

Helping **Young** **Smokers** *Quit*

Identifying Best Practices for Tobacco Cessation

Relationship between Community Support for Youth Tobacco Cessation and the Availability of Youth Smoking Cessation Programs

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Paper presented at the American Public Health Association, Washington, DC, November 3-7, 2007.

Helping Young Smokers Quit is a national program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with direction and technical assistance provided by UIC.

TODAY'S GOALS

- Describe the availability of community-based youth smoking cessation programs.
- Analyze community-level factors associated with program availability and describe modeling challenges
- Discuss policy and advocacy strategies to support and enhance program availability

HYSQ Team

UIC Institute for Health Research & Policy

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Helping Young Smokers Quit:

Identifying Best Practices for Tobacco Cessation

- Multi-year, Three-Phase Initiative
- Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Cancer Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Based at University of Illinois at Chicago

HYSQ Mission and Activities

- Overall Mission:
 - Accelerate knowledge about effective interventions for youth tobacco cessation
- Activities
 - Phase I: National survey of programs
 - Phase II: Program evaluations
 - Phase III: Sustainability survey
 - Synthesis of ‘best practices’ in cessation programming
 - Self-evaluation tool-kit

Phase I National Survey

- Identify national sample of existing cessation resources for youth
 - Snowball key informant surveys in 408 selected US counties to identify programs
- Profile programs
 - Telephone interviews with program administrators

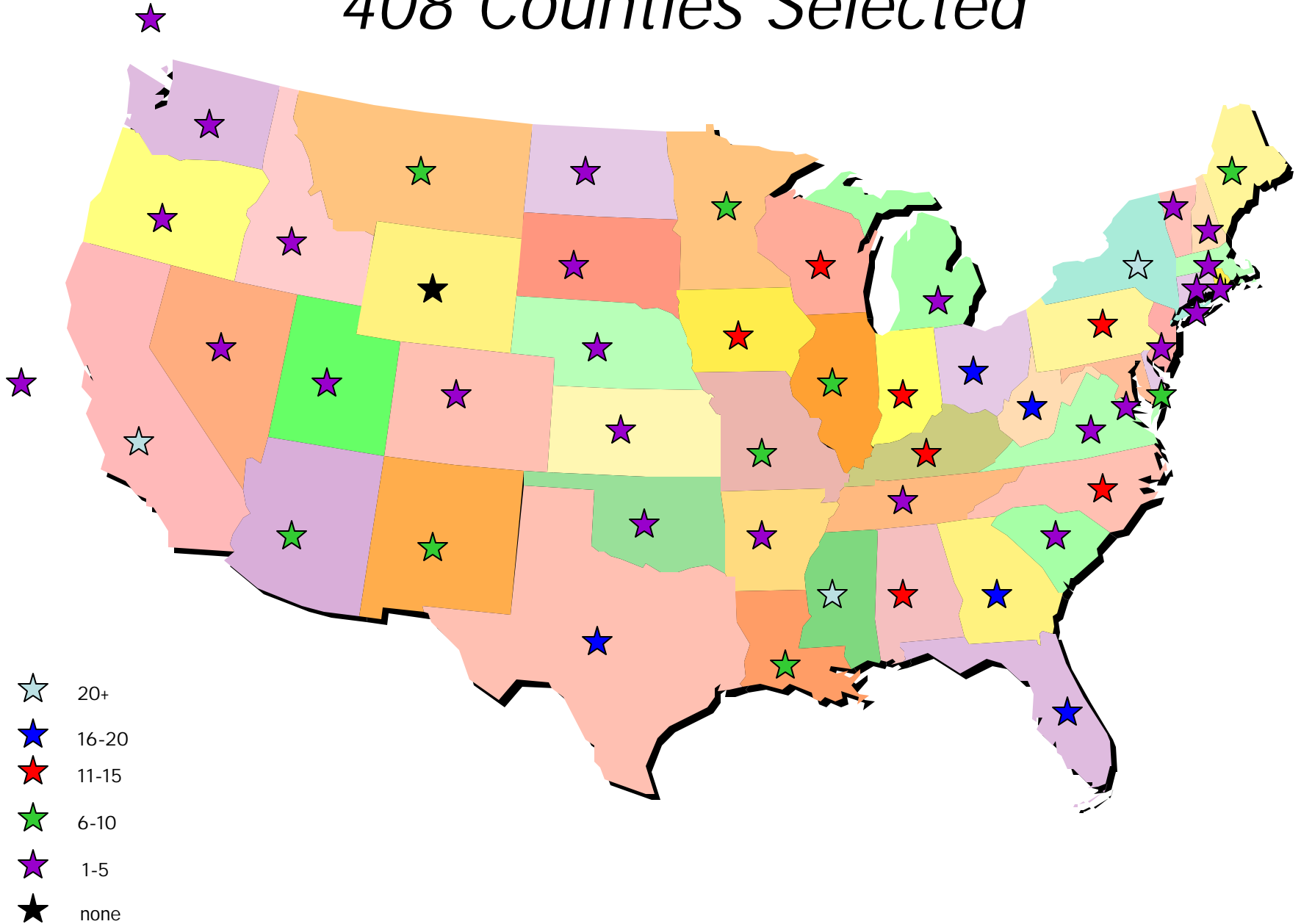
Definition of Youth Tobacco Cessation Program

