

PA SBIRT Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:



Page 1:

- *The PA SBIRT Initiative*

Page 2:

- *Progress Report*
- *Quarterly Recap*

Pages 3-4:

- *SBIRT Sustainability and Implementation Survey: Results and Next Steps*

Page 5:

- *SBIRT in the News*
- *Message from PERU*
- *Contact Information*

PA SBIRT is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:

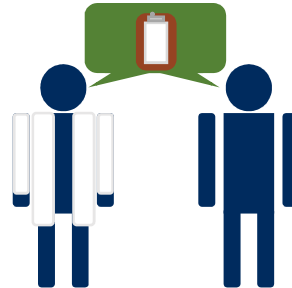
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Welcome!

Welcome to the latest issue of the Pennsylvania Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (PA SBIRT) Newsletter, a quarterly publication dedicated to the PA SBIRT initiative. In this and future issues, we will feature a progress report, quarterly recap, project spotlight, and more. We hope that you find this information helpful and encourage you to share!



The PA SBIRT Initiative

PA SBIRT is a five-year initiative that will provide SBIRT services to over 20,000 patients throughout the Commonwealth by September 2021. SBIRT is a comprehensive and integrated public health approach to the delivery of screening, early intervention, and treatment services employing empirically-based and clinically useful practices to circumvent harmful consequences related to substance use.

The PA SBIRT Vision:

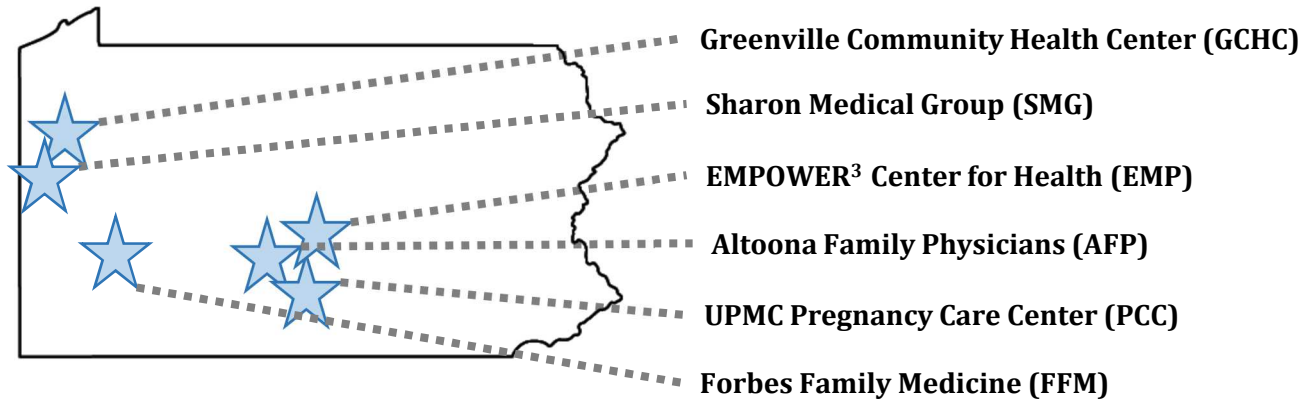
To ensure that every patient in our primary care clinics receives the right screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) services by the right providers every time.

The project is directed by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and The University of Pittsburgh School Of Pharmacy Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU). Funding for the project is granted through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). All data is collected and reported in accordance with the Government and Performance Results (GPRA) Act of 2010.

The PA SBIRT Team would like to thank the staff of participating project sites and Single County Authorities, who dedicate their time and effort to ensure that every patient receives the right SBIRT services every time.

Progress Report

To date, the PA SBIRT initiative has partnered with **6** healthcare sites in Pennsylvania: EMPOWER³ Center for Health, Altoona Family Physicians, and UPMC Pregnancy Care Center in Blair County; Sharon Medical Group and Greenville Community Health Center in Mercer County; and Forbes Family Medicine in Allegheny County. Together, these sites have provided SBIRT services to a total of **16,541** unduplicated patients, conducted **4,832** brief interventions, and connected **927** patients to community resources.



Quarterly Recap

Month	Highlights
July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project sites collectively completed over 60,000 screenings to date PERU distributed an updated resource packet to each project site FFM: Convened a site sustainability discussion
August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMG: Completed 10,000 screens to date SMG: PERU and Care Coordinator completed a virtual walkthrough of the SBIRT workflow AFP: Care Coordinator and Site Champion conducted the “Introduction to SBIRT” training for incoming residents AFP: PERU conducted a stigma reduction training with current residents GCHC: PERU conducted a booster training with clinical staff GCHC: PERU facilitated a workflow discussion with providers and the Collaborative Care Specialist EMP: Care Coordinator practiced leading trainings with PERU staff as the audience
September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCHC: PERU led a motivational interviewing skills practice with the Collaborative Care Specialist and the Care Coordinator EMP: Care Coordinator and PERU created a checklist to move forward with SBIRT sustainability and dissemination plans



DID YOU KNOW?

