

Iowa Partnerships for Success



County Assessment Workbook

Iowa Department of Public Health,
Division of Behavioral Health

State of Iowa Epidemiological Workgroup

April 2015



Adapted from the Wyoming Epidemiological Workgroup and the North Dakota Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Needs Assessment Workbook.

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Products and Datelines

Table 1: Deadlines for Activities and Workbook Completion

Product	Due Date	Date Completed
Identify stakeholders to assist with data collection, interpretation and completion of Community Needs Assessment Workbook.	May 15, 2015	May 15, 2015
Identify needed data and determine if data is currently available or will need to be collected.	May 29, 2015	May 29, 2015
Collect data from existing sources.	June 5-19, 2015	May 29, 2015
Collect original data including law enforcement and stakeholder interviews, county meetings and focus groups	June 5-19, 2015	June 19, 2015
Identify current community resources. Identify possible gaps and areas of duplication.	June 5-19, 2015	June 19, 2015
Convene coalition, collaborative council or evaluation subcommittee to assist in review and completion of CAW.	Multiple Meetings	May 19, 2015 June 26, 2015
County Needs Assessment Workbook submitted to IPDH	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2015

By **June 30, 2015**, a final copy of the County Needs Assessment Workbook (only pages 13 until the end of the workbook) should be submitted electronically to:

Toby V. Yak, MPH, PhD(c)

Lead Epidemiologist
 IDPH, Division of Behavioral Health
 321 E. 12th Street
 Des Moines, IA 50319
 toby.yak@idph.iowa.gov
 (515) 281-8261

For additional technical assistance or questions, contact Toby Yak.

Introduction

SAMHSA's Partnerships for Success funding builds upon the experience and established Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) based prevention infrastructures of states/tribes to address two of the nation's top substance abuse prevention priorities in communities of high need. The program is based on the premise that changes at the community level will, over time, lead to measurable changes at the state/tribal level.

Through Iowa Partnerships for Success (IPFS), the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Behavioral Health is funding highest need counties to address Iowa's substance abuse prevention priorities of reducing underage and youth binge drinking among persons aged 12 to 20.

The SPF represents a five-step, data driven process used to 1) assess needs; 2) build capacity; 3) engage in a strategic planning process; 4) implement a strategic plan and 5) evaluate processes and outcomes. Cultural competency and sustainability are a focus across all five SPF steps.

Figure 1: Five Steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework Process



The first phase of the SPF model is Assessment, which involves the gathering and examination of data related to substance use and related consequences, community climate, environment, and infrastructure/resources. By design, this Community Needs Assessment Workbook is intended to walk you through the assessment process in a step-by-step manner to assess your local prevention needs.

Outcome-Based Prevention

The foundation of the SPF model is Outcomes-Based Prevention (Figure 2). This process details the planning steps that must occur for community-level change. The visual representation of this is also known as a logic model. Building the logic model begins with careful identification or mapping of the local substance use problem (and associated patterns of substance use and consequences among the population affected) and the factors or intervening variables that contribute to them.

Figure 2: Outcome-Based Prevention (Lowther & Birchmayer, 2006)



Consumption refers to the way people drink/consume alcohol. For example the number of underage youth in a community who have had a drink of alcohol in the last 30 days.

Consequences are the social, economic, and health problems associated with the use of alcohol. For example the number of youth who are suspended from school for alcohol violations or who receive a citation for driving under the influence.

Intervening Variables are the underlying factors that contribute to the problem. For example social or retail access to alcohol for youth may contribute to the problem of underage drinking in a community.

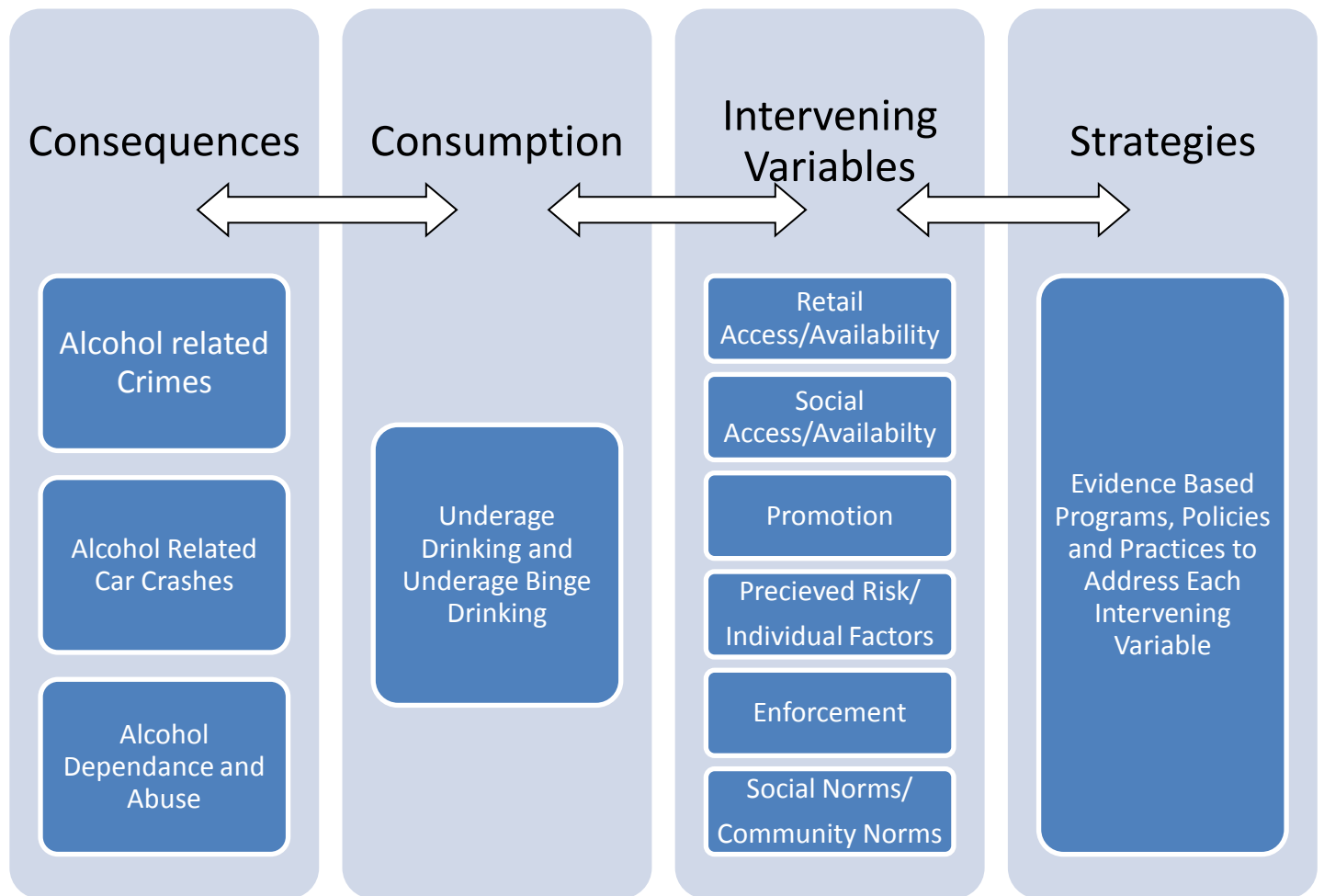
Evidence Based Strategies have documented evidence of effectiveness and preferably have been rigorously tested and shown to have positive outcomes in multiple peer-reviewed evaluation studies.

All funded applicants will work towards the same outcomes/goals of the IPFS Project including:

1. Reduce the rate of underage alcohol use rate of 8th and 11th grade drinkers by at least 5% in funded counties as measured by the Iowa Youth Survey (based on 2012-2014 and 2016-2018 Iowa Youth Survey results);
2. Reduce the binge drinking rate of 8th and 11th grade drinkers by at least 5% in funded counties as measured by the Iowa Youth Survey (based on 2012-2014 and 2016-2018 Iowa Youth Survey results); and
3. Implement at least one individual and four environmental evidence-based practices in the county.

The tasks that follow are based on the outcome-based prevention model and recent research detailing the intervening variables of substance-related problems. There are four major sections (problems, causes, prioritization, and resource assessment). Within each there are data to collect and questions to answer. Following from Iowa’s targeted need (underage and binge drinking) and the known Intervening Variables, the previous model can be expanded to include evidence-based strategies, as illustrated in Figure 3 (Birchmayer, Holder, Yacoubian, & Friend, 2004)¹

Figure 3: Outcome-Based Prevention Logic Model



Workbook Organization

The workbook is organized into sections to assist you in working through the process of assessing the need, specifically by:

- Identifying consumption and consequence patterns with existing and original data
- Identifying the intervening variables that are contributing to the problem
- Setting priorities
- Identifying existing community resources
- Determining which intervening variables you will address

Data Collection

To be effective, you should not complete this workbook alone. Instead, an evaluation subcommittee of the coalition or Collaboration Council should be formed to complete this task. An evaluation subcommittee must include networks of people and organizations that bring substance abuse and mental health data, analytical thinking, and epidemiological capacity to prevention planning and decision-making in your county.³You will also want to periodically convene your larger coalition or Collaborative Council to assist in identifying possible sources of data, solicit volunteers for data collection and interpretation, and to assist in setting priorities and deciding which intervening variables your county will focus on.

Much of the data needed in this workbook may be publicly available or provided to you. In other areas, where local level data is not available to IDPH, you will be responsible for finding the information. Proportions or rates are used for simplicity, and it is acknowledged that they may vary according to their margin of error. In addition to the existing data sources that are specifically outlined in this workbook, local surveys or other data sources are encouraged to be used as sources of auxiliary information to aid in the decision making process. Your county may have already gathered survey results from businesses or from local law enforcement that may help in the needs assessment.

Existing Data

You may be surprised at how much data already exists at your local or county level. Some of these data will be provided directly to you by IDPH. Other sources of data may come from your local law enforcement agencies, school district or city and county public health departments. Some examples include data gathered by local public health agencies as part of their Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Planning or information from school districts regarding graduation rates or the number of alcohol-related suspensions. A key to successful assessment is to identify who is already collecting local data and work collaboratively to access, analyze, and interpret such data.

Original Data

In several areas of this workbook you will be asked to gather original (new) information. The purpose of this data collection is to gather information directly from your county by observation or research. This will enable you to fill in gaps where existing data may not exist, or be incomplete. Examples of this will include interviews with key partners and stakeholders, including law enforcement, and conducting county focus groups and town hall meetings. More specific resources and templates for collecting this information can be found in Appendix A and B.

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Van Buren County Assessment Workbook



Iowa Partnerships for Success

June 30, 2015

Updated February 2, 2018

County Needs Assessment Workbook Contributors

List the names of people in your county, the organizations they represent, and the contributions they made to complete this workbook in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Workbook Contributors

Name	Organization	Contribution
Toby V. Yak, MPH, PhD(c)	Iowa Department of Public Health	Data collection and analysis of state and county indicators
Kris Rankin	Van Buren County SAFE Coalition	Data Collection & Completion of the Workbook
Heidi Bainbridge	Van Buren County SAFE Coalition	Completion of the Workbook
Evaluation Committee: Ginger Knisley, Tonja Jirak, Julie Chapuis, Lee McIntosh, Melissa Daugherty	Van Buren County SAFE Coalition	Completion of the Workbook
Lindee Thomas	Van Buren County Public Health	Supplied Data
Dayle Eden	Van Buren County Sheriff's Office	Supplied Data
Robin Lyons	Van Buren Community School District	Supplied Data
Tom Walkup	Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Officer	Supplied Data
Kelli Keck	Epiphany Community Services	Collected Data, Helped with Interviews & Focus Groups

Contributors to Community Assessment Workbook Review 2018		
Name	Sector or Organization	Contribution
Toby V. Yak, MPH, PhD(c)	Iowa Department of Public Health	Data collection and analysis of state and county indicators
Kris Rankin	Van Buren County SAFE Coalition	Data Collection & Completion of Workbook
Kelli Keck	Epiphany Community Services (Coalition Evaluator)	Youth Focus Group & Collected Data & Completion of Workbook
Evaluation Committee: Ginger Knisley, Julie Chapuis, Melissa Daugherty, Gloria Brown, Lisa Plecker	Van Buren County SAFE Coalition	Completion of Workbook
Tom Walkup	Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Officer	Supplied Data
Robin Lyons	Van Buren Community School District	Supplied Data
Lacey Vandergriff	Van Buren County Sheriff's Office	Supplied Data

Local Data Sources

In Table 3 below, list all the local (county/community) data sources used in this workbook as well as a description of the data, and where it came from.

