RPP Statewide Evaluation

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PIRE

Process Evaluation Questions

- <u>Process</u> evaluation focuses on assessing and documenting grantees' :
  - Partnerships and capacity building
  - Assessment and planning
  - Implementation of strategies (including successes and challenges encountered)

Outcome Evaluation Questions

☐ <u>Outcome</u> evaluation focuses on:

- ◻ Assessing change over time in population-based outcome measures and targeted intervening variables

- ◻ Comparing change in outcomes across regions (e.g., as based on the timing and duration of their funding).

Data Sources

- Process evaluation:
  - Community Grantee Reporting System (CGRS)
  - CLI data submitted to PEP-C (through Sept 2017)
  - Annual site visits
  - Interviews and focus groups with District Office and lead agency staff and community partners

- Outcome Evaluation:
  - YRBS 2013-2019
  - Young Adult Survey 2014-2020
  - Vermont Parent Survey 2017, 2019

Some examples of how we use the data…

- Summary reports from CGRS
  - Media outreach (for VDH dashboard)
  - New drug disposal sites
  - Successes and Challenges
  - Training and TA needs

- SAMHSA's Performance Accountability and Reporting System (SPARS)
- State and county-level data reports and tables (e.g. YAS, Parent Survey)
- Evaluation reports

RPP New Rx Disposal Sites

CGRS Oct-Dec 2018 REVISED 2/8/19

I101 - Were any new permanent safe drop-off locations established in your region d...

