



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

Alabama SPF PFS Close Out Evaluation Report

SEPTEMBER 2020

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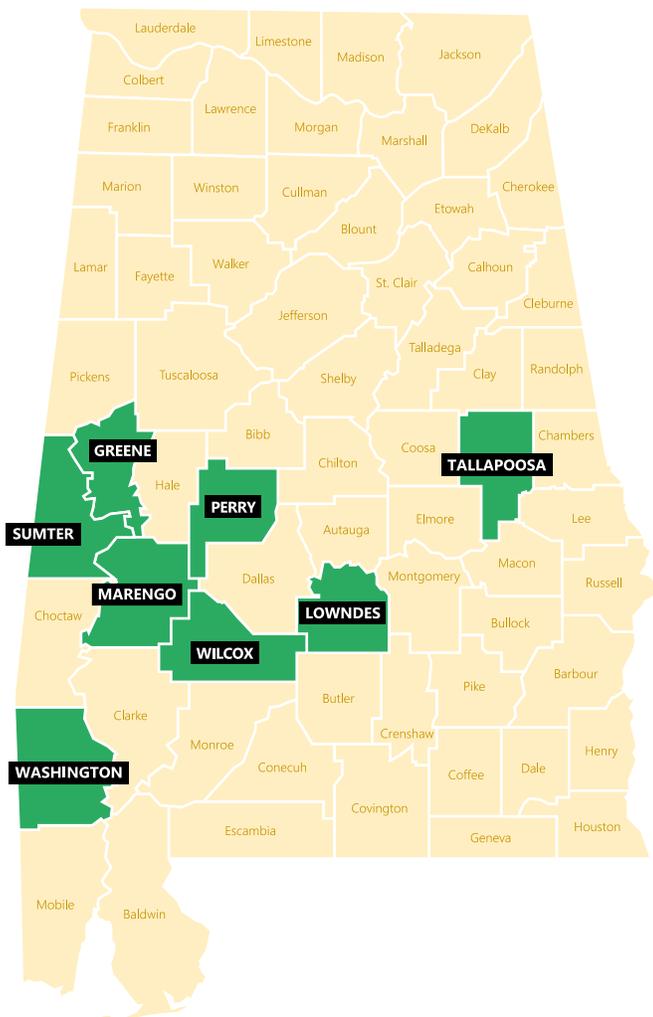
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Introduction

This report was prepared by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) for the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH), Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Prevention, Office of Prevention Services (OOP) to assist in understanding the Alabama SPF PFS sub-recipients' project progress to date, including their intervention activities, successes, and barriers and challenges. The purpose of this grant program is to address two of the nation's top substance abuse prevention priorities: 1) underage drinking among persons ages 12 to 20; and 2) prescription drug misuse among persons ages 12 to 25. Foundational to addressing these priorities is SAMHSA's Strategic

Prevention Framework (SPF) which uses a community-based risk and protective factors approach to prevention and utilizes a series of guiding principles that can be utilized at the federal, state and community level. The SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework centers on movement through five explicit steps necessary for prevention planning including: (1) Community Needs assessment, (2) Capacity Building, (3) Planning through the selection of evidence based programs (4) Implementation and (5) Evaluation. A major focus of SPF Framework has been on Cultural Competency and Sustainability which lies at the center of this planning approach.



Alabama Partnership for Success (AL PFS)

The Alabama Partnership for Success Grant (AL PFS) seeks to prevent and reduce underage drinking and prescription drug use and their negative consequences, while, at the same time, improving prevention capacity and infrastructure in selected communities that experience health disparities, less access to care, and poorer behavioral health outcomes. Specifically, eight high-need counties (Greene, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Washington, and Wilcox) that currently utilize the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) were identified to continue their planning and implementation efforts. Seven of these eight counties began the project period under the umbrella organization of AltaPointe Health Services and one, Tallapoosa, was served under East Alabama Mental Health Center. By the end, the agency oversight shifted, as represented in corresponding figure. This project utilizes a structured approach to substance abuse strategic planning, including implementation of evidence-based practices and programs with monitoring and evaluation, to achieve reductions in underage drinking and prescription drug misuse.

Data and Methodology Used

The report was compiled from a series of data sources.

- (1) PFS Subrecipient Survey.** The first data source was a PFS survey that was sent to PFS subrecipients asking them retrospectively about programs and strategies implemented at the start of their award and reflecting on the last year and most significant accomplishment from PFS support. The data from these reports was cross referenced with other sources as questions asked prevention coordinators to self-report on the previous 5 years of funding.
- (2) CLI-R and SPARS.** The second set of data sources were the those that were submitted to the federal government using the CLI-R in 2016-2018 and through the SPARS for 2019-2020. These data

include programs and strategies implemented, people served and reached and by identified disparity populations as well as implementation progress reports.

- (3) PFS Ninth Grade Student Survey.** The last data source is the PFS ninth grade student survey that was completed by participating schools in PFS counties for the past three years (FY 2018, FY 2019 and FY 2020). The purpose of this survey is to assess impacts of programs and strategies on adolescent risk and protective factors and substance use behaviors.

Limitations of the Data Sources

There are several limitations to these data sources that are described below. All findings (and any program omissions) should be considered with these limitations in mind.

(1) Student Survey Data Limitations. There are several limitations to the student survey data that are detailed further elsewhere (See Aggregated Student Survey reports).

- *Sample population.* The data only reflect ninth grade students who participated in the survey. Findings are not generalizable to high schools students more broadly nor *all* 9th grade students in the participating counties. Only 9th grade students in the public school(s) were surveyed and findings are not generalizable to private school or home schooled ninth graders.
- *Variation in County and School Participation.* The participating counties and schools differed by year. In some counties fewer schools participated than other counties nor did all counties participate in all three years of the survey. It is important to note that the data were not adjusted to account for these difference nor differences (e.g., gender or race/ethnicity) across years.

(2) CLI-R Data. Data on county-level interventions and strategies that took place from FY 2016 to FY 2018 are less reliable than FY 2019 and FY 2020.

- *FY 2016-2018 CLI-R.* The FY 2016-2018 data were obtained as downloaded data in 2018 from the previous CLI-R instrument that SAMHSA had transferred from their previous reporting portal to SAMHSA's SPARS system. When downloading, the fully populated CLI-R Excels were not available for many PFS states. Given the incomplete nature of this transferred data, the CLI-R was augmented with county progress report information when available.
- *FY 2020.* Data from FY 2020 reflects the first three quarters of FY 2020 (Oct. 1, 2019-June 30, 2020). At the time of this report, fourth quarter data collection was underway and could not be included in this report.

(3) COVID-19 and Its Impact on Programming. Many FY 2020 programs and strategies transitioned to online or were temporarily halted in March, 2020, due to COVID-19. Some counties focused on community and coalition engagement during COVID-19 through online meetings, other programs were shifted to online or linked to outdoor activities and all counties availed staff of online trainings to enhance substance abuse prevention expertise.

Infrastructure Change and Interventions/Strategies Implemented by PFS Counties

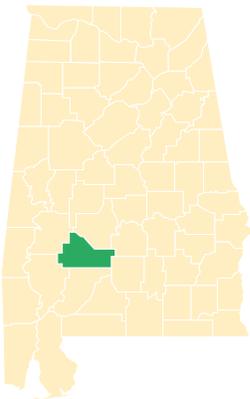
In the tables and graphs that follow, we present for each PFS county: (1) Infrastructure changes from the beginning of the PFS award to the conclusion based on the PFS subrecipient survey, (2) Programs implemented during each year of the PFS award and people served

and/or reached and (3) PFS ninth grade student survey findings from the past three to explore the potential impact of programs and services on student substance use outcomes and risk and protective factors.

Wilcox County Findings

- Infrastructure.** As can be seen for Wilcox County (Exhibit 1), the PFS funding allowed for substantial growth in the county's infrastructure. They began with three coalition members and by the end of the grant, they had a robust coalition of 18 members.
- Intervention Implementation.** Wilcox County consistently implemented a narrow set of strategies throughout the five year grant. Three of the four strategies are environmental approaches including delivering ID checking guides and sticker/labels to local retailers while their Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) efforts included a media campaign Be Smart! Be Sober! Be safe!

Exhibit 1. Wilcox County. Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

WILCOX COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY 2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began the PFS grant with some prevention infrastructure and programming at the start of the award. Current coordinator did not assume her position until January 2018. 3 coalition members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition membership grew to 18. The coalition now involves a wide variety of stakeholders including law enforcement, schools, businesses, city and county government, and the Children's Policy Council.

WILCOX COUNTY

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016 - FY 2020

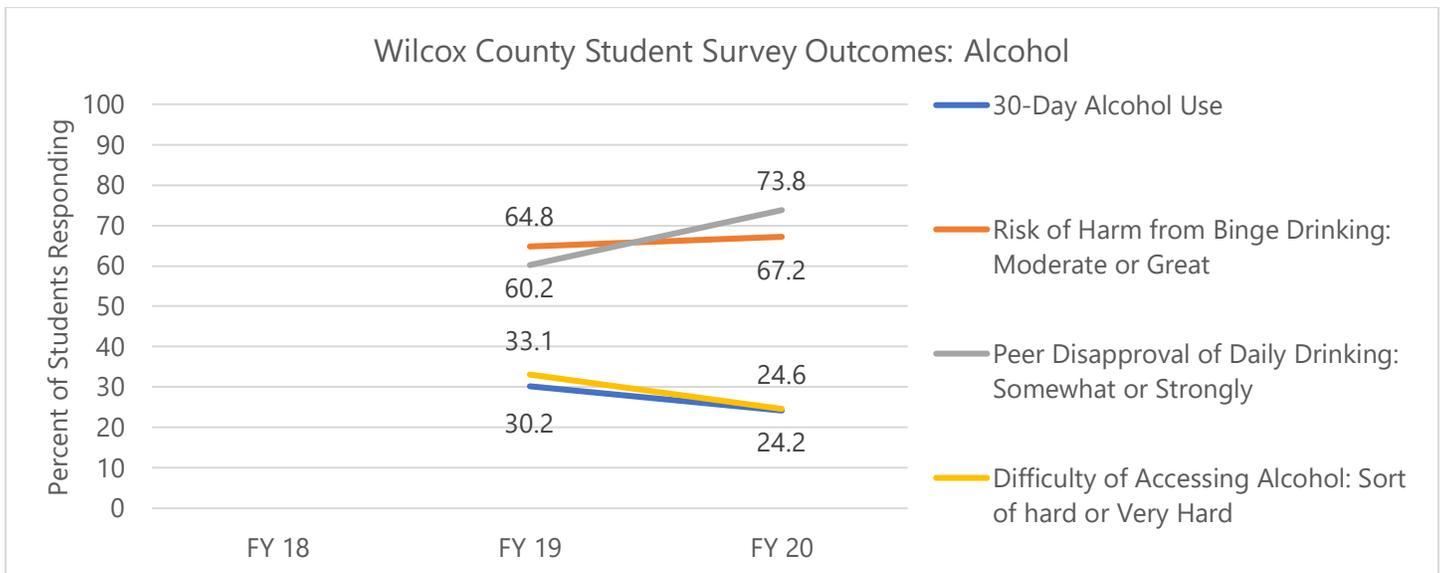
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Clean It Up, Wilcox		→			
Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA)			→		
Active Enforcement Sales Laws Compliance - Retailers		→			
Information Dissemination		→			

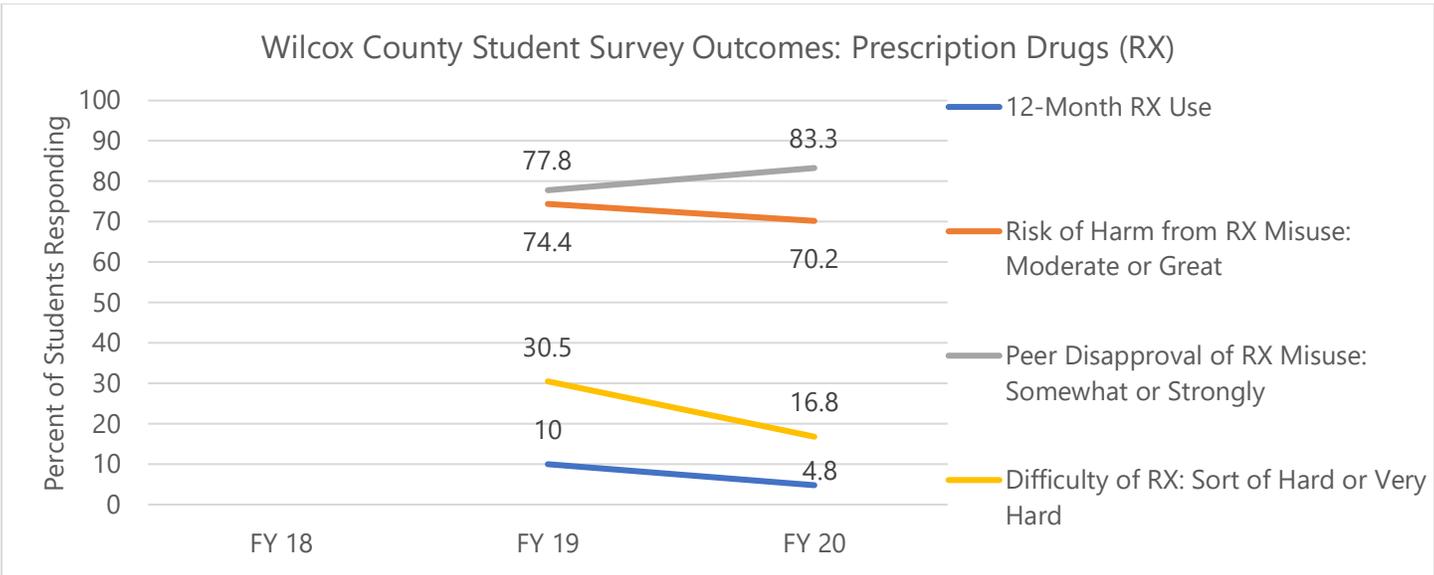
Note: Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.

Wilcox County Outcomes

- Due to local level administration error with protocols, Wilcox County student survey data is not available for FY 18.
- Both underage drinking and prescription drug misuse decreased over the two years surveyed.
- Risk of harm from drinking and prescription drug misuse increased, but students surveyed perceived substances to be easier to obtain.

Exhibit 1A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Wilcox County





Green County Findings

- Infrastructure.** As can be seen in Exhibit 2, Greene County entered the PFS funding cycle with a coalition infrastructure in place from their previous SPF subrecipient award. Building upon these past efforts, they expanded their coalition to include students, other racial/ethnic groups and business owners with their coalition members growing from 12 in FY 2017 to 21 members over the course of the grant.
- Intervention Implementation.** Greene County strategies were a consistent blend of two school-based programs and a Media campaign to expand messaging to the wider community. Strengthening Families was maintained from FY 2017-FY2020 and continued remotely despite COVID-19, with families successfully graduating each year. Similarly the Peer Helper Program continued from FY 2018-FY2020 and is now a permanent elective in participating schools with the approval of the AL DOE. Greene County’s Media Campaign continued from FY 2018-2019 and included collaboration with the AL ABC Board.

Exhibit 2. Greene County. Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

GREENE COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY 2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a coalition in place at the start of the PFS period due to the previous SPF grant including 12 members and 3 stakeholders Focused events during the PFS period on increasing diversity to include, at least two students, other races in addition to African Americans, and business owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership grew to 21 members over the 5-year period. Number of local stakeholders increased to 7 at the end of the PFS grant. Infrastructure growth included attendance at all school board meetings; membership and participation with the Children’s Policy Council; and local capacity building efforts.

