## Social Norms in Substance Misuse Prevention Part 1

August 22, 2023

#### **Presenters**

Lauri Solomon, Training and Technical Assistance Associate Clare Neary, Project Coordinator, Rutgers University



### **Technical Information**

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At the time of this publication, Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., served as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The opinions expressed herein are the view of the presenters from the Northeast & Caribbean PTTC and do not reflect the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), SAMHSA. No official support or endorsement of DHHS, SAMHSA, for the opinions described in this document is intended or should be inferred.

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Presented in 2023.

This webinar is being recorded. Following the event, we will share the recording with participants and post on our website.



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https://ttc-gpra.org/P?s=222928

Your feedback is appreciated!

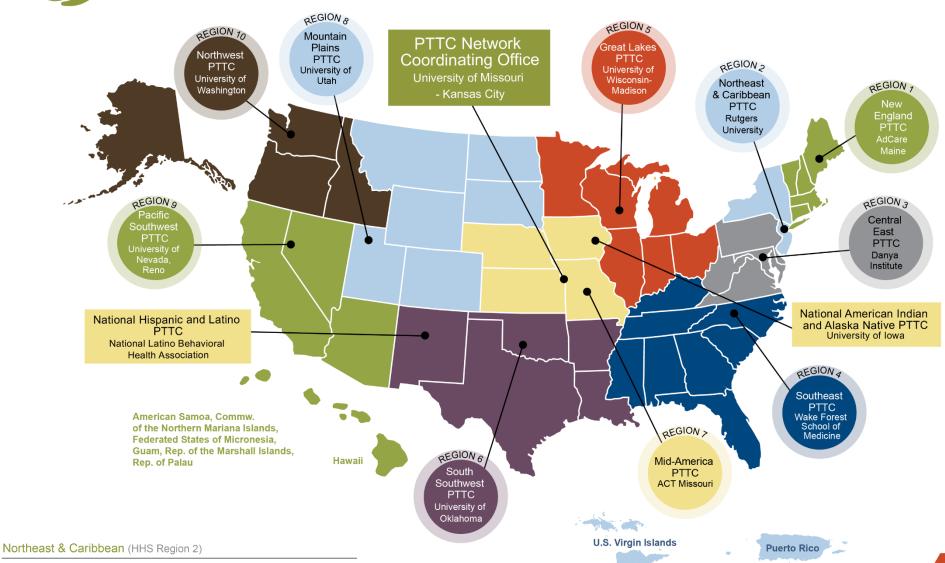




## The use of affirming language inspires hope. LANGUAGE MATTERS. Words have power. PEOPLE FIRST.

The PTTC Network uses affirming language to promote the application of evidence-based and culturally informed practices.

#### PTTC Network





### **Presenters**



**Lauri Solomon** 

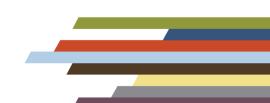
Training and
Technical Assistance Associate
Education Development Center



**Clare Neary** 

Project Coordinator, Rutgers University MPAP Northeast & Caribbean PTTC





## **Learning Objectives**

- Describe the social norms approach
- List elements of an effective social norms process
- Identify the data needed to build a social norms campaign







