidemiological evidence suggests that education is such an elixir”

Source: Freudenberg N, Ruglis J. Reframing school dropout as a public health issue. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2007;4(4). http://www.cdc.gov/ped/2007/oct/07_0063.htm



An Overview of Causes of School Dropout by Level

Individual

Sense of alienation, learning or behavioral problems, disconnectedness, grade retention, absenteeism, social isolation, rebelliousness, pregnancy, substance use

Family

Low parental education, poor parenting, family mental health or substance use problems, low family support for school success

Community/Jurisdiction

Segregated housing, high levels of crime, values on education, level of funding for schools, proportion immigrants, proportion voters who are parents

School and School System

School climate (e.g., bullying, homophobia, racism, etc.), school size, class size, retention policies, distribution of resources, priority of drop out, policies on special education, disciplinary policies

* Freudenberg

Could we have a more “Perfect Storm”?



Backdrop Factors

- Governor created the Governor's Readiness Council
- Education Reform was being discussed, again
- Legislation to establish a Dropout and Recovery Commission filed
- Establishment of the interagency cabinet (Health & Education)



Policy Targets from MCSBHC Work Plan

To build the case for School-Based Health Centers in promoting resiliency as a contributing factor to enhancing learning readiness and preventing school dropout.



Board of Directors Embraces the Issue

- Understood the connection
- Recognized it as the pathway for the Coalition to be a thought leader
- Made the connection between racial and ethnic health disparities and achievement gap
- Obtain sponsorship to cover forum costs



What Happened Next?

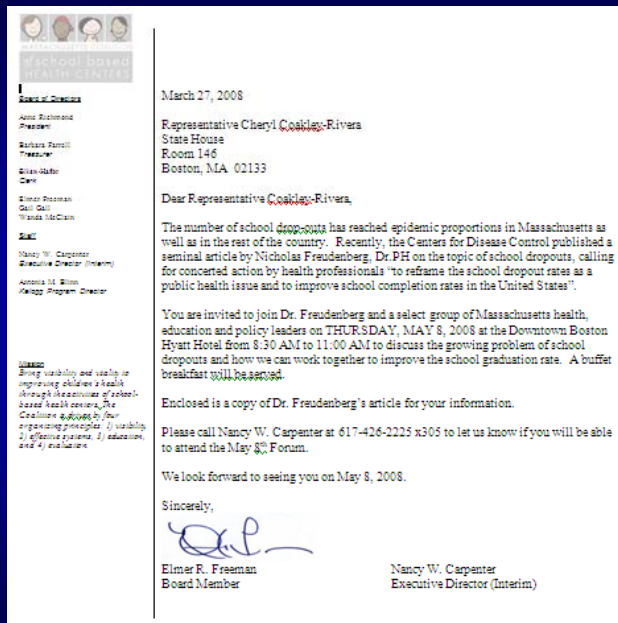
Planning Committee of
the Board formed

- Funder
- Board Members
- SBHC Personnel
- SBHC Sponsor Agency Personnel
- Statewide Education Expert
- Education Policy Consultant
- Evaluation Consultant



What should the outcome of the convening be?

- High level policy makers & stakeholders present
- Buy-in from high level thought leaders and policy makers
- Introduce the concept of school dropout as a public health concern and an epidemic
- Engage participants in new dialogue about role of health and school dropout
- Participants commit to additional action



Invitation

Who attended?

- Legislators
- State Agency Leaders
- Advocates
- Business
- Board Members
- SBHC leaders
- Funders
- Representatives from the largest/most powerful health organizations
- Education Leaders
- School Nurses
- SBHC Sponsor agency
- Potential Funders



What did it look like?



Days Agenda



Reframing School Drop Out as an Education and Public Health Problem.
A forum to discuss partnerships and create synergy in addressing the school dropout problem.

Thursday, May 8, 2008
 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Hyatt Regency Boston
 One Avenue de Lafayette
 Boston, MA 02111

Convened by the Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers
 Moderator: Paul Grogan, President and CEO, The Boston Foundation

Join us as we discuss the school dropout crisis and identify ways that health, education and policy leaders can work together to improve graduation rates in Massachusetts.