- Tobacco cessation recognized component of TX program
- Provides direct services to youth aged 12-24
- At least 50% of program participants are aged 12-24
- Program is not part of research initiative
- Program in operation for at least 6 months

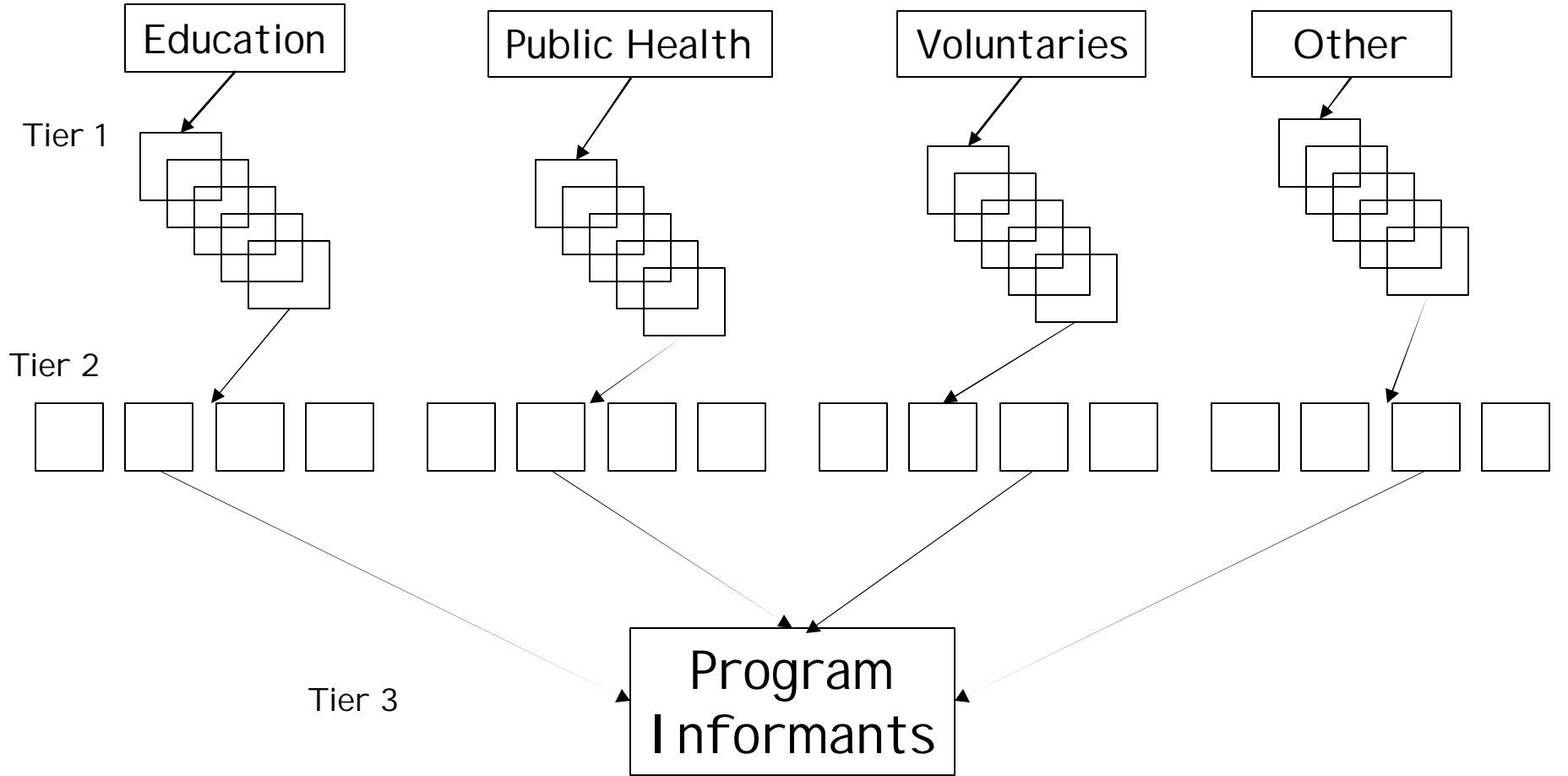
Sampling Methodology