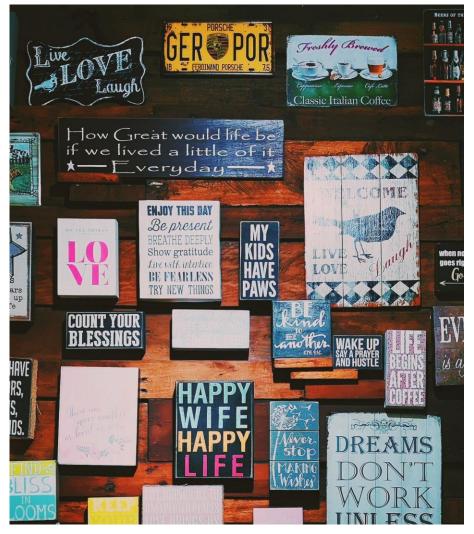
## Poll Question

## How familiar are you with the social norms approach?

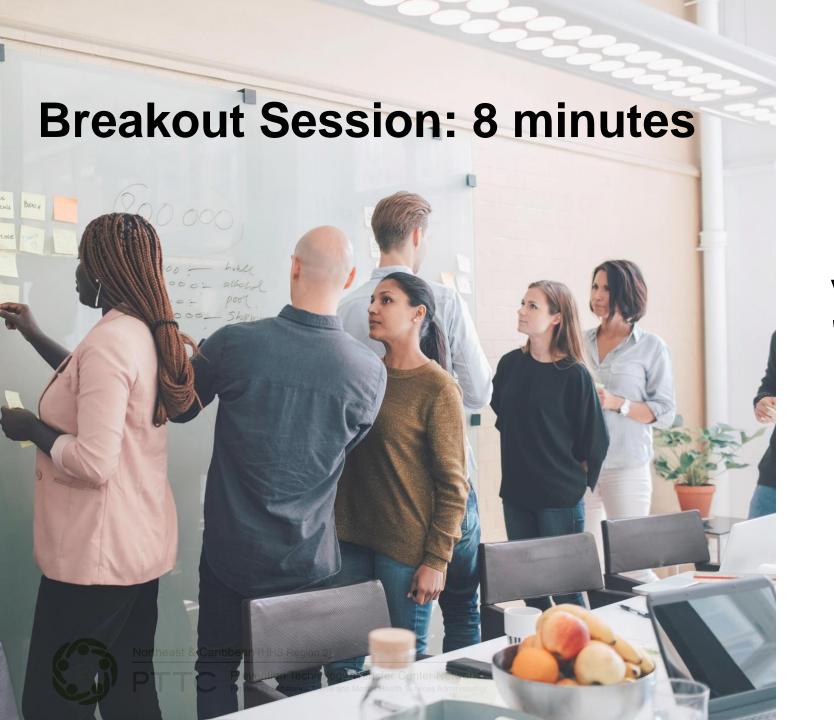
- I have helped implement a social norms approach
- I have been trained in the social norms approach
- I know a little about the social norms approach
- This will be my first exposure to the social norms approach

## How do these make you feel?

- Isolation vs Belonging
- Failure vs Success
- Shame vs Pride
- Disease vs Health
- Risk vs Safety
- Fear vs Concern
- Fear vs Hope



Photographer: Mikechie Esparagoza



# How would you describe healthy youth?

## In the chat



# How Did It Feel To Dream?

## Core Concepts:

## Social norms theory:

- Behavior is influenced by our perceptions of what is normal
- What is normal behavior is often misperceived

## Social norms approach:

Correcting misperceptions of risky health behaviors increases healthy behaviors

Image source: freepix.com

## Social Norms Approach Frameworks:

- Science of the Positive
- Social Norms Approach

Image source: freepik

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## **Core Assumption**

of The Science of the Positive:

The **POSITIVE** exists, it is real, and is worth growing



Linkenbach, J. (2007, 2018). The Science of the Positive: The Seven Core Principles Workbook: A Publication of The Montana Institute, LLC.

## What is the Science of the Positive?

The Science of the Positive is the study of how positive factors impact culture and experience.

The focus is on how to measure and grow the <u>positive</u>, and is based upon the core assumption that <u>the positive</u> is real and is worth growing – in ourselves, our families, our workplaces and our communities.

Linkenbach, J. (2007, 2015). The Science of the Positive: The Seven Core Principles Workbook: A Publication of The Montana Institute, LLC.