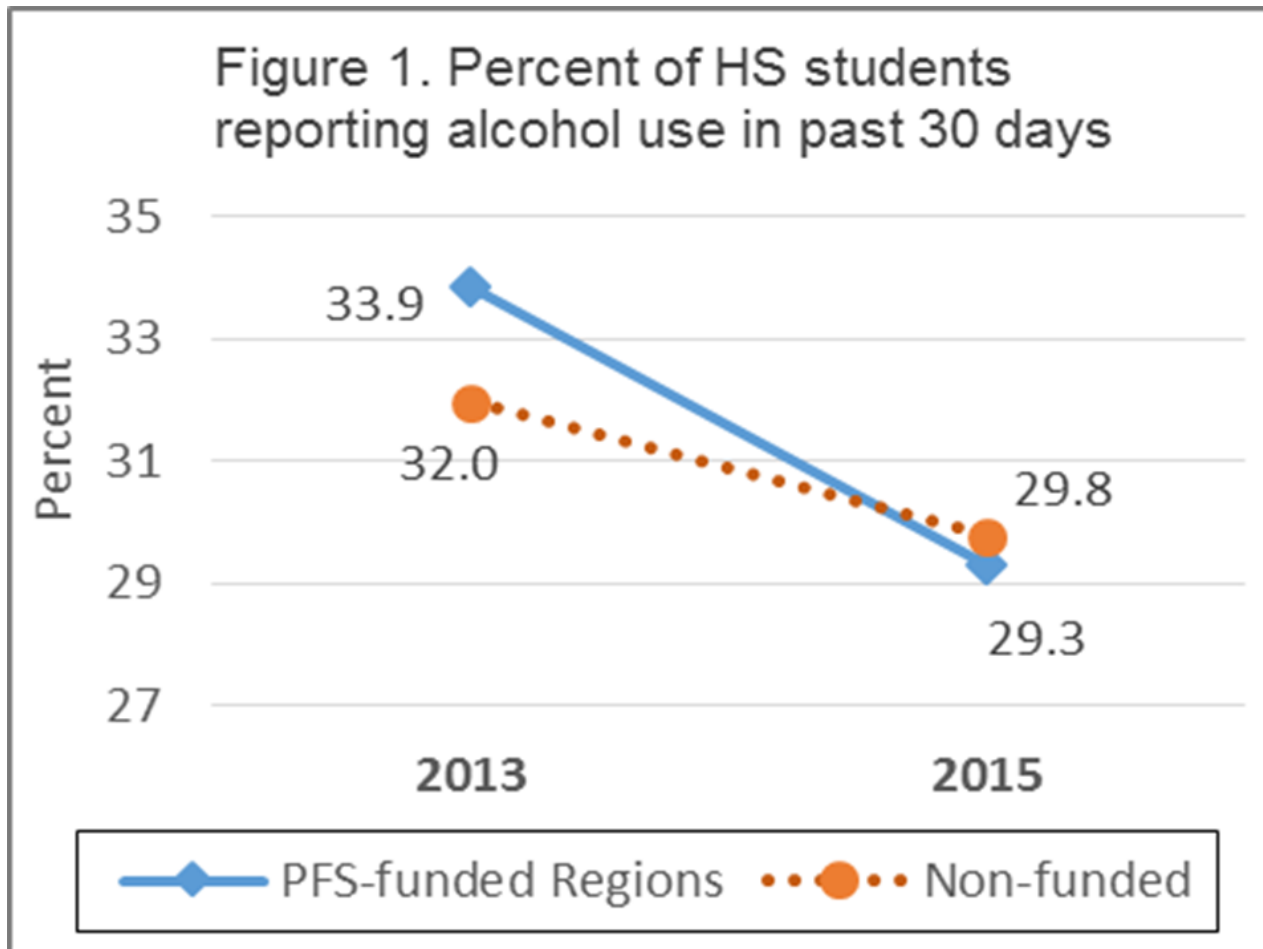| Answer	Count
Yes	2
No	0
Total	2

I102 - How many new drop boxes or kiosks were installed during this past quarter?

#	How many new drop boxes or kiosks were installed during this past quarter?	Sum
1	How many new drop boxes or kiosks were installed during this past quarter?	4

I102.5 - How many of those were established as a result of efforts through RPP? (num...

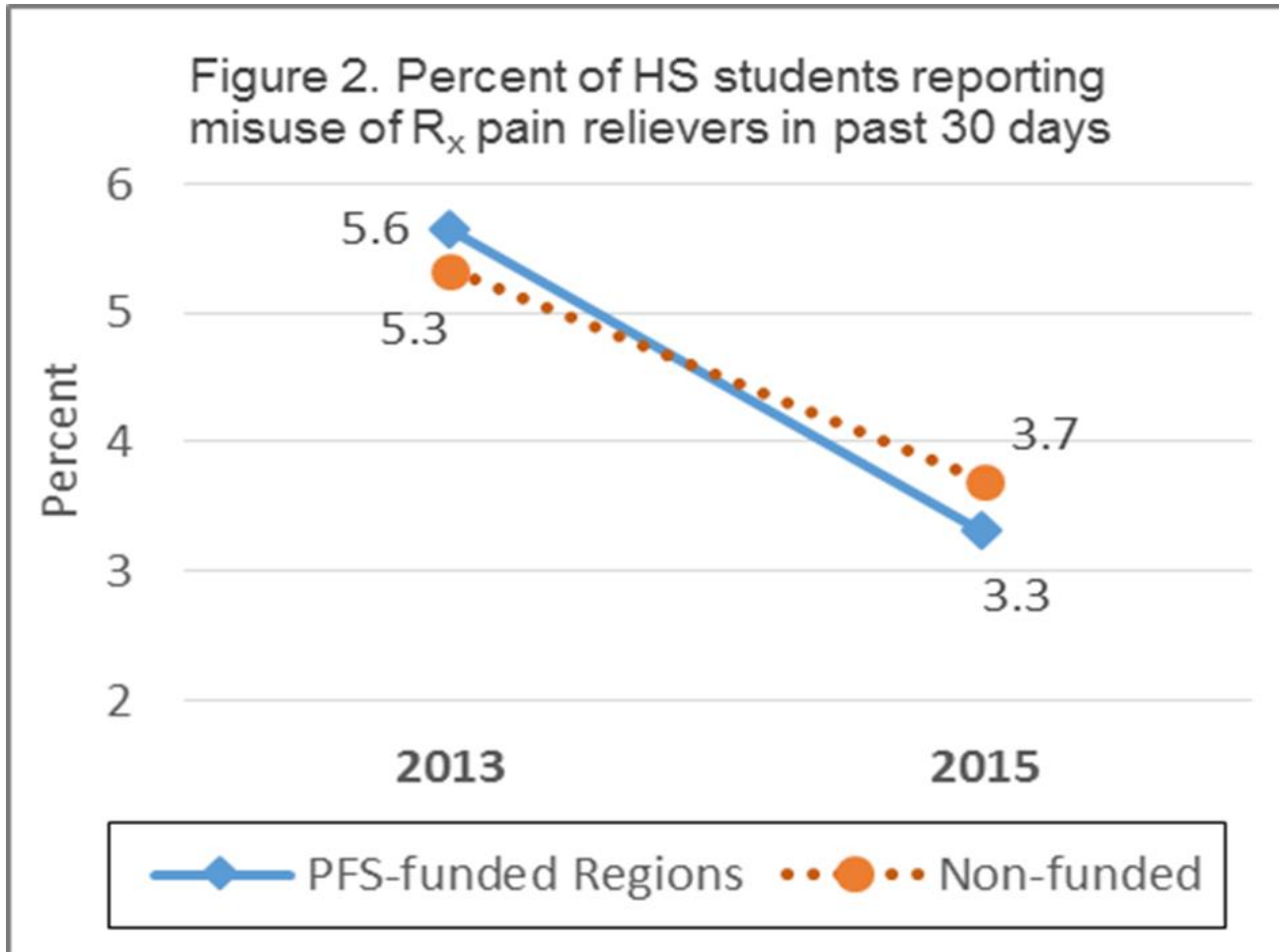| How many of those were established as a result of efforts through RPP? (number should be equal to or less than response to above)	Sum
How many of those were established as a result of efforts through RPP? (number should be equal to or less than response to above)	3

