

Illinois Student Assistance Program Data 1999 – 2013

Prepared by the Student Assistance Center at Prevention First. Collected by the Illinois Association of Student Assistance Professionals and the Student Assistance Center at Prevention First.

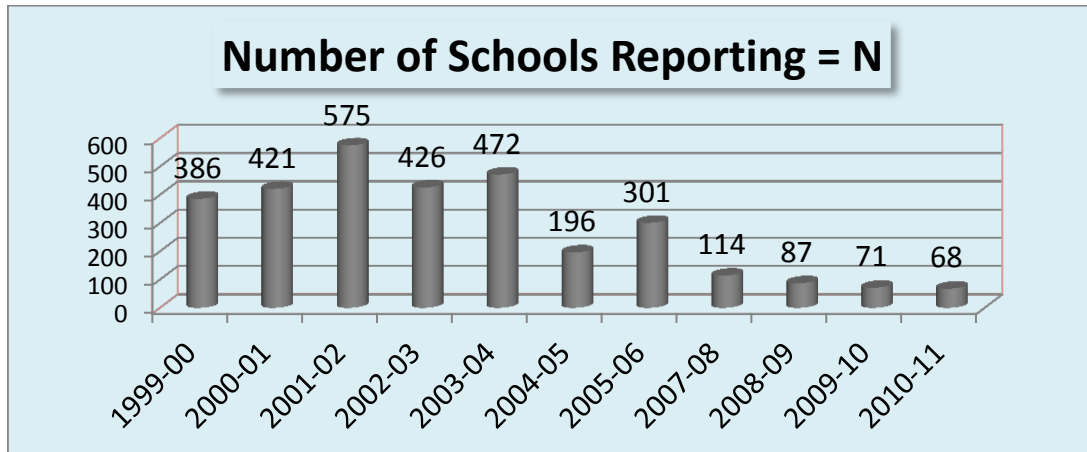
Overview of the Annual Data Collection and Report Processes

The Illinois Association of Student Assistance Professionals (IASAP) initiated an annual voluntary reporting process for school-based Student Assistance Programs (SAPs) in 1994. A common data collection form was distributed to SAPs around the state by IASAP delegates. The report was distributed for all school years from the 1993-1994 through the 2012-2013 school years with the exception of two school years. No data was collected for the 2006-2007 school year. During that year, the report was reviewed and revised by the Student Assistance Center and the Center for Prevention Research and Development to align the reporting categories with Student Assistance research-based standards of practice categories, school climate and positive youth development factors. Data for the 2011-2012 school year was not collected by the Student Assistance Center due to a temporary suspension of activities from March to July 2012.

Important Note: State funding for Student Assistance training and technical assistance, substitute staff expenses, and travel expenses for training were available through Federal Safe and Drug Free Schools funding administered through the Illinois State Board of Education from July 1, 2000 through June 30th 2003. This funding significantly influenced the number of active Student Assistance Programs developed in the state. The funding was eliminated from the governor's budget in FY 2004. The number of active SAPs has diminished since that funding elimination. Additionally, a number of schools that utilized SAPs services primarily for academic remediation converted their SAP teams to response to intervention tier 2 problem-solving teams.

Who is included in the data?

Data was reported each school year on a voluntary basis by schools implementing Student Assistance Programs across the state. The number of schools reporting (N) in any year does not represent the active number of Student Assistance Programs during that year. Based upon lists of active SAPs in the state maintained by the Student Assistance Center, it is estimated that 50% or less of active SAPs complete the report each year.



How is the data collected?

A two-page report form is distributed by the Student Assistance Center (since 2008) and the Illinois Association of Student Assistance Professionals each spring (since 1994). The report form has also been available online each year since 2007. The questions asked on the report have been consistent and have changed only slightly since 1999. Currently, most SAPs complete the report in Microsoft Word and email to the Student Assistance Center. Prior to that, SAPs typically filled in the blanks on the report and either faxed or mailed the report to the Student Assistance Center beginning in 2008. From 2004-2006, a contractor collected the data. Prior to 2004, a volunteer IASAP member collected the data.

What data is available?

Raw data numbers are available for school years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11. Annual reports giving some of the data for each year are available for school years 2000-2008. Raw data is not available for those years. Neither raw data nor reports are available from 1994 through 1999. **The abbreviation NA is used for any data that is not available.**

Data collected was relatively consistent throughout the years.

Who writes the data reports?

Reports have been written by a 'report team' throughout the reporting periods (1994-2011). The report team has been composed of volunteer IASAP members who have been master's

level professionals and certified Student Assistance Professionals. The Student Assistance Center has written reports for the 2007-2008 and the 2008-2009 school years. A formal report was not written for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years although data was collected.

What is reported?

Typical data reported each year includes the numbers of referrals for indicated level Student Assistance services, the number of students receiving SAP prevention programs and activities at the universal level of service, and the number of students who improved at the indicated level as a result of those services. Additional data includes numbers of parents engaged in the Student Assistance process, percentages of referrals from staff, parents, and students; reasons for referral to the SAP; primary types of interventions used at the indicated level of service; types of school-based and community-based interventions used; and school climate improvements.

Data reporting varied throughout the data collection years based upon the report team's vision for reporting. This variation poses problems in consistently reporting data for each question throughout the collection years.

How are the reports used?

A 12 page commercially printed report was distributed to IASAP board of directors members each February during the annual conference for the 1994-2008 data collection periods. The 36-member board would then distribute the reports to individuals in their respective regions around the state. Additionally, all annual IASAP conference attendees received a copy of the report in their conference materials.