GREENE COUNTY

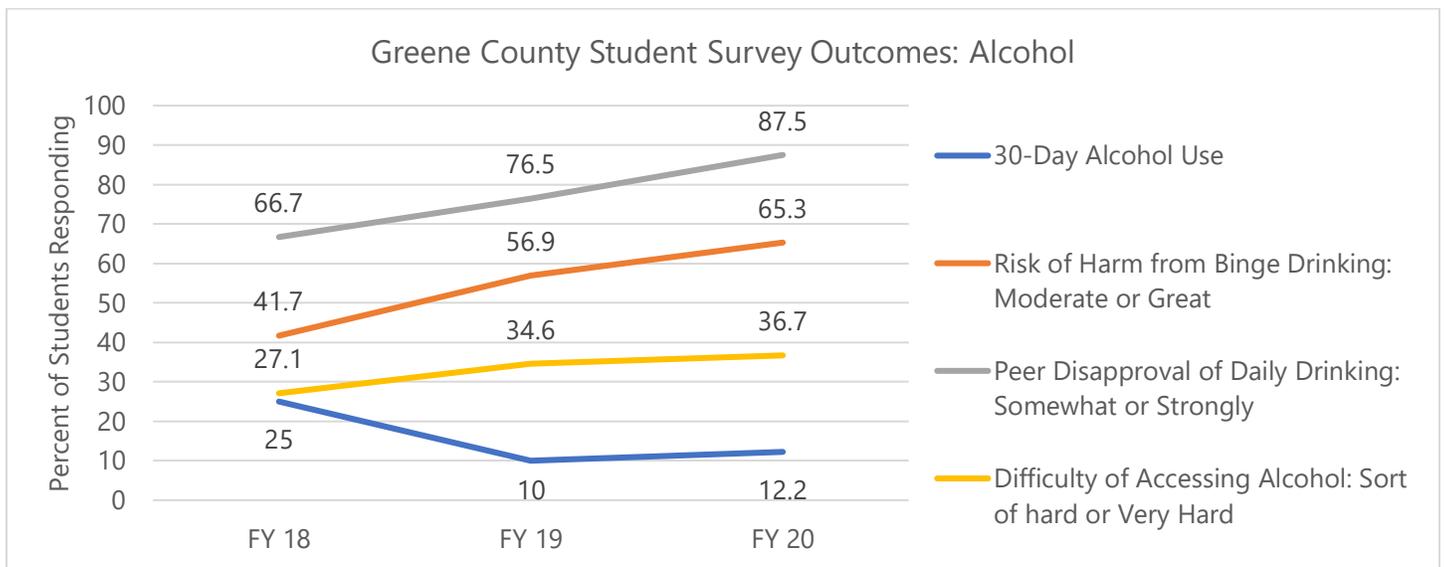
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016 - FY 2020

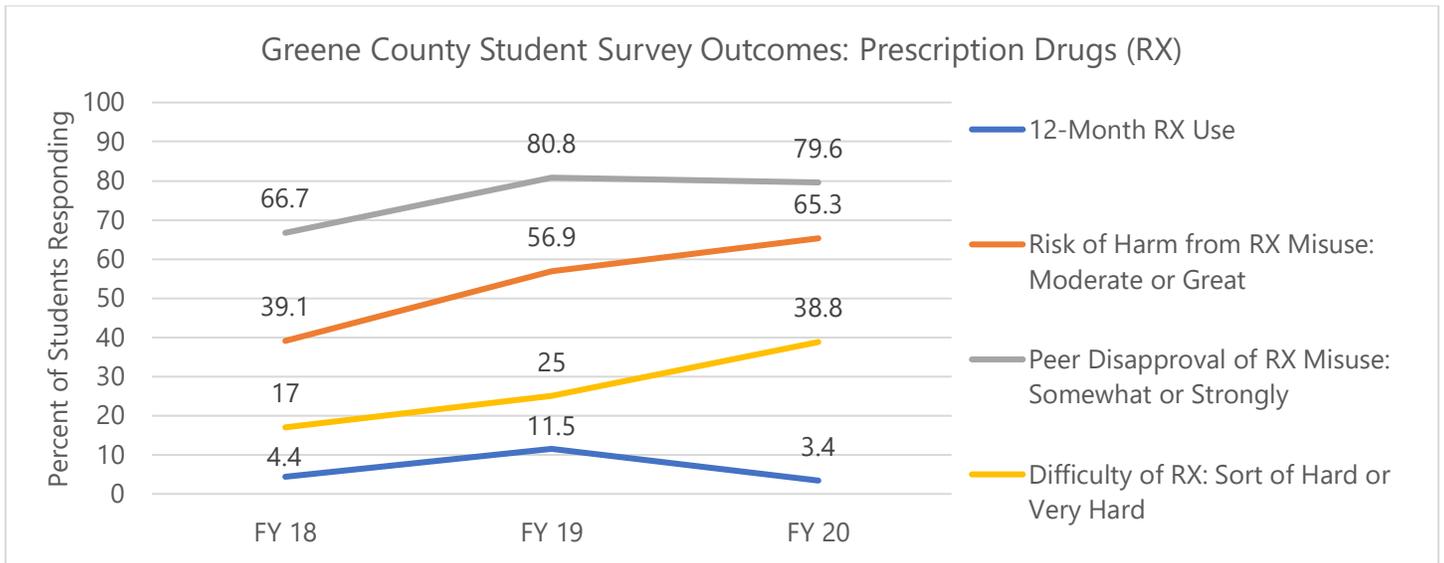
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Media Campaign			→		
Peer Helper			→		
Strengthening Families		→			

Greene County Outcomes

- Underage drinking and prescription drug misuse decreased over the two years surveyed, but prescription drug use peaked in FY 19 and declined in FY 20.
- Risk of harm, peer disapproval, and difficulty of access for underage drinking and prescription drug misuse all showed positive outcomes (risk of harm and peer disapproval increased, accessibility became harder).

Exhibit 2A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Greene County.

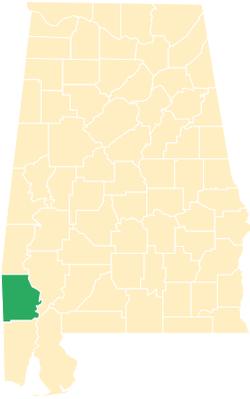




Washington County Findings

- **Infrastructure.** As can be seen in Exhibit 3, Washington County entered the PFS funding cycle with very little coalition infrastructure and quickly expanded to include 14 members. Overtime, the coalition grew to include county level leadership including commissioners, the county sheriff’s department, the county school board and community and tribal leaders.
- **Intervention Implementation.** Washington County implemented strategies at both the individual and community levels to address underage drinking and prescription drug misuse, maintaining the following programming from FY 2018-FY 2020: Drug Take Back events, a media campaign, information dissemination efforts at town hall meetings, health fairs, elementary schools and high schools (through prom promise pledge cards) and at an annual Pow-Wow reaching tribal communities.
 - CMCA planning and implementation efforts continued for all five years of the award.
 - In the midst of COVID-19, Washington County has remained nimble and has linked prevention dissemination efforts to food distribution programs including the Reading and Feeding Program, local libraries, food pantries and farmers markets.

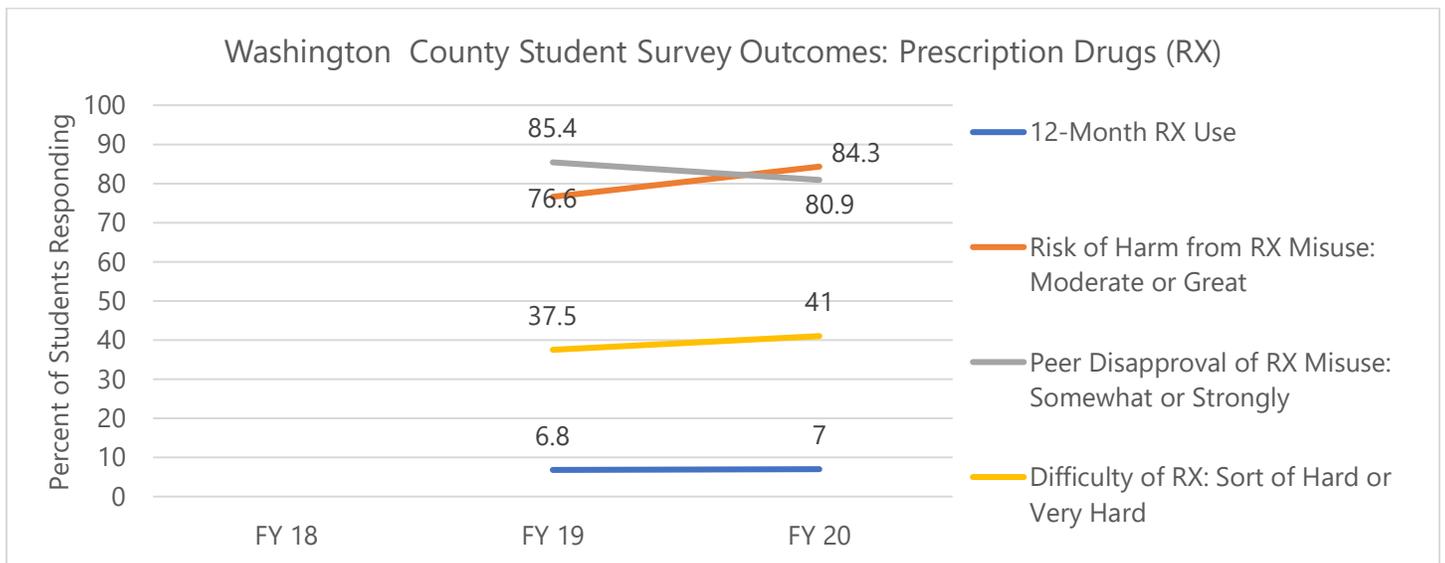
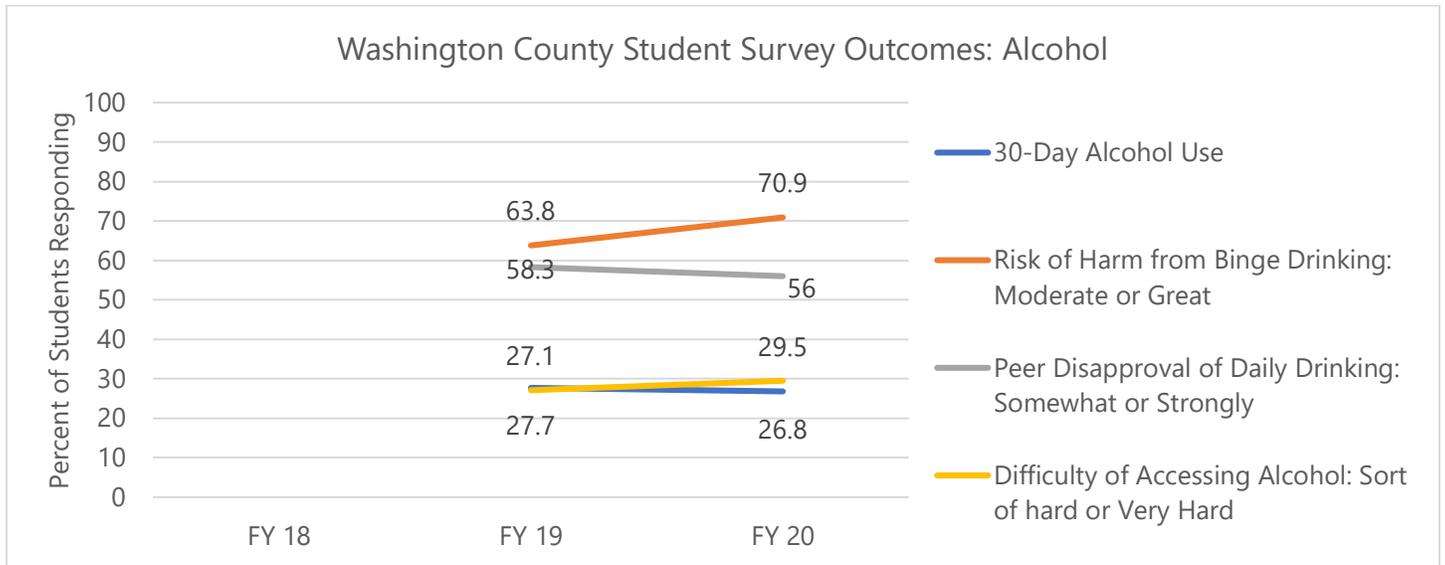
Exhibit 3. Washington County: Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

WASHINGTON COUNTY					
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE				
	FY 2016		FY 2020		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to no infrastructure and no programs or services in place at the beginning of the PFS period. • The first few months were dedicated to increasing coalition membership to 14 members with diverse backgrounds including an educator, county commissioner, and community members. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over time, coalition membership grew to include the mayor of McIntosh, the Washington County Commissioners, and Washington County Sherriff's Department, the School Board, several churches, and leaders of the community, and tribal leaders of the MOWA Choctaw community. 		
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016 - FY 2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
CMCA	→				
Skills to Succeed	→				
Information Dissemination	→		→		
Media Campaign			→		
Drug Take Back			→		

Washington County Outcomes.

- Washington County only participated in the student survey in the last two years and not in 2017-2018.
- While underage drinking decreased, prescription drug misuse slightly increased over the two years surveyed.
- Risk of harm from drinking and prescription drug misuse increased, but students surveyed perceived their peers to be more approving of using substances (disapproval decreased) and found substances easier to access.

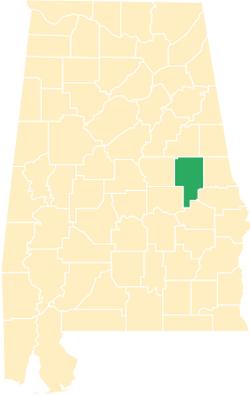
Exhibit 3A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Washington County.



Tallapoosa County Findings

- Infrastructure.** As can be seen in Exhibit 4, at the start of the grant, Tallapoosa had a sizable coalition of 19 members, but over a third had low engagement and efforts were mostly focused on schools. Over the course of the grant, the coalition has experienced turnover but now has garnered more diverse partners including Girls and Boys Clubs, community college representation, and local businesses.
- Intervention Implementation.** Tallapoosa County implemented a range of evidence based behavioral strategies across the five-year grant with most programs at the individual level in schools (Project Northland and Life Skills) and local communities (MH First Aide). Information Dissemination efforts reached beyond local secondary schools and involved the community college system. The Youth Advisory Board was particularly active and developed PSAs focused on behavioral health disparity populations. Strategies maintained over time include CMCA planning and implementation efforts and Information Dissemination efforts both of which were maintained from 2018 - 2020.

Exhibit 4. Tallapoosa County: Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition started by joining with the Tallapoosa County Children’s Policy Council to build capacity and with 12 active and 7 less active members. In the beginning, the initiative was focused on school resources and planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tallapoosa Youth Coalition now has 22 members. The later years have focused on relationships building. Membership in the adult and youth coalitions has decreased due to lack of participation, a change in staff, and changes related to the global pandemic. The coalition has 25 stakeholders that range from school guidance counselors, law enforcement, Teen Directors at Boys and Girls Club, housing authority, and Dean of Student Services at community colleges as well as relationships with businesses and media companies.

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

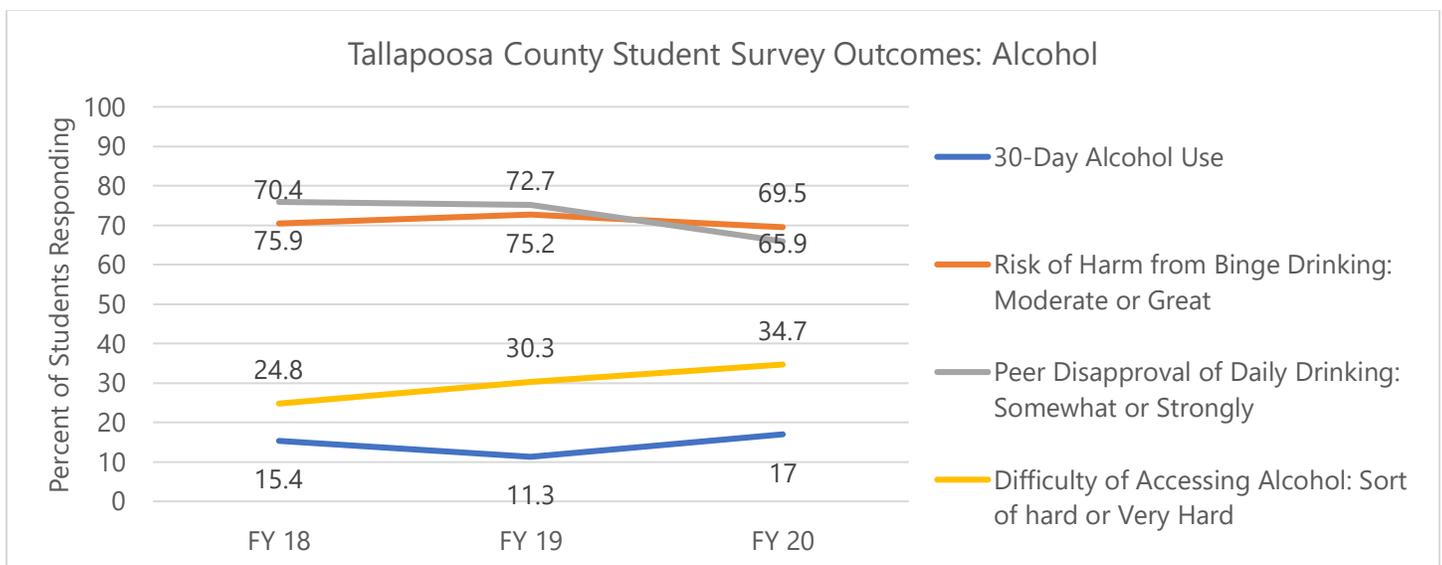
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016 - FY 2020