PFS Outcome Evaluation Findings

Goal 1: Reduce underage and binge drinking among persons aged 12 to 20

Figure 1. Percent of HS students reporting alcohol use in past 30 days
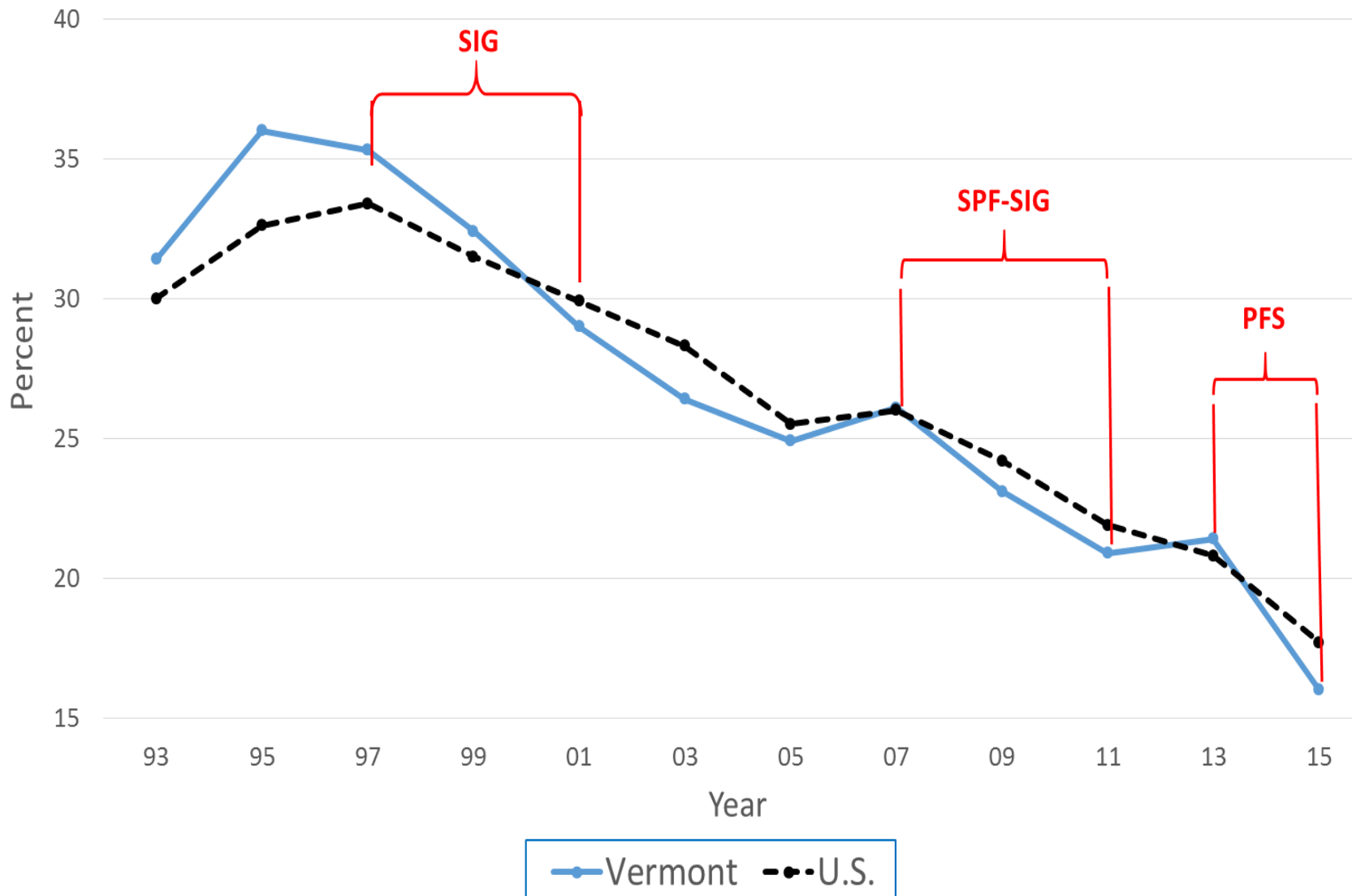
Source: YRBS
PFS effect was significant at p<.05