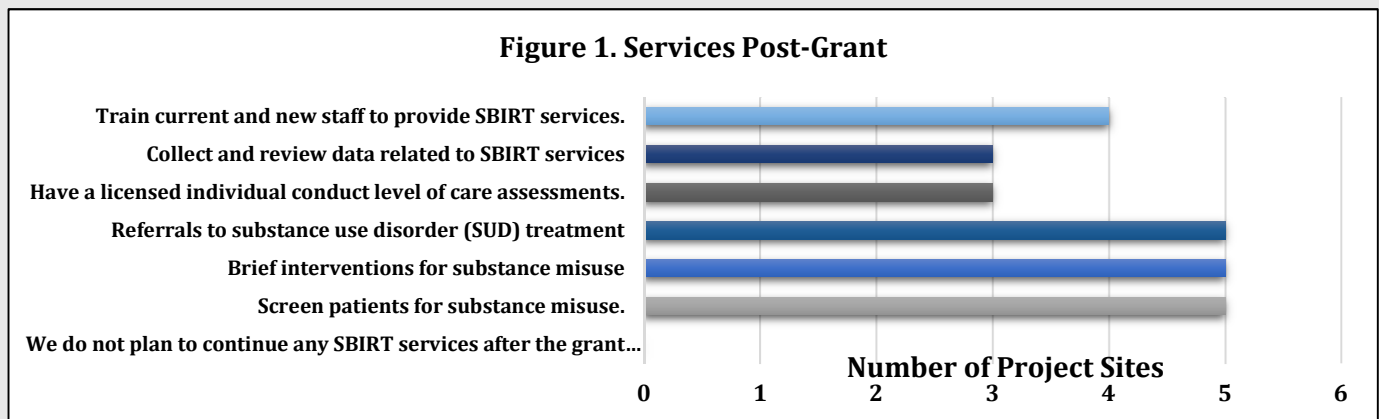
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a whole site dedicated to quitting smoking. It has resources designed for different populations, tools to create plans to quit, and ideas on how to handle stress surrounding quitting: <https://smokefree.gov/>

SBIRT Sustainability Survey: Results and Next Steps

The SBIRT Sustainability Survey was distributed to PA SBIRT project sites over the past several months. PERU distributed the Site Sustainability Survey to PA SBIRT project sites to gather attitudes and perceptions regarding the continuation of SBIRT services after the grant ends and in September 2021 and progress towards actions that would support the sustainability of services (the current condition).

Brief Summary of Results

- All project sites stated they planned to continue SBIRT services and SBIRT training (Figure 1).
- Some sites plan to continue to collect data specific to SBIRT. Many of these sites stated that PERU can support this initiative by providing training on continuous quality improvements and identifying key performance measures.
- Some sites feel their current workflow is sustainable, while other sites require workflow modifications.
- Some sites plan to have the Site Champion lead the SBIRT trainings, while others state they will identify an internal committee. Most sites states that SBIRT trainings will be integrated into other trainings, such as onboarding and orientation.



What's Next?

PERU will continue to select objectives for the SBIRT sustainability calls based around each site's responses. PERU will continue to track and modify each site's needs, and collaborate across sites when possible. PERU is creating several resources such as a performance measures guide, SBIRT Application, and Innovation Implementation Manual, which should assist sites in addressing ongoing needs.

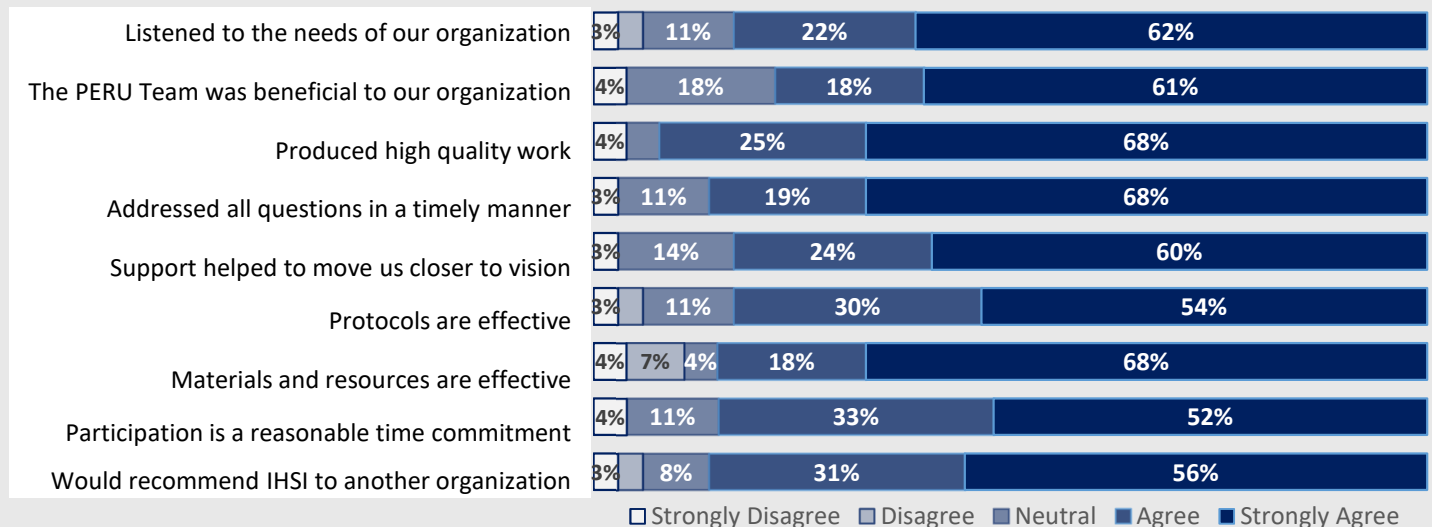
PERU Feedback Survey & CQI Survey: Results and Next Steps