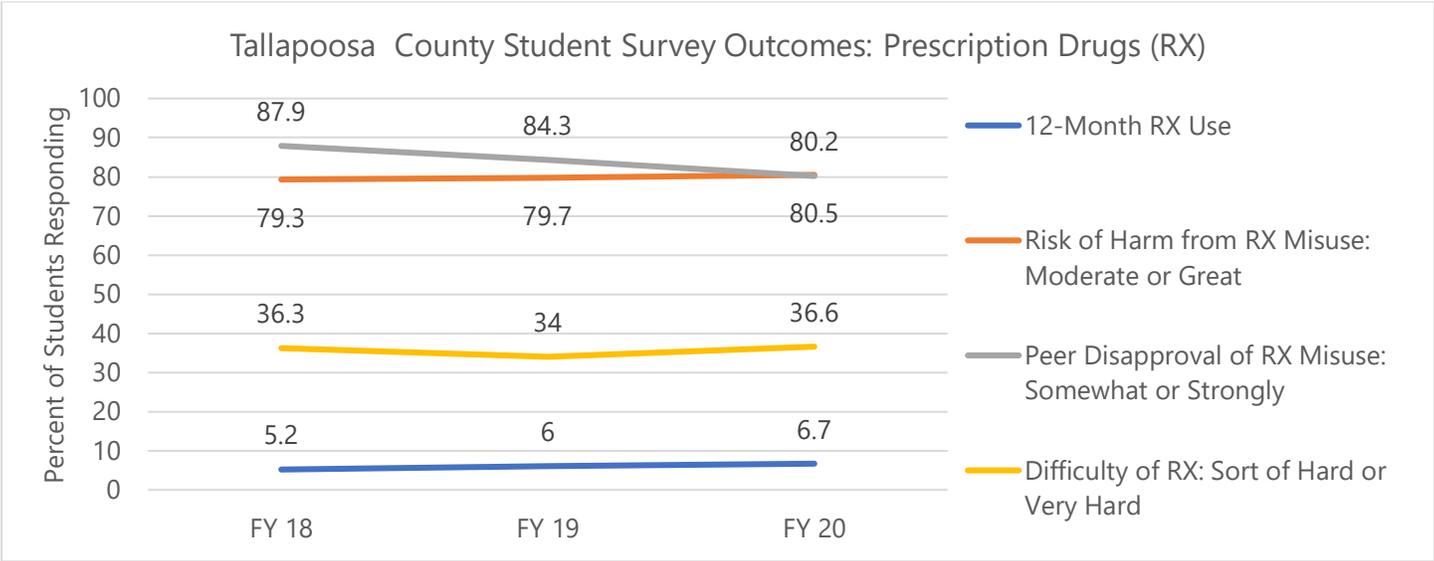
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Youth Advisory		→		→	
Project No Towards Drugs		→			
CMCA			→		
Information Dissemination			→		
Life Skills			→		
Mental Health First Aide			→		
Project Northland			→		
Too Good for Drugs					→

Tallapoosa County Outcomes

- Tallapoosa County students showed an increase in underage drinking, perhaps related to decreases in perceived risk of harm and peer disapproval.
- Students reported that it was more difficult to access alcohol over time, although prescription drug access remained similar.
- Prescription drug misuse also increased despite a small increase in perceived risk of harm, potentially related to decreased in perceived peer disapproval (i.e. peer became more accepting of prescription drug misuse).

Exhibit 4A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Tallapoosa County

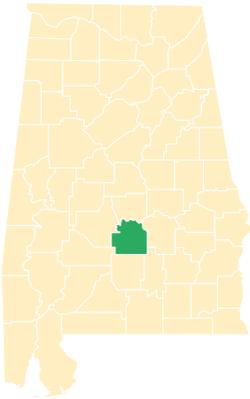




Lowndes County Findings

- Infrastructure.** As can be seen in Exhibit 4, Lowndes County began the PFS grant with four members growing to 18 by FY 2020.
- Intervention Implementation.** Lowndes County implemented a balance of individual level and environmental strategies to help shift community and individual norms. Lowndes County maintained a more community-level approach, when several of its schools could no longer support prevention programming as a result of shifting priorities due to poor academic testing status. Lowndes maintained three large scale efforts through their Information Dissemination, Media Campaign and CMCA efforts from FY 17 - FY 19/2020.

Exhibit 5. Lowndes County: Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

LOWNDES COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY 2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the county coordinator, in 2017 the Lowndes county Black Belt Coalition was had lost members and restarted efforts with only 4 members. At the start of the award, the community had not identified stakeholders or agencies and had no active programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2020, the Coalition has 18 members. Staff has remained the same since 2017 and grant funds are being sought to support the coalition in the future. By the end of FY 20, 5 stakeholders and 5 community agencies support the work of the Coalition.

LOWNDES COUNTY

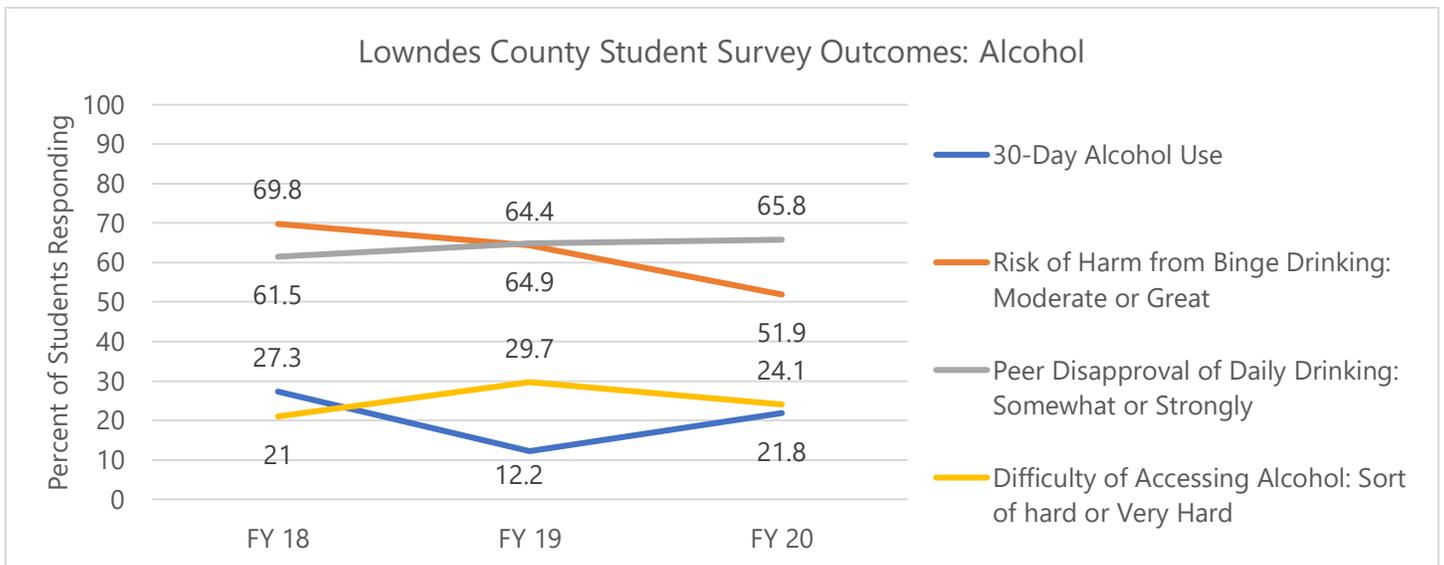
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016 - FY 2020

INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
CMCA		→			
Information Dissemination		→			
Media Campaign		→			
Alternative Strategies				→	
Workforce Development				→	

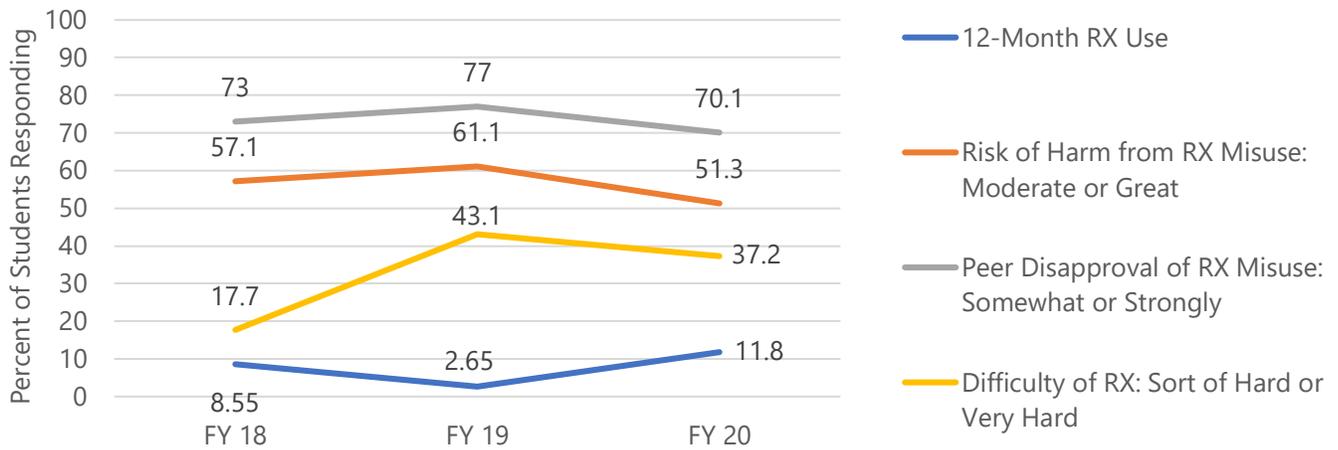
Lowndes County Outcomes.

- 30-day alcohol use decreased overall and was lowest in FY 2019.
- Perceived risk of harm from drinking decreased while perceived peer approval and difficulty of accessing alcohol both increased.
- Prescription drug misuse increased overall but was lowest in FY 18 across the three year period.
- Overall, while students indicated that prescription drugs were much more difficult to access, they also indicated that peer disapproval and risk of harm were lower.

Exhibit 5A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Lowndes County



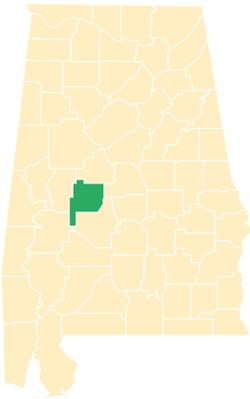
Lowndes County Student Survey Outcomes: Prescription Drugs (RX)



Perry County Findings

- Infrastructure.** As can be seen in Exhibit 6, Perry County had limited infrastructure before the PFS award and now maintains 15 active coalition members, including support from the business community, judges and probation with stable staffing since FY 18.
- Intervention Implementation.** Perry County implemented a balance of individual level and environmental strategies to help shift community and individual norms including Retailer Education, information dissemination efforts and media campaigns.

Exhibit 6. Perry County: Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

PERRY COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY 2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perry County reports having no coalition before the start of the PFS grant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are now approximately 15 active coalition members with five stakeholders who can be called upon to support the coalition. These include strong relationships with the District Judge and Juvenile Probation Officer. Staff have remained constant since 2018.

PERRY COUNTY

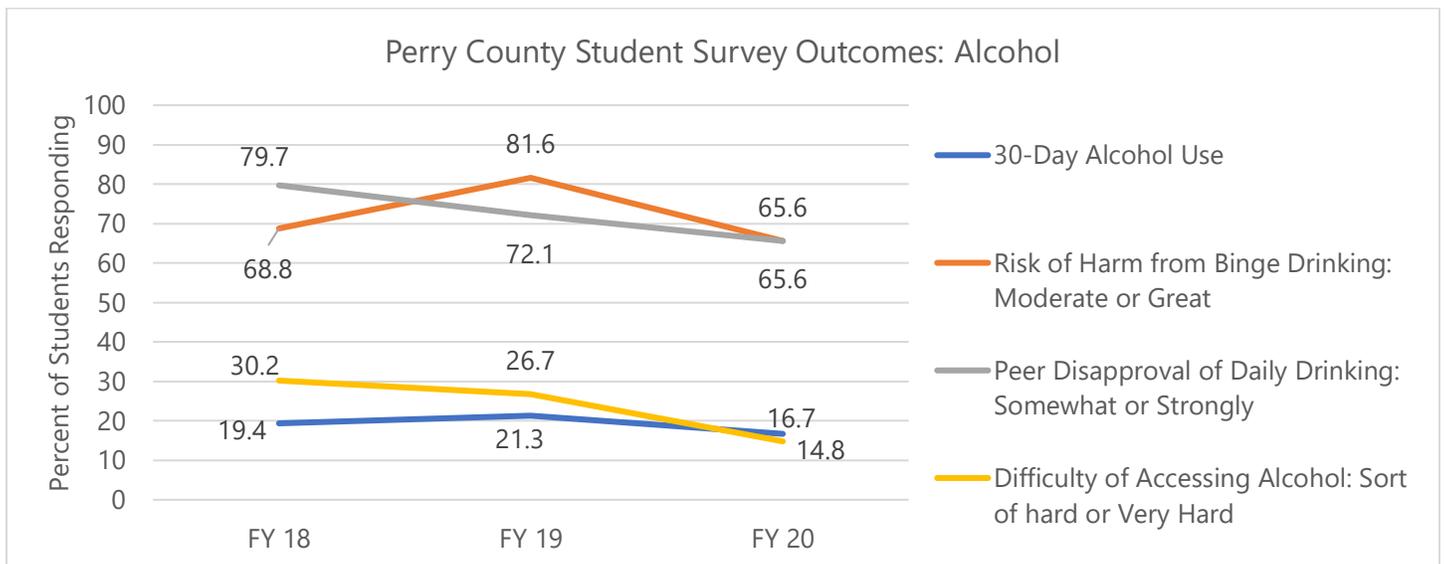
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016-FY 2020

INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Compliance Checks/Retailer Education		→			
Information Dissemination/ Media Campaign		→			
Peer Helper					→
Community based Process			→		
Strengthening Families				→	

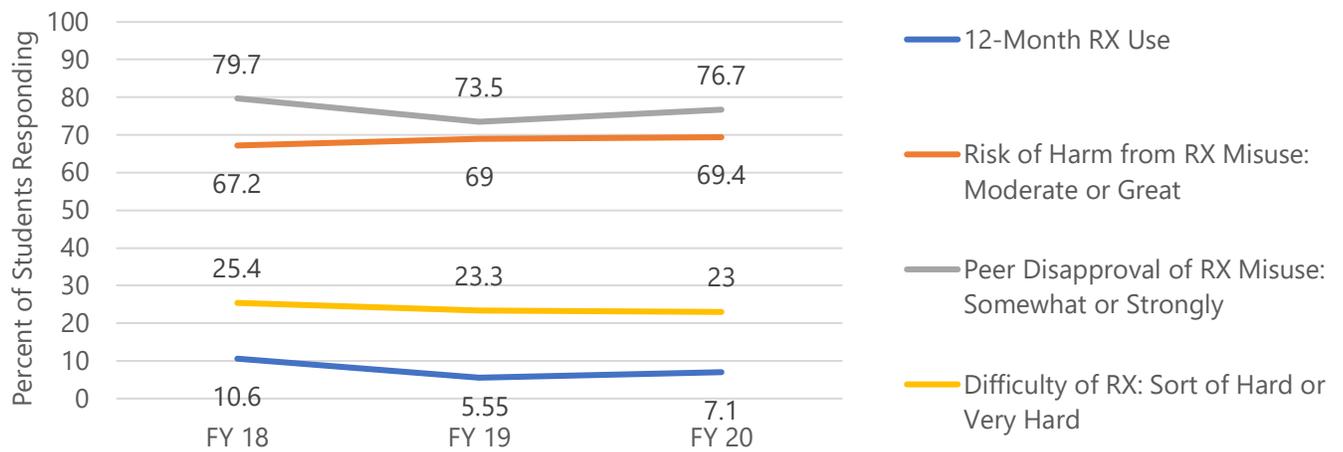
Perry County Outcomes.

- Both underage drinking and prescription drug misuse decreased slightly across the three years.
- Student perceptions of level of difficulty accessing alcohol and peer disapproval of binge drinking both declined over time indicating easier access and greater peer approval.
- There were small decrease in reporting that prescription drugs were difficult to obtain and that their peers disapproved of use as well.

Exhibit 6 A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Perry County



Perry County Student Survey Outcomes: Prescription Drugs (RX)



Sumter County Findings

Exhibit 7. Sumter County: Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings.

SUMTER COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY 2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sumter County started the PFS grant with a loosely organized prevention infrastructure including 14 coalition members. There were few stakeholders outside of coalition members, but there was a consistent evaluator, and the initial coordinator who left after one year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of 2020, the coalition has 30 members and has expanded capacity to include Pride of Tuscaloosa, Sumter County Extension Services, the Sumter County Community Commission, the University Charter School, and the University of West Alabama as stakeholders and supporting agencies.

