

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative (CPWI)

Improving School Outcomes

Problem: Increasing the High School Graduation Rates in WA State

Washington State's on-time graduation rate was 79% and dropout rate was 12% in 2016-2017 academic year. Increasing the high school graduation rate benefits the individual, community, and society at large. In Washington State, the per-student monetary benefit associated with graduating from high school is estimated at \$581,156 accrued over an individual's lifetime. These include benefits to the individual such as higher earnings, and benefits to the community and society such as increased tax revenue, lower crime, and lower likelihood of using of publicly funded health care services.¹

Solution: Washington State's Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

What is Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI)?

CPWI is a strategic, data-informed, community coalition model aimed at preventing adolescent substance use and related risk factors and improving school outcomes. CPWI uses a community coalition model as a prevention strategy to foster community ownership of prevention efforts and to increase sustainability of prevention programming. CPWI provides comprehensive prevention. There are currently 64 communities at various stages in the CPWI process. CPWI is a comprehensive, multi-component, and multilevel initiative which aims to reduce individual, peer, family, school, and community risk factors associated with adolescent substance use.

How is CPWI different?

Washington State Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) started CPWI in 2011 as a new funding approach to prioritize allocation of prevention funds to traditionally underserved, high-need communities throughout the state. CPWI is unique in its approach to community selection because CPWI communities are selected based primarily on risk scores computed from key substance use and consequence indicators.

DBHR COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND WELLNESS INITIATIVE PLANNING FRAMEWORK



Results

Did school outcomes improve in CPWI Cohort 1 communities from baseline to the post-intervention time point?

Yes. Graduation rates increased and dropout rates decreased in CPWI communities from baseline (T1) to post-intervention time point (T2).

School Outcomes	Cohort 1		
	T1	T2	Improved?
4-Year On-time Graduation Rate	76%	83%	👍
4-Year Dropout Rate	14%	10%	👍
5-Year On-time Graduation Rate	78%	85%	👍
5-Year Dropout Rate	19%	12%	👍

👍 Improvement in outcomes (percent change of 5% or more)

At baseline, CPWI Cohort 1 communities were at significantly higher risk for poor school outcomes than other similar Washington communities. Had CPWI communities closed the gap at the post-intervention time point?

Yes. At baseline, CPWI Cohort 1 communities were at higher risk for having lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates. By 2016, these gaps were eliminated suggesting that CPWI is effective in improving school outcomes.

School Outcomes	Cohort 1		
	T1	T2	Closed Gap?
Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate	🔴	🟢	Yes
Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate	🔴	🟢	Yes
Adjusted 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate	🔴	🟢	Yes
Adjusted 5-Year Cohort Dropout Rate	🔴	🟢	Yes

🔴 CPWI communities were at significantly higher risk than other similar Washington communities for poor school outcomes ($p < .05$).

🟢 CPWI communities closed existing gap in level of risk following CPWI implementation ($p < .05$).

CPWI communities were at higher risk, but they have closed the gap.

Technical Notes

CPWI Cohorts

- CPWI Cohort 1 started in 2011.
- CPWI Cohort 2 started in 2012.
- CPWI Cohort 3 started in 2013.

School Outcomes

We used *adjusted 4- and 5-year cohort graduation and dropout rates* data from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website. In the adjusted cohort methodology, students who begin as first-time 9th graders in a school year are placed in cohort and followed over four years (for adjusted 4-year graduation rate calculation) and five years (for adjusted 5-year graduation rate calculation). This calculation adjusts the number of students in the cohort by adding students who joined the cohort by transferring into a Washington public high school for the first time, and by subtracting any students who transfer out of a Washington public high school.²

Adjusted 4-Year Rates: T1 or baseline is class of 2011 (i.e. school year 2010-2011). This is the first year for which the new formula for calculating graduation and dropout rates is applied. T2 or post-intervention time point is class of 2017 (i.e. school year 2016-2017).

Adjusted 5-Year Rates: T1 or baseline is class of 2010 (i.e. school year 2010-2011). This is the first year for which the new formula for calculating graduation and dropout rates is applied. T2 or post-intervention time point is class of 2016 (i.e. school year 2016-2017).

Analysis

We used percent change calculation to examine whether school outcomes had improved in CPWI communities from baseline to 2016. The percentages presented in the table have been rounded off. Percent change calculation was performed on unrounded percentages.

References

1. Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. (2018). *Graduation and Dropout Statistics*. Retrieved from <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/pubdocs/GradDropout/16-17/2016-17GraduationDropoutStatisticsAnnualReport.pdf>
2. Dorn, R., & Came, D. (2012). *Graduation Rate Calculations in Washington State*. Retrieved from <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/pubdocs/GradDropout/GradRateCalculationsinWASchYrsMarch2012.pdf>