## Science of the Positive

Cycle of Transformation

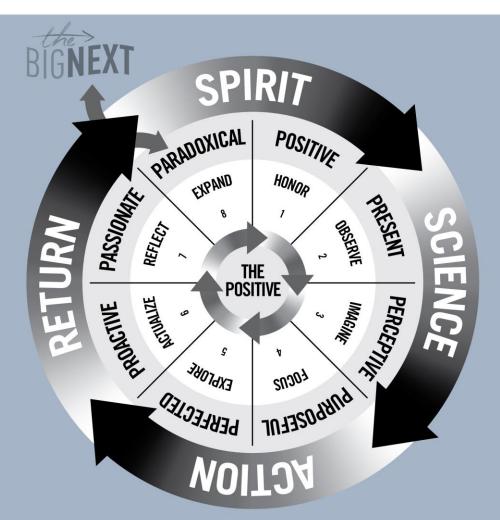


Linkenbach, J. (2007, 2015). The Science of the Positive: The Seven Core Principles Workbook:



Framework based on the cycle of transformation

## THE SCIENCE OF THE POSITIVE FRAMEWORK



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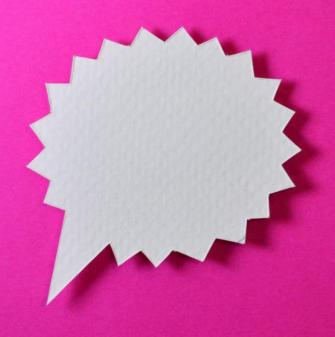


Everyone singing from the same songbook:

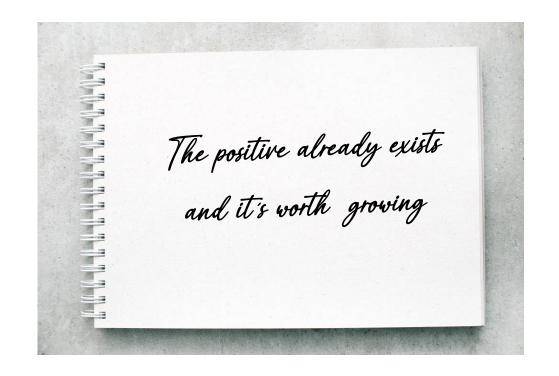
What song and whose songbook?

Photographer: Michael Maasen

## In the chat



What is your community's narrative about youth substance misuse?



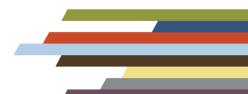
A social norms approach will help your community rewrite its narrative about youth and youth behavior











# "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

Margaret J. Wheatly

Turning to one another:

Simple conversations to restore hope and to restore hope for the future



## Hope and Concern

What are your community's hopes for youths' health and safety?

What are your community's concerns for youths' health and safety?



#### Hopes

#### Youth

- Make safe and healthy choices with substances
- Experience loving and supportive friendships and relationships
- Develop the skills to manage life's difficult times
- Have peers and adults they can count on

#### Families and caregivers

- Experience loving bonded relationships with their kids
- Have the skills to support their kids in navigating life's challenges
- Have the support to manage the challenges of life
- Have at least the bottom tier of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



#### Concerns

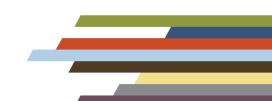
#### Youth

- Some youth are experiencing negative consequences of substance use
- Some youth have attitudes and beliefs that don't serve them well
- Most youths underestimate peers' healthy attitudes and behaviors

#### Families and caregivers

- Some families and caregivers struggle with substance use disorders
- Some families don't communicate clear standards and health beliefs around substance use with their kids







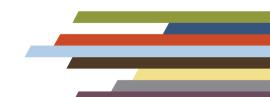
#### Concerns

## Interpersonal, institutional, and historic inequality and inequity based on:

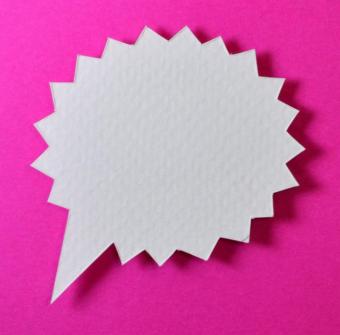
- Race and ethnicity
- Income and social class
- Sexual orientation
- Gender and gender identity