Table 3: Other Data Sources (See examples)

Data Source	Data Description	Data Location
Iowa Youth Survey(state)	Statewide school survey of 6 th , 8 th , and 11 th graders (2002, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016). Consumption variables	http://www.iowayouthsurvey.iowa.gov/
Justice Data Warehouse	The Justice Data Warehouse (JDW) is a central repository of key criminal and juvenile justice information from the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS) and information from the Iowa Correctional Offender Network (ICON) system.	http://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/cijp/jdw/index.html
I-SMART	A web-based computing environment to enable IDPH and providers to share substance abuse treatment data.	http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/tedsweb/tab_year_choose_year_web_table?t_state=IA
Epiphany Community Resources	Focus Groups Youth Focus Group in October, 2017	Van Buren County SAFE Coalition
Van Buren County Sheriff's Office	Local Law Enforcement Data Updated through 2017	Van Buren County Sheriff's Office
CHNA-HIP	Health Information for Van Buren County Updated with 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment & 2017 Community Health Improvement Plan	Van Buren County Public Health Department
Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Office	Local Juvenile Offense Data Updated with 2017 data. 2016 data was unavailable at this time.	Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Office

County Description



Description of Your County

Table 4: County Facts, [Source SDC and ACS, 2013 Population Estimate](#)

County Demographics	Description	County (N)	County Rate (%)	State (N)	State Rate (%)
2013 Population Estimate	Total Population Estimate	7,436	N/A	3,090,416	N/A
Population by Gender	Male	3,779	50.82%	1,533,401	49.62%
	Female	3,657	49.18%	1,557,015	50.38%
Population by Age	<5	481	6.47%	194,723	6.3%
	5 to 14	945	12.71%	407,375	13.18%
	15 to 24	797	10.72%	439,247	14.21%
	25 to 34	729	9.8%	390,593	12.64%
	35 to 44	803	10.8%	361,649	11.7%
	45 to 54	1,021	13.73%	414,402	13.41%
	55 to 64	1,136	15.28%	401,545	12.99%
	65 to 74	809	10.88%	250,275	8.1%
	75 to 84	482	6.48%	152,109	4.92%
	85 and over	233	3.13%	78,495	2.54%
Race/Ethnicity	White	7,231	97.27%	2,706,690	87.58%
	Black or African American	17	0.23%	96,711	3.13%
	American Indian and Alaska Native	12	0.16%	8,943	0.29%
	Asian Alone	39	0.52%	62,026	2.01%
	Hispanic or Latino Origin	84	1.13%	168,806	5.46%
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.01%	2,122	0.07%
	Other Race	52	0.7%	45,118	1.46%
Income (2009-2013)	Median Household Income	\$40,060		\$46,785	

Educational Attainment(2009-2013)	No Schooling Completed	37	0.5%	13,765	0.45%
	High School Graduate, GED, or Alternative	2,246	30.2%	666,371	21.56%
	Some College or Associate's Degree	1610	21.65%	655,568	21.21%
	Bachelor's Degree	559	7.25%	359,520	11.63%
Economic Characteristics (2009-2013)	Below Poverty for All Ages	1224	16.46%	367,414	11.89%
	Under 18 years	468	6.29%	114,742	3.71%
	18 to 64 years	569	7.65%	220,482	7.13%
	65 years and over	187	2.51%	32,190	1.04%
Government Assistance (2013)	Food Assistance Benefits (Average Monthly Households)	424	5.7%	198,572	6.43%
	Food Assistance Benefits (Total Annual Benefits)	\$1,200,580		\$578,994,624	
	Medicaid Benefits (Average Monthly Recipients Eligible)	1,275	17.15%	512,983	16.6%
	Medicaid Benefits (Total Annual Benefits)	\$6,124,234		\$3,588,516,427	

NOTE: Percent Rate = $(N \div \text{Total Population Estimate}) \times 100\%$

2018 Updated Data

County Demographics	Description	County (N)	County Rate (%)	State (N)	State Rate (%)
2016 Population Estimate	Total Population Estimate	7271	N/A	3,134,693	N/A
Population by Gender	Male	3682	50.6%	1,559,119	49.7%
	Female	3589	49.4%	1,575,574	50.3%
Population by Age	<5	442	6.1%	170,723	5.4%
	5 to 14	938	12.9%	355,003	11.3%
	15 to 24	793	10.9%	389,739	12.4%
	25 to 34	716	9.8%	350,577	11.2%
	35 to 44	769	10.6%	333,833	10.6%
	45 to 54	926	12.7%	364,920	11.6%
	55 to 64	1158	15.9%	399,088	12.7%
	65 to 74	835	11.5%	272,715	8.7%
	75 to 84	499	6.9%	150,866	4.8%
	85 and over	195	2.7%	77,450	2.5%
Race/Ethnicity	White	7,018	96.5%	2,702,702	86.2%
	Black or African American	19	.3%	109,571	3.5%
	American Indian and Alaska Native	17	.2%	9,263	.3%
	Asian Alone	41	.6%	77,294	2.5%
	Hispanic or Latino Origin	107	1.5%	182,606	5.8%
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.0%	2,906	.1%
	Other Race	68	.9%	50,351	1.6%
Income (2016)	Median Household Income	\$46,769	N/A		N/A

Other Data Sources:

Information provided by Harmony & Van Buren Community School Districts.

Van Buren Community School District Free/Reduced Program Data:

2011-12: 488 Enrolled and 226 in Free/Reduced Program
 2012-13: 648 Enrolled and 267 in Free/Reduced Program
 2013-14: 626 Enrolled and 289 in Free/Reduced Program
 2014-15: 606 Enrolled and 219 in Free/Reduced Program
 2015-16: 612 Enrolled and 266 in Free/Reduced Program
 2016-17: 686 Enrolled and 297 in Free Reduced Program

Harmony Community School District Free/Reduced Program Data:

2011-12: 361 Enrolled and 190 in Free/Reduced Program
 2012-13: 360 Enrolled and 198 in Free/Reduced Program
 2013-14: 348 Enrolled and 196 in Free/Reduced Program
 2014-15: 299 Enrolled and 149 in Free/Reduced Program
 2015-16: 303 Enrolled and 160 in Free/Reduced Program
 2016-17: 176 Enrolled and 108 in Free/Reduced Program

Question 1: Add any other information or unique historical, social and cultural particulars that you feel important to specifically describe your county.

Van Buren County is a rural and agricultural county with limited numbers of factories and other businesses. There are no national chain stores/businesses in the county outside of gas stations/convenience stores. There are more gravel roads than paved roads in this 500 square mile county. There are also no stop lights in the county.

It is made up of ten towns (Birmingham, Bentonsport, Bonaparte, Cantril, Douds, Farmington, Keosauqua – County Seat, Milton, Selma and Stockport). The total population of the county is 7,436.

There are two school districts in the county that are beginning to discuss whole grade sharing and currently share teachers. There is a Community College that has a hub in Keosauqua that offers some college services to the community, but not full services.

There is one hospital in the county located in Keosauqua that has clinics in five towns. There is also one dentist in the county, chiropractors and independent doctors. Each town has its own volunteer fire department. There are three ambulance services in the county; one based out of the hospital, one based out of Bonaparte and one based out of Farmington.

The law enforcement in the county is the County Sheriff's Department (based in Keosauqua) and Iowa State Patrol (based outside of the county in Mt Pleasant, IA).

County Description Update – February 2, 2018

Note any significant changes or events that have happened in your county since submitting your CAW that may have an impact on addressing the priority problems or implementing the SPF (for example natural disasters, tragic events, change in local political climate, new initiatives, shifts in population, loss or gain of revenue such as closing of a manufacturing plant or opening of a new facility, etc.)

The Van Buren County Board of Supervisors and the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office are working together to raise the funds to employ another Sheriff's Deputy as currently the department only has five officers to serve the whole county. The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office is the only law enforcement in the county. The Iowa Highway Patrol does try to help in the county, but often is unavailable to help with emergencies.

The Van Buren County Attorney was removed from office in January, 2017 after the Van Buren County Board of Supervisors petitioned for his removal in September, 2016 due to alleged inappropriate behaviors in his office including providing alcohol to underage employees and sexual harassment of his employees.

During the second reading of the Social Host Ordinance at the Van Buren County Board of Supervisors meeting two community members voiced dissent and the County Attorney who previously stated his support of the ordinance said he was not for or against it, but would like an option in it for a criminal charge. A supervisor also said he had received seven or eight calls about the ordinance and only one was for it. During the third reading of the Ordinance the Supervisors voted it down with a two to one vote.

The Van Buren County Hospital Clinic in Douds closed in 2017.
 The Indian Hills Community College closed its satellite office in Keosauqua. There are now no higher education opportunities for residents in Van Buren County.

Roth Dental Clinic has now opened an office in Keosauqua. So, there are now two dentists providing services in Van Buren County.

The Van Buren Community School District and Harmony Community School District began whole grade sharing in the 2016-17 school year for grades 7-12. They are now working on a reorganization/merge. There will be an election on February 6, 2018 to decide whether or not to reorganize/merge. If this occurs there will only be one district in the county.

There is a new Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Collaboration meeting to address children’s mental health issues and treatment in Jefferson, Van Buren and Wapello Counties. This collaboration currently includes representatives from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, three school districts, all three County Public Health Departments, Early Childhood Iowa, the Great Prairie AEA, juvenile justice, County DECAT Boards, and community members.

Consequence Data

This section looks at alcohol-related consequence data and will help you identify which alcohol-related consequences are of greatest concern in your county.

Alcohol-Related Crimes

Table 5: Youth Alcohol Related Arrests (rates per 10,000), Source JDW, CJP

Alcohol-Related Crimes Juveniles	Area	2012		2013	
		N	Rate	N	Rate
Alcohol Offenses	Van Buren County	11	58	*	26.8
	Iowa	10585	129.8	8636	106
Operating While Intoxicated	Van Buren County	0	0	*	16.1
	Iowa	1702	20.9	1477	18.1

Alcohol-Related Crimes Juveniles	Area	2014		2015	
		N	Rate	N	Rate
Alcohol Offenses	Van Buren County	*	*	9	43.9
	Iowa	9726	112.0	8349	96.1
Operating While Intoxicated	Van Buren County	*	*	*	*
	Iowa	1238	14.3	1126	13.0

Alcohol-Related Crimes Juveniles	Area	2016	
		N	Rate
Alcohol Offenses	Van Buren County	7	34.2
	Iowa	7732	89
Operating While Intoxicated	Van Buren County	5	24.4
	Iowa	1189	13.7

Note: IDPH will provide this data. JDW is continuously being updated; therefore no new queries will be offered after the data have been pulled. An asterisk (*) represents counts of five or less alcohol related crimes. These counts were suppressed to protect confidentiality in the county.

Other Data Sources

This is an important part of the county assessment since it relates to your county specific data not available at the state level. Identify all other data that address problems around the consequences of alcohol related crimes. For example, you have knowledge of local surveys, of trouble spots or specific alcohol related strategies that the law enforcement agencies are implementing. You may have data not reported to the state on Minor in Possession arrests and/or citations. In this case describe the results here:

- 1) The Van Buren County Sheriff’s Office Reported to us that from January 2010 to December 2014 there were 16 cases and 21 charges that involved Young Adults ages 18-20 involved in alcohol infractions.

2018: The Van Buren County Sheriff’s Office reported to the coalition that from January 2015 to December 2017 there were 5 cases and charges that involved young adults ages 18-20 involved in alcohol infractions.

- 2) This data was provided by the Van Buren County Sheriff’s Office and the Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Officer.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Data														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Juvenile Alcohol Investigations							6	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Open Container	4	7	10	10	6	5	2	3	3	7	3	4	5	3
OWI	30	17	21	23	34	21	18	22	22	19	12	17	14	16
Possess Alcohol (underage)	6	6	36	25	19	18	13	5	6	5	3	9	4	2
Providing Alcohol to a minor						2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Public Intoxication	2	4	4	3	5	2	1	13	6	4	4	5	1	1
Reports of Underage Drinking								76	4	0	0	4	3	3
Selling Alcohol to a minor		5	1	3	5	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Van Buren County Juvenile Court Statistics														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Possession of Alcohol Under Legal Age	5	3	18	7	6	9	9	6	2	4	1	6		1
Providing Alcohol to Minor/Employee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0		0
Operating under the Influence	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		0

- 3) Youth have reported that they receive alcohol from near-peers and family members during one on one conversations and focus groups. They also report hot spots are under the bridge in Keosauqua, the cemetery in Keosauqua and other remote locations in outlying areas.

2018: Youth continue to report during one on one conversations receiving alcohol from near-peers and family members, but now they also report that they receive it from underage friends. They

report that there are not a lot of big parties anymore, but more situations of friends hanging out at each other's homes and drinking.

Question 2:

Based on the preceding tables and your other local level data, how do alcohol-related offenses and convictions in your county compare to the state? Is your problem bigger, smaller or about the same? Discuss the differences.

The alcohol offense average rate for the county is 42.4 and for the state is 117.9. The OWI average rate for the county is 8 and for the state is 19.5. This shows that the rates are lower in Van Buren County than they are for the state. So it seems that the alcohol problem is smaller in Van Buren County than it is at the state level. Due to the education provided to the community by the SAFE Coalition the students and youth are not drinking as much.

Alcohol-Related Car Crashes

Another targeted consequence of underage drinking and binge drinking for the IPFS Project is car crashes related to alcohol use.

Table 6: Alcohol Related Fatal Crashes, Injuries and Drunk Drivers, [Source GTSB](#)

Indicators	AREA	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fatal Crashes N (Rate)	Van Buren N	3	1	0	0	0
	Rate	3.9	1.3	0	0	0
	Iowa N	390	360	365	317	320
	Rate	1.3	1.2	1.2	1	1
Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes That Have Had a Drink (%)	Van Buren N	0	1	0	0	0
	(%)	0	1.3	0	0	0
	Iowa N	72	65	81	90	96
	(%)	.2	.2	.3	.3	.3
Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries N (Rate)	Van Buren N	3	5	3	1	2
	Rate	3.9	6.6	3.9	1.3	2.6
	Iowa N	2417	2389	2275	2346	2447
	Rate	7.9	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.9

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help identify and detail problems around the consequences of alcohol and motor vehicles. Describe results here:

Van Buren County Sheriff's Data														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Open Container	4	7	10	10	6	5	2	3	3	7	3	4	5	3
OWI	30	17	21	23	34	21	18	22	22	19	12	17	14	16

Van Buren County Juvenile Court Statistics														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Operating under the Influence	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		0

The above information was provided by the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and the Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Officer.

