

Bi-County Senior Connection (Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County-Senior Services and Livingston County Catholic Charities)

CMHPSM Priority Area: Reduce Prescription and over-the-Counter Drug Abuse/Misuse

Substance Abuse Prevention 2018-19 Program Brief



317

Older Adults Participated in Get Connected Session

Risk Factors

77% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Signs and Symptoms of Substance Use

74% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Risks of Mixing Medications/Alcohol

80% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Importance of Staying Connected

81% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Medication Tools

84% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Community Resources

93% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Know How To Get Help

76% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Proper/Safe Medication Disposal

94% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Importance of Communicating with the Doctor

88% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

Get Connected Brochure

90% Reported an increased awareness in the subject

“It’s Never Too Late”- Photovoice

Substance use among older adults

87% Reported an increased awareness in the subject due to a change in perception after Photo Voice

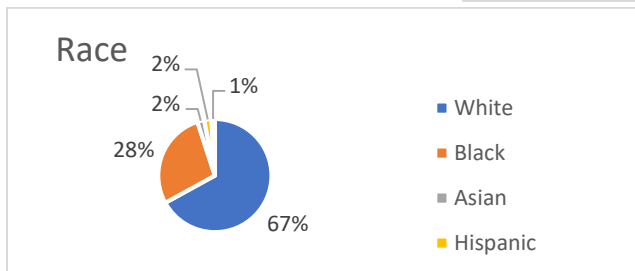
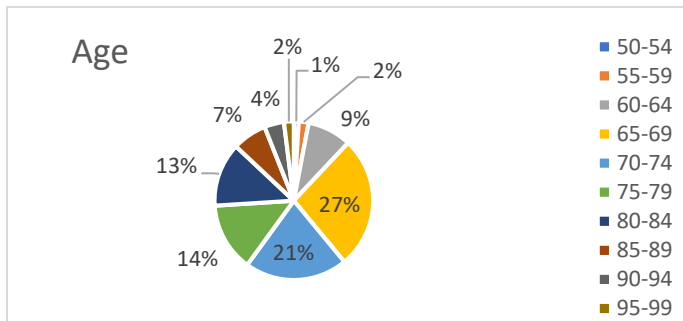
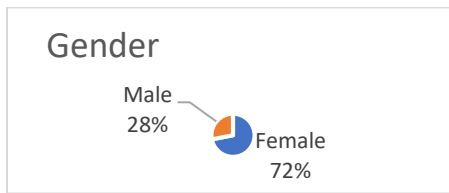
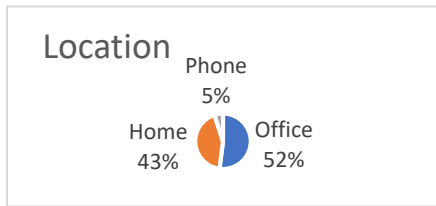
Impact of substance use on lives of older adults

81% Reported an increased awareness in the subject due to a change in perception after Photo Voice



513 viewed the traveling exhibit: “It’s Never Too Late” Photovoice project

269 shared their experience



Cage Screening: 164
 older adults were screened for vulnerability including alcohol and prescription drug misuse/abuse

15% were identified as being in crises or vulnerable in or more areas and received additional services.

2018-19 Project Data Suggests:

- That many older adults still did not know of safe methods to dispose of medication and have un-used medication in the home.
- That more older adults have an increased understanding of opioid-related risk than last year.
- That more older adults are discussing medication concerns/pain management options with their Doctor and Pharmacist (how to take, risks, and that they are more aware of the risks in using pain medication.)

Focus Areas

1. **Risk factors for substance/medication misuse**
2. **Signs and symptoms of substance/medication misuse**
3. **Risks associated with mixing medications and alcohol**
4. **Staying connected (hobbies, clubs, family, friends)**
5. **Medications tools (pill caddies, personal drug records, etc.)**
6. **Community Resources**
7. **Where to get help for medication or alcohol-related problem**
8. **Safe medication disposal and Red Barrel**
9. **Communicating with doctor/pharmacist**
10. **Get Connected Brochure and bookmark as useful tools.**

Photovoice Focus Areas

1. **Awareness of Substance abuse among older adults**
2. **How substance abuse can impact the lives of older adults/caregivers/family**



Older Adult Comments:

“Change is possible no matter what your age is”



“The Get Connected resource directory is excellent”

“The Get Connected presentation gave me confidence in my medication practices”

“Personal stories are a great resource to learn”

Community Partners



- **Alzheimer's Support Group**
- **Brighton Senior Center**
- **Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County Home Injury Prevention program**
- **Livingston County Catholic Charities Caregiver Support Group**
- **Clark East Towers**
- **Court House Squares**
- **First United Methodist**
- **Fowlerville Community Event**
- **Fowlerville Senior Center**
- **Fowlerville UM Church**
- **Grace Lutheran-Howell**
- **Independence Village**
- **Madonna University-Nursing Students**
- **Millpond**
- **Northfield Senior Ctr**
- **Oaks-Adult Day interns**
- **Parkridge Community Festival**
- **Putnam Senior Ctr**
- **Saint Joseph Mercy, Home Care**
- **Saint Joseph Mercy-Ann Arbor, Trauma Dept.**
- **Saint Joseph Mercy-Breather's Club**
- **IVCP Volunteer Caregiver Program**
- **Washtenaw County Opioid Summit**

