

SBIRT in Arizona

Program Description

In 2012 the SBIRT Grant Project began the implementation process in the five northern counties of the Arizona, (Navajo, Apache, Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai). These counties were targeted because they have the highest morbidity and mortality rates for substance use within Arizona. The settings where the screenings were to be in Emergency Departments and Primary Care Clinics.

Presently the SBIRT Grant has been implemented in Navajo, Apache, Coconino and Yavapai counties in a partnership with North Country Health Care, Northern Arizona University and the Verde Valley Guidance Center. Each site has a dedicated SBIRT staff person who oversees the SBIRT screening process and assists with data collection and entry, Brief Interventions, Brief Treatments, Referrals for Treatment and on-going training related to the SBIRT grant process.

Special/Unique Features

The SBIRT Grant project is a partnership with the State of Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, the Arizona Department of Behavioral Health Services, and Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and all three partners join together to share resources and expertise to assure the success of the SBIRT Grant Project.

This project is unique in that northern Arizona is very diverse in terms of population. There are 10 Native American Reservations, and a large number of summer residents who live in Coconino, Apache, Yavapai and Navajo counties who may seek medical services. Additionally, Yavapai County has a large number of retirees who utilize medical services. These varying populations require each site to be aware of cultural, socio-economic and other differences in order to accurately relate to and screen patients.

Another unique feature is the distances between sites and between the SBIRT Grant Project Coordinator's office in Flagstaff, Arizona. This means that there is a greater reliance on communicating via other forms of electronic devices. To share an example, one dedicated staff person is split between two clinics—one in Holbrook and one in Show Low and to help assure that all patients who score for a Brief Intervention or Brief Treatment are captured, the North Country Health Care staff created an "iPad on wheels". If the staff member is in Holbrook and a patient in Show Low needs a Brief Intervention, she is contacted and the iPad is wheeled into the patient's room. A "face time" connection is made between the staff member and the patient which from all reports has worked very well.

All sites are incorporating some aspect of the screening process into their Electronic Health Records (EHR). This process eliminates paper and the possibility of any Personal Health Information (PHI) being lost or compromised. It is also a great example of the Integrated Care process.

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