Question 3

Based on preceding Tables and your community level data, how do alcohol-related car crashes in your county compare to alcohol-related car crashes across the state? Is your problem bigger, smaller or about the same? Discuss the differences.

The Van Buren County alcohol related traffic injury average rate across the time frame of 4.8 is significantly smaller than the state average rate of 7.7. The counties average fatal crash rate of 1.7 is slightly higher than the states average rate of 1.2. The counties average drivers involved in fatal crashes that have had a drink rate of .4 is also slightly higher than the states average rate of .2. The small community makes it hard to compare its rates to the state; the sample size is statistically insignificant compared to the state. The odds of being in an accident are much lower in Van Buren County than in a larger community due to less traffic as well.

Alcohol Dependence and Abuse

Table 7 below shows the rate by county of residence for treatment admissions due to alcohol as the primary or secondary drug. The Iowa rate has been included in the table to provide a comparison. The year-specific estimated census data were used for that purpose.

Table 7: Treatment Episodes (Number and Rate per 10,000 Population) for Alcohol Treatment in Iowa by County of Residence, source I-SMART

Area		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Van Buren	N	*	6	*	*	*
	Rate	10.5	32.2	*	*	*
Iowa	N	394	1205	3164	2798	2313
	Rate	4.8	14.8	82.35	72.92	60.15

Note: IDPH will provide this data. An asterisk (*) represents counts of five or less alcohol dependence and abuse. These counts were suppressed to protect confidentiality in the county.

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help identify and detail problems around the consequences of alcohol dependence and abuse. For example you may have information from local surveys or from treatment facilities in your communities. If so describe the results here:

- 1) There are no treatment facilities currently in Van Buren County.
- 2) There are no current surveys at this time on this topic.

2018: There continues to be no treatment facilities or surveys on treatment and alcohol dependence issues in the county.

Question 4

Based on your county data, how does alcohol dependence and abuse in your county compare to alcohol dependence and abuse across the state? Is your problem bigger, smaller or about the same? Discuss the differences.

The average rate of 21.4 seems to be quite high in Van Buren County in comparison to the state average rate of 9.8.

It was discussed that the coalition is lacking good information on this topic for Van Buren County. It is an area that needs to be investigated for more data and information purposes.

Again the small community makes it hard to compare its rates to the state; the sample size is statistically insignificant compared to the state.

Alcohol School Suspensions and Expulsions

The following table describes the rate of school alcohol-related suspensions and expulsions from the Iowa Department of Education data center. Identify your district and the total number of suspensions and expulsions because of alcohol for each year and calculate the rate using this formula: (total number of suspension-expulsion/total number of students in the district) X 10,000.

Table 8: Alcohol Related School Suspensions and Expulsions, [Source Iowa Department of Education](#)

Youth Alcohol Suspension and Expulsion Rate (per 10,000)	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
District 1, Harmony CSD N	0	0	0	0	0	0
District 2, Van Buren CSD N	0	0	0	2	0	0
Rate	0	0	0	22.1	0	0
Van Buren County N	0	0	0	2	0	0
Rate	0	0	0	22.1	0	0
Iowa N	382	341	307	292	298	344
Rate	8.143	7.215	6.453	5.766	5.853	6.732

Question 5

Based on your county data, how does alcohol related school suspensions and expulsions in your county compare to the state? Is your problem bigger, smaller or about the same? Discuss the differences.

For the years requested there were no alcohol related school suspensions or expulsions in Van Buren County. It is believed that due to the presence of the coalition, consequences of the schools and the schools codes of conduct this behavior is known to be unacceptable and is not present in the schools at this time.

List some of the districts policies regarding suspensions and expulsions of students.

Both School Districts in Van Buren County have Codes of Conduct for their students that include disciplinary guidelines for their students if they are caught using alcohol or in the possession of alcohol. They also have rules in the Board Policies that allow for suspension if a student is caught under the influence of alcohol at school or a school event.

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help identify and detail problems around the consequences of alcohol. For example, you may have information from local surveys, or you may know about certain trouble spots for Alcohol related crashes, areas where there are other considerations regarding dependence such treatment centers, schools and even the law enforcement and justice department in your county. If you have other data sources describe the results here:

1. Van Buren Community School District reported having no Code of Conduct violations related to alcohol in 2012-13 and two violations related to alcohol in 2013-14.
2. Harmony Community School District reported having no Code of Conduct violations related to alcohol since implementing their new Code of Conduct in 2012.

2018: The Harmony and Van Buren Community School Districts began whole grade sharing for grades 7-12 in the 2016-17 School Year. The details for Harmony for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years before whole grade sharing are not available. For the Van Buren Community School District they reported one violation since 2014. The two districts are now in the process of reorganization/merging. There will be an election on February 8, 2018 to decide whether or not the districts will merge. If they do merge then there will only be one school district in the county.

Final Consequences Question

Question 6

Based on your data and responses to previous consequence questions, what are your county's major concerns surrounding underage and binge drinking? Please provide supporting evidence here and reference the section and page where the information may be found.

It seems that currently the numbers of infractions in school are minimal as seen in no suspensions and expulsions in either district. The coalition is concerned that these behaviors are occurring without being caught.

The average rate of 4.9 for alcohol related traffic injuries, the average rate of 1.8 for fatal crashes and the average rate of .4 for drivers involved in fatal crashes that have had a drink are lower or slightly higher than the state rates.

The goal at this time is to see the work of the coalition continue, especially in the schools, in order to maintain the change of attitude about underage drinking, underage binge drinking and drinking and driving.

Consequence Data Update (date here)

What changes do you see related to your consequence data? Is there anything that surprised you? Are you noticing any new trends? What may be getting worse or better? How has your data changed in comparison to the state data (as available)? Are there any areas of concern that you have noted that are not already being addressed?

There are no notable changes in the new data that was collected. There was nothing surprising and no new trends. Unfortunately there is no improvement at this time either. The Van Buren County rates still continue to be lower than the state rates. There are no areas of concern that are not already being addressed.

Consumption Data

This section looks at alcohol consumption data and will help you identify any consumption concerns in your county. Consumption data includes information about the percentage of underage people who drink alcohol and the percentage of youth who engage in binge drinking (males having five or more and females having four or more drinks on one occasion).

Underage Drinking Information

Table 9: Proportion of Students Who Reported 30-Day and Binge Drinking, [Source IYS](#)

Indicators	Area	Grade	2010	2012	2014	2016
Students Who Have Had a Drink in the past 30 Days - N (%) - Questions: 2010-B30; 2012-B18; 2014-B16; 2016-B16	Van Buren	All	24%	11%	14%	11%
		11th	37%	25%	27%	27%
	Iowa	All	17%	11%	10%	9%
		11th	32%	26%	23%	21%
Students Who Report Binge Drinking in the past 30 Days - N (%) - Questions: 2010-B26; 2012-B16; 2014-B17; 2016-B17	Van Buren	All	20%	8%	7%	6%
		11th	30%	17%	15%	17%
	Iowa	All	12%	8%	6%	5%
		11th	24%	19%	14%	13%

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help identify and detail problems around underage drinking. A few examples include, your county may have its own specific alcohol survey involving underage drinking, or your county may want to consider college data or data from alternative schools if there is one in your county. If you have other data sources describe the results here:

- 1) There are no colleges or alternative schools in Van Buren County. Indian Hills Community College has a small hub in Keosauqua, but it is mainly used for adult education.

2018: Indian Hills Community College has now closed its building in Keosauqua. So, there are no higher education opportunities in Van Buren County now.

2) IYS Data gathered by the SAFE Coalition

During the last 30 days, have you had at least one drink of alcohol (Yes)?			
Past 30 Day Use	6th	8th	11th
Fall 02	7%	27%	47%
Fall 05	16%	27%	53%
Fall 08	11%	32%	34%
Fall 09	6%	29%	51%
Fall 10	4%	26%	36%
Fall 12	0%	9%	25%
Fall 14	2%	12%	27%
Fall 16	5%	3%	27%

3) IYS Data gathered by the SAFE Coalition

During the last 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row?			
Binge Drinking (Report any days)	6th	8th	11th
Fall 02	6%	20%	38%
Fall 05	4%	23%	41%
Fall 08	5%	16%	33%
Fall 09	2%	16%	35%
Fall 10	4%	21%	30%
Fall 12	0%	9%	17%
Fall 14	2%	4%	15%
Fall 16	1%	2%	17%

4) This information was provided by the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and the Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Officer.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Data														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Juvenile Alcohol Investigations							6	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Open Container	4	7	10	10	6	5	2	3	3	7	3	4	5	3
OWI	30	17	21	23	34	21	18	22	22	19	12	17	14	16
Possess Alcohol (underage)	6	6	36	25	19	18	13	5	6	5	3	9	4	2
Providing Alcohol to a minor						2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Public Intoxication	2	4	4	3	5	2	1	13	6	4	4	5	1	1
Reports of Underage Drinking								76	4	0	0	4	3	3
Selling Alcohol to a minor		5	1	3	5	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Van Buren County Juvenile Court Statistics														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Possession of Alcohol Under Legal Age	5	3	18	7	6	9	9	6	2	4	1	6		1
Providing Alcohol to Minor/Employee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0		0
Operating under the Influence	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		0

Question 7

Based on table 9, and your county's own local data, how does student 30-day use of alcohol and binge drinking in your county compare to student data across the state? Discuss the differences and the trends in your county.

Student 30-day use of alcohol in Van Buren County is slightly higher at an average rate of 16% than the average state rate of 13%. Student binge drinking in the county at an average rate of 11.7% is also slightly higher than the state rate of 8.6%.

The rates have been reduced significantly in Van Buren County on the IYS with the percentage for 11th grade students down from 53% in 2005 to 27% in 2014 for 30 day use of alcohol and the binge rates down from 41% in 2005 to 15% in 2014.

It was noted by the evaluation committee that it would not take much for these numbers to go up again. The belief is that the work of the coalition makes a significant impact on the local youth and needs to continue.

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help identify and detail problems around underage drinking and youth binge drinking. A few examples include, your county may have its own specific alcohol survey involving underage drinking, or your county may want to consider college data or data from alternative schools if there is one in your county. If you have other data sources describe the results here:

- 1) There are no colleges or alternative schools in Van Buren County. Indian Hills Community College has a small hub in Keosauqua, but it is mainly used for adult education.

2018: Indian Hills Community College has now closed its building in Keosauqua. So, there are no higher education opportunities in Van Buren County now.

- 2) IYS Data gathered by the SAFE Coalition

During the last 30 days, have you had at least one drink of alcohol (Yes)?			
Past 30 Day Use	6th	8th	11th
Fall 02	7%	27%	47%
Fall 05	16%	27%	53%
Fall 08	11%	32%	34%
Fall 09	6%	29%	51%
Fall 10	4%	26%	36%
Fall 12	0%	9%	25%
Fall 14	2%	12%	27%
Fall 16	5%	3%	27%

3) IYS Data gathered by the SAFE Coalition

During the last 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row?			
Binge Drinking (Report any days)	6th	8th	11th
Fall 02	6%	20%	38%
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Fall 08	5%	16%	33%
Fall 09	2%	16%	35%
Fall 10	4%	21%	30%
Fall 12	0%	9%	17%
Fall 14	2%	4%	15%
Fall 16	1%	2%	17%

4) This information was provided by the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and the Van Buren County Juvenile Probation Officer.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Data														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Juvenile Alcohol Investigations							6	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Open Container	4	7	10	10	6	5	2	3	3	7	3	4	5	3
OWI	30	17	21	23	34	21	18	22	22	19	12	17	14	16
Possess Alcohol (underage)	6	6	36	25	19	18	13	5	6	5	3	9	4	2
Providing Alcohol to a minor						2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Public Intoxication	2	4	4	3	5	2	1	13	6	4	4	5	1	1
Reports of Underage Drinking								76	4	0	0	4	3	3
Selling Alcohol to a minor		5	1	3	5	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Van Buren County Juvenile Court Statistics														
	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Possession of Alcohol Under Legal Age	5	3	18	7	6	9	9	6	2	4	1	6		1
Providing Alcohol to Minor/Employee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0		0
Operating under the Influence	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		0

Question 8

Based on previous table, along with your county's other data sources, how does underage drinking, and youth binge drinking in your county compare to underage drinking, and youth binge drinking across the state?

Student 30-day use of alcohol in Van Buren County is slightly higher at an average rate of 16% than the average state rate of 13%. Student binge drinking in the county at an average rate of 11.7% is also slightly higher than the state rate of 8.6%.

The rates have been reduced significantly in Van Buren County on the IYS with the percentage for 11th grade students down from 53% in 2005 to 27% in 2014 for 30 day use of alcohol and the binge rates down from 41% in 2005 to 15% in 2014.

It was noted by the evaluation committee that it would not take much for these numbers to go up again. The belief is that the work of the coalition makes a significant impact on the local youth and needs to continue.

Final Consumption Question

Question 9

Based on the consumption data analyzed here and on your answers to the previous questions, what are your county's major concerns surrounding the problem of underage drinking and youth binge drinking? Justify your decision.

The first concern currently for Van Buren County is that the student 30 day use rate did go up slightly on the IYS in 2014 (for all students it was 11% in 2012 and 14% in 2014 and for 11th grade students it was 25% in 2012 and 27% in 2014).

The next concern is the geographical limitations for Law Enforcement in Van Buren County (they tend to have one or two officers patrolling or on call per shift for a 500 square mile county). So, the county needs to continue educating youth about the dangers of alcohol and continue to help Law Enforcement with enforcing the current laws.