Goals:

1. Recognize that the basis of racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes and school dropouts are linked, and that the solutions to them will emerge as a result of broad-based, investment in collaborative approaches led by a diverse group of stakeholders.
2. Determine how the public health and health sector can contribute to new and existing educational, business, political, philanthropic and community partnerships that are targeted to reducing the school dropout rate.
3. Identify opportunities for the education and public health sectors to collaborate in reducing school dropout and eliminating health disparities.



Agenda

- 8:00 Registration and Buffet Breakfast
- 8:30 Welcome from the Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers
 Nancy W. Carpenter, Executive Director
 Elmer Freeman, Board Member
 Opening Remarks
 Paul Grogan, President and CEO, The Boston Foundation
 DVD Presentation "Think Again...About Dropping Out"
 Introduced by Neil Sullivan, Executive Director, Boston Private Industry Council
- 9:10 Keynote Presentations
 Dr. Nicholas Freudenberg
 Keynote Speaker: "Reframing School Drop Out as a Public Health Concern"
 Dr. Jeanin Richardson
 Keynote on Education: "Creating Resiliency Partnerships for Children and Youth"
- 10:00 Respondent Panel and Discussion
 John L. G. Bynoe III
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
 Monica Valdes-Luzzi
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 Cindy Engler
 Boston Public Health Commission
 Robert Jennings, Jr.
 Principal, Sullivan Middle School, Worcester, Massachusetts
- 10:50 Conclusion and Next Steps

Details Matter

- Location of event
- Feel of the Convening Space
- Biographical Sketches of each speaker and participant in packets
- Assigned seating with table tents
- Packets at each seat
- Delicious food
- Good Acoustics & attention to hearing every voice



AN ACT TO IMPROVE DROPOUT PREVENTION AND REPORTING OF GRADUATION RATES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide public school districts with a standardized format for the accurate reporting of high school graduation and dropout data.

- The data shall facilitate the department's implementation of a longitudinal data collection system and reporting of graduation rates and shall include, but not be limited to, a 4-year graduation rate, 5-year graduation rate and adjusted graduation rates.
- The data shall be disaggregated in the following categories: limited English proficiency, low-income, special education, race or ethnicity and gender.
- Data shall be coded within the Student Information Management System to reflect various withdrawal designations.
- The department shall provide each district with technical assistance to help them gather and analyze data.
- The department shall publish annually the reported data by various means, including on its electronic website.

SECTION 2. There shall be a graduation and dropout prevention and recovery commission to survey dropout prevention and recovery best practices and programs nationwide and to evaluate dropout prevention and recovery programs currently in use.

The commission shall consist of 27 members including

- the secretary of education, or his designee, who shall serve as chair;
- the secretary of labor and workforce development, or his designee;
- the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or his designee;
- the commissioner of higher education, or his designee;
- the commissioner of social services, or his designee;
- the commissioner of youth services, or his designee;
- the commissioner of transitional assistance, or his designee;
- the commissioner of mental health, or his designee;
- the commissioner of public health, or his designee;
- the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, or their designees;

Outcomes

- **Public Health Commissioner included as a member of the dropout commission**
- **High level policy makers and thought leaders attended**
- **Coalition recognized as a thought leader and convener**
- **Invited to join Youth Transitions Task Force & participate in other education focused**



Additional Outcomes

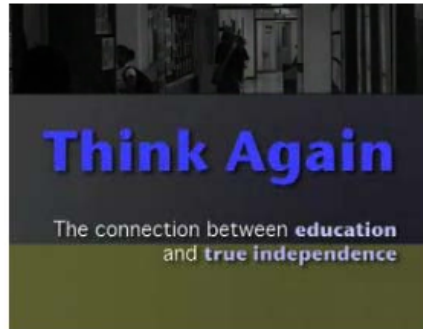
- **New and Strategic Relationships**

Boston Private Industry Council

- ✓ **Lead player in school dropout**
- ✓ **Savvy with setting the agenda**
- ✓ **Driving the work**
- ✓ **Established and Convene Youth Transitions Task Force**
- ✓ **Created Think Ahead, a video to put a voice and a face to the issue with youth**



Dropout Recovery Video



"Think Again" is the new Commonwealth Corporation video explains the financial and social costs of dropping out of school in the words of former dropouts who later pursued a high school diploma or GED.

