

PA SBIRT Newsletter

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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, evaluation update, 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:

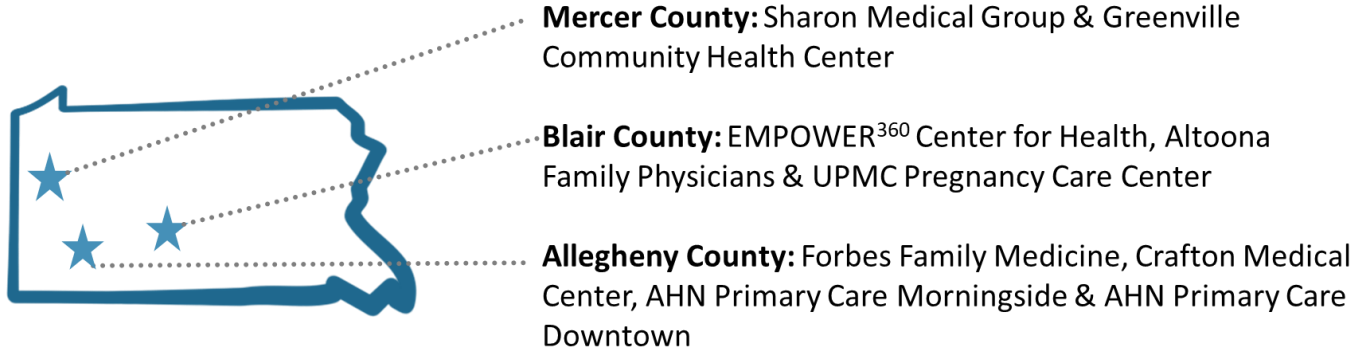
To ensure that every patient in our primary care clinics receives the right screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) services by the right providers every time.

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 **9** healthcare sites in Pennsylvania: EMPOWER³⁶⁰ 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, Crafton Medical Center, AHN Primary Care Morningside and AHN Primary Care Downtown in Allegheny County. Together, these sites have provided SBIRT services to a total of **18,901** unduplicated patients, conducted **5,296** brief interventions, and connected **983** patients to community resources.



Quarterly Recap

Month	Project Highlights
January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained and onboarded a new AHN Behavioral Health Consultant Provided ongoing support to EMP 360 during SBIRT trainings Led the EMP360 implementation workshop Hosted a kick-off meeting for the AFP SBIRT workgroup Scheduled meetings with AHN Morningside, Downtown, Crafton to plan for implementation
February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shadowed the workflow at AHN sites Conducted Introduction to SBIRT training with AHN sites FFM led SBIRT trainings with staff PHN sites continued to provide SBIRT services despite COVID-19 vaccine distribution
March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFP completed over 25,000 screens Completed lunch and learn booster trainings for new AHN project sites PCC staff completed SBIRT Champion Training AFP and PCC developed a referral protocol to ensure continued collaboration with BDAP Developed protocols for SBIRT implementation at AHN sites

DID YOU KNOW?



The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has a treatment navigator. This tool was developed for patients and their loved ones to find the best treatment options for them. It also contains information on finding treatment options and the latest literature for healthcare providers.

<https://alcoholtreatment.niaaa.nih.gov/>

Site Spotlight: **Allegheny Health Network's** **Crafton Medical Center**

Allegheny Health Network (AHN) envisions a world that embraces health by working together as an integrated system within Highmark Health. All of AHN's care sites are committed to improving health and promoting wellness in their communities, one person at a time. Crafton Medical Center is one of three AHN sites working to implement SBIRT this spring. Site Champions Dr. Paul Oczypok and Dr. Maureen Oczypok have cared for their community for years and continue to optimize care by integrating innovative practices such as SBIRT. Crafton Medical Center will begin providing SBIRT services on April 1st demonstrating a strong commitment to helping their patients live healthy lives.

Meet the Crafton Medical Center **Behavioral Health Consultant**

Megan Gerwel, MSCP, LPC is the Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC) for Crafton Medical Center. The PA SBIRT team asked her a few questions to get to know Megan and her experience:

1. Favorite part of working with the SBIRT Team?

"My favorite part of working on the SBIRT project is bridging the gap between mental health and physical health fields. It is so important for us to treat our patients as a whole and it yields the best results. I love getting to see patients' excitement and progress when they work with us in the office on all important aspects of their life and health."

2. What is your area of expertise?

"Before joining the BHC team at AHN I worked extensively in both inpatient and outpatient therapy roles. I have a lot of experience working with individuals who have severe and persistent mental health concerns."

3. What is one fun fact about you that others would be surprised to know?

"A fun fact about me that most people do not know is that I used to figure skate when I was younger. Nowadays I'm teaching my children how to ice skate which has been great fun!"



**The Pennsylvania
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In the News:

Black women represent more than 70% of Philly's pregnancy-related deaths, report shows

The Philadelphia Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMR) reported that black women in the city are four-times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes. Black women made up 73% of the pregnancy-related deaths despite accounting for only 43% of births from 2013 to 2018.

MMR director Dr. Aasta D. Mehta commented, "Significant racial disparities in maternal health outcomes demand attention to the underlying issues, which should be accomplished by addressing implicit bias and systemic racism."

The committee analyzed all 110 pregnancy-associated deaths that occurred in Philadelphia between 2013 and 2018.

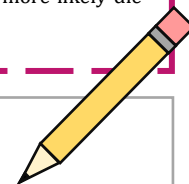
Several factors contributed to the pregnancy-associated deaths including systematic inequalities, substance abuse, and intimate partner violence. Mental and behavioral health played a significant role as well with 43% of the women having a history of mental health issues and 58% having had a substance use disorder. In addition, drug overdose-related deaths among pregnant or postpartum women increased from 25% to 39% between 2010 and 2018.

The committee **recommended implementing universal screening for substance use disorder** for women at their initial prenatal visits as well as additional health and safety measures for prenatal patients. The city introduced an SBIRT educational program in 2015 along with a centralized referral system for home visiting services. Pennsylvania created a maternity morality committee in 2018 to respond to the rising number of pregnancy-related deaths.



Hannah Kanik. (2021, March 24, 2021). Black women represent more than 70% of Philly's pregnancy-related deaths, report shows. PhillyVoice. Retrieved from <https://www.phillyvoice.com/black-women-philadelphia-are-four-times-more-likely-die-due-pregnancy-related-reasons-white-women/>

A Message from DDAP



In these ongoing months of the pandemic, I have watched the dedication of our SBIRT partners who are in the trenches everyday providing direct services to individuals. You have continued to care for the health and safety of those you serve, while maintaining the integrity of this project; and in turn, are increasing the capacity to address behavioral health needs through SBIRT implementation. Your commitment is truly astounding and I applaud, respect and sincerely appreciate you! Thank you for everything you do!

Kathy Jo Stence, SBIRT Project Director, DDAP

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

— Mahatma Gandhi