

ASR Analyses After-School Literacy Programs for One East Palo Alto

Last spring, **One East Palo Alto**, with funding from the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**, contracted with Applied Survey Research to perform research and analysis of community-based after-school literacy programs that serve three East Palo Alto elementary schools. ASR designed a survey instrument that collected data regarding student characteristics, program exposure, program characteristics, parental involvement, and instructional staff characteristics for eight after-school programs. ASR then compared the data to the results of its best practices research, and made recommendations for optimal alignments between the community-based programs and district-supported after-school programs. ASR also suggested that one program be selected to pilot a number of its recommended interventions. ASR has subsequently been asked to provide technical assistance to the selected pilot program.

ASR Seeks Partners for the 2004 Community Indicators Conference

The theme of this conference, sponsored by the **Quality Indicators Consortium**, is “**Advancing the Science and Practice of Community Indicators.**” The conference will be held in Reno, Nevada in mid March 2004. ASR is considering attending this conference because the purpose—to increase the knowledge base of the science and art of community indicators—is also a fundamental goal of ASR. If you are interested in partnering with ASR to attend or present at this conference, please contact Kelly Pleskunas at (831) 728-1356.

ASR Helps San Bernardino County Take the Next Steps in Homeless Remediation

In August, Applied Survey Research (ASR) completed the *San Bernardino County 2003 Homeless Census and Survey* for the **Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County**. San Bernardino County is the largest county in the continental United States, making accurately counting the homeless population an ambitious yet immensely important undertaking. Armed with a wealth of valuable data, the Community Action Partnership asked ASR to assist in developing an action plan to remediate homelessness.

To this end, ASR is facilitating the work of an Action Team, consisting of approximately 60 members who are key partners in social services and the homeless service community. The goal of this action team is to turn the ASR report information into effective action to provide solutions for the County’s homeless

population, which is estimated to annually range from 14,861 to 23,549 people. ASR is pleased to be part of this partnership that uses valuable data to build better communities.

ASR Facilitates the Initiation of a Nationwide Smoking Cessation Program

ASR recently facilitated the work of a 14-member task force of the American Dental Hygienist Association (ADHA) to launch a national initiative to routinely screen their patients for tobacco use. Currently, only 25% of dental hygienists ask patients if they use tobacco. If the patient indicates they want to quit, the hygienists can refer patients to cessation resources.

To help turn the curve on reducing tobacco use, the ADHA set a target goal using Results Based Accountability facilitated by ASR that by 2006 50% of dental hygienists will routinely screen patients regarding rates of tobacco use, type, and amount. The 2006 target will be supported by ADHA's adoption of a training program for ADHA current and potential members; adoption of University Tobacco Use Assessment and Referral curriculum; the promotion of quitlines nationwide; and by garnering the supportive activities of related health organizations.

ASR in the News

On October 1st, the *Register-Pajaronian* highlighted the good health of Santa Cruz County residents in an article titled "Living in a healthy community." The article is based on data from the Santa Cruz County Community Project. ASR has been compiling this report for the past nine years for the United Way of Santa Cruz County.

On September 6th, the *Register-Pajaronian* published an article titled "Five questions with Lisa Fraser – Educator, Consultant." As the title alludes, the author interviewed Lisa Fraser, ASR's Director of Community Research, about her position at ASR and her experiences as a middle school principal and as Director of the California Center for Baldrige in Education. Lisa is currently directing ASR's capacity building and evaluation projects for the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and for First 5 Santa Cruz County.

Please visit the ASR pressroom at <http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/press.htm>.

ASR Is Here For You!

ASR is a leader in providing your organization with valuable data and making that data work for you. We also specialize in program planning, setting performance measures, and a wide variety of other assessment and evaluation services. If you have data requirements that can help you sustain your programs or initiatives, call us to see how we can help you. Please contact Susan Brutschy or Lisa Fraser at our Watsonville office at (831) 728-1356 or Lisa Colvig-Amir at our San Jose office at (408) 944-0606 to discuss the many ways in which we can help facilitate your goals.

We encourage you to forward the ASR eNews to any interested party. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to our free newsletter, or if you wish to offer feedback on how we might improve either this publication or our services, send an email to: reports@appliedsurveyresearch.org. To view past issues of ASR eNews, please visit the archives at www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/newsletter.htm.