SUMTER COUNTY

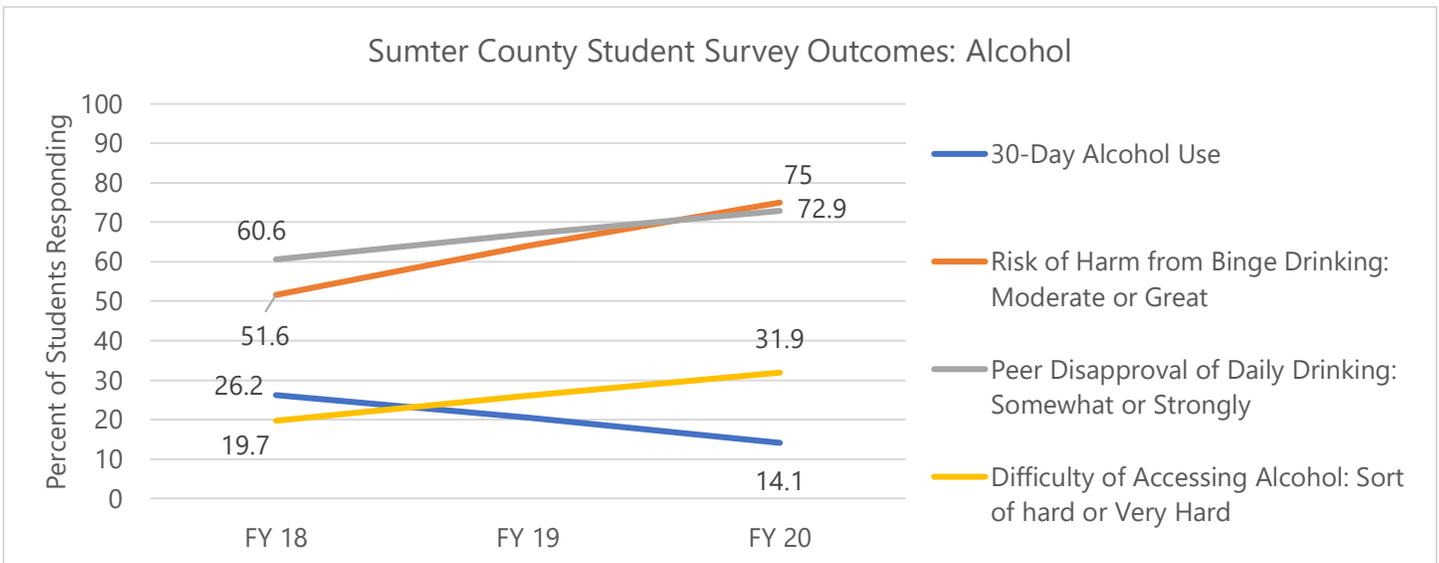
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY 2016-FY 2020

INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	
CMCA		→				
Media Campaign		→				
Peer Helper		→				
Strengthening Families					→	
Information Dissemination				→		

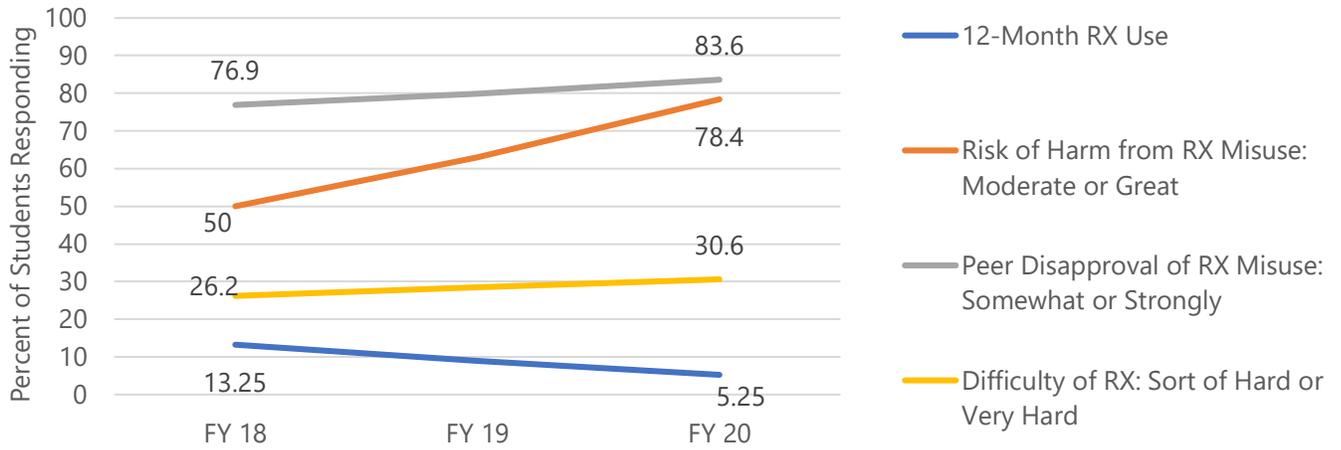
Sumter County Outcomes.

- Sumter County only has data for FY 18 and FY 20 due to difficulty with administering the survey in the FY 19 school year.
- Underage drinking decreased from FY 18 to FY 20 paralleling increases in perceived risk of harm and peer disapproval as well as difficulty of obtaining alcohol.
- Similarly, prescription drug misuse decreased perhaps related to increases in perceived peer disapproval and risk of harm with increases in difficulty of access as well.

Exhibit 7 A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Sumter County

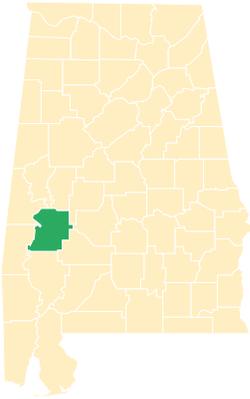


Sumter County Student Survey Outcomes: Prescription Drugs (RX)



Marengo County Findings

Exhibit 8. Marengo County: Infrastructure Change, EVB strategies implemented and PFS student survey findings

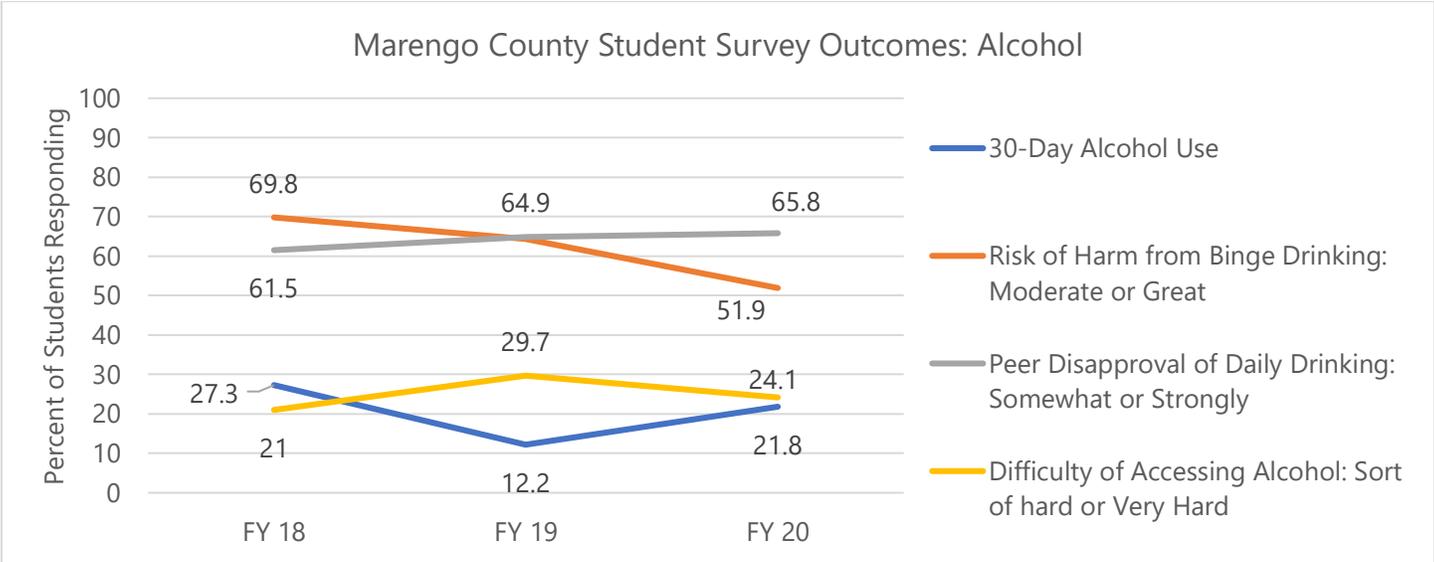
MARENGO COUNTY		
	PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURE	
	FY2016	FY 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marengo County was an SPF awardee with an established coalition and community connectedness at the beginning of the PFS Project. The starting coalition had 13 members. In year 1, there were a few stakeholders and supporting agencies that were not members of the coalition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coalition faltered during 2018 and now has a membership to 50. The coordinator was able to expand capacity to include the Marengo County Commissions, the Jennifer Claire Morgan Peer Helper Foundation, and the Children's Policy Council.

MARENGO COUNTY					
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Compliance Checks/Retailer Education			→		→
Media Campaign		→	→	→	→
Peer Helper	→	→	→	→	→
CMCA			→	→	→
Drug Take Back			→		
Sobriety Checkpoint					→

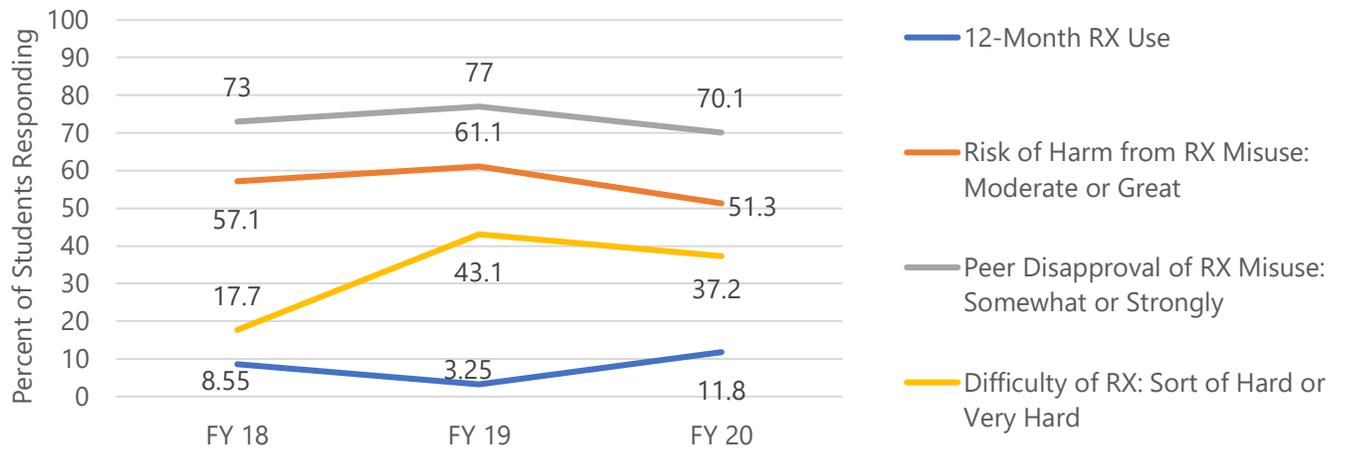
Marengo County Outcomes.

- While underage drinking decreased overall, the student survey outcomes showed an overall increase in prescription drug misuse, with rates at their lowest for both substances in FY 18.
- Intervening variables related to substance misuse do not show a clear picture for Marengo county.
- Perceptions of risk of harm for both drinking and prescription drug misuse decreased along with decreases in peer disapproval for prescription drug misuse.
- Perceived difficulty in accessing prescription drugs and alcohol increased overall, with the increase in difficulty to access prescription drug more pronounced than alcohol.

Exhibit 8 A-B. PFS Student Survey Data - Marengo County



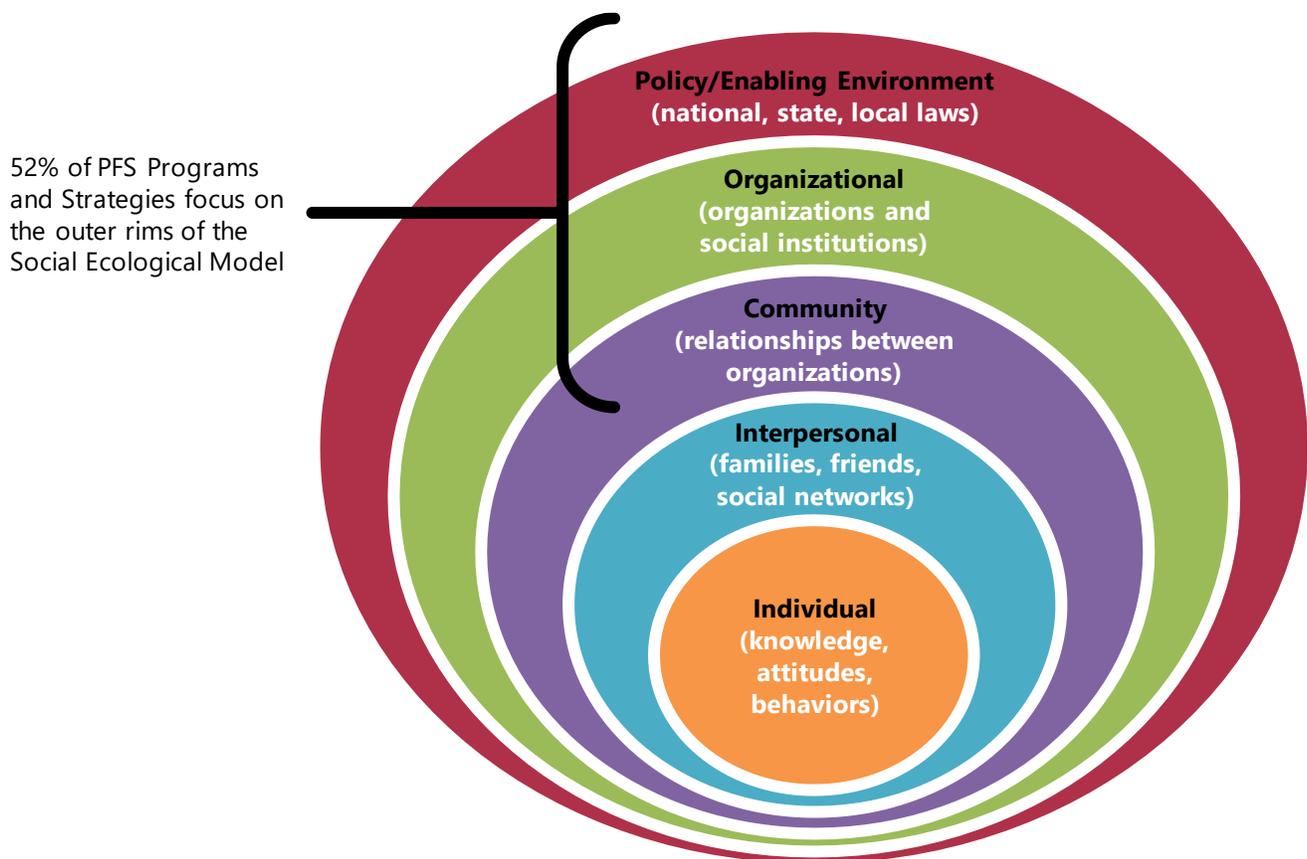
Marengo County Student Survey Outcomes: Prescription Drugs (RX)



Summary of County Infrastructure Change and Intervention Implementation

- The PFS subrecipient survey suggested substantial coalition growth and strength including infrastructure changes due to PFS support. While two counties indicated having at least a coalition structure to begin the SPF-PFS initiative, the majority reported extensive growth in their coalition including more inclusive set of engagement stakeholders and partners, including the community college system, tribal leaders, business community partners and school systems.
- Over half (52%) of PFS interventions reported through the CLI-R and SPARS, focused on the outer rim of the social/ecological model including mobilizing communities, launching social media efforts or implementing environmental strategies (20 of the 41 strategies implemented across all PFS communities from 2016-2020) (Exhibit 9)