The goals of the PERU General Feedback and CQI Surveys were to assess stakeholder satisfaction with PERU Team’s technical support and assess stakeholder satisfaction with data reporting. The findings will be used to inform PERU’s support moving forward. This survey was distributed to several PERU projects and results are a reflection of all respondents (not only PA SBIRT project sites).

Brief Summary of Results

- The highest scoring responses related to:
 - Production of PERU’s high quality work, and the team’s ability to address all questions in a timely manner (mean score of 4.5/5);
 - Usefulness of materials and resources and the ability to listen to the needs of the organization (mean score of 4.8/5);
 - Materials presented in the data reports as useful in understanding program processes (mean score of 4.5/5), and data reports were of high quality (mean score of 4.6/5).
- The lower reported responses related to:
 - Effectiveness of protocol development and manageable time commitment to the program (mean score of 4.3/5);
 - Ability to provide expertise in developing and monitoring the organization’s quality improvement activities (mean score of 4.4/5);
 - Providing the support needed to be successful in quality improvement (mean score 4.3/5).

Figure 2 shows individual responses (n=37) regarding PERU’s technical assistance.



What’s Next?

The PERU team meets every other week to discuss best practices, continuous quality improvement strategies, and lessons learned across projects. The team will continue to discuss best practice in order to optimize the quality of technical assistant support to stakeholders.

We appreciate your willingness to provide honest feedback so that we may provide the best support to you and your team.

**The Pennsylvania
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In the News:
COVID-19, SBIRT, and Pharmacists



Before COVID-19, the United States was facing an epidemic of its own: the opioid crisis. Last year, a record number of deadly overdoses, 72,000, occurred in the U.S. COVID-19 has only intensified the opioid crisis with many of our counties and states reporting that drug fatalities are on the rise. ¹ The pandemic has destabilized many trying to maintain sobriety or who are struggling with addiction during a time of increased social isolation, stress, disruptions with support services, and limitations in treatments. In a survey of U.S. adults released in June 2020, 13% of respondents said they had started or increased substance use to deal with stress or emotions related to COVID-19 ².

Now more than ever, SBIRT can be seen as a vital tool in combatting this ever-growing crisis.

Pharmacists in the state of Michigan are playing a pivotal role in the fight against opioid misuse. Using SBIRT, pharmacists advocate and recommend naloxone to high risk individuals within their support network. Clinical Pharmacy Professor Tutag Lehr stated, “We need to treat opioid use disorder patients as respectfully and as sensitively as we would a person with diabetes who wasn’t adherent to insulin, because both are chronic, relapsing, lifelong conditions.” ³

In July, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that labels for opioid pain medicine and medicine use to treat opioid use disorder must be updated to recommend naloxone as a routine part of prescribing these medications. ⁴ This is yet another step forward in helping reduce the stigma and risk of those living with substance use issues.



1. Kamp, J. (2020, July 15). Overdose Deaths Rise, May Reach Record Level, Federal Data Show. Retrieved September 21, 2020, from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/overdose-deaths-rise-may-reach-record-level-federal-data-show-11594848100>
2. Czeisler MĚ, Lane RI, Petrosky E, et al. Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, June 24–30, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:1049–1057. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6932a1external icon>.
3. Communications, W. (2020, August 06). From bad to worse: Pharmacy professors address opioid epidemic intensified by the coronavirus. Retrieved September 21, 2020, from <https://cphs.wayne.edu/news/from-bad-to-worse-pharmacy-professors-address-opioid-epidemic-intensified-by-the-coronavirus--40331>
4. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2020, July 23). FDA News Release: FDA Requiring Labeling Changes for Opioid Pain Medicines, Opioid Use Disorder Medicines Regarding Naloxone. Retrieved September 29, 2020, from <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-requiring-labeling-changes-opioid-pain-medicines-opioid-use-disorder-medicines-regarding>

A Message from PERU



When I started at PERU over a year ago, I did not expect to have such an incredible team to work with. It has been amazing to watch all of the sites make such a positive impact on the patients they interact with. When reviewing the data or listening to discussions during meetings, it is obvious that everyone involved is passionate about what they do. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with you, and I am excited to see the long-term effects of all the hard work and dedication.

***- Georgie Scott, MPH
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