Consumption Data Update (date here)

What changes do you see related to your consumption data? Is there anything that surprised you? Are you noticing any new trends? What may be getting worse or better? How has your data changed in comparison to the state data (as available)? Are there any areas of concern that you have noted that are not already being addressed?

For the IYS data the all categories showed slight improvement on the reports of 30 day use and binge drinking, but for the 11th grade students it remained the same for 30 day use and went up slightly for binge drinking. The county rates are still significantly higher than the state rates.

As for the Juvenile and Law Enforcement data it seems to be staying at a consistent level with no increases but also no significant decreases.

There was nothing surprising and no new trends in the data. There are no new concerns at this time.

Intervening Variables

Alcohol Availability (Retail)

Liquor Licenses and Per Capita Gallon Sales

The most fundamental way to understand availability around alcohol use is through the number of opportunities people have to buy alcohol. Consider the following table, which compares the number of liquor license issued in your county and the state. This table includes all liquor license types.

Table 10: Liquor License Rates and Per Capita Gallon Sales, Source ABD

Per Capita- Indicators (per population over 18 Years Old)	Area	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Liquor Licenses	Van Buren	29	29	26	25	31
	Rate	53.57	53.57	48.03	46.19	57.27
	Iowa	9463	9385	9325	9115	10248
	Rate	43.45	43.09	42.81	41.85	47.05
Gallon Sales	Van Buren	3680.84	3639.25	3615	3410.19	3628.70
	Rate	0.68	0.67	0.67	0.63	0.66
	Iowa	4860931.88	4951391.63	5019617.16	5009734	5283531.22
	Rate	2.23	2.27	2.30	2.37	2.43

Note: IDPH will provide this data.

Compliance Check Failure Rate

The selling of alcohol to minors can contribute to underage drinking and binge drinking in your county. One measure of this is the failure of compliance checks by retail outlets. Consider the following table for input. Since this information is not available at the state level, you will need to generate it from your community law enforcement agencies. You will have to list the communities in the county. The time frame for the compliance checks will be in the last two years.

Table 11: Proportion of Liquor License Holders That Failed a Compliance Check, Source evaluation subcommittee

County	Number of Licenses	Number visited	Number that failed the check	Percent visited	Percent Failed
Van Buren County Sheriff's Reserve Officers(VBCSRO) 2/16/2013	29	22	0	76%	0%
Iowa State Patrol (ISP) 2/28/2013	29	8	0	28%	0%
ISP 6/22/2013	29	8	0	28%	0%
ISP 12/16/2013	29	6	1	21%	17%
VBCSRO 3/15/2014	26	17	0	65%	0%
VBCSRO 1/17/2015	26	16	2	62%	12.5%
VBCSRO 5/14/2016	26	21	2	81%	9.5%

Note: ABD does not conduct compliance checks for alcohol (CJJP & DOT, Iowa State Patrol)

Question 10

Comment on the extent of alcohol retail compliance checks happening in your county. What are the barriers or challenges for county law enforcement agencies completing alcohol compliance checks?

- 1) Local law enforcement with the help of the coalition is consistently executing alcohol retail compliance checks twice a year.
- 2) State Patrol officers also do random compliance checks and supply the coalition with their results.
- 3) At this time there does not seem to be any barriers to the compliance checks being done in Van Buren County.

Percentage of Drive-Up Liquor Windows

The percentage of drive-up liquor windows in your county can contribute to alcohol-related concerns because drive-up liquor windows make alcohol more easily obtainable and may encourage drinking and driving. This section will help you determine both the number of establishments with drive-up liquor windows and also what percentage of the liquor license holders in your county have them. You may have to search the [Iowa ABD](#) for establishments that hold liquor licenses in your county.

Table 12: Drive-Up Liquor Windows and Liquor Licenses in Your County, [source Iowa ABD](#)

County	Name of establishment with drive-up liquor window
Van Buren County	None

Number of liquor licenses (from Table10) = 26

County drive-up liquor window percentage = 0%

Question 11

Comment on your county drive-up liquor percentage. How does it influence drinking and driving, loitering, safety? Please refer to your county OWI charges numbers and think whether there might be a relation.

- 1) Currently there are no drive-up liquor windows in Van Buren County.
- 2) It seems that this does have a positive influence on these issues.
- 3) Since there are no drive-up windows there is no relation with OWI charges.

Local Ordinances

Local policies can dissuade drinking and loitering. In Table 13, list the local or countywide ordinances related to alcohol.

Table 13: Local Ordinances Targeting Alcohol in Your County, Source Evaluation subcommittee

County	Name of the local ordinances	Aim
Van Buren County	<i>Keg Registrations</i>	<i>Requires Purchasers of kegs to register so that if a keg is found at an underage party the purchaser is held accountable.</i>

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help better understand how, and to what extent retail availability may influence alcohol-related problems in your county. For example, you may have data on the density of retail outlets, or anecdotal data on specific outlets that are known for selling to minors, or intoxicated persons. You may also want to consider other local ordinances surrounding retail availability. If you have other data sources describe the results below:

- 1) It is known by law enforcement that Tillie's (a bar in Keosauqua) has been known for serving alcohol to youth.
- 2) First Street Grille (a restaurant/bar in Keosauqua) in the past has been a problem site for over serving alcohol to customers, but is improving.
- 3) For the population of the county the density of alcohol merchants is high in Van Buren County.

Retail Availability Questions

Question 12

Based on information gathered about liquor licenses per 10,000 population 15 years and older, alcohol compliance check failure rates, drive-up liquor window percentage, and other data sources, what are the concerns around retail availability that might contribute to underage and binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

There is a high rate of alcohol retail licenses in Van Buren County in comparison to the population (26 licenses and population of 7,436).

The coalition does have a good working relationship with alcohol merchants and local organizations in the county. The coalition provides the local merchants and organizations with a free Merchant Alcohol Training with the help of Sieda Community Action, sends them reminder postcards about the trainings before they occur, and sends them a merchant newsletter on a quarterly basis.

The coalition partners with the community for local festivals where alcohol will be served to make sure that the sellers are trained and they have an ID Scanner to use to check IDs. Local organizations contact the coalition to use the ID Scanner for their festivals and activities. In the last year the scanner has been used 3 times.

Question 13

Based on the above considerations, to what degree does your coalition believe retail availability is impacting underage and binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

(place an "x" next to a number from 0 to 10)

No impact						Major impact				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6X	7	8	9	10

Key Law Enforcement Interviews

As part of this needs assessment you will conduct interviews of law enforcement officers. You are encouraged to do at least one interview with a chief of police and one with the County Sheriff, but consider what interviews would be the most appropriate and informative for your county. You may also want to consider interviews with emergency room staff, school officials, or treatment facility administrators about their interactions with the justice system. A sample protocol for the law enforcement interviews and ideas on how to gather and analyze qualitative data from these interviews can be found in Appendix A.

Officers Assigned to Alcohol-Related Issues

During the interviews with key law enforcement personnel you need to find out how many officers are assigned directly to alcohol-related issues and crimes. Questions about this appear on the interview protocol in Appendix A.

Law Enforcement Officers Assigned to Alcohol-Related Issues and Crime (County) = 0

Question 14

Based on your interviews with law enforcement officers and the number of officers in your county assigned specifically to alcohol-related issues, when it comes to the underage drinking and youth binge drinking:

- What are the efforts your law enforcement agency is pursuing?
 - 1) The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Reserve Officers do semi-annual compliance checks for alcohol merchants in the county.
 - 2) They check on all reports of underage drinking when they have the ability to do so.
 - 3) They are writing citations for underage possession and consumption.
 - 4) They are recording and reporting license plate numbers for suspected underage drinking parties.
- What are the efforts that they would like to pursue?

Continue the work they are doing and work on finding a way to access reported parties that are indoors.

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help you better understand how, and to what extent criminal justice issues in your county may contribute to underage drinking and binge drinking and its consequences in your county. For example, you may have information about unique policies or strong enforcement of underage drinking laws in your county, or laws that are specific to your county. You may be able to access information from your local drug courts, if you have one. Describe the results below:

Local Law Enforcement Officer Interview:

What alcohol-related problems do you see and what factors do you believe are causing them in our county?

- Alcohol related problems: underage drinking and parties – big parties are no longer happening as much. Kids do not trust each other and are hanging out in smaller groups.
- Factors: no idea – kids are not making good choices; there is more than enough for kids to do in the county.

In your opinion what percent of arrests are a result of alcohol-related offenses in our county?

45-60% of arrests in the county involve the person having been drinking and doing something to be arrested for.

In your opinion what percent of convictions are a result of alcohol-related offenses in our county?

20-30% of convictions are OWI or Public Intoxication

How many alcohol-related offenses do you think go undetected in our county?

Quite a bit – it is hard to put an actual number on it. This is due to the lack of manpower.

How many officers are on duty at any given time?

One to two officers are on duty depending on the shift.

Are any officers assigned specifically to alcohol-related issues or offenses in our county; if so, how many?

No

What special training do officers have in order to deal with alcohol-related offenses?

Academy, OWI Enforcement, Field Sobriety

What are law enforcement officers doing around the underage drinking and youth binge drinking in our county?

Writing Citations, Checking out reports of underage drinking parties or underage drinking (cannot go into a home if they do not have probable cause), Write down license plate numbers at alleged parties and turn them in.

What aren't law enforcement officers doing around the underage drinking and youth binge drinking in our county?

- They can only check out reports if time allows; manpower is a problem.
- Cannot go into homes without probable cause and that is hard and time consuming to get.

What locations are known for alcohol-related incidents?

- Tillie's used to be a trouble spot; not so much anymore.
- There is more trouble with alcohol in the VBCSD area than in the HCSD area.
- Boat ramp and ball diamond in Bonaparte.
- Kids are not getting caught.

Are there particular people that are known for repeated alcohol-related incidents? If yes, what do you do to keep track of or work with those people?

- Yes
- Hard to keep track of because of the need to cover the whole county with just one or two officers per shift.

How do you think law enforcement could better address the alcohol-related problems in our county?

Need more manpower

How do you think the criminal justice system is helping reduce the alcohol problems in our county?

- Tom Walkup, Juvenile Probation Officer, is following through with the youth.
- They are being charged by the County Attorney.

How do you think concerns in the criminal justice system are contributing to the alcohol problems in our county?

- Petty crap amongst neighbors bogs down the law enforcement officers and does not allow them to deal with other issues at times.
- Need more manpower

How could the coalition and law enforcement work together better?

Not sure

Our goal is to find out what the driving factor is that is causing the underage and underage binge drinking in our county. Is there anything you would like to add or do you have any final comments?

- People are not afraid to call in reports of underage drinking in the county.
- Need officers available to go and check out reports.(More manpower)

He is sure that underage drinking and underage binge drinking are going on, but it is not the worst thing happening in the county. He believes that prescription medication abuse is more of a problem in the county now for adults and youth because they are easier to access. He said marijuana is also around, but not a lot

Social Availability of Alcohol

Social availability includes the likelihood of obtaining of alcohol from friends, associates, and family members, as well as the availability of alcohol at social gatherings such as graduation parties, reception and other social events where alcohol is provided as part of the event. This section assesses the proportion of students who perceived alcohol easy or very easy to obtain in their neighborhood.

County Level Data Sources

Table 14: Proportion of Students Who Responded (Hard and Very Hard) to Perception of Neighborhood Alcohol Availability Question, [Source IYS](#)

	Area	Grade	2010	2012	2014	2016
In your neighborhood or community, how difficult do you think it would be for a kid your age to get alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, liquor)? <i>Questions: 2010-G4; 2012-G4; 2014-G2; 2016-G2</i>	Van Buren	ALL	12%	17%	46%	49%
		11 th	19%	27%	10%	16%
	Iowa	ALL	11%	11%	51%	49%
		11 th	18%	17%	25%	23%

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help you better understand how and to what extent social availability may influence alcohol-related problems in your county. For example, you may have data from your college campus or local police department on parties where alcohol is freely available. If you have other data sources describe the results below.

The Law Enforcement Interview and Focus Group results point to social availability as being very influential on underage drinking in Van Buren County as youth can get alcohol from friends and family members.

2018: During conversations with Law Enforcement and Youth and the Youth Focus Group we see that social availability through friends, near peers, and family continues to be influential on underage drinking in Van Buren County.

Social Availability Questions

Question 15

Based on information gathered, what are the concerns around social availability that might contribute to underage drinking and binge drinking and its consequences in your county?

Justify your decision.

1. The sheer number of liquor licenses in the county and the culture around the softball tournaments makes it easy for kids to get alcohol and probably not worry too much about it being frowned upon especially if they are out of high school.
2. The 11th graders do not have a high percentage who find it hard or very hard to get alcohol; only 10% which is way lower than the states average of 25%. This shows the youth find alcohol easy to access in the county.
3. The youth and young adults during the focus groups also reported that it is easy for underage people to get alcohol from family and friends.

Question 16

Based on these considerations, address the issue whether your coalition believes social availability is having an effect on underage drinking and binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

(place an "x" next to a number from 0 to 10)

No impact									Major impact	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9X	10

Promotion

Promotion refers to attempts by alcohol retailers and industry to increase demand through the marketing of their products. Once again, this will require some original data collection to acquire a sense of the depth of marketing surrounding alcohol in your county.

Sponsorships

List all the major county events and festivals in your county under the heading county events within the last year in Table 15. Indicate alcohol-sponsors in the designated column. Calculate the percentage of events in your county that had alcohol-related sponsorships. Try to assess the percent of sponsorship funding from the events, and then calculate the total funding percent coming from all alcohol sponsors in your county.

