



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

November 1, 2021

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

Thank you for your partnership and support in implementing 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, would never be possible without you at the table. The collection of the SRAE performance measures is an 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 and the notice of funding opportunity announcement, all programs must teach:

the benefits associated with self-regulation, success sequencing for poverty prevention, healthy relationships, goal setting, and resisting sexual coercion, dating violence, and other youth risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illicit drug use without normalizing teen sexual activity. Curricula, interventions, and activities can provide information on contraception that does not include demonstrations and/or simulations of contraceptive devices. Any information provided on contraception must ensure that youth understand that contraception offers physical risk reduction and not risk elimination.

The purpose of federal performance measures is for the federal agency to effectively monitor and report on program implementation and progress. FYSB will 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.

FYSB does not collect or require grantees to submit personally identifiable information, such as names, birthdates, or addresses. 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, are detached from the respondents' answers during data collection. 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.

FYSB grantees and subrecipients are required to collect and report on all OMB-approved SRAE performance measures surveys as a condition of receiving grant funding. Performance measures waivers may only be requested for specific exceptions as outlined by FYSB, including:

- Requests that are supported by approved and written state or school board policies that explicitly prohibit specific questions that are on the participant entry and exit surveys.
- Requests that are supported by IRB decisions that are related to the protection of human subjects.
- Requests to waive items that are not accessible and/or appropriate for the cognitive development of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Requests to waive items for grade levels lower than the middle school survey (6th-8th), such as 4th or 5th grade
- Requests to waive items that do not apply to the following populations:
 - youth who have graduated high school; and
 - pregnant or parenting youth.

FYSB asks that you work with your implementation sites to obtain the proper permissions to allow the collection of the SRAE entry and exit performance measure surveys. We thank you for your continued support of SRAE programming.

Regards,

Debbie A. Powell

Debbie A. Powell
Acting Associate Commissioner
Family and Youth Services Bureau