- Physical ability and cognitive style
- Religion and ethno-religion
- Age





## In the chat

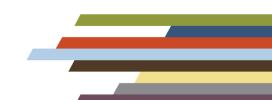


## Who Delivers Messages About Substance Use To Youth In Your Community?



# Who Decides The Community's Hopes And Concerns For Youth?



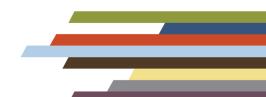




## "Data will talk if you're willing to listen."

Jim Bergeson



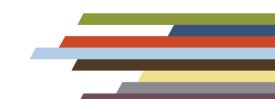




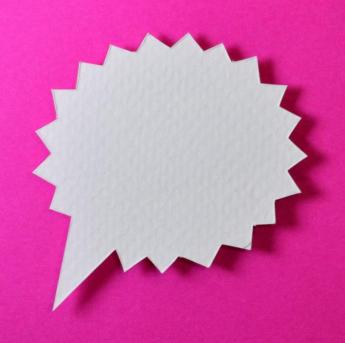
## Talk About Your Experience With Student Health Surveys

- What was the purpose of the survey?
- Who got to see the results?
- What was done with the results?
- How were the results talked about?



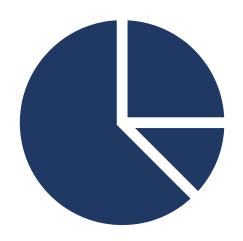


## In the chat



## What Narrative About Youth Substance Use Emerged From Your Data?





According to the CDC's 2019 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

In the past 30 days, what percent of high school students...

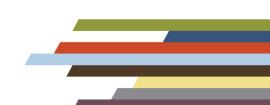
Did not use cannabis?78%

Did not vape?67%

Did not use opioids recreationally?

86%



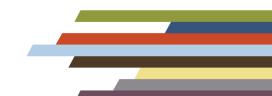




According to the CDC's 2019 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

In the past 30 days, what percent of high school students...

- Did not drink alcohol
   71%
- Did not use any nicotine product
   63%



According to the CDC's 2019 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

In the past 30 days, what percent of high school students...

- 86% did not use opioids recreationally
- 78% did not use cannabis
- 67% did not vape
- 71% did not drink alcohol
- 63% did not use any nicotine product







# 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey - Massachusetts High School Students

| Actual    | Drank alcohol in the past 30 days                             | 30% |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Perceived | Thought most of their peers drank alcohol in the past 30 days | 75% |
| Actual    | Vaped in the past 30 days                                     | 32% |
| Perceived | Thought most of their peers vaped in the past 30 days         | 90% |
| Actual    | Used cannabis in the past 30 days                             | 26% |
| Perceived | Thought most of their used cannabis in the past 30 days       | 80% |





## **But, Does It Work?**

- 1. 5-year project: 50% reduction of monthly youth alcohol consumption.
- 2. 2019: 15-year study of college students involving roughly 1,200 students annually found perceived drinking norms changed in the direction messaged, drinking-related behaviors (how much, how fast, food, etc.) changed in the direction messaged, and the prevalence of academic harm from alcohol declined.
- 3. 2020: After 5 years, 8th- and 10th-grade students in the PCN intervention communities were more likely to report never using alcohol compared to students in the Monitoring The Future Survey comparison group





