

Examining How Substance (Mis)Use Resources Provide Support and Relief for Indiana University Students

Research Questions

- How do professional staff create pathways to Substance Use Intervention Services (SUIS)/ Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) services for students?
- What goals and strategies do SUIS and CRC staff generate and implement to aid in student persistence?

Theoretical Framework

Ecological Theory

Bronfenbrenner's theory has been linked to student attrition, transition, and understanding the behaviors of students

(Arnold et al., 2012, Erikson et al., 2019; Mulisa, 2019)

Environmental Theory

Understanding different offices' "authority and responsibil[ities] ... [helps students] maximize [their] time and resource" (Strange and Banning, 2015, p. 103).

I-E-O Model (Astin, 1991)

Examines how a student's background, identities, and experiences inform their development in college.

Theory of Student Involvement (Astin, 1991)

Peers and student organization involvement are two primary factors of involvement (Astin, 1984).

Research Methods

Staff Interviews

We conducted semi-structured interviews with staff members who implement substance use services at IUB and IUPUI.

These interviews focused on the goals of their program(s), resources offered, and the environment

The 8 interviews were coded thematically by three team members focusing on positive, neutral, and negative verbiage

Survey Data

We conducted a survey to understand the student experience with these services.

Data from IUB's program satisfaction survey was provided and helped provide context to our interviews.

Findings

- 1 Most student's first time encountering SUIS was through a conduct violation
- 2 Goals are similar between SUIS and CRC where education, resource sharing, and harm reduction are big tenets.
- 3 Having a friendly, welcoming, and supportive environment is key in supporting students.
- 4 Having a comfortable physical environment and intentional messaging around campus is key to letting students know about their options
- 5 Friendships and support groups within CRC helped keep students engaged and coming back

Discussion

- Pathways to SUIS are mainly through the Office of Student Conduct.
- Pathways to CRC are either voluntary or through connection by SUIS.
- Three primary goals: education, resource sharing, and harm reduction.
- Strategies: decision-making skills, positive impact from the human aggregate and physical environments.

Recommendations

- A more accessible, centralized physical environment
- More individualized, personalized services
- Increased staffing at SUIS through more funding
- Further research needs to consider barriers for surveying and interviewing students who use substance use resources

"The autonomy piece [is important]. Students may be tense when they first come in and then they say we're not here to judge you, and they loosen up."