

Development of a Shared Measurement System to Address Health Disparities through Collective Impact: The East Side Thrives Initiative

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Background: Historic data highlight numerous health disparities in East St. Louis, Illinois, including poverty, violence, and low educational attainment. East Side Aligned is addressing these disparities through collective impact¹, which involves five primary principles:

1. A common agenda
2. Shared measurement
3. Mutually reinforcing activities
4. Continuous communication
5. Backbone support from a lead agency

In 2015, East Side Aligned partnered with five local out-of-school service providers to promote youth health through an initiative called East Side Thrives (“EST”). EST promotes four outcomes among youth:

- o Physical activity
- o Healthy choices (healthy eating)
- o Academic success
- o Youth leadership

The purpose of this poster is to describe the development of shared measurement to address health disparities through collective impact.



Method: EST developed a theory of change and:

- o Reviewed outputs/outcomes
- o Considered community health indicators (CHIs)
- o Shared potential CHIs with service providers

Results: Across the theory of change’s outputs and outcomes (N=50), 40 were more qualitative:

- o 36 could come from program documentation
- o 3 could be obtained from structured interviews
- o 1 could be obtained through review of youth grant applications

The **Table** below shows example CHIs for EST

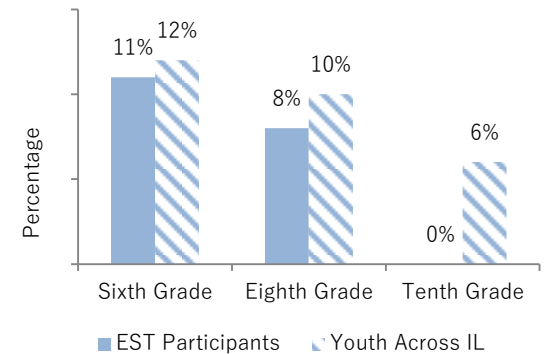
Source	Indicator	Item or Question and Response Options
Community Check Box	Delivery of curriculum	Which program/curriculum was used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Winning in Life o Building Educated Leaders for Life o Youth Program Quality Intervention
Attendance Records	Count of children and youth served in out-of-school activities	Review and aggregation of attendance records
Replication of the Illinois Youth Survey	Consumption of vegetables	During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat vegetables?
Exiting Pre/Post Data	Gain in reading skills	STAR Reading Scaled Score: A 34-item assessment scaled between 0 - 1400

Results (continued): 5 outputs/outcomes were more quantitative:

- o 2 could be obtained through a survey replication
- o 2 through existing pre/post data
- o 1 through provider attendance records

3 outcomes are still to be determined and 2 were dropped.

The **Figure** below shows a baseline data display for a CHI related to consumption of vegetable (4 or more times per day) during the past 7 days.



Conclusion: The selection of CHIs presents an important part of developing shared measurement for collective impact. Lessons learned and findings:

- o A theory of change ensures a clear starting point
- o The high proportion of qualitative indicators for EST reflected the complexity of the initiative²
- o Obtaining stakeholder buy-in for CHIs is critical

References: 1.) Kania, J. & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, 36-41. Retrieved from http://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective_impact 2.) Kania, J. & Kramer, M. (2014). Embracing emergence: How collective impact addresses complexity. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Retrieved from http://ssir.org/articles/entry/embracing_emergence_how_collective_impact_addresses_complexity

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