Exhibit 9. Social Ecological Model and PFS Programs and Strategies



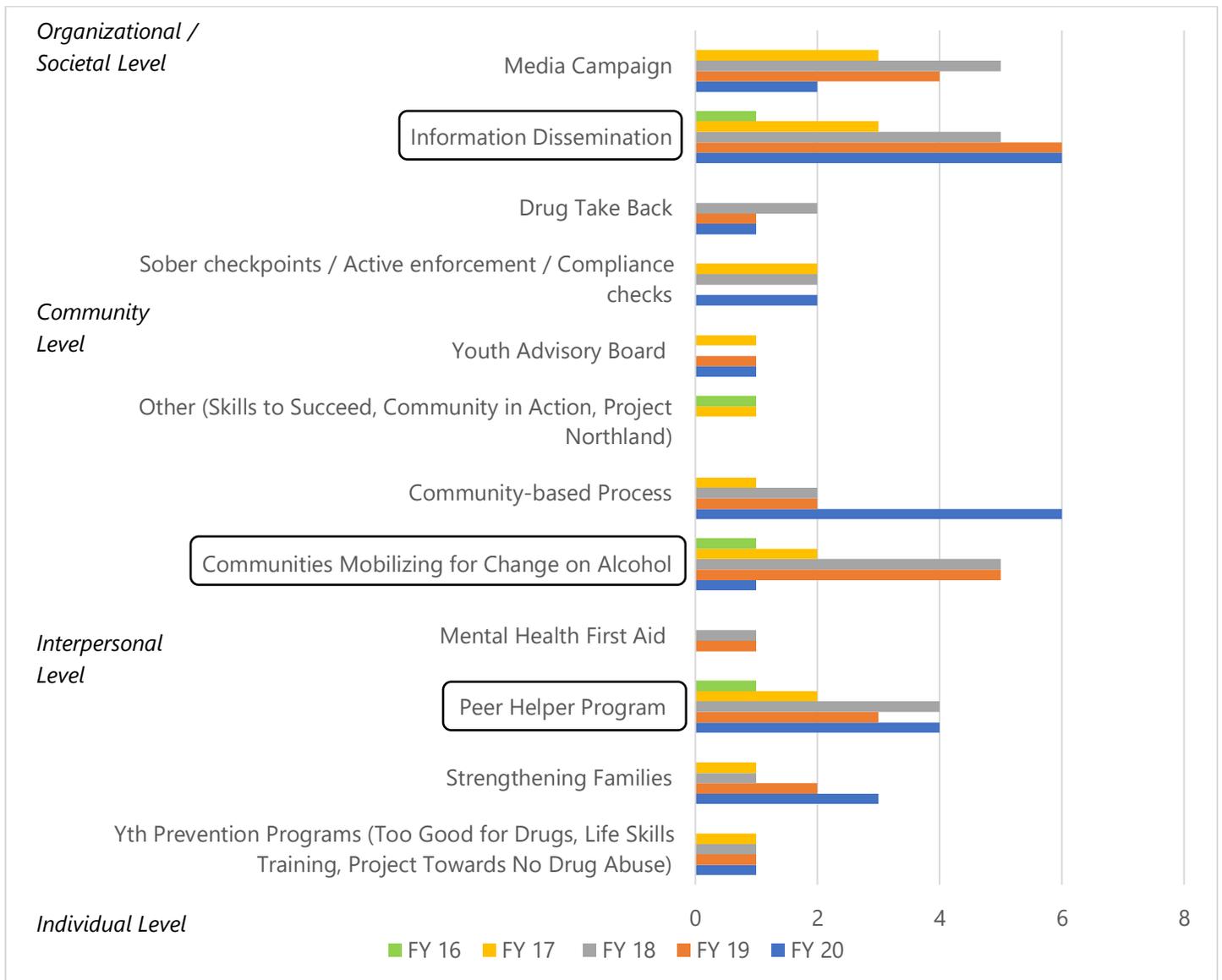
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/overview/social-ecologicalmodel.html>

EVB Interventions and Strategies Implemented over Time (Across PFS Counties)

In the next section of this report, we present findings on the programs and strategies implemented across PFS counties for each year of the award. Exhibit 10 is organized by intervention. On the right hand side we display how many counties implemented each strategy for each year of the award. This allows us to see how many counties were implementing each strategy and how many programs were being implemented across all five year award. These data was reported through the CLI-R and SPARS system.

- **Most Consistently Implement Programs.** In Exhibit 10, programs/ strategies that are circled represent those implemented each year of the award providing consistent presence across many counties. They include: CMCA, Peer Helper Programs and Information Dissemination Efforts.
- **Few Programs in FY 2016.** Very few programs (based on CLI-R records) were implemented in FY 2016 (illustrated in green). Most counties indicated in FY 2016 Progress Reports (SPARS, 2016), that the first year of the award was spent signing contracts and MOUs and hiring local coordinators with programming more fully operational in FY 2017.
- **Programs Implemented by Largest Number of Counties.** Strategies or programs implemented by the largest number of counties (5 of 8 counties) in any given year were focused on the community/ societal level and include : (1) CMCA, (2) Community-based Process efforts, (3) Information Dissemination strategies and (4) Media Campaigns.
- **Programs Least Likely to be Implemented.** Strategies implemented by the fewest counties for the fewest number of years (2 or fewer) include: (1) Mental Health First Aide, and (2) Other Community Level programs (e.g. Community in Action).
- **Growth of Programs Overtime.** Overall the number of programs continued to grow throughout the grant beginning with 3 programs in FY 16 to seventeen to twenty eight between FY 17 and FY 20.
- **Shift in Programming Focus Over Time.** In part due to COVID-19, there were fewer individual level programs in FY 20 that were classroom-based. Due to COVID-19, there was more of a focus on Media Campaigns, Information Dissemination efforts, Peer Helper Programs, online Strengthening Families and Community-Based Process efforts (online meetings and training) demonstrating PFS counties ability to quickly adapt when in person programming was not possible.
- **Website Site Development.** Two counties also mentioned in progress reported developing the Black Belt Communities in Action Website (data not shown), a six county effort to expand the reach of their Media Campaign and reflects PFS communities resilience and ability to be find new opportunities in the midst of COVID-19.

Exhibit 10. Interventions/ Strategies implemented during each year of award



Data Source: CLI-R and SPARS reporting.

Note. Many programs planned for 2020 were postponed due to COVID-19 and not illustrated on this graph. Circled Programs are those implemented each year of PFS.

Persons Reached and Served Over Time

In the next series of graphs, we illustrate the number of people served and reached by PFS programming overtime. The calendar year is on the left-hand side and each color coded bar represent each county with the number of people served (Exhibit 11) or reached (Exhibit 12).

Findings are summarized below.

- Increase in People Served and Reached.** Not only did programs increase, but people served and reached increased over time as well. Exhibits 11 & 12 show the total numbers of individuals served and reached by PFS counties from 2016-2020.

- Linear Increase.** Dotted lines in both figures show the linear trend matching the average number of individuals.. Individuals served more steadily increased over the 5-year period, as indicated by the trendline in Figure 11.
- Programs at the Individual-level Less Common across Counties.** Neither Washington nor Lowndes County implemented interventions that served individuals directly with their efforts focused at the community and societal levels. No counties were serving individuals directly in 2016 as they were involved in grant start-up.

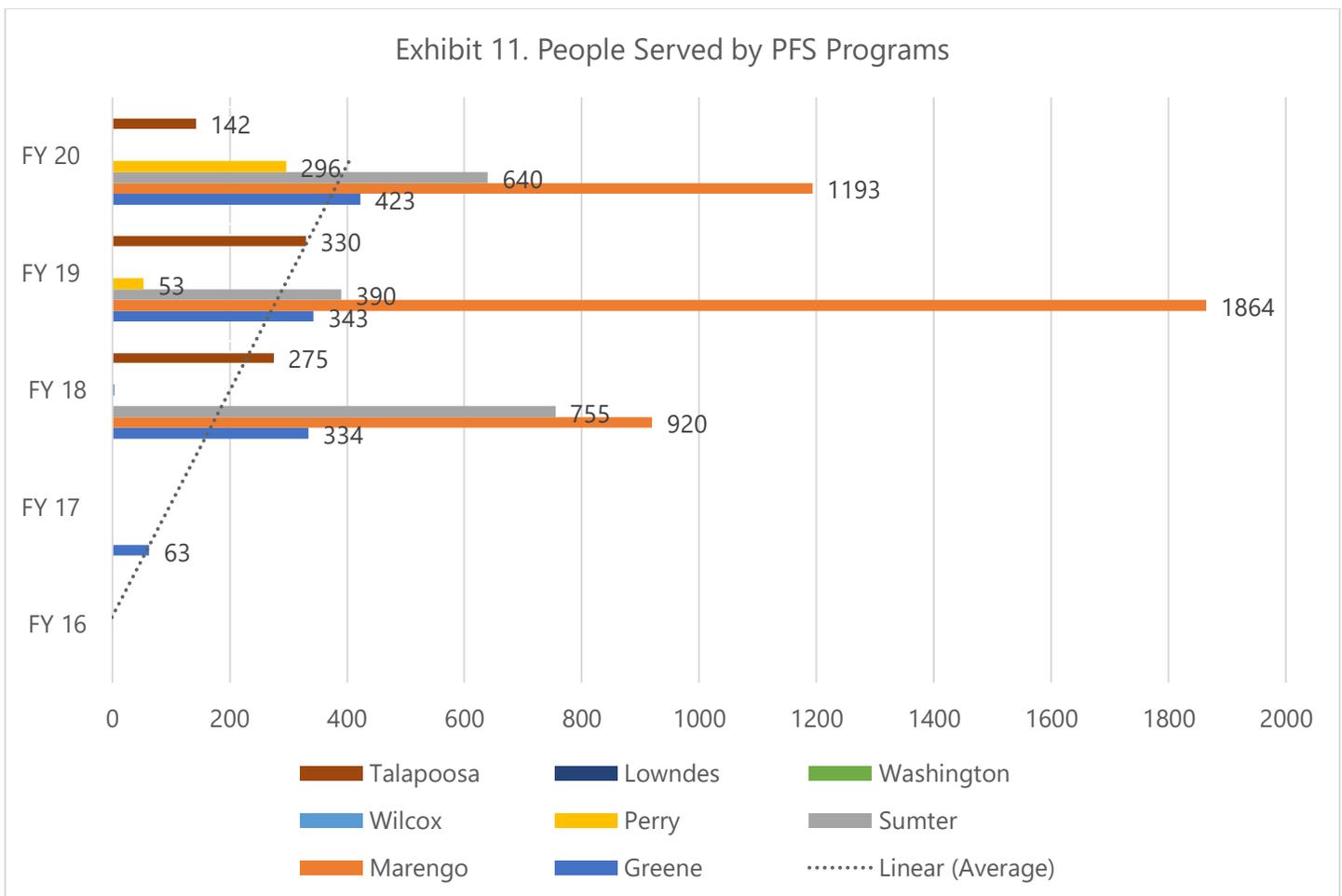
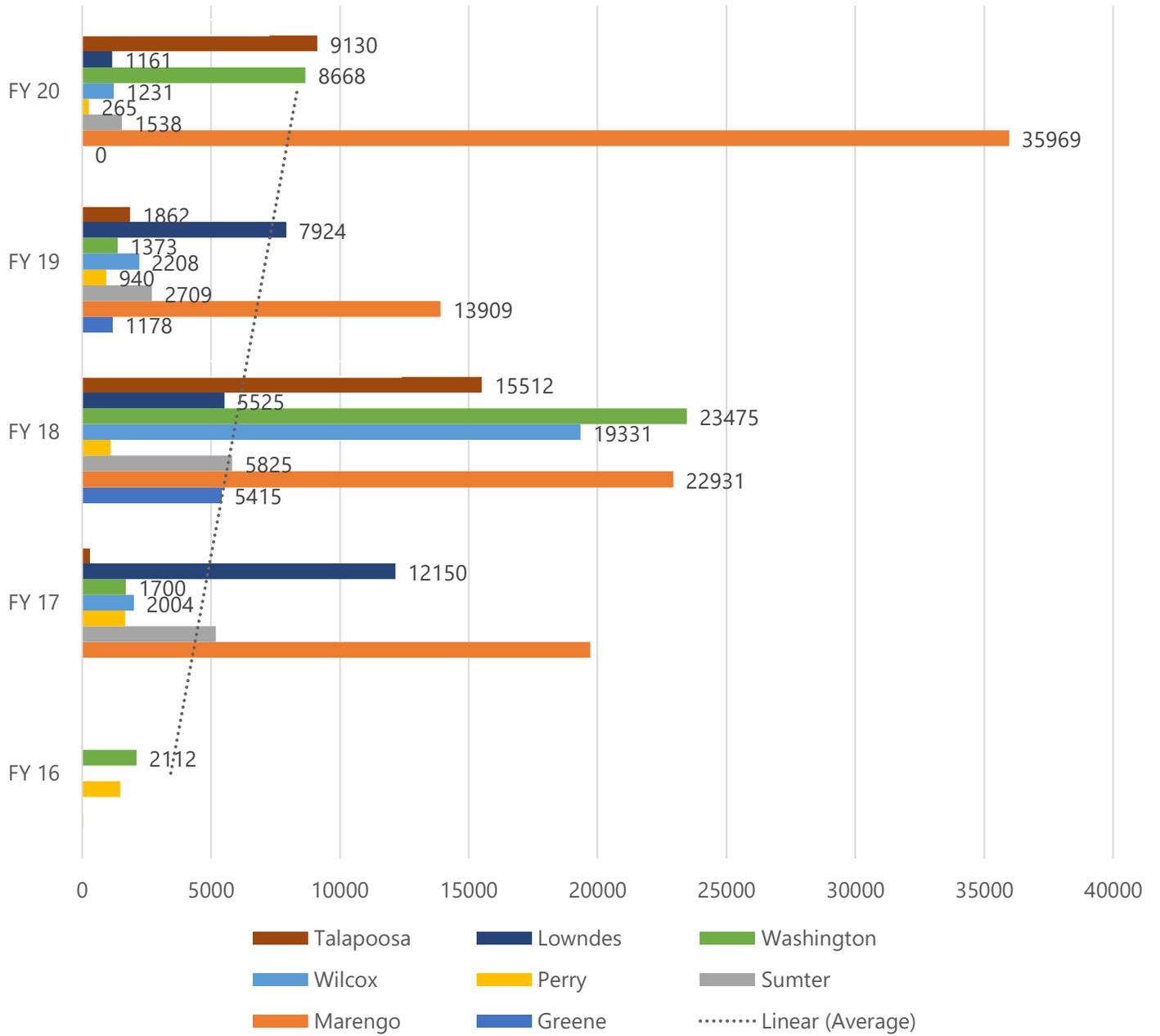


Exhibit 12. People Reached by PFS Programs



Disparity Population - Reached and Served Across PFS Counties

As part of the PFS grant, subrecipients were asked to identify populations at risk for behavioral health disparities in the communities that they serve. Disparities populations were identified during their community needs assessment process and were amended as new data and programmatic findings emerged. Counties varied slightly in their identification of high-risk populations. For the six counties located in the Black Belt region (Greene, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, Wilcox) as well as Washington and Tallapoosa Counties, the health disparities populations were identified as: (1) low income, (2) rural, (3) African Americans, and (4)

youth ages 12 - 17. In Washington County, disparities populations included Native American (comprising 7% of their population). In 2019, the disparities populations across all PFS counties were amended to include youth who identified as Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered or Questioning (LGBTQ). Analysis of our ninth-grade student survey revealed that this subpopulation (consistent with national literature) self-reported significantly greater engagement in substances and greater emotional distress than their non-LGBTQ identified peers.

Behavioral Health Disparity Population	PFS Counties (n=8)
1. African American	All Counties
2. Youth Ages 12-17	All Counties
3. Individuals Living in Rural Areas	All Counties
4. Individual of Low Socio-economic Status	All Counties
5. LGBTQ Populations	All Counties
6. Native American	Washington County

Behavioral Health Disparity Estimates.

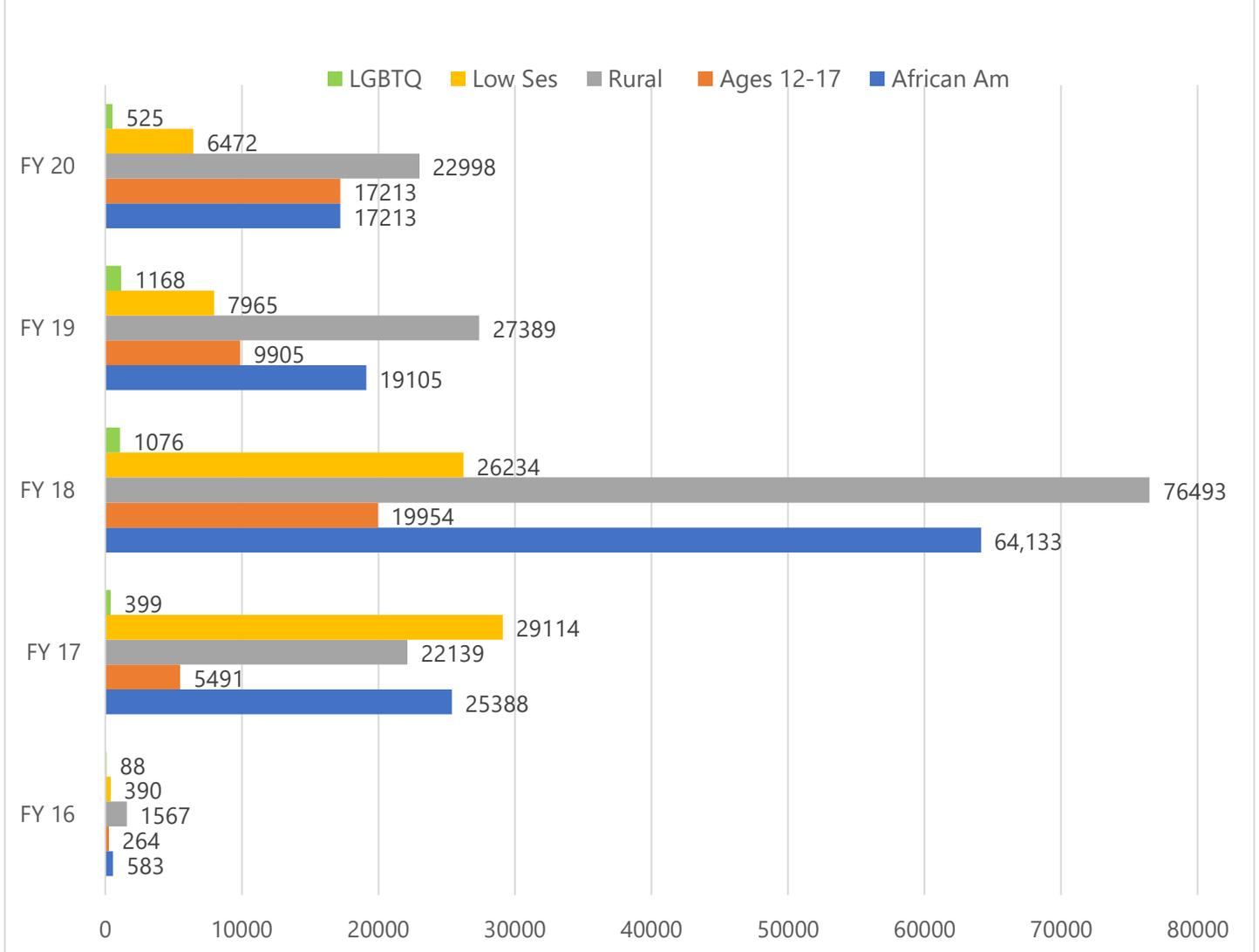
- To identify the demographic characteristic of the populations reached by environmental strategies (where there is not a sign-in sheet), county specific census data was used.
- To identify the population of LGBTQ persons served and reached, when it was unreasonable to ascertain sexual identity, we used estimates of percentage of LGBTQ youth from the ninth-grade students in each county. We limited the LGBTQ estimates to youth ages 12-to 17.
- Because most counties shared similar disparities populations, we present total people served and reached for each disparity population, pooled across counties for each year of the PFS award.

