



# The High Plan

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# Research Question

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**H<sub>1</sub>: There is a difference between the importance of community health problems among high school students and local health policy decision-makers in LaSalle County?**



# Goal

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**The goal of this research will be to increase awareness among health policy decision-makers about the health concerns of high school students in LaSalle County.**



# Method

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## **Who?**

**Six high school health science classes**

## **What?**

**Survey to rank importance of selected health problems**



# **Method (cont'd)**

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**Where?**

**Streator High School**

**Why?**

**To compare with LaSalle County IPLAN  
information**



# **Results:**

## **Respondent Characteristics**

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**N=146**

**median age=15**

**mostly Freshmen (77%)**

**mostly male (58%)**



# Results: Data

## Rank of health issues

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### High-school student respondents

- 1: Sexually transmitted diseases**
- 2: Drugs**
- 3: Alcohol**
- 4: Anorexia**

### Community health decision-makers

- 1: Substance abuse**
- 2: Family violence**
- 3: Access to dental health care**
- 4: Access to health care**



# Results: Interpretation

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- ❁ **Students and community health decision-makers both identified substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) as top health priorities**
- ❁ **Community health decision-makers are more concerned with health care system issues whereas students are concerned with individual health-related issues.**



# Research Recommendations

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- ❁ **Students are more concerned with their individual health than that of their surrounding community.**
- ❁ **Reaching students about health issues should first address how the issue impacts the individual and relate individual impact on community health.**



# Future Research Recommendations

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- ❁ **Conduct an experiment that would identify if a classroom intervention relating individual needs with community resources would improve health among high school students and usage of community health services.**