[View the video](#)



Lessons Learned

- Move out of comfort zone
- Diverse voices are important
- Important to document/capture the days discourse and use the information to create another step in the public awareness campaign
- We are good at convening
- Forum creates momentum and momentum precedes action
- Track invitees



So now what?


- We didn't have a document of the days events
- We convened individuals from silos
- We introduced the topic, realized how entrenched the silos are in the landscape
- We began to immerse ourselves in the education realm
- Attended relevant conferences
- Met with Secretary of Education
- Listened for the role that the health sector could play

What did we learn about the role of health in reducing school dropout?

- No mention of underlying physical, emotional and social challenges students were facing, especially related to poverty, on drop-out.
 - How are these issues being factored into dropout reduction strategies?
 - What role is the health sector being asked to play?
- Decided to convene a 2nd forum



Dropout Forum #2 Invitation



School Dropout Forum
*Avoiding the Dropout Danger Zone:
Creating a Collaborative Action Plan*

When:
Wednesday, February 25, 2009 ~~From:~~ 9:00 AM to Noon

Forum Goal:
To leverage the knowledge, relationships and commitment of those with a vested interest in reducing school drop-out and gain broad-based recognition of the importance that underlying social and emotional challenges play in placing students at risk.

Who should attend?
Educational Leaders, Health and Community-Based Organizational Leaders, Child Advocates, Policy Makers, Philanthropists, Business Leaders, Juvenile Justice Advocates and other concerned leaders and advocates

Where?
Radisson Hotel
200 Stuart Street
Boston, MA 02116

Please RSVP by February 18:
Nancy W. Carpenter 617-988-1205; ncarpenter@mscibhc.org

Convened By:
Massachusetts Coalition of School-Based Health Centers, Inc.
40 Court Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108



Dropping out of school is not an impulsive isolated action impacting youth alone. Instead, dropping out is a culmination of long-term disengagement that profoundly affects families, communities, and the nation.

(Christle, Jolivette, & Nelson, 2007)

* J.W. Richardson, PhD



Grass-roots focus

- The first forum focused on convening high level policy makers and leaders from diverse sectors
- For the 2nd forum we reached out more broadly, seeking to engage those with a commitment to reduce school dropout and who recognized the health sector as having a role



What are roles for health professionals in improving school completion rates?

- Educate public and policy makers on education and health virtuous circle
- Develop and advocate for policies and programs that reduce health-related school drop out
- Participate in multi-issue coalitions to improve public schools
- Create an evidence base that can guide policy

What else?

* Freudenberg



Which Came First?

Education



Health



Desired Outcomes for Forum #2

- Leverage Knowledge
- Leverage Relationships
- Leverage Commitment
- Convene grassroots individuals from a large variety of diverse disciplines



Details Matter

- Location of event & reduced parking fee
- Size of the Convening Space
- Roundtables to facilitate dialogue
- Biographical sketches of speakers
- Packets at each seat
- Good Acoustics & attention to hearing every voice
- Engaged in a personal dialogue with each participant
- Detailed Participants Form

Planning Forum #2



- Extensive dialogue with the education policy consultant
- Wanted people with the knowledge, passion and interest in collaborative approaches to be featured
- Engaged each presenter individually
- Structured the day to capture the multiple perspectives in the short amount of time afforded

Agenda



Agenda

Welcome

- Nancy Carpenter, Executive Director, MA Coalition of School-Based Health Centers

Commission on School Dropout Prevention and Recovery:

- Neil Sullivan, Executive Director, Boston Private Industry Council
- Mitchell Chester, Commissioner, MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

What We Know For Sure: A Rationale For Collaboration

- Jeanita Richardson, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Public Health Policy and Practice, University of Virginia; President, Turpeau Consulting Group, LLC & W.K. Kellogg Foundation Education Policy Consultant

Dropout Danger Zone: A Clinician's Perspective

- Karen Hacker, M.D., Executive Director, Institute for Community Health

Panel 1: Helping Traumatized Children Succeed

- Thomas S. Kingston, PhD, Superintendent of Schools, Chelsea School District
- Pamela Rivers, Lead School Nurse, Fitchburg Public Schools
- Susan Cole, Director, Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, Mass Advocates for Children
- Allison Kilcoyne, Nurse Practitioner and Site Manager, English High School-Based Health Center, Lynn Community Health Center

