STUDENT ASSISTANCE CENTER

at PREVENTION FIRST
Building community capacity to prevent substance abuse

SAC *QUICK*tips:
FORMATIVE EVALUATION

During the early implementation stages of SAP, formative evaluation should be on the minds of everyone involved. Data collection to answer the evaluation questions can come at various points rather than collected at one time as with summative evaluation.

Formative evaluation questions look at how SAP services are being delivered, whether the services are appropriate for the population, consistency of services, and whether those need to change or be amended with the intent to strengthen, improve and refine services. Formative questions help to strengthen documentation, encourage fidelity to program standards, and identify challenges to quality implementation.

Data collection methods can utilize archival data, program records, and interviews. SAP formative evaluation can look at several areas:

How many students were served by the SAP compared to the number planned for services? What impacted any changes in the number? How many of these were and were not part of the 'target' population?

How were prevention lessons delivered (number, time, schedule, etc.) compared to how lessons were planned?

How many students were served be educational support groups compared to numbers planned? How were sessions delivered compared to lessons planned?

How many students with policy violations were connect to SAP for services?

What types of dissatisfaction were reported be staff, parents or students about program services?

What types of positive sentiment were reported be staff, parents or students about program services?

What types of sentiment were reported be community agencies working with the SAP?

What do we need to more of or less of based on our data?

Resources on prevention.org – Professional Resources – Student Assistance Center: Navigating the Course: a Student Assistance Program Sustainability Guide; Student Assistance Program Guidebook: A Resource for Schools.