Table 15: County Events and Their Alcohol-Related Sponsors within Last Year, Source Evaluation subcommittee

County	Events	Dates	Alcohol- Sponsors	Percent Alcohol Sponsorship (\$)
Van Buren	<i>Riverfront Music Festival</i>	<i>May 31, 2015</i>	<i>Golden Eagle Distributors</i>	2%
Van Buren	<i>Birmingham Homecoming Days</i>	<i>June 2014</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Van Buren	Farmington Strawberry Festival	June 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Douds Field Day	June 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Bonaparte Independence Day Celebration	June 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Keosauqua 4 th of July Celebration	July 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Van Buren County Fair	July 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Cantril Vintage Days	August 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Stockport BBQ Days	September 2014	None	None
Van Buren	State Line Rally	September 2014	Golden Eagle Distributors	10%
Van Buren	Scenic Drive Festival	October 2014	None	None
Van Buren	Festival of Trees	December 2014	None	None

Total number of community events during that period in your county: 12

Total Number of events with alcohol-related sponsorship = 2

Total % of sponsorship from Alcohol Companies = 12%

Advertising

Advertising in America and Iowa has become abundant. To gain a better sense of the magnitude of alcohol advertising in your county you are going to gather data (advertisement scan) on alcohol marketing on billboards, in a sample of local newspapers, in schools, and local supermarket or groceries across your county.

Step One

The first measure of alcohol advertising in your county will be to count all the billboards in your county. To do so, you will need to travel throughout your county to locate every billboard within your county. Note the billboards that advertise alcohol, alcohol sales, or alcohol establishments. Youth on your coalition or from another youth group may be helpful in doing this environmental scan.

After counting all billboards in your county, record the total number of billboards located and the number advertising alcohol and not advertising alcohol. Calculate the percent of billboards which advertise alcohol.

Number of billboards advertising alcohol (A) = 0

The total number of billboards not advertising alcohol (B) = 4

Percentage of billboards advertising alcohol $[A / (A+B) * 100]$ = 0%

Step Two

In this next step, there will be two concurrent parts that will be documented in Table 16.

Part 1

Count the number of alcohol advertisements in your local newspaper(s), in stores in your county or within schools.

- Count the number of alcohol advertisements by:
 - looking at copies of the major local newspapers (including the door-step deliveries) in your county
 - visiting the major schools (high schools, colleges) in your county
 - visiting the main stores (supermarkets, grocery stores) in your county
- Choose four specific time points during the assessment period (example would be once every week) to complete the reviewing or visiting which includes:
 - examining all issues of the newspaper during the identified time periods
 - reviewing regular print advertisements, the classifieds and the added flyers and coupons in your search
- Count all advertisements for alcohol brands, alcohol distributors, liquor stores, and bars as well as restaurant advertisements that mention alcohol or bar service

Part 2

Count the number of alcohol advertisements that specifically market promotional events that encourage the use of alcohol.

- As you are measuring the number of alcohol advertisements as listed in Part 1 also note the number of advertisements that market promotional events encouraging the increased use of alcohol. Examples include, but are not limited to: ladies' night, happy hour, double bubble, all you can drink, and free or reduced priced drinks with a coupon.

If you have trouble counting the number of advertisements and special promotions in all your local newspapers and need help, contact Toby Yak for technical assistance.

Table 16: Local Alcohol Advertisements and Promotional Events, Source evaluation subcommittee

Advertisement Scan Name	Frequency (Daily; Weekly, Monthly)	Time Period (Month/Date/Year)	Total Number of Alcohol Advertisements	Total Number of Promotional Event Advertisements
Newspapers Weekly Van Buren County Register	Weekly	First Scan: 5/7/2015	0	0
		Second Scan: 5/14/2015	0	0
		Third Scan: 5/21/2015	0	1
		Fourth Scan: 5/28/2015	0	1
School Harmony Van Buren	One	One 5/6/2015 5/11/2015	School was not in session for the four weeks during this time – one scan was done in all schools and no alcohol ads were posted.	
Store Ex: "C store, etc."	Weekly	First Scan: 5/29/2015	42	15
		Second Scan: 6/5/2015	52	4
		Third Scan: 6/19/2015	62	4
		Fourth Scan: 6/26/2015	65	5

- Average of alcohol advertisements and promotional events in Newspapers = .25
- Average of alcohol advertisements and promotional events in Schools = 0
- County average of alcohol advertisements and promotional events in Stores = 62.25

Question 17

Based upon the data you collected above, comment on your results. What impact do you expect that the advertisements have on underage drinking and youth binge drinking?

Advertisement is not very prominent in the county. The advertising does not have much of an impact on the underage drinking and youth binge drinking in the county.

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data that will help you better understand how and to what extent the promotion of alcohol in your county may influence alcohol-related problems in your county. For example, you may have information on alcohol advertising in or on liquor stores, convenient stores etc., or flyers passed out around town or other ways that alcohol might be promoted on college campuses, or at schools. If you have other data sources describe the results below:

1. The local schools do not allow the promotion of alcohol or alcohol at events.
2. During the environmental scans it was noticed that there is minimal advertising of alcohol on the outside of local establishments. Inside the establishments the advertising was on the alcohol itself (on the shelving or the windows of the coolers); it was not advertised throughout the store. As for the events there were several events during the time of the scans and they were only advertised on the community boards in the establishments and minimally in the newspaper.

2018: The schools continue to not allow the promotion of alcohol or alcohol at events. Advertising also continues to be minimal on the outside of local establishments. Advertising inside is on the alcohol itself and is not advertised throughout the store.

Promotional Questions

Question 18

Based on information gathered from alcohol sponsorship of events, billboards, newspaper advertisements, and other data sources, what are the concerns around promotion that might contribute to underage and binge drinking and its consequences in your county?

Van Buren County has low sponsorship of local events by alcohol retailers and few even have alcohol available. The events that do serve alcohol have a good working relationship with the coalition and train servers, provide signage and fencing. The problem lies with unofficial events where people BYOB; such as softball tournaments, wedding receptions, etc. The unspoken acceptability of underage drinking at these events contributes to the problem.

Question 19

Based on these considerations, to what degree does your coalition believe promotion is influencing underage drinking and binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

(place an "x" next to a number from 0 to 10)

No impact					Major impact					
0	1	2	3	4X	5	6	7	8	9	10

County Norms

Once again, data from the IYS are of use in this needs assessment. County norms refer to the acceptability or unacceptability of certain behaviors in a county, and it is the one Intervening variable that most often overlaps with other factors. In this section you will mostly gather data around county events. However, be aware that issues like social availability and law enforcement also reflect county norms.

Table 17: Proportion of Students Who Responded (Agree and Strongly Agree) to Perception of Social Norms Questions, [Source IYS](#)

Indicators	Area	Grade	2010	2012	2014	2016
It is against my values to use alcohol and drugs as a teenager. <i>Questions: 2010-C11; 2012-E22; 2014-E26; 2016-E26.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	71%	78%	80%	80%
		11 th	54%	68%	59%	55%
	Iowa	ALL	80%	82%	83%	83%
		11 th	60%	64%	67%	68%
Students caught drinking, smoking, or using an illegal drug are not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity for some time period. <i>Questions: 2010-E4; 2012-E32; 2014-E36, 2016-E36.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	91%	93%	90%	91%
		11 th	93%	93%	88%	84%
	Iowa	ALL	91%	91%	91%	89%
		11 th	88%	89%	87%	86%

Table 18: Proportion of Students Who Responded (Wrong and Very wrong) on the Perception of Peer's Norms Questions, [Source IYS](#)

Indicators	Area	Grade	2010	2012	2014	2016
Thinking of your best friends, how wrong would most of them feel it would be for you:						
To drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin)? <i>Questions: 2010-E7; 2012-D5; 2014-D5; 2016-D5 – not just best friend.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	53%	66%	63%	63%
		11 th	2%	37%	31%	15%
	Iowa	ALL	66%	67%	68%	68%
		11 th	42%	32%	34%	34%
To go to a party where kids under 21 were using alcohol? <i>Questions: 2010-E13; 2012-G14; 2014-D9; 2016-D9 – not just best friends.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	56%	87%	65%	62%
		11 th	28%	78%	29%	14%
	Iowa	ALL	66%	88%	69%	68%
		11 th	34%	80%	35%	36%

Table 19: Proportion of Student Who Responded (Wrong and Very Wrong) to Perception of Parental and Adult Neighbors Norms, [Source IYS](#)

Indicators	Area	Grade	2010	2012	2014	2016
How wrong would your parents/guardians feel it would be for you to:						
Drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin) without their permission? <i>Questions: 2010-F13; 2012-F13; 2014-F13; 2016-F13.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	80%	88%	86%	86%
		11 th	68%	81%	71%	67%
	Iowa	ALL	90%	91%	91%	91%
		11 th	81%	80%	81%	81%
Go to a party where kids under 21 were using alcohol? <i>Questions: 2010-F20; 2012-F19; 2014-F19; 2016-F19.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	86%	93%	88%	90%
		11 th	73%	95%	75%	72%
	Iowa	ALL	92%	92%	93%	93%
		11 th	85%	84%	85%	84%
How wrong would most adults in your neighborhood and/or community feel it would be for you:						
to drink beer, wine or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, gin)? <i>Questions: 2010-G9; 2012-G9; 2014-G2; 2016-G9.</i>	Van Buren	ALL	86%	88%	80%	79%
		11 th	79%	80%	66%	56%
	Iowa	ALL	87%	87%	87%	86%
		11 th	79%	77%	77%	75%
Go to a party where kids under 21 were using alcohol? <i>Questions: 2010-G14; 2012-G14; 2014-G14</i>	Van Buren	ALL	86%	87%	87%	86%
		11 th	79%	78%	76%	68%
	Iowa	ALL	87%	88%	88%	87%
		11 th	79%	80%	81%	78%

Question 20

Based on IYS data, how does your county compare to the rest of the state when it comes to students perception of how adult and peers feel about underage drinking? Discuss the differences.

Youth tend to perceive their friends, neighbors and parents as feeling it is okay for them to drink as seen in the 2014 IYS results where the average rate was 76% believed people would think it was okay for them to drink and 80% believed people would think it was okay for them to go to a party where kids under 21 were drinking. What they perceive of the community in general is to think of underage drinking as okay.

The counties students' perception of parental, neighbor and friend acceptance is slightly lower at an average rate of 77% for drinking and 82% for going to a party than the average state rates of 82% for drinking and 85% for going to a party.

The counties students say it is against their values to use alcohol and drugs as a teen at an average rate of 76% compared to the 82% average rate of the state.

County Meetings

As part of this needs assessment you will need to conduct a county meeting or town hall meeting to find out about the general attitudes in your county around alcohol and a description of the alcohol culture. Information gathered from this town hall meeting or county meeting will be used to answer Question 21 below. Provide a summary of any county meetings or town hall meetings here:

YOUTH

When asked what the alcohol-related problems are in the community, the youth had divided opinions. Some felt underage drinking is a fairly common occurrence, while some feel it is a small group who routinely throw parties. When asked what factors are causing these issues, the youth responded that there is little for youth to do to entertain themselves, so they turn to drinking. They also believe underage drinking and drunk driving are community norms and that some parents leave alcohol unattended and don't mind if youth drink it.

Participants were then asked a series of questions designed to explore social availability in the community. The youth believe underage high school students and underage youth who have graduated are both getting alcohol from older friends and siblings, from parents who don't care if they drink, or from unmonitored supplies in the home. When asked where youth are drinking, participants said youth are drinking at home, either with or without permission, at parties, and in low-traffic public places. A few participants specifically mentioned a ball diamond in Birmingham youth go to drink because no one uses it. There is general agreement that it is easier to get away with underage drinking due to the rural nature of the community. Although the respondents all believed some parents are providing alcohol to youth at parties, none of them had personally witnessed it and none had heard of specific examples of that happening.

Respondents were then asked about county norms regarding alcohol use. There was agreement that drinking is a normal social activity. Some thought adult abuse of alcohol is evident, but others claimed not to be aware of adults drinking heavily on a regular basis. A few youth thought drinking was a form of rebellion for underage drinkers and that youth who don't drink are seen as "goody, goody." Respondents were then asked about the community's attitudes towards underage drinking. There was some disagreement on whether they thought the community felt it was okay to serve minors. Some thought it was always frowned upon, while others thought some parents might serve minors. Most of the respondents agreed that once someone has graduated from high school, underage drinking is more acceptable to the community, although some would still have a problem with it. The youth also believe most people in the community frown on drunk driving, but also believe it isn't monitored. The participants were not aware of any organizations that promote alcohol use, but they admitted they do not pay attention to that sort of thing.

Participants were then asked what individual characteristics contribute to the underage and binge drinking in the county. Respondents were asked what makes their community unique. The youth report that living in a small community means everyone knows everyone else. People gossip about each other, but they can also be really nice and welcoming. Respondents felt because there is only one sheriff, it makes it much easier to get away with things. However, they were unsure to what degree individual characteristics were affecting underage and binge drinking. The youth felt social availability was the leading cause of underage and binge drinking. Many stating if alcohol couldn't be obtained then it couldn't be used.

Respondents were also asked for final thoughts about alcohol to give them a chance to say anything that was not covered by the questions. Some felt people don't act responsibly when drinking and that most people don't binge drink, they only say they binge drink.

Young Adults

When asked what the alcohol-related problems were in the community and what factors were causing those problems, respondents said there is an overabundance of bars in the area, which in turn means there is some drunk driving. They also said drinking was considered a normal thing to do and since there's only one sheriff, it is easier to get away with breaking the law.