Panel 2: In the Danger Zone: Lessons Learned

- Patti Mertes and Megan Harding, Clinicians, Dean Tech High School, School-Based Health Center, River Valley Counseling
- Zeriah Mendrell, Student, Dean Tech High School, Holyoke
- Emmanuel Allen, Dropout Recovery Team, Boston Private Industry Council
- Tami Wilson, Coordinator, School to Prison Pipeline Project, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice, Harvard Law School

Round Table Discussion

Closing Statements

- Jeanita Richardson, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Public Health Policy and Practice, University of Virginia; President, Turpeau Consulting Group, LLC & W.K. Kellogg Foundation Education Policy Consultant

Next Steps & Convening Adjourned

- Nancy Carpenter, Executive Director, MA Coalition of School-Based Health Centers

What did it look like? Keynotes



Panel I



Trauma Sensitive Schools

Panel II



170 Participants




Participant Form

Participant Form

1. Please select the sector and role(s) that most closely describes your affiliation?

Education	Health	Governmental	Other
School District/ School Administrator	School-Based Health Center	Legislators/Staff	Public Safety
Guidance Counselor	Health Plan Representative	Governor's/ Office/Executive Offices	Philanthropy
School Nurse	Local Health Department	Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education	Advocacy Organization
Adjustment Counselor	Community -Based Organization	Department of Public Health	Media
Student Support Services	Health Educator	Department of Children & Families	Faith-based organization
Student	Community Health Center	Department of Mental Health	Business or Business Association
University/College Staff or Faculty	Hospital		Researcher
	Community Health Worker		Parent
Other:	Other:	Other:	Other:



Who attended?

Forum participants represented diverse sectors:

- 20% from education
- 34% from health
- 18% from government
- 4% from multidisciplinary roles
- 24% “other”



Roundtable Discussion Questions:

- Think of one best practice that you think makes a difference. Try to describe the elements that make it work.
- What do you think the solutions are for moving forward from today's convening?
- What recommendations do you have for the Dropout Commission and the Child and Youth Readiness Cabinet?



Lessons Learned

- Move out of comfort zone, but tapped into individuals heartfelt passion
- Capturing the detailed discussion takes time and talent
- We continue to be good at convening on a shoestring budget
- On the grassroots levels there are diverse stakeholders ripe for engagement
- Forum creates momentum and momentum precedes action



New Opportunities



Drop Out Commission Public Hearing Draws SBHC Testimony

Sarah Rulnick (Central)
Mary Fago (Western)
Linda O'Neil (Western)
Patti Mertes (Western)
Megan Harding (Western)
Nancy Carpenter



April Public Hearings: Dropout Commission in background
Renee Aird, Commissioner of DPH designee on the Commission



Redirecting the School to Prison Pipeline

Charles Hamilton Huston Institute, Harvard Law School

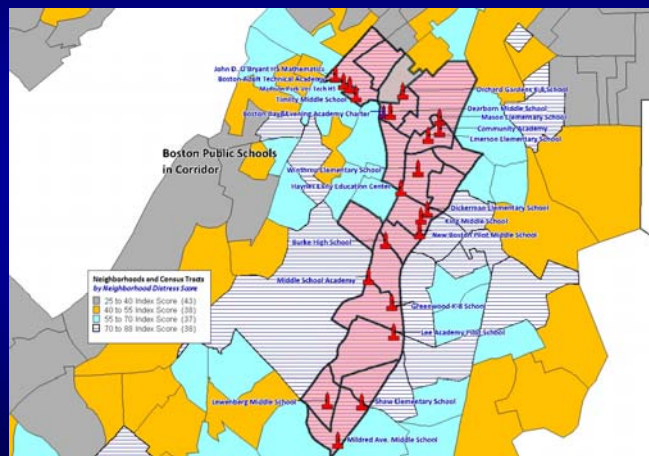
- Examines various routes students take that result in contact with the juvenile justice system
- Identifies points at which to intervene prevent or recover students on the undesirable path to incarceration
 - Informed the structure of meeting dialogues for future convenings
 - Connected with Holyoke in tracking/data collection on the pipeline