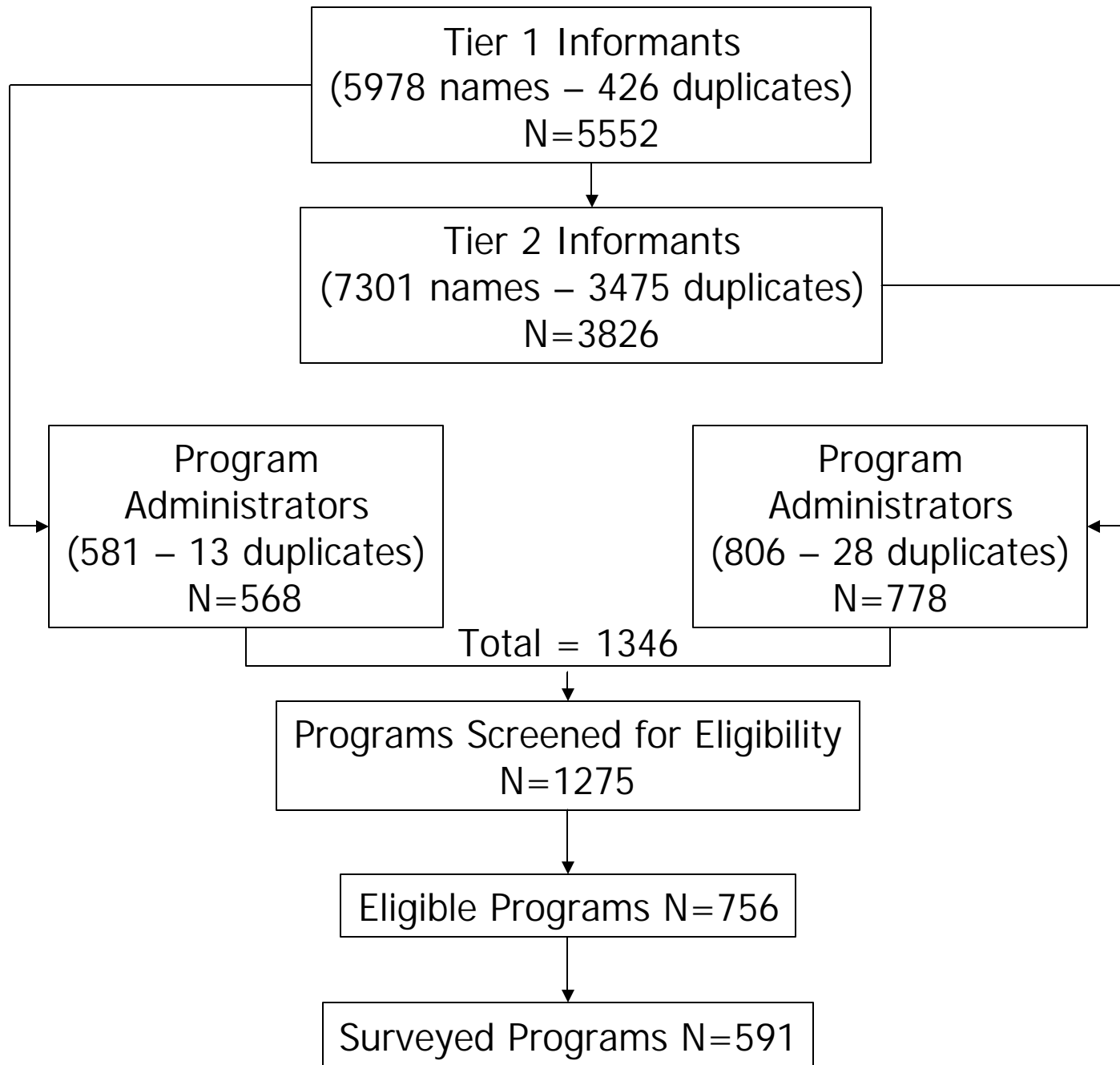
- Sample counties or groups of contiguous counties with probability proportional to size
- Size measure based on youth population (12-24 yrs)
- Counties stratified based on:
 - Urban or rural
 - % below poverty level
 - State investment in tobacco control (high, medium, low)