Behavioral Health Disparity Findings.

- As can be seen by Exhibit 13, there was an intentional and consistent focus on the identified disparity populations throughout the PFS grant period.
- The two disparity populations most heavily reached through PFS programs and strategies over time were individual living in Rural Areas and African Americans (grey and blue bars in Exhibit 13).

- FY 2018 was a year where the largest number of disparity populations were reached across the PFS counties with five counties implementing Media Campaigns and five counties implementing Information Dissemination efforts.
- The LGBTQ population was not included as a key disparity population until 2019. Interventions reached far fewer of these individuals over time (noted by the green bar in Exhibit 13). It is important to note that LGBTQ population represents a much smaller proportion of the county than the other identified disparity populations.

Exhibit 13. Person Reached by Disparity Groups- ALL PFS Counties



Community Outcome Data. Student Survey Results

The primary goals of the PFS grant were to reduce underage drinking and prescription drug misuse by increasing protective factors and reducing risk factors associated with substance misuse. This section of the report presents pooled findings from the PFS Ninth Grade Student Survey collected in FY 2018, 2019, and 2020 in all PFS counties.

- The purpose of the survey was to ascertain community level outcome data from adolescent populations that are the primary focus of PFS efforts. The survey include key risk and protective factors and substance use behaviors modeled after the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC, Surveillance, 2017).

- The data presented in this reports represent percentages of total survey respondents for each year to more easily compare outcomes over time.
- It should be noted that the number of students participating in the survey differ over the three years (N = 1072 in FY 2020, N = 831 in FY 2019, N = 797 in FY 2018). The aggregate of all participating schools in each of the 8 PFS counties is presented (county level rates were presented in previous section of this report).
- It should also be noted that no comparative analyses have been run on student survey data over time. Trends in decreasing or increasing response rates are descriptive.

Demographic Characteristics of the Survey Sample

In Exhibit 14 & 15, we present the demographic characters of the ninth grade survey participants.

- The majority of the students identify as African America or Black, but there is a nearly equal split by gender.

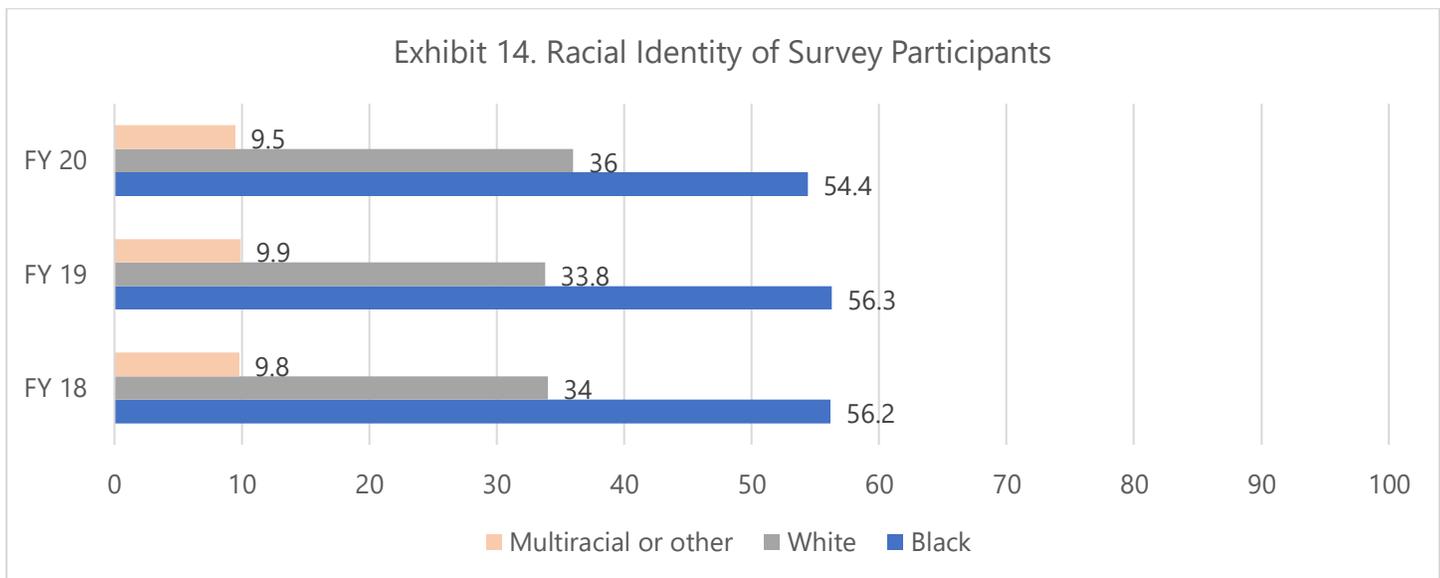
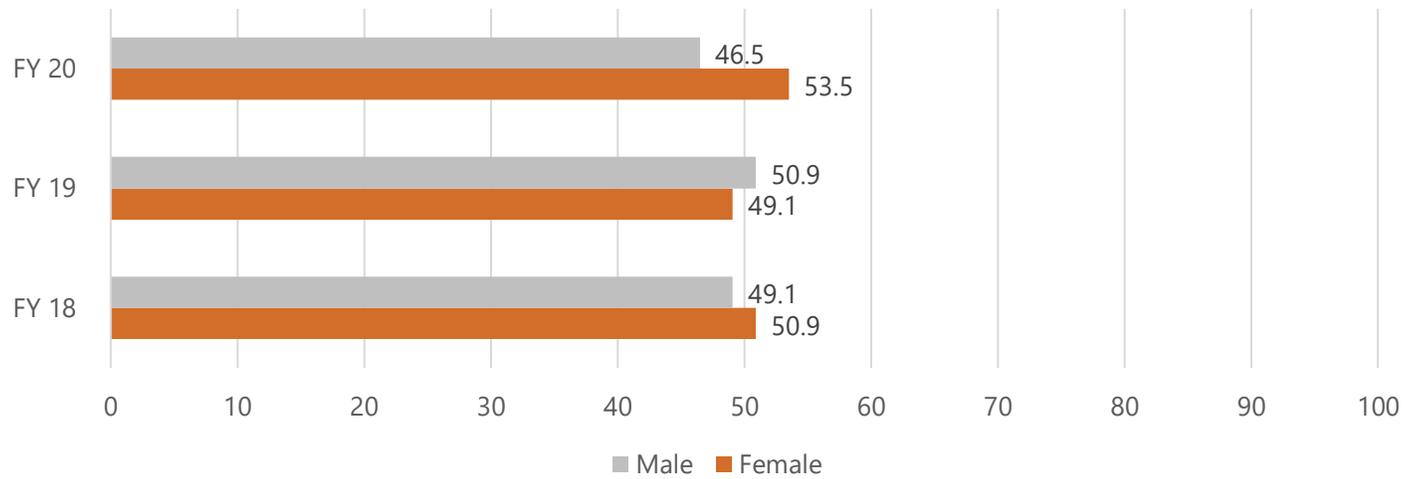


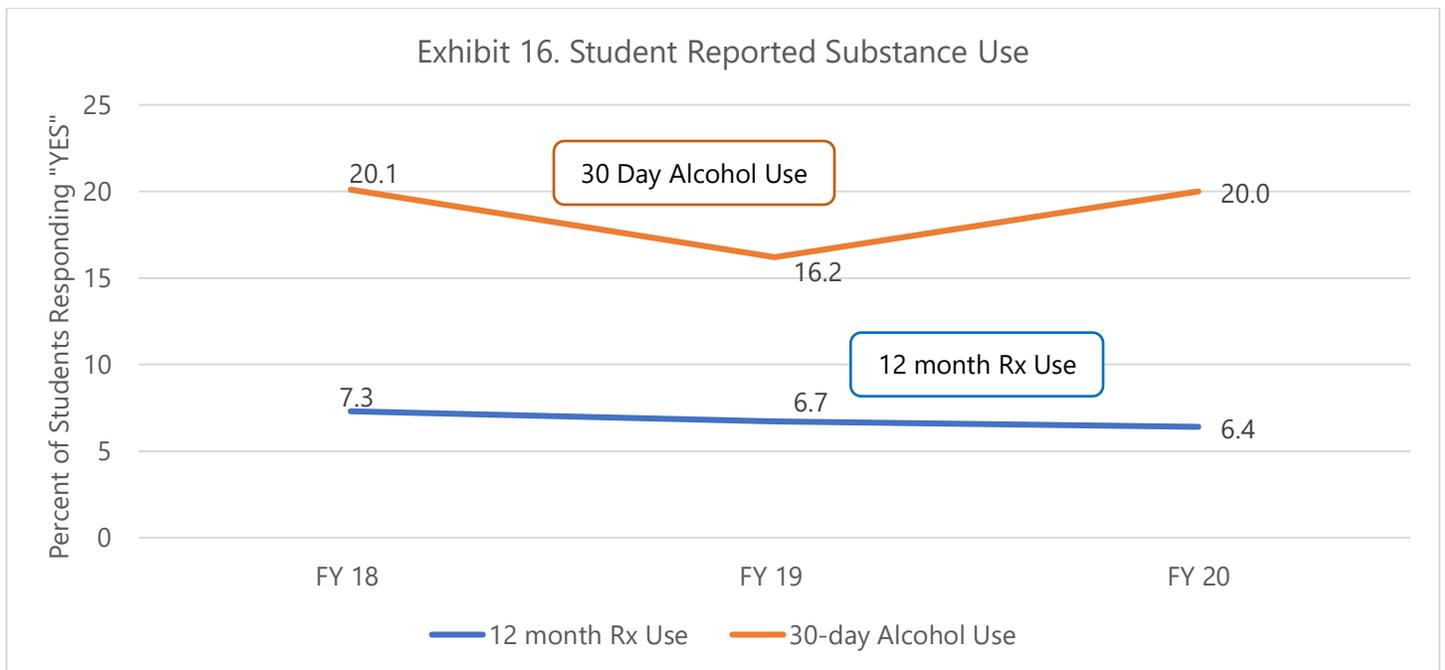
Exhibit 15. Gender Surveyed



Substance Use

Exhibit 16 illustrates past 30-day alcohol use and last 12-month prescription pain reliever misuse respectively.

- Although reported alcohol use declined among 9th grade students surveyed from FY 18 (20.1%) to FY 19 (16.2%), use increased again in FY 20 in our pooled estimate returning to baseline levels.
- This increase in alcohol use masks differences in use at the county level. For example in Marengo, Tallapoosa, and Lowndes counties alcohol use increased in FY 20 (20%). However, alcohol use decreased over the PFS period in Perry, Wilcox and Washington, although it should be noted that Wilcox and Washington counties have only two years of student survey data.
- Encouragingly, use of prescription pain relievers by 9th grade students surveyed decreased over the PFS period from 7.3% in FY 18 to 6.4% in FY 20 (results for non-pain relievers were similar) and were substantially lower than reported use of alcohol (Exhibit 16).

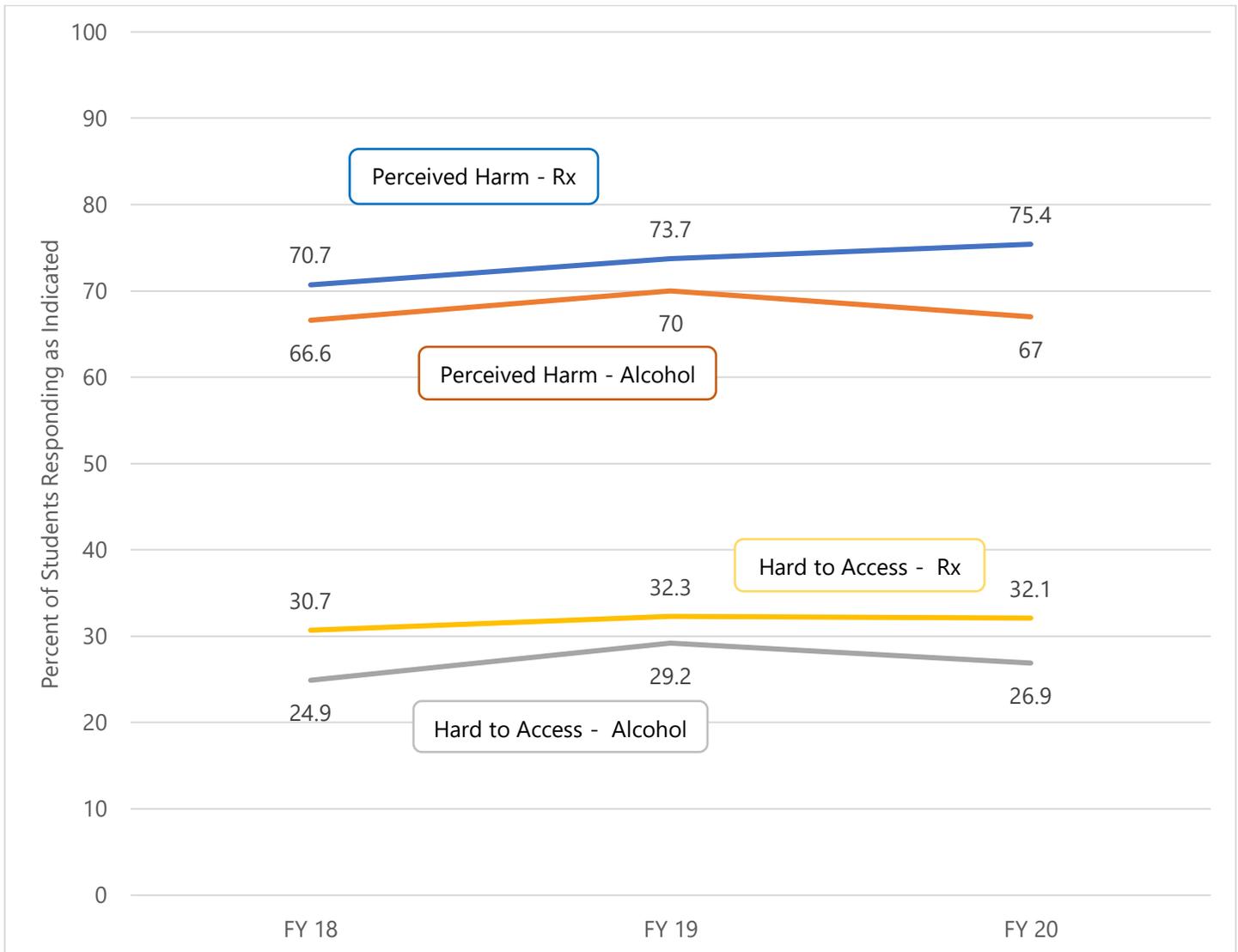


Risk and Protective Factors - Perceived Harm and Access

The substance abuse literature and SAMHSA have identified key risk and protective factors associate with substance misuse among adolescents. They include (1) peer and parental disapproval of use and (2) perceived risk of harm related to use and we also included (3) perceived difficulty of access. In Exhibit 17 we report Risk of Harm and Ease of Access by combining responses of those who self-report "moderate" or "great" Risk of Harm and whether it is "sort of hard" or "very hard" to obtain the substance. In both cases, higher percentages indicate greater perceived harm or greater difficulty accessing the substance.

