



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

July 23, 2020

Dear Partners of Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Grantees:

Thank you for your partnership and support to implement programs that promote sexual risk avoidance among our nation's youth. We recognize that this critical work, to ensure that our youth are equipped for the future, could never be possible without you at the table. The collection of the SRAE performance measures is the first opportunity for the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) to collect data on the SRAE programs across the nation. These data are essential to enable our agency to report, share, and disseminate information about SRAE programs to the broader youth development field and to advocate for and justify continued congressional funding.

FYSB developed the performance measures based on the overall goal and instructional topics required by the authorizing legislation of this program. The primary goal of SRAE programs is to implement education exclusively on sexual risk avoidance, meaning voluntarily refraining from non-marital sexual activity. According to the authorizing legislation, all programs must teach each of the required topics to include:

- a) The holistic, individual, and societal benefits associated with personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, and a focus on the future.
- b) The advantage of refraining from non-marital sexual activity to improve the future prospects, and physical and emotional health of youth.
- c) The increased likelihood of avoiding poverty when youth attain self-sufficiency and emotional maturity before engaging in sexual activity.
- d) The foundational components of healthy relationships and their impact on the formation of healthy marriages and safe and stable families.
- e) The effect of other youth risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol usage, on increasing the risk for teen sex.
- f) Strategies on how to resist and avoid, and receive help regarding, sexual coercion and dating violence, recognizing that—even with consent—teen sex remains a youth risk.

Contraception. For programs that provide information on contraception, the information must be medically accurate and complete, and ensure students understand that

contraception offers physical risk reduction, but not risk elimination, and the education cannot include demonstrations, simulations, or distribution of contraceptive devices.

The purpose of federal performance measures is for the federal agency to effectively monitor and report on program implementation and progress. FYSB also plans to use the performance measures in the following ways:

- to provide timely feedback to grantees for ongoing program improvement,
- to report to FYSB, ACF, and HHS leadership as requested,
- to compare the youth served in SRAE programs with youth in other national surveys, such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); and
- to maintain and establish partnerships with other federal agencies focused on healthy adolescent development, and the SRAE field.

Performance measures will also be used to identify technical assistance needs among grantees, states, or local sites. At this time, we do not have plans to share the raw data with other federal agencies.

The SRAE grantees are responsible for maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the data, including de-identifying the data so that personal information, such as names and birthdates, is detached from the respondents' answers when reported to FYSB. Grantees are also responsible for ensuring the de-identified data are not shared with other local officials without specific permission to do so. If you have other concerns related to privacy, confidentiality, and data sharing at the state or local level, please share these concerns with your awarding agency.

All SRAE grantees have the option to request a waiver for items that do not align with the local policies, practices, and/or legislation. If you have concerns related to the performance measures, please express them to your awarding agency, identify which items do not align with your local practices, and provide documentation, as needed, to support the waiver request.

We thank you for your continued support of SRAE programming.

Regards,

Elizabeth Darling

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Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

Acting Associate Commissioner, Family and Youth Services Bureau