Participants were then asked about the social availability of alcohol in the community. They believe high school students are getting alcohol from older friends and siblings, as well as from parents who would prefer they drink at home under supervision. Respondents also said youth aged 18-20 are getting alcohol from the same places, but also that bars will sell to them if there is little risk of the bartender getting caught serving to minors. They were then asked where underage youth are drinking. High school students are believed to be drinking in people's garages, at bonfires, and in barns. They believe underage youth who have graduated drink at softball tournaments, outside of bars, or pretty much wherever since it is so widely accepted. Participants were asked what their own personal experience was with underage drinking at parties and parents providing alcohol. Most said there were not many parties, but that they do have knowledge of some parents providing alcohol to minors. All of them agreed that social availability was a huge factor leading to underage drinking.

Respondents were asked next about community norms. There was agreement that drinking is a normal social activity for the community. They gave examples of people getting off work in the early afternoon and then immediately going to the bar to drink for a few hours every day. Although they all said drinking was an accepted part of life, none of them knew people who have been really drunk. The next set of questions investigated community norms surrounding serving alcohol to underage youth. Participants said there are mixed feelings in the community. Some adults are okay with youth drinking underage, some think it is okay with parental supervision, and some think it is wrong no matter what. Overall they felt the adults in the community think once a student graduates, they are old enough to drink. Participants also felt that although drunk driving is frowned up, it still happens. They also said instead of drunk driving, some people will call or text for a ride and others who live near the bars will let people stay the night so they don't drive drunk. The respondents reported not being aware of organizations promoting alcohol in the community, except for the biker rally.

When asked what makes their community unique, participants agreed it is because of being a small community where everyone knows and is supportive of everyone else. Participants reported the fact that everyone knows everyone else and that older friends and siblings will buy for younger kids as being individual characteristics that contribute to underage and binge drinking. However, they also felt if there were a lot of accidents, then people would crack down on it. The respondents did not feel individual characteristics contributed as much as social availability and community norms.

The participants also said binge drinking is not common in youth, but is in older adults. They felt this was because drinking is so widely accepted it stops being an act of rebellion.

Adults

The participants in the adult group felt the alcohol problems in the community are drunk driving, pregnancies, loss of trust for youth, and retailers becoming bitter over getting blame for

underage drinkers. Most thought the biggest contributing factor is boredom. There was some disagreement about where youth are getting alcohol. Everyone thought older siblings and friends were providing, but only some people thought parents were providing. Others insisted parents providing alcohol has not happened for at least 5 years. They also said high school students were getting alcohol from other communities who don't know them and underage youth who have graduated are getting alcohol from bars and social gatherings. Asked where youth are consuming alcohol, respondents said they go out driving and drinking, they also drink in abandoned houses, isolated places in the county, at parties, at the pond, at home, or at a friend's house. There was disagreement over whether kids are drinking at parties. Some say parents are providing alcohol so they can monitor their drinking and others thought that is not happening anymore. Everyone agreed that social availability is a huge contributor to the problem of underage drinking.

Respondents were then asked about the attitudes and norms surrounding alcohol use in the county. Everyone agreed that drinking is the leisure activity of choice, especially for people without a lot of money. They also said this is because of a lack of entertainment options in the area. Since most people drive long distances due to the rural nature of the county, drunk driving also happens a lot. There was major disagreement about whether people approve or disapprove of underage drinking. Some felt that everyone disapproves of it; while others claimed underage drinking is widely accepted, especially for youth who have graduated from high school. No one thought it was okay to serve alcohol to a minor, but some admitted others in the community felt differently. The general consensus was that it is acceptable for youth to drink once they have graduated from high school, although a few insisted any underage drinking was unacceptable. Participants were then asked about attitudes regarding drunk driving. Most felt the majority of the community is against it and that the school does a lot to try to discourage it, but there are some who just don't want to get caught. The respondents were then asked what groups promote alcohol use. There was agreement that any time a social gathering happens, like the biker rally, the music festival, the farmer's market, open houses, and softball tournaments there is always alcohol.

There was also agreement about what makes their community unique. Everyone knows everyone else and they watch out for each other's kids. There are also a lot of absentee land owners who only have land for hunting and fishing. The main individual characteristic contributing to underage and binge drinking is a lack of things to do. Respondents felt summer was especially bad since students do not have school as a distraction. They also think kids are not being taught how mistakes they make as kids can affect the rest of their lives. Some believe the ones who drink have home issues and are using drinking as a coping mechanism. Participants also said it is easy to hide illegal activity since there is only one officer on duty. The respondents did not feel individual characteristics played as large a role in underage drinking as social availability or community norms.

Youth 2018 Focus Group

When asked what the alcohol-related problems are in the community, the youth provided consistent responses. It was reported that youth alcohol use is common knowledge in the community and there is no stigma for students who use alcohol. The most common time students reported drinking was on the weekends. Five students identified a group of underage youth who held "Whiskey Wednesdays" during the previous school year.

Students state that parents do not care, ignore it, or do not think their child would use alcohol.

It was reported that there is alcohol use at community events including Fall Festival, the Bike Rally, and County Fair. One student noticed the use of ID scanners, wrist bands, and an alcohol tent.

Participants reported that alcohol is very easy to get in Van Buren County. 80% of students reported they could get alcohol by the end of the day if they wanted it. The most commonly reported sources of alcohol were older friends and siblings. Students stated a number of recent graduates return to the community and party with younger people and purchase the alcohol. It was also reported that there are parents who supply alcohol to their child and their child's friends so that students can drink in a safe place. Two participants identified a retirement complex in Birmingham where students can get alcohol through the residents.

Participants reported that youth use alcohol at outdoor parties on farms or in fields, under the Keosauqua bridge, and occasionally students will drink in the back gravel parking lot at school. Parties in the home were common and in 50% of cases the parents were aware of the use although the parties are typically small groups of people.

Students stated that at school the policies around alcohol use are enforced and provided examples of students who received consequences for use. Students were unaware of legal enforcement of underage drinking.

Other Data

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help you better understand how, and to what extent county norms may influence alcohol-related problems in your county. It can be earlier focus groups or surveys of youth, parents, school personnel, or county members. If you have other data sources describe the results here:

The Law Enforcement Interview and Focus Group results show that community attitudes allow for underage drinking in Van Buren County.

2018: Conversations with Law Enforcement and Youth and the Youth Focus Group continue to show that community attitudes allow for underage drinking in the county.

County Norms Questions

Question 21

Based on information gathered from the local assessment and other data sources, what are the concerns around community norms that might contribute to underage drinking and youth binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

Information and assessments locally indicate that underage drinking has some acceptability in Van Buren County especially once students have graduated from high school. This might be in part a generational concern in that many parents/grandparents of teenagers right now were drinking legally at the ages of 18 or 19. The county should soon be reaching a time when that will not be true as people in their late 40's will be the last of the legal 19 year olds. The county should reach a point where the kids will have parents who did not legally drink until after 21 which might shift the trend for acceptability of drinking after high school being "okay". There are inconsistencies in the law about being an adult. You can marry, enlist in the military, sign a legal contract all at the age of 18; which is viewed as being an 'adult', but cannot consume or purchase alcohol. Many people in the community at different ages are discussing these inconsistencies.

Question 22

Based on these considerations, to what degree do you believe community norms are impacting underage drinking and youth binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

(place an "x" next to a number from 0 to 10)

No impact						Major impact				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8X	9	10

Individual Factors

Individual factors that can influence underage drinking and youth binge drinking include biological factors, socioeconomic factors, and individual attitudes, beliefs and perceptions around alcohol use and drug use. Since little can be done to change biological predisposition or socioeconomic status (in this grant), the primary focus of this last contributing factor will focus on individual attitudes, along with unique characteristics of your county that may influence underage drinking and youth binge drinking.

Surveys

Often evidence-based prevention efforts target specific individual factors (for example specific beliefs that people have in general) that influence alcohol-related problems. In Iowa, these can be measured using the IYS.

Table 20: Risk and Protective Factors That Best Predict 30-Day Alcohol Use and Percentage of Students at Risk or Protected by Grade Levels¹, [Source IYS](#), 2014

Grade	Factors that best predict 30-day alcohol use	Percent of students at high risk or at low protection on predictive factors	
		County	State
11th Grade	Factors label		
<i>Construct (REVALC)</i>	Alcohol construct (current alcohol use)	27%	23%
<i>E31</i>	Sensation Seeking: Strongly Agree & Agree	51%	64%
<i>C9</i>	Perceived risk for Alcohol Binge: Great & Moderate Risk	72%	74%
<i>G2</i>	Perceived availability of Alcohol: Very Hard & Hard	10%	25%
<i>G3-G6</i>	Perceived availability of Drugs: Very Hard & Hard	31%, 52%, 52%, 52%	34%, 59%, 58%, 58%
<i>F13, F19</i>	Parent attitudes to Alcohol: Wrong & Very Wrong	71%, 75%	81%, 85%
ALL Grades	Alcohol construct		
<i>Construct (REVALC)</i>	Alcohol construct (current alcohol use)	14%	10%
<i>E31</i>	Sensation Seeking: Strongly Agree & Agree	57%	57%
<i>C9</i>	Perceived risk for Alcohol Binge: Great & Moderate Risk	74%	73%
<i>G2</i>	Perceived availability of Alcohol: Very Hard & Hard	46%	51%
<i>G3-G6</i>	Perceived availability of Drugs: Very Hard & Hard	59%, 69%, 66%, 66%	61%, 72%, 70%, 71%
<i>F13, F19</i>	Parent attitudes to Alcohol: Wrong & Very Wrong	86%, 88%	91%, 93%

2016 IYS Risk & Protective Factors

Grade	Factors that best predict 30-day alcohol use	Percent of students at high risk or at low protection on predictive factors	
		County	State
11th Grade	Factors label		
<i>Construct (REVALC)</i>	Alcohol construct (current alcohol use)	27%	21%
<i>E31</i>	Sensation Seeking: Strongly Agree & Agree	60%	61%
<i>C9</i>	Perceived risk for Alcohol Binge: Great & Moderate Risk	72%	71%
<i>G2</i>	Perceived availability of Alcohol: Very Hard & Hard	16%	23%
<i>G3-G6</i>	Perceived availability of Drugs: Very Hard & Hard	22%, 42%, 43%, 36%	32%, 57%, 55%, 54%
<i>F13, F19</i>	Parent attitudes to Alcohol: Wrong & Very Wrong	67%, 72%	81%, 84%
ALL Grades	Alcohol construct		
<i>Construct (REVALC)</i>	Alcohol construct (current alcohol use)	14%	10%
<i>E31</i>	Sensation Seeking: Strongly Agree & Agree	59%	53%
<i>C9</i>	Perceived risk for Alcohol Binge: Great & Moderate Risk	73%	71%
<i>G2</i>	Perceived availability of Alcohol: Very Hard & Hard	47%	49%
<i>G3-G6</i>	Perceived availability of Drugs: Very Hard & Hard	58%, 68%, 66%, 67%	59%, 69%, 67%, 68%
<i>F13, F19</i>	Parent attitudes to Alcohol: Wrong & Very Wrong	86%, 90%	91%, 93%

Question 23

How does your level of risk based on the combination of risk and protective factors compare to the risk levels for the State of Iowa? Is your percentage of students at high risk of alcohol use bigger, smaller, or about the same as the state? Discuss the differences.

Van Buren County clearly has slightly higher risk factors than the state including current use (27% vs. 23% for 11th Grade and 14% vs. 10% for All Grades), parent attitudes about it being wrong or very wrong for youth to drink (71%, 75% vs. 81%, 85% for 11th Grade and 86%, 88% vs. 91%, 93% for All Grades), and the perception rates of drugs being very hard or hard to get in the community being lower (31%, 52%, 52%, 52% vs. 34%, 59%, 58%, 58% for 11th Grade and 59%, 69%, 66%, 66% vs. 61%, 72%, 20%, 71% for All Grades).

The significant differences between the 11th graders and All Grades in the county for ease of access being 10% vs. 46% and current use at 27% vs. 14% concerns the coalition. This may indicate that the message about not using alcohol before the age of 21 to 17-18 year olds is not being as effective as it is for younger students.

Question 24

Based upon discussions with the 2014 IYS, which of the risk factors listed there have the highest prevalence rates for your county?

The highest area of concern for the 2014 IYS is the ease of access to alcohol stated by the 11th Grade students at 81%. The significant differences between the 11th graders and All Grades in the county for ease of access being 81% vs. 43% and current use at 27% vs. 14% concerns the coalition. For all the items though it is perceptions; the coalition believes it may be starting to see a shift back to not thinking it is that big of a deal for youth to be drinking.

Graduation Rates

Consider the following table which lists the graduation rate for each school in your county. To compare your county to Iowa as a whole, SEW will provide the overall county and state numbers and rates. You will need though to find your specific school district graduation rates and compare to the county and state. This will help you pinpoint districts that have real problems.

Table 21: Graduation Rates, [Source Iowa Department of Education](#)

Communities	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Harmony Community School District	69.57	86.36	87.5	94.7	93.75
Van Buren Community School District	85.48	86.84	90.57	88.4	92.86
County	85.5	86.8	90.6	Unknown	Unknown
State	89.26	89.68	90.54	90.8	91.26

Note: The NGA rate is calculated by dividing the number of on time graduates (including transferred in graduates) by the number of first time 9th graders four years previous.

Question 25

Based on data in Table 21, how do your graduation rates compare to the Iowa graduation rates? Is there a specific district that has a problem with graduating students?

Harmony has a lower average graduation rate at 81 and Van Buren has a slightly lower average rate at 88 compared to the states average rate of 90. The overall county average rate is slightly lower at 88 compared to the states average rate of 90.