408 Counties Selected



Community Sectors





Community Context Questions:

Asked of every key informant identified (n= 10,724;
6515 answered both questions below)

- “Thinking about tobacco use among youth, how would you rank it as a priority concern in your community, where 1 is lowest and 10 is the highest priority?”
- “Overall, how much of a priority would you say that the leaders in your community place on youth tobacco cessation? Would you say it’s a high priority, somewhat of a priority, or not a priority at all for your community leaders?”

What factors did we think might be associated with program availability?

- State level
 - Tobacco control expenditures
 - Community context
 - Smoking prevalence
- County level
 - Youth population (number 10-24 year olds per 1000 population)
 - Number of Key Informants
 - Community context
 - Socioeconomic status
 - Urban/rural

Program Availability: the punch line

- 591 Programs identified and profiled
- 62% of counties had one or more programs
- Program availability is associated with
 - Size of youth population
 - State tobacco control expenditures
 - Community Context

A simple question turned into a complex model

- Four levels of data
- Unbalanced structure
 - Item
 - Key informant (n=1-123)
 - County (n=1-33)
 - State (n=49)
- Measuring latent variables (community context)

Statistical Method

- GLAMM with WinBUGS modification
 - Hierarchical Modeling: good with unbalanced structure; not great with measurement/latent variables)
 - SEM: good with measurement/latent variables; not great with unbalanced structure
 - GLAMM: good with measurement/latent variables and unbalanced structure; cannot accommodate random effects of latent variables.

Lessons from modeling

Results were different when data structure was not taken into account

- Community Context variable did not hang together in simple models
- Even individual items were not associated with program availability

Lessons from research

- Programs available in nearly 2/3 of counties
- Tobacco control expenditures positively associated with program availability
- Community context: what leaders think about priority of youth tobacco use matters