

## Evaluation of SBIRT in MA Public Schools

A research team at Boston Children's Hospital, led by Drs. Sharon Levy and Elissa Weitzman, is requesting your participation in the study "Evaluation of SBIRT in MA Public Schools" to help evaluate the impact of school SBIRT on health and behavior outcomes among adolescents. The study **enrollment has extended to Fall 2018 which provides a new opportunity to participate in this work. To prepare for survey administration at the start of the 2018-2019 school year, the team is engaging schools now**, to set plans in place before the end of the school year.

### The Project

The objective of this study is to **evaluate the impact of school SBIRT on health and behavioral outcomes among adolescents through case-control comparisons of schools**. Students will be surveyed to capture how school SBIRT may impact substance use behaviors and harms, as well as student knowledge, attitudes, and support systems. The SBIRT leader from each school or designated contact will be given the opportunity to provide feedback about their SBIRT implementation model and experience during one or two interviews with the research coordinator. Your school is *eligible to participate even if you are still scheduling your SBIRT dates* for next year. To thank you for your participation, the research team can provide a **\$250 donation** to the school and provide you with your **own school data upon request**.

### Study activities will include:

- **15-minute *anonymous* electronic survey administered to students at two time points during the school year (3 months apart);**
- **Interview(s) with the SBIRT leader at each school district.**

Through this assessment of the experiences of students and faculty, we hope to inform effective, sustainable policy change in school-based SBIRT efforts. Little is known about the effectiveness of school SBIRT; thus, there is no strong evidence to inform highly consequential decisions around implementing school SBIRT at the state or national level, should the Massachusetts experience become a national model. The schools that we will work with in this project will help us move towards a rigorous understanding of the effects of this program which are necessary to advance a nationally relevant model for school SBIRT, which has the potential to deter the devastating effects of the opioid addiction epidemic.

### **If you would like to learn more about participating in this study, please contact:**

BCH Research Coordinator, Eliza Nelson

e-mail: [eliza.nelson@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:eliza.nelson@childrens.harvard.edu)

phone: 617-919-1366

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Who is running this project?

Drs. Sharon Levy and Elissa Weitzman are both Associate Professors of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Levy is the Director of the Adolescent Substance Use and Addiction Program at Boston Children's Hospital and Dr. Weitzman is a faculty researcher at BCH. They have worked together on many projects involving adolescent health and risk behaviors. On this project, they have been collaborating with the MA Department of Public Health. This project is funded by the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation.

### How much time will be involved for school staff?

Assistance with student survey administration will involve coordination to provide an opt-out opportunity for parents, provide an information sheet to students, and provide students an opportunity to take the *anonymous* survey in school. The research team will provide templated letters and support throughout the entire process.

The survey will take students approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Participation in the school leader phone interview will take approximately 45 minutes.

Participation in the survey for students and the interview for school leaders and is completely *voluntary*.

### Are there any incentives for participating?

We have funds available to donate \$250 to each school as a token of appreciation. Study results will be written up in a report and shared with participating schools upon request.

### How will confidentiality be maintained?

Student surveys will be completely anonymous and will be completed online without the possibility of identifying individual respondents. All school leader interviews will be de-identified before analysis. We will do our best to ensure that no identifying links will be included in any reports to the DPH, Tower Foundation, or participating schools. This project has been approved by the BCH Institutional Review Board.