Boston Adaption of the Harlem Children's Zone Project

James Jennings

Department of
Urban Planning,
Tufts University



Schott Foundation

- Invitation to a Policy Seminar : Connect the Dot Training for Organizers –State Budget and Tax Policies on Education
- Invited to attend Group Meeting with Secretary of Education Paul Reville to engage in dialogue about public education during these daunting times
- Invited to attend a Stand for Children Forum




MA Association of School Committees

- Attended joint conference of MA Association of School Committee /MA Association of School Superintendents (Fall 2008)
- Coalition will be coordinating 4 sessions focused on health for the Fall 2009 Joint Conference





Proceedings Generated from Forum #2



School Dropout as a Public Health Concern

Forum Report
*Avoiding the Dropout Danger Zone:
Creating a Collaborative Action Zone*

Proceedings from the February 25, 2009 Forum
Boston, Massachusetts




School Dropout As A Public Health Concern

Please join us for the release of our *Forum Report* focused on the underlying health, emotional and social challenges that place students at risk for dropout.


Thursday, May 21, 2009
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Room 437
Massachusetts State House


RSVP
Antonia Elson
aelson@mschbc.org
617-988-2243

Refreshments Will Be Served



A Briefing for the Proceeding Report Release






School Dropout As A Public Health Concern

Please join us for the release of our *Forum Report* focused on the underlying health, emotional and social challenges that place students at risk for dropout.

Thursday, May 21, 2009
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Room 437
Massachusetts State House


RSVP
Antonia Elgin
aelgin@ma-sbhc.org
617-998-2243

Refreshments Will Be Served




Briefing

- Timing Important – Annual State Budget in Process
- Location
- Strategic Legislative Partner
- Strategically Selected Speakers
- Wide electronic distribution of invitation
- Individual invitation dropped off to each legislator




Briefing – Keynote Speaker

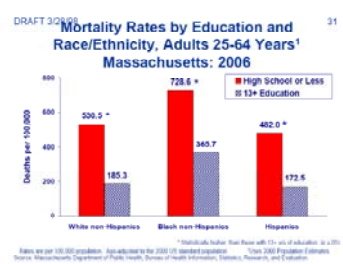


*Just What the Doctor Ordered:
A High School Diploma*

Lauren Smith, MD, MPH
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

May 21, 2009
Presentation at MA Coalition of School-Based Health Centers Briefing

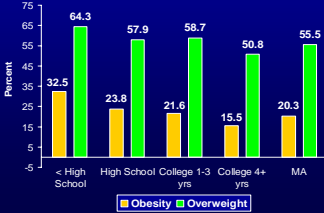




Mortality Rates by Education and Race/Ethnicity, Adults 25-64 Years¹ Massachusetts: 2006

Race/Ethnicity	High School or Less	≥ HS Education
White non-Hispanics	526.5 *	185.3
Black non-Hispanics	728.6 *	345.7
Hispanics	402.0 *	172.5

* Statistics higher than those with 12+ yrs of education in 2005



Education Level	Obesity (%)	Overweight (%)
< High School	32.5	64.3
High School	23.8	57.9
College 1-3 yrs	21.6	58.7
College 4+ yrs	15.5	50.8
MA	20.3	55.5

Briefing



Representative Liz Malia
MA State Representative



Neil Sullivan
Boston Private Industry Council



Susan Cole
Mass Advocates for Children



Gail Gall
MGH Institute for Health Professions

Briefing



Maureen Scott - Boston Public Health Commission,
Nurse Practitioner, Burke High School, School-Based
Health Center



Multiple Pathways...

.... A Local View

Dean Technical High SBHC

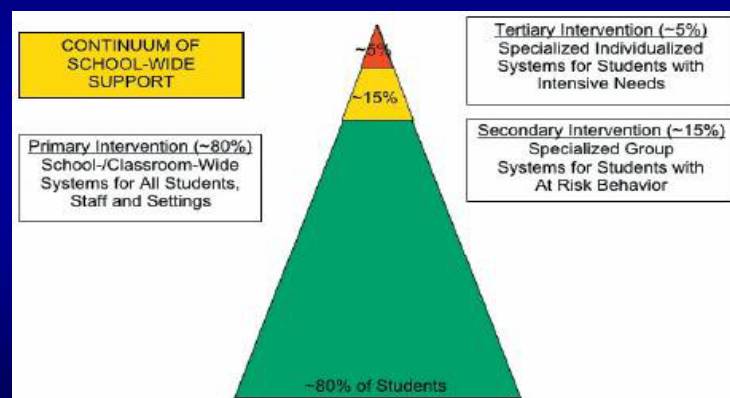


Role & Purpose of SBHC

- As a SBHC, we have the **responsibility** and the **access** to help make school a more safe, relevant and engaging environment for the school community that we serve.
- Our charge is to respond to issues of **health** and **wellness** at Dean on individual, school-wide and community levels.