Is your percentage bigger, smaller, or about the same as the state? Discuss the differences.

The county and Van Buren overall have a slightly lower average rate at 88 compared to the states average rate of 90. Harmony has a lower average rate of 81.

Other Data Sources

Consider and analyze other data sources that will help you better understand how and to what extent individual factors in your county may influence alcohol-related problems in your county. For example, you may have socio-economic or demographic data that illustrates the differences between people in your communities and county, and the rest of the state. You may want to include information from alternative schools, if there are any in your county. Describe any other data sources that you may find here:

- 1) At this time there are no alternative schools in Van Buren County.
- 2) At this time in the county there is no access to treatment services or behavioral health treatment. The schools do provide some mental health counseling for students in need of it during the school day in conjunction with a counseling center from outside of the county. The counseling provided is not alcohol/drug specific.
- 3) The counselor at the Van Buren Community high school sees depression, anxiety, peer pressure, bullying and financial obligations all contributing to the causes for underage drinking and underage binge drinking. They believe that national advertising and community norms play a significant role in underage drinking, but they have also witnessed many cases when young people are using alcohol as a coping mechanism not just as a source of rebellion. They are also concerned about the kids who are drinking alone to escape some source of pain.

2018: There are still no alternative schools in the county. There are now two counseling centers located in the county that offer behavioral and mental health treatment. The school contracts with one of these providers to provide mental health counseling during the school day as needed for students. The counseling services in county are not alcohol/drug specific still.

The counselor at the Van Buren Community High School shared there is a continued need for mental health services and severity of diagnosis is a problem in the county among the youth. Accessible services and limited financial resources often inhibit students receiving the treatment they need, which in some cases, leads to "self-medication" with alcohol or other drugs. Alcohol use also contributes to other risk factors with tobacco, drugs, and sexual activity.

Individual Factor Questions

Question 26

Based on information gathered from the IYS, graduation rates, town hall meetings, and other data sources, what are the concerns around individual factors that might contribute to underage and binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

1. All of the data points to concern about underage and binge drinking. One concern not reflected in the data is the mental health concerns in the state and county. The perception for now is the kids at greatest risk for underage and binge drinking are the kids who are impacted with mental health concerns either of their own or of their families.
2. The ease with which kids can get alcohol is alarming as well as a risk.

Question 27

Based on these considerations, to what degree does your coalition/Council believe individual factors are impacting underage drinking and youth binge drinking and its consequences in your county? Justify your decision.

(place an "x" next to a number from 0 to 10)

No impact						Major impact				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8X	9	10

Intervening Variable Data Update February 2018

List IV	# from impact rating scale	Summarize original data that supported this decision	How would you now rate the impact of this IV?	Has the impact of this IV changed? If yes, explain how so and what led you to this decision.
Retail Availability	6	There is a high rate of alcohol retail licenses in comparison to the population. Yet, the coalition works closely with merchants and is seen as a resource for community events to help prevent underage drinking.	6	No it has not changed.
Social Availability	9	The ease of access to alcohol through family members and friends and the lax attitude about underage drinking in the community allows for it to happen.	9	No it has not changed.
Promotion	4	There is not a lot of promotion of alcohol outside of local merchants in county. Alcohol tends to be regulated at official community events with cooperation with the coalition. The problem lies with unofficial events such as softball tournaments, weddings, etc.	6	A local community event has stopped using best practices for alcohol service at its event because they believed "it was too much trouble and it cost too much". The coalition is still seen as a resource by the majority of community event providers.
Community Norms	8	Underage drinking has some acceptability especially once students graduate high school. Some of this is due to the attitudes of elder community members who drank legally at the age of 18 & 19.	8	No it has not changed
Individual Factors	8	Ease of Access and Families with Mental Health Concerns	8	No it has not changed

County Priorities

Prioritizing

The next stage involves prioritizing the intervening variables. The first step is achieved by placing the appropriate scores from previous questions next to its related Intervening variables. Based on the impact scores, rank each Intervening variables with 1 being the highest priority (the area with the highest score) and 6 the lowest. In the case of a tie, decide which area is of higher priority for your county in relation to underage and binge drinking. After having completed the ranking, justify your prioritization. Then work to decide what combination of intervening variables would be best to focus on in reducing underage and binge drinking in your county. You may want to consider other mitigating factors like special communities characteristics that influence underage drinking or binge drinking. Feel free to point out or comment on any other circumstances.

Score	Rank	Intervening Variables
6	4	Retail Availability (Question 13)
9	1	Social Availability (Question 16)
4	5	Promotion (Question 19)
8	2	Community Norms (Question22)
8	3	Individual Factors (Question27)

Question 28**Justify your prioritization of the intervening variables.**

Upon reviewing all of the data collected and scoring the areas based on the provided score sheet the top three areas that the evaluation committee prioritized were:

- 1) Social Availability
- 2) Community Norms
- 3) Individual Factors

The coalition will be addressing the fourth prioritized area, Retail Availability (see question 29 for justification) instead of the third due to the coalitions desire to have the greatest impact on the problem. The evaluation committee feel working with retailers will allow a greater impact on underage and underage binge drinking in the county as opposed to individual factors.

County Priorities Update (date here)

Have there been any changes that would lead you to reprioritize the ranking of your intervening variables? If yes, please explain

There have been no changes that would lead the SAFE Coalition to reprioritize the ranking of the IPFS Program's intervening variables.

Resource Assessment

Resources

Most communities already do some sort of substance abuse prevention, ranging from implementing school-based programs to pursuing policy changes. Therefore, it is important to consider the resources already being used in any of the five intervening variables. Complete the table below by listing current strategies and resources being expended within each Intervening variables. Note that these must include some focus upon the prevention of underage drinking and youth (ages 12-20 years) binge drinking. You may want to consider certain school or local policies/ordinances related to alcohol. Resources most often refer to funding but could also refer to other efforts like individual time spent pursuing policy change, dedicated staff, etc.

Table 22: Current Resources and Strategies Focusing upon the Underage and Binge Drinking by Intervening variables

Intervening Variables	Strategies	Resources
Retail Availability	Compliance Checks Merchant Alcohol Trainings Merchant Managers Training/Binders Merchant Newsletters	Van Buren County Sheriff's Reserve Officers SIEDA Roberts Memorial Building
Social Availability	Articles in the Paper YLC Educating Privately Owned Facilities Educating Elected Officials at City Council and Board of Supervisors Meetings	Van Buren County Register YLC Members Van Buren & Harmony Community School Districts Board of Supervisors City Councils Private Facility Owners/Managers
Promotion	Articles in the Paper Environmental Scans IDPH Media Campaign	Van Buren County Register YLC Members Van Buren & Harmony Community School Districts Van Buren County Hospital & Clinics Local Libraries
County Norms	Articles in the paper YLC Educating Elected Officials at City Council and Board of Supervisors Meetings	Van Buren County Register YLC Members Van Buren & Harmony Community School Districts Board of Supervisors City Councils
Individual Factors	Youth Leadership Council at Harmony and Van Buren School Districts Presentations for local Civic Groups	Van Buren & Harmony Community School Districts Parents as Teachers NEST Rotary

	Life Skills Classes for 7 th & 8 th Grade Students at the Van Buren Community Middle School	Grant Funds provided by the Van Buren County DECAT Board for a Prescription Drug Module to be added to the Life Skills Curriculum
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Resource Assessment Update (date here)

How have the available resources changed in your county? How will this impact your work?

The Van Buren County Board of Supervisors and seven City Councils allow the IPFS Coordinator to do presentations at their meetings quarterly now. Coalition members have worked hard to educate community members on the IPFS Strategies and engage community members in the coalition work. The media campaign has had a strong presence in the community with cooperation from many key stakeholders including the school districts, county hospital and clinics, local libraries, local convenience stores, the local pool, and the state park. The Life Skills classes have been implemented effectively with the 7th & 8th grade students at the Van Buren Community School District and the teacher reports good interactions and conversations with the curriculum. The coalition received a grant from the Van Buren County DECAT Board to purchase a new module offered by the Life Skills Curriculum to address prescription drug abuse. This is the group that is considering supporting the Life Skills Curriculum in the school after the IPFS Project ends.

These increases in resources are promising for the work of the coalition and are encouraging the coalition to continue with the work as planned in Van Buren County.

Final Conclusions

Your Final Conclusions

Now that you have considered the data pertaining to your county alcohol problems and their Intervening variables, you need to decide what to do. This decision will ultimately be part of your county IPFS Strategic Plan and lead to very specific evidence-based strategies that you will implement.

For now, think about your data and especially your final rankings as well as your resource assessment. Also, think about the possible connections among the Intervening Variables. Would it be possible to target social availability without also targeting county norms? Will changes in retail availability necessarily require changes in the enforcement of policy? Now answer the following question.

Final Needs Assessment Question

Question 29

It is very unlikely that your county can or needs to address every possible cause or implement every possible evidence-based strategy to change alcohol-related problems. What combination of Intervening Variables is your county going to target within IPFS Project and why?

- 1) Social Availability: It ranks the highest and this is where the coalition is hearing most often from youth and law enforcement that youth are obtaining alcohol from friends and family.
- 2) Community Norms: It is important in this small community that the coalition continues to address community norms because in small towns, norms tend to drive behaviors. The focus groups were evidence of this with many people reporting “it’s just how it is here” and “there is nothing else to do”.
- 3) Retail availability: While this ranked fourth on prioritization the coalition’s ability to have a large impact on the third ranked intervening variable, Individual Factors, is not possible. The coalition would like to focus on Environmental Strategies with merchants to be able to have the greatest impact on the problems.

Disparate Population Update (date here)

Who are the disparate populations that you identified in your strategic plan? What new data has been considered that includes or has a direct impact on those populations? Is there any specific data that stood out to you? Are you able to identify any trends in the data related to these populations? Are there persistent data gaps that exist for these populations? How do you intend to address those gaps?

The disparate population (age group/population that is at greatest risk) identified for Underage Drinking in Van Buren County is 27% of the 16-18 year olds (N=122) as identified by the 2014 Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) 30 day use data. The data shows that 27% of 11th graders (N=54) have had at least one drink in the past 30 days. This is the largest percentage of youth impacted in Van Buren County with only 2% of 6th graders (N=62) and 12% of 8th graders (N=76) reporting that they have had at least one drink in the past 30 days. This data also shows the trend that as youth get older people do not think it is as bad for them to be drinking alcohol.

The disparate population (age group) identified for Underage Binge Drinking in Van Buren County is 14% of 12-17 year olds (N=413) as 7% of students in 6th, 8th and 11th grade (N=185) reported on the 2014 Iowa Youth Survey that they had at least once in the past 30 days had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours and 14% of them (N=185) reported having had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days.

The coalition has been working with the Van Buren Community Jr. /Sr. High School Counselor, who is a coalition member, to specifically identify the disparate population. All of the 7th – 12th grade students in the county attend this school unless they open enroll out to another district.

There was no new data to indicate a more specific disparate population during this update. No specific data or trends stood out to the coalition. At this time the coalition is unsure if there are data gaps that can be filled so there are not strategies to address filling data gaps.

Final Conclusions (date here)

Is there any other information or data that you feel is important to note after conducting this reassessment? How will the information from this update be shared with other stakeholders? Share any final thoughts or conclusions here:

There is no other data or information to share that has not already been mentioned in the reassessment.

The coalition will share this data with key stakeholders on the coalition's website and social media outlets. It will be shared with coalition members and the school board electronically. The fact that it has been completed will be shared in the newspaper and during upcoming Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings with a referral to the coalition's website.

There does not seem to be anything new at this time as detailed by the data and narratives. It does seem though that the social norms about alcohol persist at this time.

Appendices

Appendix A. Law Enforcement Interviews

One method for obtaining data is the face-to-face interview. With this method, you talk to each participant directly. This can be done in the participant's workplace, in your office, or any other suitable place. We recommend that you use a semi-structured interview format. This means that you will ask a set of questions prepared in advance. Clarification to follow-up questions may still be used. By asking general questions and having your participants provide answers in their own words, you may gain more complete information. The interview should be structured, but not so structured that it does not allow participants to discuss underage and binge drinking in the county freely.

Although face-to-face interviews are a valuable way to collect data, they are not without drawbacks. The appearance and demeanor of the interviewer may affect the responses of the participants. Subtle changes in the way an interviewer asks a question may elicit different answers. Also, be aware that the interviewer may not respond similarly to all participants. For example, an interviewer may respond differently to a participant they know versus a participant they have never met before.

The Interviewer

Fundamental to the interview is an interviewer who leads the discussion. This person should feel at ease speaking in a one-on-one conversation. The interviewer's goal is to make the participant feel comfortable in expressing themselves openly while remaining unbiased and keeping the discussion on track. It is recommended that you use someone who has conducted face-to-face interviews before. The interviewer should be able to ask the questions the same way for each participant and be able to read the questions in a neutral manner. The interviewer should also be practiced in active listening techniques that encourage participants to honestly and openly respond to the interview questions.

Choosing the Participants

As part of this needs assessment, you will need to conduct interviews of key law enforcement officers, such as the Chief of Police and the County Sheriff. You should consider what other interviews would be most appropriate and informative for your county. In addition to the law enforcement interviews, you may want to interview emergency room staff, alcohol treatment providers, or county leaders. One thing to consider when choosing your participants may include the length of time they have held their current position. Be careful not to choose someone who is too new to be able to accurately answer your questions. The interviewer should keep in mind the questions they are trying to answer, and they should feel creative in how they choose participants.

