

Vermont SPF-SIG Secondary Priority Selection Guide

In the two training workshops held so far, we have discussed several sources of information that can be used by community grantees in selecting their second priority. This guide is intended to summarize the key points from those discussions, and provide a worksheet that can be used by grantees to tally the various considerations used in making their choice. It builds on a template that was presented at the December workshop (in "Data 301"), but has been expanded and provides more guidance on how to complete it.

The primary source of data that we recommend you use in selecting your priority is the YRBS and BRFSS community data profile that was provided to each grantee at the December workshop. Background information on the profile and approaches to using the data are provided in the power point file (Epi Data Analysis and Interpretation) and handout (Data Profiles Guidance) that were presented at the training and available on the Center for Health and Learning web site (www.healthandlearning.org). Although not all of the indicators we'd ideally like to have are available at the community level, some communities might nevertheless find patterns in their data that are sufficiently strong and consistent as to clearly indicate a justifiable choice for their second priority.

The information obtained through each community grantee's resource and readiness survey may also provide useful information for selecting their second priority. Summary reports from these surveys have recently been sent to most community grantees, along with an explanation of the contents of the reports and a list of items that are especially relevant to selecting your second priority. In general, for communities where there seems to be substantially less awareness and readiness for one of the two options relative to the other, the grantee will likely find it easier to win support for and implement strategies that target the problem for which awareness and readiness is higher.

Other sources of information may also come into play. These include any other sources of epidemiological data on the priority outcomes to which the community grantee may have access (e.g., college student survey data on alcohol and marijuana use) recent events in the community (or state) that may have stimulated heightened interest in a particular problem or issue related to one of the candidate priorities, and any other considerations that seem relevant to the grantee and for which credible information is available. Considerations regarding the feasibility, cultural fit, and/or effectiveness of intervention strategies for those priorities should NOT come into play at this point, but could be assessed later on as a possible basis for revisiting the choice if needed.

A worksheet for tracking assessments from each of the various information sources described above is provided on the next page. It is very likely that community grantees will be required to include the completed worksheet, or similar documentation, in the community strategic plans as justification for their selection of a secondary priority.

Secondary Priority Selection Worksheet

Each of the two rightmost columns in the table below corresponds to one of the two optional priorities for the Vermont SPF-SIG grantee communities. Both pertain to behaviors among persons age 25 and younger. Place a check mark or other symbol of your choice to indicate whether each criterion listed supports the selection of that priority. Use small or regular-face symbols if the evidence for your assessment is weak (e.g., there is only a small difference in the numbers being compared), and larger or bold-face symbols when the evidence for the assessment appears to be strong (e.g., a difference of at least several percentage points).

Criteria:		High Risk Drinking	Marijuana Use
From Data Tables –YRBS data			
1.	In your community in 2007, which rate was higher: binge drinking among high school students or marijuana use? [Select one]		
2.	In your community in 2007, which rate was higher: driving after drinking or driving after using marijuana? [Select one]		
3.	In your community in 2007, which rate was higher: riding in car with someone who was drinking or riding in car with someone who was using marijuana? [Select one]		
4.	Between 2003 and 2007, in your community which rate has decreased less (or increased more) relative to the other: binge drinking or marijuana use? [Select one]		
5.	Between 2003 and 2007, in your community which rate has decreased less (or increased more) relative to the other: driving after drinking or driving after using marijuana? [Select one]		
6.	Between 2003 and 2007, in your community which rate has decreased less (or increased more) relative to the other: riding in car with someone who was drinking or riding in car with someone who was using marijuana? [Select one]		
7.	In 2007, were rates of binge drinking and marijuana use in your community higher than the state rates? [If so, select one or both] .		
8.	In 2007, were rates of driving after drinking and driving after marijuana use in your community higher than the state rates? [If so, select one or both] .		
9.	In 2007, were rates of riding with a drinker and riding with a marijuana user in your community higher than the state rates? [If so, select one or both] .		
10.	Between 2003 and 2007, did the rates of binge drinking and marijuana use in your community decrease less (or increase more) than the corresponding state rates? [If so, select one or both]		
11.	Between 2003 and 2007, did the rates of driving after drinking and driving after using marijuana in your community decrease less (or increase more) than the corresponding state rates? [If so, select one or both]		
12.	Between 2003 and 2007, did the rates of riding with a drinker and riding with a marijuana user in your community decrease less (or increase more) than the corresponding state rates? [If so, select one or both]		

Worksheet (continued)

Criteria:		High Risk Drinking	Marijuana Use
From Data Tables – BRFSS data			
13.	Was the rate of binge drinking among persons aged 18 to 25 in your community higher than corresponding rate for the state? [If so, place mark in high risk drinking column]		Not available
14.	Was the rate of driving after having too much to drink among persons aged 18 to 25 in your community higher than corresponding rate for the state? [If so, place mark in high risk drinking column]		Not available
From Resource and Readiness Survey			
15.	As perceived by community residents, what is more of a problem - alcohol use or marijuana use among persons aged 12 to 17? [Select one]		
16.	As perceived by community residents, what is more of a problem - alcohol use or marijuana use among persons aged 18 to 25? [Select one]		
17.	As perceived by key informant, what is more of a problem - alcohol use or marijuana use among persons aged 12 to 17? [Select one]		
18.	As perceived by key informant, what is more of a problem - alcohol use or marijuana use among persons aged 18 to 25? [Select one]		
19.	Where would community residents like to see greater efforts – preventing alcohol abuse or preventing other drug use? [Select one]		
20.	Which is less of a barrier to prevention activities in your community – high risk drinking is not considered a priority problem or marijuana use is not considered a priority problem? [Select one]		
21.	For what problem is there an overall higher stage of readiness – high risk drinking among persons under age 25 or marijuana use among persons under age 25? [Select one]		
22.	Other considerations (if any) based on the findings from the Resource and Readiness Survey (e.g., comparisons with state averages). Describe: [If applicable, mark one or both columns].		
From other epidemiological data sources at the community level (if any)			
23.	Describe data source(s) and consideration applied: [If applicable, mark one or both columns].		
From recent community events and other community context considerations not captured in the Resource and Readiness Survey (if any)			
24.	Describe: [If applicable, mark one or both columns].		
From any other criteria not captured above (if any)			
25.	Describe: [If applicable, mark one or both columns].		