#### Image from: freepik

#### A Media Campaign Increases Safer Drinking on Campus

NIU & National Safer Drinking Rates Compared to NIU Perceived Rates

Michael Haines, Northern Illinois University, 1999 1999 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 n = 644n = 779n = 792n - 814n = 853n = 1052n = 716n = 990n - 860n = 882n = 550n - 1234Baseline Traditional Intervention • 74.4 75.0 72.6 72.2 NIU Students 70 66.7 67.1 65.7 Actual Safer 65.3 63.8 62.8 62.8 Drinking \* 62.3 61.4 58.3 60 57.0 61.7 60.0 59.0 59.8 59.3 58.6 57.2 56.8 57.1 All Colleges 55.2 Actual Safer 50 Drinking \*\* 48.4 (Quasi Control) 47.3 45.6 40 39.4 39.1 30 NIU Students 30.2 30.7 Perceived Safer Drinking \* 20

<sup>\*</sup> Safer drinking defined as drinking 5 or fewer drinks when "partying"

<sup>\*\*</sup> Safer drinking defined as drinking fewer than 5 drinks at a sitting within the last 2 weeks.

# Warning: Wicked Old Data



#### School

#### Reduction: Heavy Episodic Alcohol Consumption (Binge Drinking 5+/sitting)

| Universities & Colleges         |                                             |  |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Northern Illinois University    | 44% over 10 years                           |  |  |
| Hobart & William Smith Colleges | 40% over 5 years                            |  |  |
| Rowan University                | 23% over 5 semesters                        |  |  |
| University of Missouri-Columbia | 21% over 2 years                            |  |  |
| University of North Carolina    | 30% over 5 years                            |  |  |
| University of Arizona           | 29% over 3 years                            |  |  |
| Western Washington University   | 20% over 3 years                            |  |  |
| Florida State University        | 22% over 3 years                            |  |  |
| Michigan State University       | 26% over 3 years                            |  |  |
| High Schools                    |                                             |  |  |
| DeKalb & Sycamore, Illinois     | 30% over 2 years (reductions in 30-day use) |  |  |
| Evanston, Illinois              | 20% over 5 years (reductions in 30-day use) |  |  |

# A Note About Data and Surveys:



- Data are central to the social norms approach
- It can be challenging to word perception questions effectively
- Perception questions must match the behavior and attitude questions correctly
- Fidelity to the social norms approach will usually take consultation with a trained expert

Image from: freepik





## **Next Session**

#### **Action:**

- Designing a social norms marketing message
- Designing, planning, and implementing a social norms marketing campaign

#### Return:

- Assess changes in community narrative
- Assess attitude and behavior change
- Assess the gap between actual and perceived
- Assess campaign fit





# **Questions?**





### **Evaluation**

Please take the time to complete a brief evaluation:



https://ttc-gpra.org/P?s=466302

Your feedback is appreciated!





# Positive Community Norms: PPT Slides Provided for Limited Use

Dr. Jeff Linkenbach,
Founding Director & Research Scientist
The Montana Institute

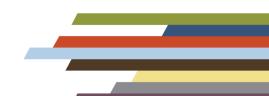
August 28, 2023

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#### Resources

- The Montana Institute
- National Social Norms Center
- A Guide to Marketing Social Norms for Health Promotion in Schools and Communities
- A Grassroots' Guide to Fostering Health Norms to Reduce Violence in our Communities: Social Norms Toolkit
- What is the Science of the Positive
- Applying the Science of the Positive to Health and Safety





#### Resources

- An introduction to Positive Community Norms
- Positive Community Norms CDC
- Region 7 PTTC Growing Health with Positive Community Norms and HOPE
- Region 8 PTTC Using the Science of the Positive to Increase Your Community Impact
- Review of social norms approach effectiveness literature review





# www.MontanaInstitute.com

Promoting Positive

Community Norms

A Supplement to CDC's Essentials for Childhood:
Steps to Create Safe, Stable, Nurturing

Relationships and Environments

POSITIVE POSITIVE COMMUNITY NORMS FRAMEWORK

PILOT TEST AND REFINE MATERIALS



seven principles of inspiration for the pourageous leader



Balancing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) With HOPE\*

New Insights into the Role of Positive Experience ON CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Health Outcomes of Positive Experience



18 Julian W Linkschack

### References

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## **Thank You!**

If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact:

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