Conducting the Interview

The interview should last about 30 minutes and follow a semi-structured format. Only the interviewer and the participant should be present during the interview, and the interviewer should make sure the interview is being conducted in a private location where others cannot hear the conversation. The interviewer should ask the questions and let the participant respond without interrupting. The interviewer should allow the participant to talk freely but not ramble about unrelated issues. The interviewer should make every attempt to find a balance between keeping the conversation on track and allowing it to flow naturally. To accomplish this, a "funnel" structure is often used. This approach is best outlined as a series of questions that move from general to specific.

Introductory Questions

These are questions that introduce the topic for discussion. They should make the participant feel at ease with the interviewer. Usually they are not critical to the research; rather, they are intended to foster conversation and get the participant to start thinking about the topic.

Key Questions

These are questions that drive the research. Their answers provide the best data for later analysis. They should be focused on the topic of interest and open-ended. The interviewer's goal with these questions is to illicit open responses from the participant. You should avoid both questions that allow for short answers and questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no."

Ending Questions

These questions bring closure to the discussion and enable the participant to look back upon previous comments. The participant should be asked to summarize their thoughts in some way.

Sample Questions You May Choose to Use for Your Interviews

Introductory Questions

What alcohol-related problems do you see in our county?

What factors do you believe are causing these problems?

Key Questions

What percent of arrests is a result of alcohol-related offenses in our county?

What percent of convictions is a result of alcohol-related offenses in our county?

How many alcohol-related offenses do you think go undetected in our county?

Are any officers assigned specifically to alcohol-related issues or offenses in our county?

How many officers are assigned?

What does their work consist of?

What special training do officers have in order to deal with alcohol-related offenses?

Do you hold sobriety check points?

How many sobriety check points were held in 2014?

How many drivers were tested?

How many positive BAC levels were obtained?

Where were the sobriety check points held?

Have you conducted any compliance checks for retail sales?

How many compliance checks for sales to intoxicated patrons were conducted in 2014?

What else are law enforcement officers doing around the underage drinking and youth binge drinking in our county?

What aren't law enforcement officers doing around the underage drinking and youth binge drinking in our county?

What locations are known for alcohol-related incidents?

Are there particular people that are known for repeated alcohol-related incidents? If yes, what do you do to keep track or work with those people?

How do you think law enforcement could better address the alcohol-related problems in our county?

Ending Questions

How do you think the criminal justice system is helping reduce the alcohol problems in our county?

How do you think concerns in the criminal justice system are contributing to the alcohol problems in our county?

Our goal is to find out what the driving factor is that is causing the underage and binge drinking in our county. Is there anything you would like to add or do you have any final comments?

Thank you for your time and input.

Recording and Using the Information

In addition to taking notes, every effort should be made to record the law enforcement interview, but first seek permission from your participant. The use of recording equipment is important because it will allow to revisit the conversation and pull direct quotes made by the participant. This discussion can also be transcribed or at least listened to for quotes and general ideas. We suggest using a data matrix like the one found on the next page to keep track of major themes and quotes from the discussion.

The information gathered from these interviews should be used to complement other quantitative work by the use of participant quotes and the grouping of ideas. The grouping of ideas refers to categorizing the participant attitudes, feelings, or beliefs toward the topic. This may simply involve discussions revolving around a single question. In other cases this may involve outlining the major topics brought up during the interview.

Notes for Law Enforcement Interview About Alcohol Use

Date: _____ Location: _____ Participant's Title: _____ Interviewer: _____

Section	Major Ideas of Themes	Quotes
Question 1		
Question 2		
Question 3		
Other thoughts, ideas, comments, or themes that arose during the interview:		

Appendix B. County Meeting or Focus Groups Protocol

Holding a town hall meeting is an efficient way to gather qualitative data through the use of a focus group methods. The reward for this work is dynamic information not just about what people feel, but about *why* people feel the way they do about a particular subject or idea. Group discussions have the potential to provide data with both accuracy and depth. The town hall meeting is intended as a complement to the rest of the needs assessment.

What follows is a discussion of the general system for running a town hall meeting successfully.

The Moderator

Fundamental to the town hall meeting is a moderator who facilitates the discussion. This person should feel at ease speaking in front of the group, but he or she is not a teacher. The moderator's goal is to make the participants feel comfortable in expressing themselves openly while keeping the discussion on track.

Becoming a talented moderator takes practice. For most novices the best strategy is to play the role of a *seeker of wisdom*. This role assumes that the participants have the wisdom you need and will share it if asked the right questions.

Most importantly, moderators must learn to listen and not talk.

Choosing the Participants

You can do one town hall meeting or a series of meetings. These meetings should consist of at least 10 people who either volunteered to come or who were chosen specifically. Most meetings are made up of a homogeneous group of strangers, but don't be afraid to invite specific individuals to attend the meeting. Key participants may include county members, police officers, parents, adolescents, someone from your advisory council, bar owner, and any other individuals who may have insight on the topic. The State Epidemiological Workgroup strongly recommends the inclusion of individuals that represent the diversity of the county or the minority groups. It is helpful to keep contact information for the participants as they may be involved in other parts of the project.

Setting the Rules

Prior to starting the discussion, the moderator should lay down a few ground rules. Generally, these include, only one person talking at a time; no side discussions among participants; no members should be put down because of their opinions; all thoughts and ideas are valued; and there are no wrong or right answers. Like with selection of group members, care and creativity should be used when setting rules.

Conducting the Discussion

The discussion itself should last between 1 and 2 hours and follow a structured format. The moderator should make every attempt to find a balance between keeping the group discussion on track and allowing it to flow naturally. In order to accomplish this, a "funnel" structure is often used. This approach is best outlined as a series of questions that move from general to specific.

Opening Question

This is a “round robin” question that everyone answers at the beginning of the meeting. It is designed to be answered quickly and to identify those characteristics that participants have in common. It should make everyone in the group feel more at ease.

Introductory Questions

These are questions that introduce the topic for discussion. Usually they are not critical to the research; rather, they are intended to foster conversation and interaction among the participants.

Key Questions

These are questions that drive the research. Their answers provide the best data for later analysis. They should be focused on the topic of interest and open-ended. The moderator’s goal with these questions is to illicit discussion among the participants. You should avoid both questions that allow for short answers and questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no.”

Ending Questions

These questions bring closure to the discussion and enable participants to look back upon previous comments. Once again a “round robin” approach is best, and participants should be asked to summarize their thoughts in some way.

Sample Protocol You May Use for Your County Meeting(s) or Focus groups

Opening Question

Tell us your name and what brought you here today. (Round Table)

Introductory Questions

What are the alcohol-related problems in our community?

What factors are causing these problems?

A number of alcohol-related concerns and possible causes for those concerns have been mentioned. Let’s think about three possible causes of alcohol use in particular. For the remainder of this discussion, let’s think about social availability, community norms and individual factors.

Key Questions

Let’s start with social availability. Social availability refers to the procurement of alcohol through social sources such as friends and family.

Where are the youth in our county getting alcohol? Give examples.

Where are high school aged youth and younger getting alcohol?

Where are minors out of high school getting alcohol?

Where do youth consume alcohol?

What are your experiences with underage drinking at parties, or with adults providing alcohol to minors?

There's been a lot of talk about underage and binge drinking as a problem in our county, but to what extent do you think *social availability* really contributes to the problem? (Round Robin).

Next, let's talk about community norms. Community norms reflect general attitudes about alcohol use and societal expectations regarding the level and type of use that is considered appropriate.

What are the norms of our county?

What are the general attitudes about drinking in our county?

What is the alcohol culture like?

In our county, is it okay to serve alcohol to a minor and if so, under what circumstances?

In our county, at what age is it acceptable to use alcohol?

What is our county's attitude toward drinking and driving?

What kind of groups or organizations promote the use of alcohol in our county?

Now that we've had this discussion, to what extent do you think *community norms* contribute to the underage and binge drinking in our county? (Round Robin)

Lastly, let's think about individual factors. Individual factors could be biological, socio-economic, or individual attitudes.

What makes the people in our county different and unique?

What individual characteristics contribute to the underage and binge drinking in our county?

Based on the things we've just talked about, to what degree do you think the *individual characteristics* of the people in our county are a cause of the underage and binge drinking? (Round Robin)

Ending Question

Considering the three causes that we've talked about today, social availability, community norms, and individual factors, which one is the leading cause of the underage and binge drinking in our county? (Round Robin)

Our goal is to find out what is contributing to the underage and binge drinking in our county. Have you missed anything? Do you have any final comments?

Thank the participants for coming.

Recording and Using the Information

Every effort should be made to record the town hall meeting by having a colleague take notes and through the use of a tape or video recorder. The use of recording equipment allows the meeting to be revisited when needed. Consider soliciting the audience and parental consent (if youth are involved) before starting video-taping the event. This discussion can also be transcribed or at least listened to for quotes and general ideas. We suggest using a data matrix like the one found on the next page to keep track of major themes and quotes from the discussion. Feel free to expand the table as needed.

The information gathered from this meeting should be used to compliment other quantitative work by the use of participant quotes and the grouping of ideas. The grouping of ideas refers to the categorizing of attitudes, feelings, or beliefs of the group toward the topic. This may simply involve discussions revolving around a single question. In other cases this may involve outlining the major topics brought up by the group.

Notes for Town Hall Meeting About Alcohol Use

Date: _____ Location: _____

Number of People in Attendance: _____ Note Taker: _____

Section	Major Ideas of Themes	Quotes	Consensus or Disagreement?
Question 1			
Question 2			
Question 3			
Other thoughts, ideas, comments, or themes that arose during the town hall meeting:			

State Data Sources

Table 23: State Data Sources Used in the Assessment

Data Source	Data Description	Data Location
Iowa Youth Survey(state)	Statewide school survey of 6 th , 8 th , and 11 th graders (2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014).	www.iowayouthsurvey.iowa.gov/counties/index.html
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a state-based system of health surveys that collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury.	http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSS/
Justice Data Warehouse	The Justice Data Warehouse (JDW) is a central repository of key criminal and juvenile justice information from the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS) and information from the Iowa Correctional Offender Network (ICON) system.	http://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/cijp/jdw/index.html
Iowa Department of Education	Data collected by the Iowa Department of Education on topics including (but are not limited to) enrollment, free and reduced meal eligibility, limited English students, and technology.	https://www.educateiowa.gov/education-statistics
Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division	The Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division is responsible for the regulation, control and enforcement of state and federal laws and regulations regarding the sale and use of alcohol and tobacco products.	http://iowaabd.com/
Census Bureau	Serves as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy, operating under Title 13 and Title 26, of the U.S. Code, provides Population & Housing Census (10 years), Economic Census (5 years).	http://www.census.gov/
I-SMART	A web-based computing environment to enable IDPH and providers to share substance abuse treatment data.	http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/web/tedsweb/tab_year.choose_year_web_table?t_state=IA
Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau	The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, GTSB, administers a number of federally funded highway safety initiatives, including alcohol incentive grant, seat belt incentive funds, occupant protection funds, highway safety data improvement funds and motorcycle safety funds.	http://www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/gtsb/

Definitions

- Alcohol related Convictions: number of charges with a guilty finding in court for violations of [Iowa Code chapter 123](#).
- Alcohol related offense Arrests: Number of Arrests made by local, county or state peace officers following a violation of [Iowa Code chapter 123](#).
- Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries: number of drivers that were injured in crash with BAC>0.01.
- Binge drinking prevalence: Proportion of Youth (males having five or more drinks on one occasion, females having four or more drinks on one occasion).
- Current alcohol use prevalence: Proportion of Youth who have had at least one drink of alcohol within the past 30 days.
- Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes That Have Had a Drink (%): Proportion of drivers in Fatal crashes (limited to drivers only) that have BAC>0.01.
- Fatal Car Crash rates (per 10,000): Number of crashes resulting in fatalities divided by population times 10,000 (or total number of Vehicle Miles Traveled).
- Heavy Drinking: Proportion of (adult men having more than two drinks per day and adult women having more than one drink per day).
- Intervening variables: A hypothetical variable (events) postulated to account for the way in which a set of independent variables (risk factors) control a set of dependent variables².
- Liquor Law Violations: Offenses dealing with sales or provision of alcohol.
- Operating While Intoxicated: Violation of [Iowa Code chapter 321J](#) (BAC>.08).
- Prevalence: Number or proportion (percent) of cases or events in a given population. Often further distinguished as point prevalence (single point in time) or period prevalence (over a period of time).
- Public intoxication: Violation of [Iowa Code chapter 123.46](#).
- Rate: (Number of cases or events / total population)* 10,000. All rates in this county assessment workbook are per 10,000.
- Underage Possession: Violation of Code 123.47A which prohibit minors from purchasing or attempting to purchase, or possessing or having control of alcoholic beverages

List of Abbreviations

- ABD - Alcoholic Beverages Division
- AC4C - Alliance of Coalitions for Change
- ATOD - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
- BAC - Blood Alcohol Content
- BRFSS - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- CJJP - Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Iowa Department of Human Rights
- DHS - Iowa Department of Human Services
- DOE - Iowa Department of Education
- DOT - Iowa Department of Transportation
- DPS - Iowa Department of Public Safety
- EUDL – Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws
- IDPH - Iowa Department of Public Health
- IPFS – Iowa Partnerships for Success
- I-SMART - Iowa Service Management and Reporting Tool
- IYS - Iowa Youth Survey
- JDW - Justice Data Warehouse
- NSDUH - National Survey on Drug Use and Health
- OWI - Operating While Intoxicated
- SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- SEW - State Epidemiological Workgroup
- TEDS - Treatment Episode Data Set
- UCR - Uniform Crime Report

References

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