

A Community and Youth-Driven Approach to Addressing NPM 10 and 12 in Wisconsin

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INTRODUCTION

The Core PATCH Package provides communities an innovative, positive youth development approach to improving adolescent patient-provider communication, health care experiences, and transition efforts. It is highlighted in AMICHP's Implementation Toolkit to help Title V agencies meet National Performance Measures (NPMs) 10: Adolescent Well-Visits and 12: Transition.

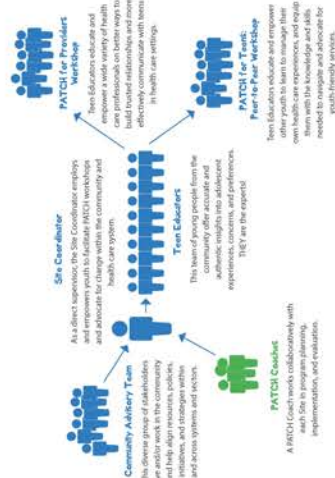


Image 1. Key Components of the Core PATCH Package

BACKGROUND

The Core PATCH Package is an initiative of the Providers and Teens Communicating for Health (PATCH*) Program. PATCH is based in Wisconsin and has been a key partner in helping the state's Title V MCH Program better address adolescent health outcomes and public health goals by authentically engaging young people in public health prevention, leadership, and advocacy.

"Providing new and innovative ways to prevention and public health work, PATCH has cultivated a space for youth from all walks of life to make their voices heard in the program, policies, and decisions impacting them and their generation. They strongly believe that young people have the ability to be incredible advocates for the health of their generation if given the space and tools to do so. Besides, if their unique library work with youth, they have been instrumental in reaching adolescent health improvement goals in Wisconsin and throughout the nation."

—Former WI Adolescent Health Consultant



Providers And Teens Communicating for Health

METHODS

Currently, three Wisconsin communities are implementing the Core PATCH Package—PATCH Dane County, PATCH Coulee Region, and PATCH Central WI. Each has a local PATCH Site Coordinator who hires, trains, and supervises a team of young people as PATCH Teen Educators. These young people make an extended commitment to be actively involved in the program for nine months. Each local team convenes twice a month for ongoing enrichment and training.



Image 2. Dane County PATCH Teen Educator Team

PATCH teams facilitate two complementary workshops throughout Wisconsin—PATCH for Providers and PATCH for Teens: Peer-to-Peer. The 90-minute PATCH for Providers Workshop helps health care professionals understand the concerns, fears, and preferences of young people in health care settings and provides suggestions on ways to more effectively communicate and build relationships with teens; the 60-minute PATCH for Teens: Peer-to-Peer Workshop empowers young people to begin managing their own health care experiences, and equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate and advocate for youth-friendly services.



Image 3. PATCH Teen Educators facilitating a 90-minute PATCH for Providers workshop in Madison, Wisconsin.

Improving adolescent health from the viewpoint of young people... Because THEY are the experts. THEY are able to provide authentic insights into the concerns, preferences, and realities of their generation. THEY can make a difference.

RESULTS

Between July 2018 and June 2019 (most recently completed program year), 31 young people were hired as PATCH Teen Educators in Wisconsin. Collectively, they facilitated 15 PATCH for Providers Workshops and 19 PATCH for Teens: Peer-to-Peer Workshops, reaching approximately 560 health care professionals and 360 teens respectively.

80% of PATCH Teen Educators feel confident in their ability to manage their own health care because of their involvement in PATCH.

It has really opened my eyes to health care and I will be taking more responsibility for my own.

88% of PATCH for Providers participants said they were "likely" or "very likely" to change the way they interact and care for teens because of PATCH.

"Through this [PATCH for Providers] workshop, I realized the importance of treating teenagers like any adult patient with rights to dignity and respect, to equitable health care services, confidentiality and privacy, and decision making regarding his/her health."

82% of PATCH for Teens: Peer-to-Peer participants plan to be more involved in their own health care because of PATCH.

The [PATCH for Providers] workshop taught me a useful transition and explanation to convince parents to step out for one-on-one time.

76% of PATCH for Teens: Peer-to-Peer participants plan to see a health care provider regularly because of PATCH.

My favorite part about the PATCH for Teens: Peer-to-Peer Workshop was learning about the rights that we have and knowing to speak to them about questions I have.

DISCUSSION

Strategic implementation of the Core PATCH Package is one example of how PATCH has been supporting Wisconsin's Title V MCH Program in addressing the 2016-2020 priorities of accessing and receiving quality health care and receiving preventive screening and follow-up. There is hope of having a PATCH Site in each of Wisconsin's five public health regions by fall 2021. To strengthen impact, PATCH is also promoting its youth-friendly resources to clinics, provider offices, and other community spaces; disseminating PATCH Toolkits that enhance the messaging of PATCH Workshops; and convening a statewide symposium for health care professionals to learn more about best practices in providing care to adolescents with youth as co-presenters of every session.

To learn more, visit www.patchprogram.org and www.wipatch.org.