- Perceived Risk of Harm and Perceived Difficulty Obtaining the Substance increased slightly across the three years indicating that 9th grade students perceived greater risk from use and felt that both alcohol and prescription drugs were slightly harder to access over time (Exhibit 17).
- Taken together, these results may suggest the PFS programming and strategies are having an impact at keeping these intervening variables from increasing over time.

Exhibit 17. Student Risk and Protective Factors

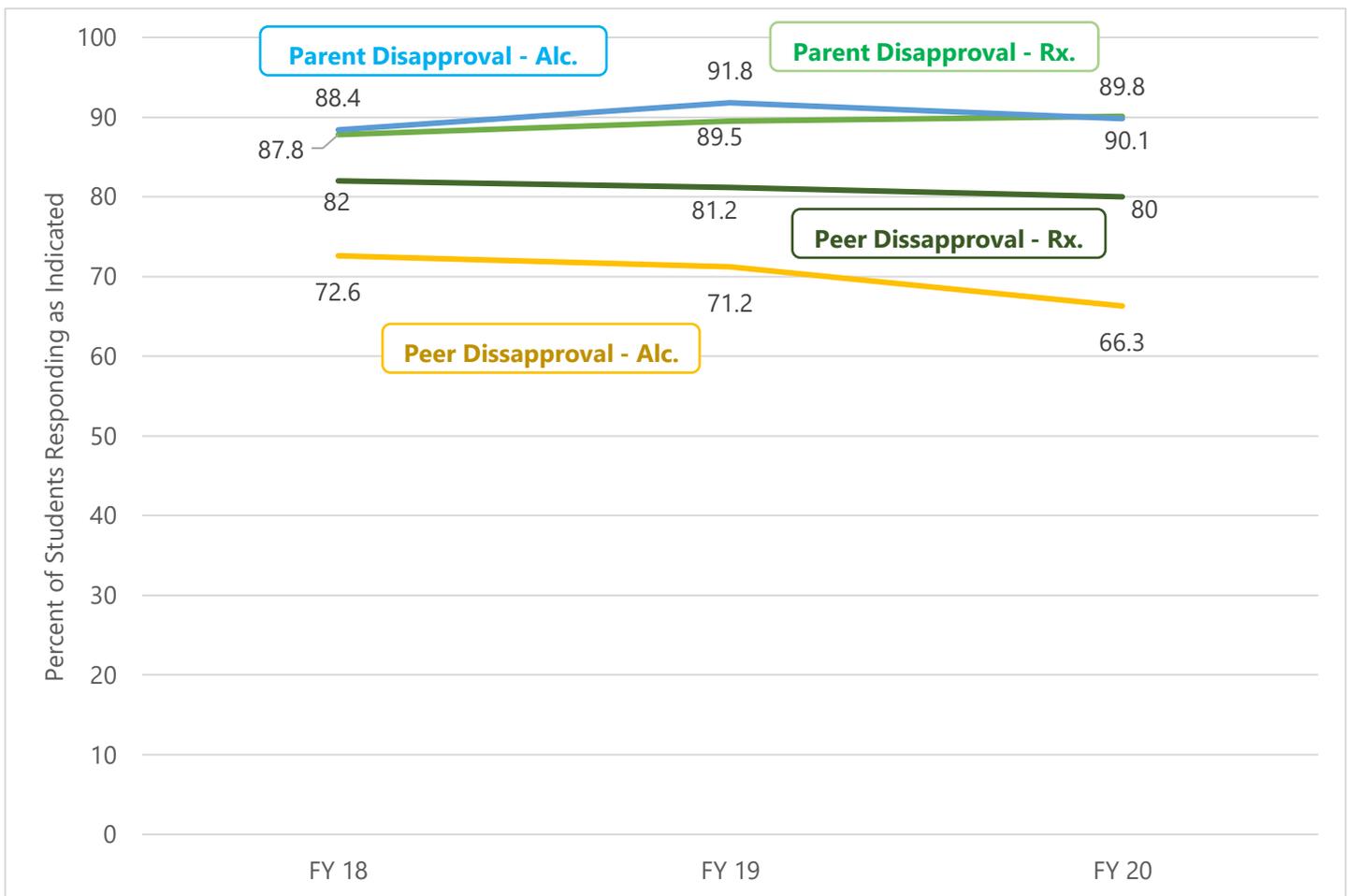


Parental and Peer Norms

Parental Disapproval of Use and Peer Disapproval are presented as the percentage of respondents who indicated that they “somewhat” or “strongly” disapproved of use (combining these two categories). Increasing percentages indicate greater disapproval. Findings are presented in Exhibit 18.

- Parental Disapproval of Rx Use and of Parental Disapproval of Alcohol Use both showed slight increases over time from already high baseline rates.
- Peer Disapproval of Rx Use decreased only slightly over time while Peer Disapproval of Alcohol Use decreased more than Rx Use (from 73% in FY 18 to 64% in FY 20).
- These finding suggests that 9th grade students surveyed felt their peers were more approving of drinking by the end of the PFS period when compared to the start.
- It is important to recognize that the majority of 9th grades students surveyed do not feel that their peers believe drinking or prescription drug misuse are acceptable behaviors (66% and 80% respectively in FY 2020), however future prevention efforts might consider targeting perceived Peer Norms more directly.

Exhibit 18. Student Perceived Peer and Parent Disapproval

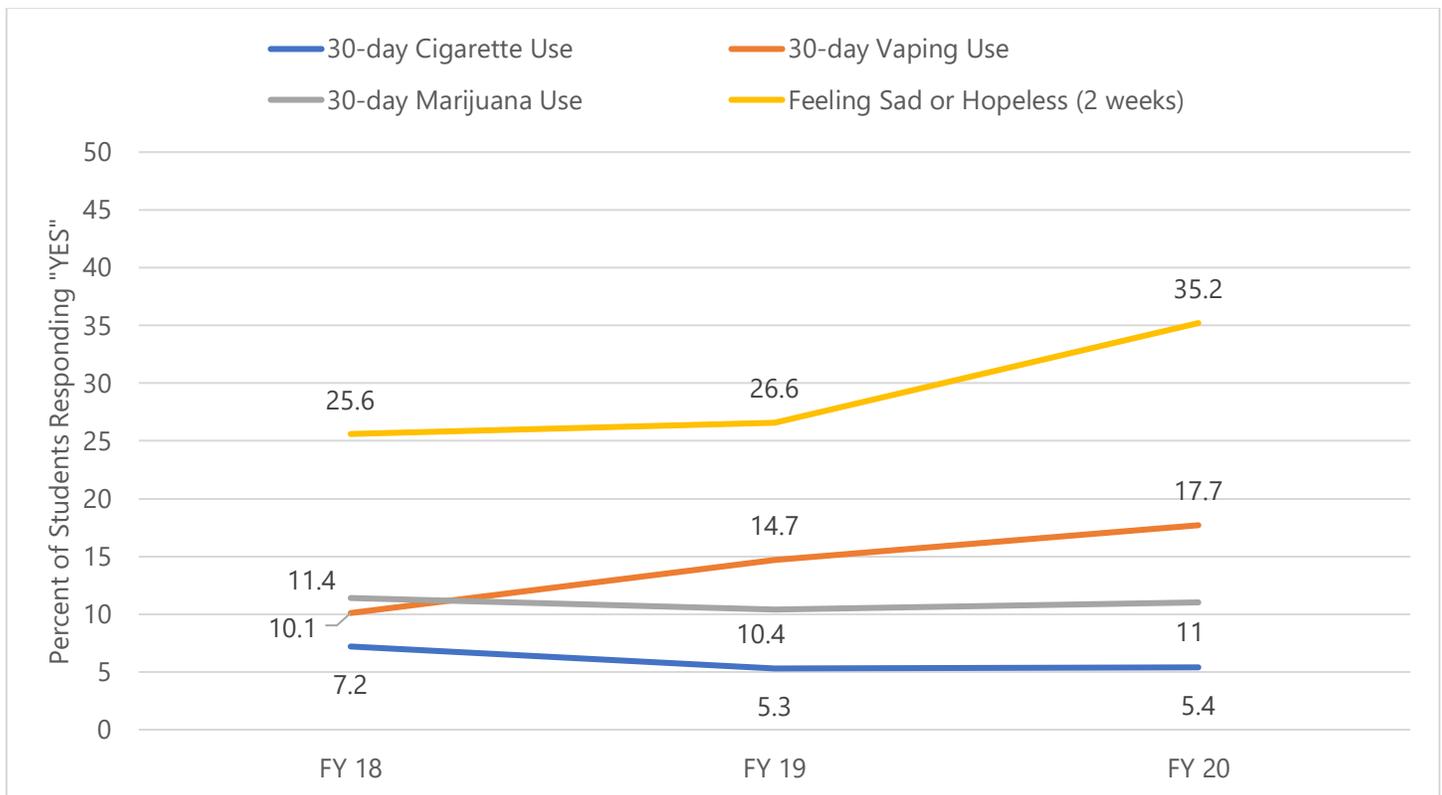


Tobacco Use, Vaping, Marijuana, and Behavioral Health

Other items in the student survey asked about last thirty day Cigarette and Vaping Use and whether the respondent felt sad or hopeless for two weeks or more. A brief summary of findings is presented below.

- **Cigarette Use.** Use of Cigarettes decreased slightly over the PFS period.
- **Vaping.** Use of Vaping was higher in FY 17 compared to Cigarette Use and increased over time. By FY 18 and FY 19, the percent of adolescent reporting vaping was three times the percentage of tobacco use (Exhibit 19). The increasing rate of vaping are consistent with the adolescent research and may point to the need for programs and strategies more narrowly focused on decreasing use of and access to electronic nicotine delivery systems through environmental and community level approaches.
- **Marijuana.** Marijuana use declined in 2018, but increased again slightly in 2019 suggesting little change in use of this substance.
- **Sadness/Hopelessness.** Feeling Sad or Hopeless every day for at least two weeks was reported by at least a quarter of 9th grade students in FY 18 and increased over the PFS period to above 30% in nearly all PFS counties, with the exception of Greene County 9th graders which showed decreases from above 30% to below 25% from FY 18 to FY 20) (data not shown).

Exhibit 19. Other Substance Use and Emotional Health of Students



Disparities Analysis

PIRE conducted an analysis of the student survey results to assess difference in substance use by key demographic characteristics. These findings are reported in the pooled PFS State report and are summarized below.

Gender Difference. We found difference in use and initiation of use by Gender.

Adolescent males when compared to females reported:

- Greater Marijuana Use (13% vs. 7%, $p=.005$) and earlier age of first marijuana use ($p<.0001$)
- Greater Rx sedative misuse (2.56% vs. .26%, $p=.007$)
- Less sadness or hopelessness (16% vs. 38%, $p<.0001$)

Racial Difference in Use

African Americans when compared to Whites or Others had:

- Less Vape Use (10% vs. 22% and 20%, $p<.0001$)
- Less Tobacco Use (2.5% vs. 8% and 9%, $p<.0001$)
- Less Binge Drinking (5% vs. 11% and 10.5%, $p<.009$)

African Americans and Other when compared to Whites had:

- Greater Marijuana Use (12%, 19% vs. 4%) and Earlier age of first marijuana use ($p<.0001$)
- Greater Rx Pain Relief Misuse (8%, 12.5% vs. 3%, $p=.007$)

Gender Identity

LGBTQ student when compared to those who do not identify as LGBTQ had:

- Greater Tobacco Use (13% vs. 4.5%, $p=.0009$)
- Greater Vape Use (22% vs. 13%, $p<.001$)
- Greater Use of Chew tobacco (11% vs. 3.5%, $p<.0001$)
- Greater Marijuana Use (20% vs. 10%, $p=.005$)
- Earlier age of first alcohol and first marijuana use ($p=.02$)
- More sad or hopeless (42% vs. 25%, $p=.0009$)

Student with Disabilities

- Student who reported have a physical or mental disability reported:
- Greater Rx Stimulant Misuse (3% vs. .6%, $p=.04$)
- Greater Rx Pain Relief Misuse (14% vs. 6%, $p<.01$)
- More Sad or hopeless (36% vs. 26%, $p=.05$)

These findings reveal that our different racial groups have clearly different patterns of use. This may suggest that prevention programs focused on African American may need to provide greater emphasis on marijuana use and Rx misuse and for Caucasian adolescents may need to focus more on binge drinking, vaping and tobacco use.

Findings on LGBTQ population suggest significantly higher substance use and poorer emotional health when compared to their peers. This has led the PFS communities to add this population as a key behavioral health disparity population for PFS services and programs. Particular attention should also be paid to students with physical or mental disability whose Rx misuse is elevated when compared to their peers and they also reported lower emotional wellness.

Main Accomplishments for Each County from PFS Support

PFS counties were asked in an online survey to report on their county's greatest accomplishment from the PFS support. Exhibit 20 presents what each county reported as its highlight or success. Findings are summarized below.

- Evidence-based strategies.** The most commonly reported accomplishment by PFS counties was implementing evidence based strategies in their communities. Half of PFS counties described this as their greatest success, with three mentioning specifically Strengthening Families.
- Teen Summit.** Two counties indicated that focusing on a disparity population was their biggest success. Both counties held teen summits for alcohol education with a particular focus on four key disparity populations, rural youth, African American, and low SES students.
- Infrastructure.** The final two counties spoke of infrastructure changes as their biggest accomplishment, including involving a local college partner and establishing a coalition infrastructure that is now running smoothly due to PFS support.

Exhibit 20. County Highlights

Focus on a disparity population (n = 2)	Wilcox County
	<p>Teen Summit. Wilcox County identified their biggest accomplishment as hosting a Teen Summit in partnership with other PFS counties which drew adolescents across seven counties. The Teen Summit was planned with a unique focus on teen disparity populations including rural, low income, African American and included them in leadership roles. The Teen Summit focused on substance use, violence and bullying prevention and behavioral health and included invited speakers and presentations at the University of Western Alabama. Pre-post surveys reported increases in knowledge and awareness of substance misuse.</p>
	Lowndes County
	<p>Teen Summit. Lowndes County also reported that collaborating in the planning and implementation of the Teen Summit in FY 2019 was their most significant accomplishment.</p>

<p>Implementing an evidence-based program (n = 4)</p>	<p>Greene County</p>
	<p>Strengthening Families. Greene County has successfully held four Strengthening Families Program graduations throughout the course of the PFS grant. During COVID-19, they successfully transitioned online and held an online graduation for participating families. This program is reported to have helped families grow closer, parents have become more self-sufficient and confident in their child/ parent interactions, youth have become more academically focused and the community and county as a whole have grown stronger.</p>
	<p>Perry County</p>
	<p>Strengthening Families. Perry County reported that the implementation of their Strengthening Families Program proved to be its most challenging yet satisfying accomplishment. It was made possible by having a local college to partner with the coalition and to teach the classes.</p>
	<p>Sumter County</p>
<p>Infrastructure change (n = 2)</p>	<p>Washington County</p>
	<p>Coalition Development. The most significant accomplishment from Washington County was overcoming the challenge of working in a county where there was no infrastructure at the beginning and increasing coalition membership from four members to fourteen by the end of the PGFS award.</p>
	<p>Tallapoosa County</p>
	<p>Young Adult Survey. The most significant accomplishment of Tallapoosa County was establishing a relationship with Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City, AL who helped administer surveys to college students about binge drinking.</p>
	<p>Marengo County</p>
<p>Behavioral Disparities Planning. Marengo County reported using Alternative Activities and the SPF framework to reach their behavioral health disparity populations and involved multiple sectors of the community.</p>	
<p>Sumpter also reported launching the Strengthening Families program as its greatest challenge and accomplishment. Through the County Coordinator diligence and persuasion, she helped build the capacity and support of the coalition for successful implementation.</p>	

Sustainability Efforts

In state and federal reporting forms, PFS counties note efforts they have made to maintain programming and coalition infrastructure after the PFS funding ends. Key sustainability efforts are highlighted below.

