

Project Brief

Teen Health Policy Project

Background

Policies related to health education and health initiatives in schools are often determined at a state level. Numerous studies have examined the impact of state level school health policies on specific teens' health outcomes or how teens' health outcomes change over time. However, few studies have investigated how changes in school health policy relate to changes in youth health outcomes in subsequent years. The teen health policy project aims to examine multiple school related health policies and whether changes in those policies impact youth health outcomes.

Initial Objectives

- Combine School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) data and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) data into a comprehensive policy database
- Assess the impact of school health policy on youth health outcomes
- Analyze how changes in policy create changes in youth health outcomes

Design

- Secondary data analysis
- Repeat measures design (SHPPS 2000 and 2006 data)
- Outcomes of interest = smoking behavior, alcohol consumption, number of sexual partners, use of contraceptives, and depression

Accomplishments to Date

- IRB approval in June of 2009

- Obtained SHPPS and YRBSS data from multiple years and state and created comprehensive policy database
- Conducted initial analyses regarding teen health outcomes

Timeline

May 2009 – November 2010

Project Members

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The Center for Urban Population Health is a partnership among the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Aurora Health Care, Inc. Our mission is advancing population health research and education to improve the health of urban communities.