

Background

The PATCH program employs a group of teens who are chosen to represent their peers, collaborate to increase awareness of teen health barriers, and encourage open discussions between teens, their parents, and their healthcare providers.

The PATCH program has two aspects: enrichment sessions and workshops. Biweekly enrichment sessions are designed to educate teens on relevant topics such as drugs and alcohol, sexual health, sex trafficking, LGBTQ care, and self-harm. Teens then have the opportunity to present to healthcare providers and peers in a workshop setting where they shed light on barriers commonly seen in adolescent care. Through PATCH to provider workshops, participants are able to understand adolescents' concerns, attitudes, and preferences in healthcare settings and will acquire the confidence and skills to communicate effectively and build relationships with teens. In contrast, peer to peer workshops are designed to empower teen participants to take a more active role in their healthcare and identify resources to maintain healthy lives. PATCH teens are encouraged to serve as a community resource and share their knowledge.



Purpose

Although many aspects of the PATCH program have been studied, few have examined the social networks of the teens before, during, and after PATCH. Through this project, we hope to...

Track:

- ❖ How many teens are utilizing PATCH teen's knowledge
- ❖ Who PATCH teens share their information with (i.e. age, gender, race)

Identify:

- ❖ Topics that teens frequently ask PATCH teens
- ❖ Topics that PATCH teens are unfamiliar with

Use this data to:

- ❖ Ensure PATCH is reaching all demographics represented in the area schools
- ❖ Guide recruitment for future PATCH teens
- ❖ Construct enrichment meeting topics to meet the needs of the teenage community

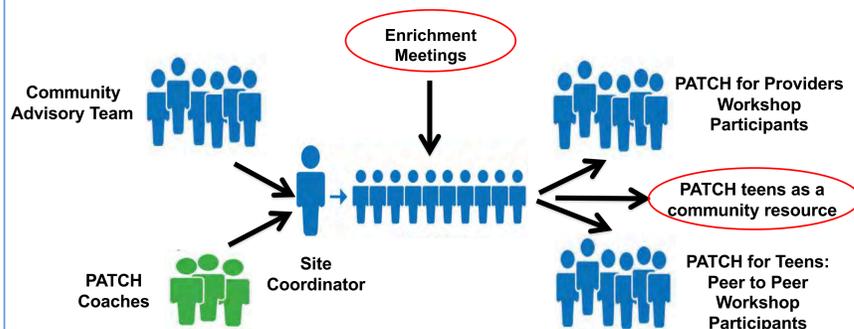


Figure 1: The PATCH Site Architecture illustrates the holistic and collaborative approach to program implementation.

Methods

MCW IRB Approval number: PRO00031805

Qualtrics survey

- ❖ 10 minutes
- ❖ Administered at the beginning (October 2019), middle (January 2020), and end (May 2020) of the 2019-2020 PATCH program
- ❖ Provide dinner when the survey is distributed

Survey Template:

- ❖ How many months have you been in PATCH?
- ❖ What is your gender/race/age?
- ❖ In the last 2-3 months...
- ❖ What is the most common question you have been asked by your peers?
- ❖ How many people have you given advice to regarding the topics covered in PATCH?
- ❖ What is the most common demographic who you have given advice to?
- ❖ At this point, what topic are you least comfortable with?
- ❖ At this point, what topic are you most comfortable with?
- ❖ Has this changed from the last survey?
- ❖ If so, why did it change?

Results

Demographics of participating PATCH teens

- ❖ n=10 teens from local high schools
- ❖ 8F and 2M
- ❖ 8 Caucasian/1 Asian/1 African American
- ❖ Average age: 16

In the last three months, what is the most common health related question you've been asked by your peers?