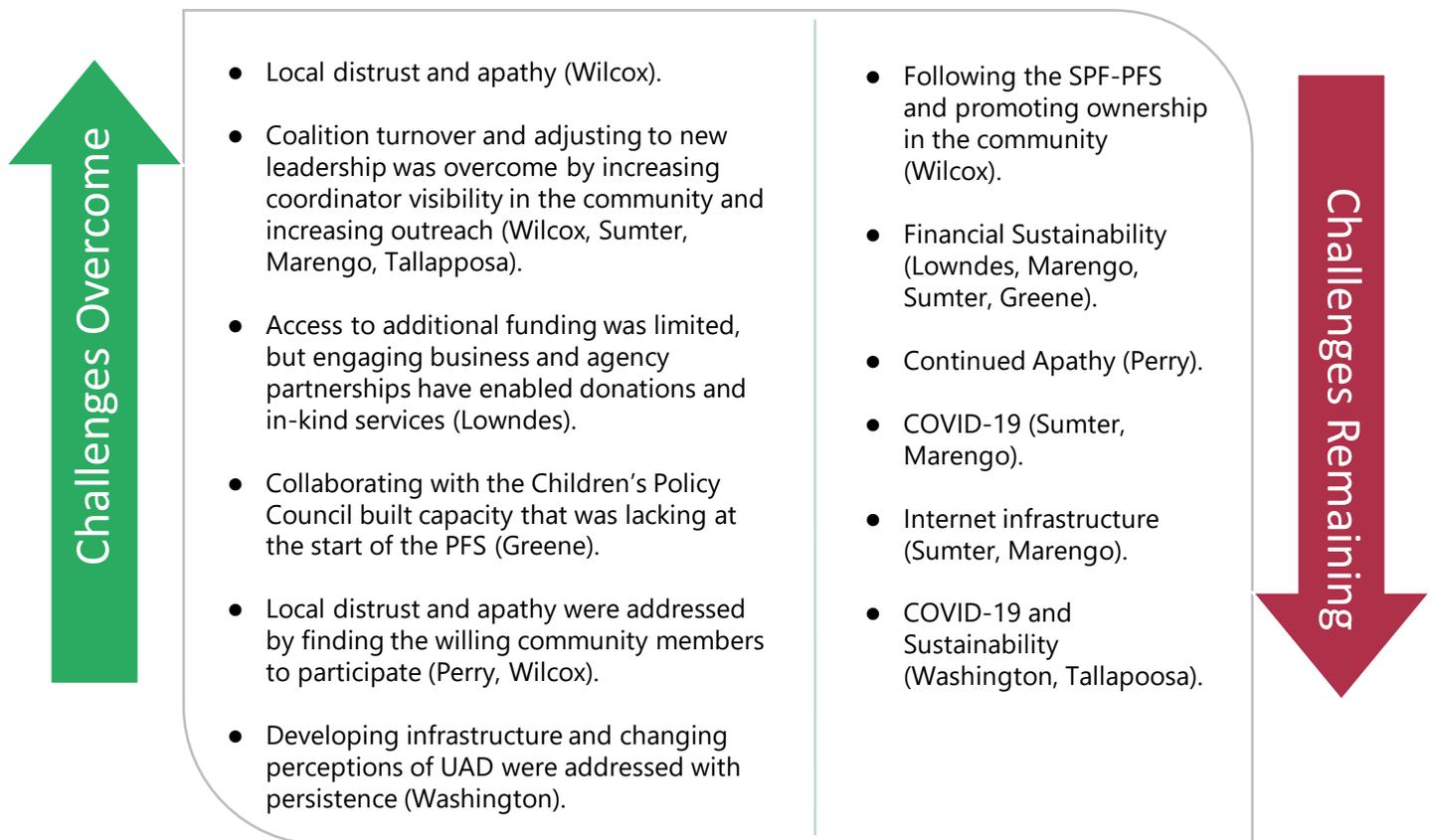
- **Exploration of Funding Opportunities.** Throughout the PFS award, PFS counties were able to work closely with their local consultant, MGM Consultants, to identify and plan sustainability efforts including the identification of grants and other funding opportunities.
- **Sustaining of Strengthening Families - Sumter County.** Sumter County has been able to sustain the Strengthening Families Program through braided funding and support from Sumter County School System, Sumter County Health Department, Sumter County Sheriff Department, Livingston and York Police Department and University Charter School.
- **Sustaining Peer Helper Program- Sumter, Marengo, and Lowndes Counties.** The Peer Helper Program will be sustained at Sumter through an official elective course at Sumter Central High School approved by the Department of Education. In Lowndes County, efforts are being made to identify support through the Elmore Boling Foundation and education-based grants through Lowndes County Public Schools to sustain the Peer Helper program at participating schools. In Marengo County, Demopolis High Schools are applying for a grant to help cover the costs of the Peer Helper Program in their schools.
- **Sustaining Media efforts- Marengo and Wilcox Counties.** A component of ongoing media campaigns including Radio PSAs will be offered free of charge

Challenges from Each County

The PFS subrecipient survey asked about reported challenges they have faced in their communities and challenges they have overcome which is presented in Exhibit 21. Findings are summarized below.

- **Coalition Leadership and Staff Turnover.** The most prevalent challenge overcome that was noted by PFS counties was coalition and coalition leaderships turnover (n = 4 counties). Counties mentioned that outreach (media and engagement) to spread the word of coalition activities and increased coalition visibility helped to overcome this challenge by recruiting and retaining new members.
- **Distrust of Outsiders.** Two counties mentioned that local distrust of outsiders was a challenge particular among providers who are working in new areas. They noted this was overcome through persistence.
- **Financial Sustainability.** The other challenge identified was financial sustainability (although counties were making inroads in maintaining programs noted in the above section).
- **Internet Infrastructure.** Limited internet access in rural communities was mentioned by Marengo and Sumter as posing significant challenges, especially in the wake of COVID with efforts moving online.
- **Making inroads in local schools.** PFS communities described challenges of connecting to local schools to establish prevention programs when often the local school is the main community hub in rural areas.

Exhibit 21. Challenges Overcome and Challenges Remaining



COVID-19 Challenges and Successes

A challenge, not unique to AL PFS communities, is the COVID-19 pandemic which has required all in person school programming to be suspended. Key accomplishment during this time period are listed below.

- **Coalition Meetings Movement to Online Engagement.** Coalition meetings and community process planning efforts have successfully moved online across PFS counties.
- **Strengthening Families - Movement Online.** Programs that could be moved online have done so, including those that work with families. Innovative efforts to recruit families into Strengthening Families Program during COVID-19 included Marengo County's Kite Flying activity. This activity taught youth about kite flying while social distancing and safely recruiting families into Strengthening Families in the midst of COVID-19.
- **Professional Development Engagement.** Efforts were made by all PFS counties to fully engage in online professional opportunities offered through SAMHSA CADCA, ATTC and PTTC, when in person prevention programming was not possible.
- **Websites:** At least two counties used the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to improve or create coalition websites including the Black Belt Communities in Action Website that serves six counties.

Return on Investment - 2019

We used results from 2019, the most recent full year of data, to perform an ROI analysis. A brief literature review was conducted to find studies of program effectiveness of alcohol and other drug prevention programs similar to those conducted in the counties that received funding under Alabama's Partnership for Success (PFS). A second search was conducted to find estimates of the health care costs and productivity losses due to binge drinking. An estimate of program impacts was calculated by multiplying a low-end percentage estimate of program success times the number of adolescents reached and served times lifetime costs avoided per student who pursues a safer life trajectory by abstaining from binge-drinking. Although there are other program effects that might have been counted, a conservative modeling of the alcohol prevention effects of the interventions chosen by the eight counties produced a sizable return on investment.

The following table shows a count of students in the 12 – 17 year old age range that were affected by the AL PFS programming in FY 2019.

County	Media	Information Dissemination	Comm-Based Process	Peer Helper	Life Skills	Strengthen Families	Social Media	Youth Advisory Bd.
Greene	824			311		7		
Lowndes		2,038					507	
Marengo	2,247		9	1,529				
Perry		180				24		
Sumter		1,447		370				
Tallapoosa		748			268			15
Washington	155	335	9					
Wilcox		1,139						
TOTAL	3,226	5,887	18	2,210	268	31	507	15

Strong evidence was found to support estimates for Life Skills, Peer Helper, Media, and Information Dissemination as they relate to preventing the initiation of alcohol consumption. The following brief explanations display the rationale and calculation methodology for determining a partial, yet substantial, ROI.

- 1) **Life Skills** – An early randomized controlled trial study (Botvin 1995) involving 3,597 students in 56 public schools established LifeSkills as program with a strong evidence base. Looking at alcohol abuse prevention outcomes, we see that members of the less well-performing of two intervention groups were six percentage points less likely to become binge drinkers. When we apply these success rates against the 268 students in Tallapoosa County who received LifeSkills training, then we project that by the 12th grade we will find 16 fewer binge drinkers than would have otherwise occurred.

Savings from 6% fewer binge drinkers, or 16 (6% of 268) times an annual medical cost and productivity losses of \$3,262 per year (Sacks 2010 and SAMHSA 2010) for 37.5 years (from age 14.5 until age 52 (the average life expectancy of a binge drinker), which is \$122,308 in 2010 dollars, or \$148,709 in 2020 dollars per person times 16 (and a fraction) students equals \$2,391,249.

1. **Peer Helper** – Three counties employed a “Peer Helper” strategy for the benefit of 2,210 students in the 12 – 17 age range. According to a 2005 study (Padgett 2005) binge drinking among the 2,210 students participating in Peer Helper decreased by 73.3% when compared to the control group (15% down to 4%). According to the Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH 2018), 4.7% of youth in the 12 – 17 age range were binge drinkers. Applying the 73.3% reduction to the 4.7% means that 3.4% of the 2210 students, or 75 students were prevented from becoming binge drinkers. At an average savings of \$148,709 for binge drinkers avoided, the Peer Helper program saves \$11,153,212.
2. **Media plus Information Dissemination** – There are 9,113 students influenced through Media Campaigns and Information Dissemination. Subtracting those students already counted under Life Skills or Peer Helper, and giving only 1/10 credit for Information Dissemination (as opposed to a full-fledged Media Campaign) there are 1,911 students affected. According to one study (Snyder 2001) Media Campaigns have a behavioral effect on 3% of those exposed who then avoid initiating smoking, and 5% of those exposed who then avoid alcohol consumption. Furthermore, 26% of those who initiate alcohol consumption become binge drinkers. Therefore, Media Campaigns and Information Dissemination yield 25 fewer binge drinkers. At the previously established lifetime savings rates of \$148,709 for binge drinkers, we see savings of \$3,758,135.

Return on Investment Summary

The following table summarizes the savings that can be estimated with the information gleaned from analogous programs.

Program	Binge Drinker Savings
Life Skills	\$2,391,249
Peer Helper	\$11,153,212
Media Campaign	\$3,758,135
TOTAL	\$17,302,596

This sizable lifetime total savings of \$17,302,596 compared against the \$735,018 annual budget means that over a lifetime, \$23.54 will be saved for every \$1.00 expended on prevention programming. These savings should be considered a conservative estimate since they do not take into consideration four of the interventions and other behavioral outcomes for which success rates could not be readily determined. It should be further noted that even if the PFS programs are only half as successful as the analogous programs that were used to attribute future savings, then the return would still be substantial.

Summary and Recommendations

The State of Alabama awarded PFS discretionary funds to eight counties in Alabama. These high-need counties (Greene, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Washington, Wilcox) have high concentrations of individuals with significant health disparities, elevated levels of substance use, poverty, and less health care access resulting in poorer health and behavioral health outcomes. While these high-need counties have significant health disparities, there were low levels of substance abuse prevention services until the SPF-SIG grant was implemented in each county.

Coalition Strength Increased Over Time. Our evaluation found that the PFS funds allowed for substantial growth in prevention capacity and infrastructure that shows some signs of being maintained post award. Subrecipient noted the growth in coalition membership and diversity of membership from pre- to post award.

Programs Operating at multiple levels and maintained over time. PFS counties implemented a range of evidence based prevention programs and strategies operating at the individual, community and societal levels, many of which were consistently maintained throughout most years of the PFS award. Over half of programs reached the outer rim of the social ecological model. Those most likely to be implemented each year of the award including Media Campaigns and Information Dissemination efforts.

Persons Reached and Served Varied by Year. The number of people reached and served by PFS programs and strategies fluctuated over time depending on reach of county level programs. However the person served and reached both suggest linear increases over time, despite the suspension of some programs and strategies due to COVID-19 in FY 2020.

Decreases in Alcohol Use at the County but Not State level. With the launching of the PFS Ninth Grade Survey, the Office of Prevention was able to capture community level risk and protective factors and substance abuse outcomes across time to explore the impact of PFS programs and strategies.

Our analysis found that in the pooled analysis of all PFS counties, alcohol use decreased from FY 2018 to FY 2019 but then returned to baseline rates in FY 20. However

county level rates tell a more nuanced story. We found in five of seven counties that the percentage of students reporting drinking in the last thirty days decreased over time while in two counties the percentage increased. Similarly risk and protective factors associated with underage drinking only decreased marginally or stayed the same in the pooled analysis across counties. However in four of eight counties there was an increase in risk perception, peer disapproval and perceived difficulty in access alcohol and in the remaining counties, those risk and protective factors stayed the same or moved slightly in the wrong direction.

Slight Decrease in Rx Misuse and Positive Changes in Risk and Protective Factors at the State level and among half of PFS Counties. Student reports of Rx misuse in the last year decreased slightly in the pooled analysis. At the county level, findings were split with four counties reporting decreases in Rx use over time and four showing slight increases. Risk and protective factors associated with Rx misuse moved in the positive direction at the state level and among half of PFS Counties.

Increased in Vaping and Sad/Hopeless. Students reported increases in vaping from 10% in 2018 to 17% in 2020, with rates three times than smoking rates. Students also reported increases in feeling sad and hopeless climbing from 26% to 35% from 2018 to 2020.

Disparity Analysis- Substance Use Varies by Disparity Populations. Our disparity analysis suggest that behavioral patterns of drug use differ for African Americans and Other Racial Groups when compared to Caucasians. African Americans/ Others report greater marijuana and Rx pain misuse while Caucasians report greater binge drinking, vaping and tobacco use. LGBTQ populations reported higher engagement in all substances and reported being more sad/hopeless than their peers, suggesting the need for a renewed focus on programming to address the unique needs of the LGBTQ community.

Return on Investment. Based on our analysis of the impact of prevention programming of alcohol use alone, we estimate that for every \$1 invested in prevention program we achieve a savings of \$23. This would result in a conservative lifetime savings of \$17,302,596 compared to a one-year investment in Block Grant funds of \$735,018.

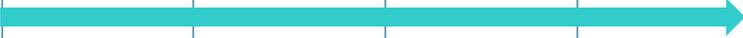
Recommendations

The evaluation results lead to some suggestions for PFS Programming.

- 1. Narrow range of programs consistently implemented over time.** The PFS communities, as they moved to sustaining efforts without PFS funds, may want to narrow the focus of their evidence based strategies to a narrower set of programs and outcomes over time to have a greater opportunity to impact community level outcomes.
- 2. Movement Away from Information Dissemination Efforts.** PFS counties may want to consider reviewing their Information Dissemination efforts to move slightly away from distribution of information at health fairs and community settings to a greater expansion of their media campaigns where exposure is re-occurring and far reaching.
- 3. Behaviors.** Based on the student survey findings, PFS counties may want to consider a greater focus on vaping and programs that support the emotional health of adolescent given the steep increased in these outcomes over time as well as a renewed focus on the risk behaviors and emotional health needs of the LGBTQ community.

Appendix A

Wilcox County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Clean It Up, Wilcox					
Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA)					
Active Enforcement Sales Laws Compliance - Retailers					
Information Dissemination					
Total Reached	---	2004	19331	2208	1231
Total Served	---	---	---	---	---

Note: Persons reached may exceed the overall county population. Persons reached can be exposed to more than one environmental strategy or be exposed on more than one occasion in the same calendar year. Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.

Green County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Media Campaign					
Peer Helper					
Strengthening Families					
Total Reached	---	---	5415	1178	---
Total Served	---	63	334	343	423

Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.

Washington County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
CMCA					
Skills to Succeed					
Information Dissemination					
Media Campaign					
Drug Take Back					
Total Reached	---	---	---	---	---
Total Served	2112	1700	23475	1373	8668

Note: Persons reached exceed county population when there is more than one county wide effort to which persons may be exposed. Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.

Tallapoosa County Findings

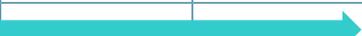
INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Youth Advisory					
Project No Towards Drugs					
CMCA					
Information Dissemination					
Life Skills					
MH 1st Aide					
Project Northland					
Too Good for Drugs					
Total Reached	---	120	15,162	1862	9130
Total Served	---	187	625	330	142

Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.

Lowndes County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
CMCA					
Information Dissemination					
Media Campaign					
Alternative Strategies					
Workforce Development					
Total Reached	---	12,150	5,525	7924	1161
Total Served	---	---	---	---	---

Perry County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Compliance Checks/Retailer Education					
Information Dissemination/ Media Campaign					
Peer Helper					
Community based Process					
Strengthening Families					
Total Reached	--	1680	1100	940	265
Total Served	--	---	---	53	296

Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.

Sumter County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
CMCA					
Media Campaign					
Peer Helper					
Strengthening Families					
Info Dissemination					
Total Reached	---	5190	5825	2709	265
Total Served	---	---	755	390	296

Marengo County Findings

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED FY2016-FY2020					
INTERVENTION	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Compliance Checks/Retailer Education					
Media Campaign					
Peer Helper					
CMCA					
Drug Take Back					
Sobriety Checkpoint					
Total Reached	35	19708	22,931	13909	35969
Total Served	---	---	920	1864	1193

Note: Persons reached may exceed county population. County populations can be exposed to more than one county wide environmental strategy. Bolded strategies are those that are environmental / community level approaches with their impacts on the outer perimeter of the social/ecological model.