Continuum of SBHC tasks Necessary to Prevent Dropout



Collaborative Efforts with School

- Focus on: School Climate
- Safe Schools Ambassadors
- Mediation and conflict resolution
- Wellness Project



Dean Tech's Safe School Ambassadors Building school climate from the inside out



And how SBHCs can intervene...

1. Life events

2. Fadeouts

3. Push outs

4. Failure to Succeed

1. Psychotherapy, primary care and mental health support; referral to community service-providers
2. Mental health support and psycho-education to families and schools about undiagnosed causes of "school refusal"
3. School-wide climate work; mediation services; anti-violence programming; collaboration with school resource officers, VP's and Juvenile Court.
4. IEP advocacy and support; referral to community service providers, upward bound and tutoring programs.



A community group formed with the goal of improving the city has decided to focus its efforts on raising the graduation rate to 100 percent of all students...

"We decided the graduation rate affects everyone and the future of the city," she said.

Better-educated students means a stronger work force for businesses, fewer people needing social services, improved real estate values and more people able to open small businesses, Casey said. "People are going to move here because there is a healthy school system," Gilburg said.

Dropout rate aim of group

Sunday, June 07, 2009

By JEANETTE DeFORGE

jdetorge@repub.com

HOLYOKE - A community group formed with the goal of improving the city has decided to focus its efforts on raising the graduation rate to 100 percent of all students.

The goal is lofty, especially since the graduation rate was 53 percent in 2008, but members said they don't see the point of setting a lower number since they want to see all students graduate, said Rory P. Casey, a member of the group and a stay-at-home father who also runs a marketing consulting business.

Holyoke Unites joins 140 volunteers from businesses, the five are colleges, political action committees and nonprofit groups that want to work together to better the city, said Amy E. Gilburg, a business leadership consultant and chairwoman of Holyoke Unites.

"We decided the graduation rate affects everyone and the future of the city," she said.

Better-educated students means a stronger work force for businesses, fewer people needing social services, improved real estate values and more people able to open small businesses, Casey said.

"People are going to move here because there is a healthy school system," Gilburg said.

The group appeared before the School Committee this week to request to meet with its curriculum subcommittee in the future to discuss how it could work with the school department. The request was accepted in a 7-0 vote.

Gilburg said her group is working with a group of University of Massachusetts at Amherst students who researched the graduation rates and have been studying the problem and the reason only half the students graduate.

Members also will look at other schools which have shown success and hopes to copy their programs, she said.

"There is no blame to lay on the feet of anyone," Casey said. "We are going to say we have a problem, and how can we fix the problem?"

Casey said he joined Holyoke Unites after working on political campaigns and with other community groups, and realized that many are working toward similar goals and would be more effective if they all worked together.

He said he is impressed at how focused the group has been and how much they are getting done in the short time they have been together.

Take Away Messages

- Everyone has a stake in helping students graduate
- There are many places on the pathway to dropout to intervene
- You have to earn a seat at the table
- Must work outside your comfort zone
- Don't expect consensus on health's role in preventing dropout

Reciprocal

Education



Health



School-Based Health Center Resources

MA Coalition of School-Based Health Centers
www.mcsbhc.org

National Assembly on School-Based Health Care:
www.nasbhc.org

Center for Health and Health Care in Schools:
www.healthinschools.org

Center for School Based Health, Bureau for
Primary Health Care, HRSA:
www.bphc.hrsa.gov

Questions?

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School-Based Health Centers: At the Intersection of Health & Education



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Pediatrics Article

PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

**Disparities in Academic Achievement and Health: The Intersection of Child
Education and Health Policy**
Kevin Fiscella and Harriet Katzman
Pediatrics 2009;123:1073-1080
DOI: 10.1542/peds.2008-0533

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is
located on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/123/3/1073>