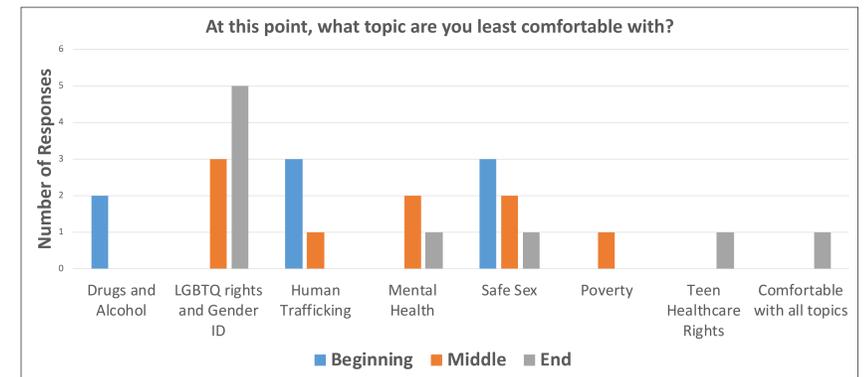
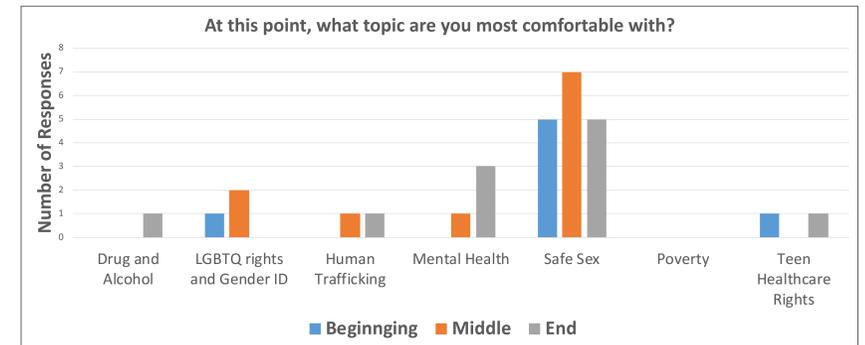
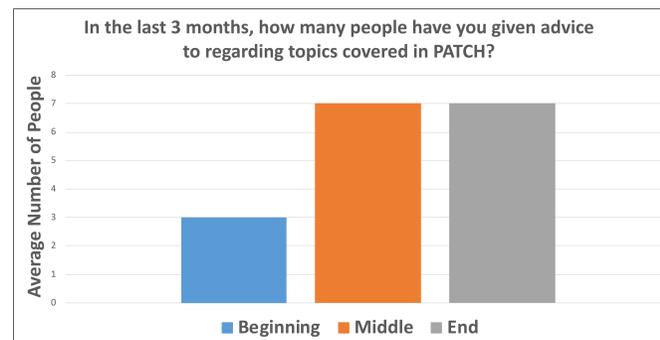
- ❖ "Where can I get free condoms?"
- ❖ "Why is vaping bad?"
- ❖ "Can I be on birth control and safely take plan B?"
- ❖ "How does health insurance work?"
- ❖ "Can I get pregnant on birth control?"
- ❖ "Where can I get free STI testing?"
- ❖ "Should I go to the doctor if I haven't had my period for a few months?"

In the last 3 months, what is the most common demographic that you've given advice to?

- ❖ "white high school students"
- ❖ "white teenagers"
- ❖ "late 40's, white, female (my mom's friends)"
- ❖ "white high school kids"
- ❖ "white females, age 16"
- ❖ "Asian girls"
- ❖ "15-16-year-old white or Asian boys"

Has your answer changed since your participation in PATCH?

- ❖ "Yes, I think I've gotten a lot more comfortable talking about sex health questions because they are so important in a teenager's life."
- ❖ "Yes, because I don't talk about this stuff much outside of PATCH."
- ❖ "As I go through PATCH, I find myself questioning healthcare."
- ❖ "No."
- ❖ "I don't remember."
- ❖ "Yes, I feel like my answers have changed because of the amount of my exposure to these topics the past few months."



Conclusions

After participating in this study, PATCH teens will:

- ❖ Reflect on who they share their knowledge with
- ❖ Be encouraged to reach out to groups not utilizing their knowledge

Survey results will help the PATCH program recognize who is seeking resources and which resources are being sought after the most. In turn, this will help PATCH identify potential recruitment and curriculum gaps within the program.

Key takeaways:

- ❖ PATCH teens interact with community members in addition to their peers
- ❖ PATCH teens interact with a narrow spectrum of the teenage population
- ❖ By the end of the program, PATCH teens doubled the number of people they gave advice to
- ❖ By the end of the program, PATCH teens were most comfortable with sexual health and least comfortable with LGBTQ rights and gender identity
- ❖ The PATCH program was successful in broadening the healthcare and advocacy knowledge base of the 2019-2020 cohort of teens
- ❖ PATCH has encouraged the teens to critically evaluate teen health barriers and brainstorm potential solutions

Future Directions

- ❖ Improve sustainability of PATCH Central WI
- ❖ Develop a similar program for adults
- ❖ Expand data collection to other PATCH sites

References

- ❖ Scott, John. (2017). *Social Network Analysis* (4th ed.). London, England: SAGE Publications.

Acknowledgements

- ❖ Elizabeth Wendt, PGY1
- ❖ Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
- ❖ PATCH Community Advisory Team
- ❖ MCW Community Engagement Grant
- ❖ United Way of Marathon County
- ❖ Advancing a Healthier WI