PFS Outcome Evaluation Findings

Goal 2: Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse among persons aged 12 to 25

Figure 2. Percent of HS students reporting misuse of R_x pain relievers in past 30 days

Source: YRBS
PFS effect was significant at p<.10

Percent of High School Students Reporting Binge Drinking in Past 30 Days

Introducing…

http://www.vt-rpp-evaluation.org

Vermont Department of Health

Understanding the Difference between Coalition or Community-Level Evaluation
and
Program Evaluation

Vermont Department of Health

What is Coalition/Community-Level Evaluation?

☐ Uses data and information to **tell the story** of how the coalition **contributes** to **community-level changes**

☐ Looks at entire community and entire set of strategies

☐ Cannot typically claim direct responsibility for population-level changes in outcomes (attribution)

☐ Positive changes can <u>suggest</u> your interventions deserve some of the credit* (contribution)

☐ Lack of positive changes does not mean your interventions were ineffective

* Especially if evidence-based strategies were well-implemented, intervening variables also changed, and you have some reasonable comparison data.

What is Program Evaluation?

- Looks at changes that occur among a specific group of individuals/participants (i.e. classroom of middle school students, parents in a parent education class)

- Often uses pre/post surveys as part of the program to assess changes in knowledge, attitudes and/or beliefs

- Easier to measure

- Results often immediate/more timely

Challenges and Limitations of Coalition/Community-Level Evaluation

- Involves a whole package of activities rather than a single program
- Ultimate outcome goal is population-level change
- Community is an N of 1
- There are many external factors that influence community-level outcomes
- Outcomes often more difficult to measure than for individual-level change (as with <u>program</u> evaluation)
- Effects likely to be small and sometimes take longer than individual-level change
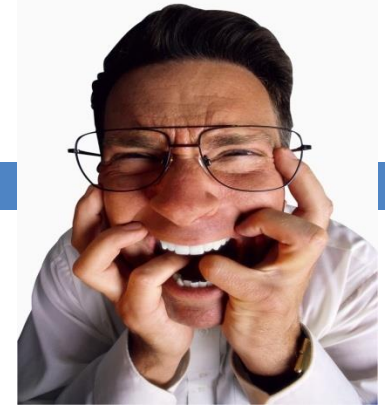
CADCA Primer page 7

"When the coalition records and reports its contributions (strategies and capacity building) to change in the community, it is able to demonstrate its role in supporting change in a local condition, root cause, and ultimately the problem behavior."

Which is More Important for Coalition or Community-Level Evaluation?

❑ Process evaluation

❑ Outcome evaluation

❑ Both equally important

Beware of the "**Black Box**"!

Evaluations that focus solely on program/strategy <u>outcomes</u> are dangerous!

What are you putting in place so that you're learning as you go along? (regardless of what the funder requires!)

Essential Foci of Any Coalition/Community-Level Program Evaluation

- ✓ Whether your evidenced-based strategies were appropriate and well implemented (hence the importance of <u>process</u> evaluation)

- ✓ Documentation of changes in the community

- ✓ Whether intervening variables and outcome indicators are moving in:

    the "right direction"

    　　　　or

    the "wrong direction"

Hiring an Evaluator

- Determine if you really need an evaluator

- Decide if evaluator will be internal (i.e., staff or volunteer) or external (i.e., paid consultant)

- Important attributes
    - flexible
    - able to communicate with staff and stakeholders
    - seeks out staff and stakeholder input
    - commitment to objectivity
    - Requisite experience and skills for the tasks needed