

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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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.

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

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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

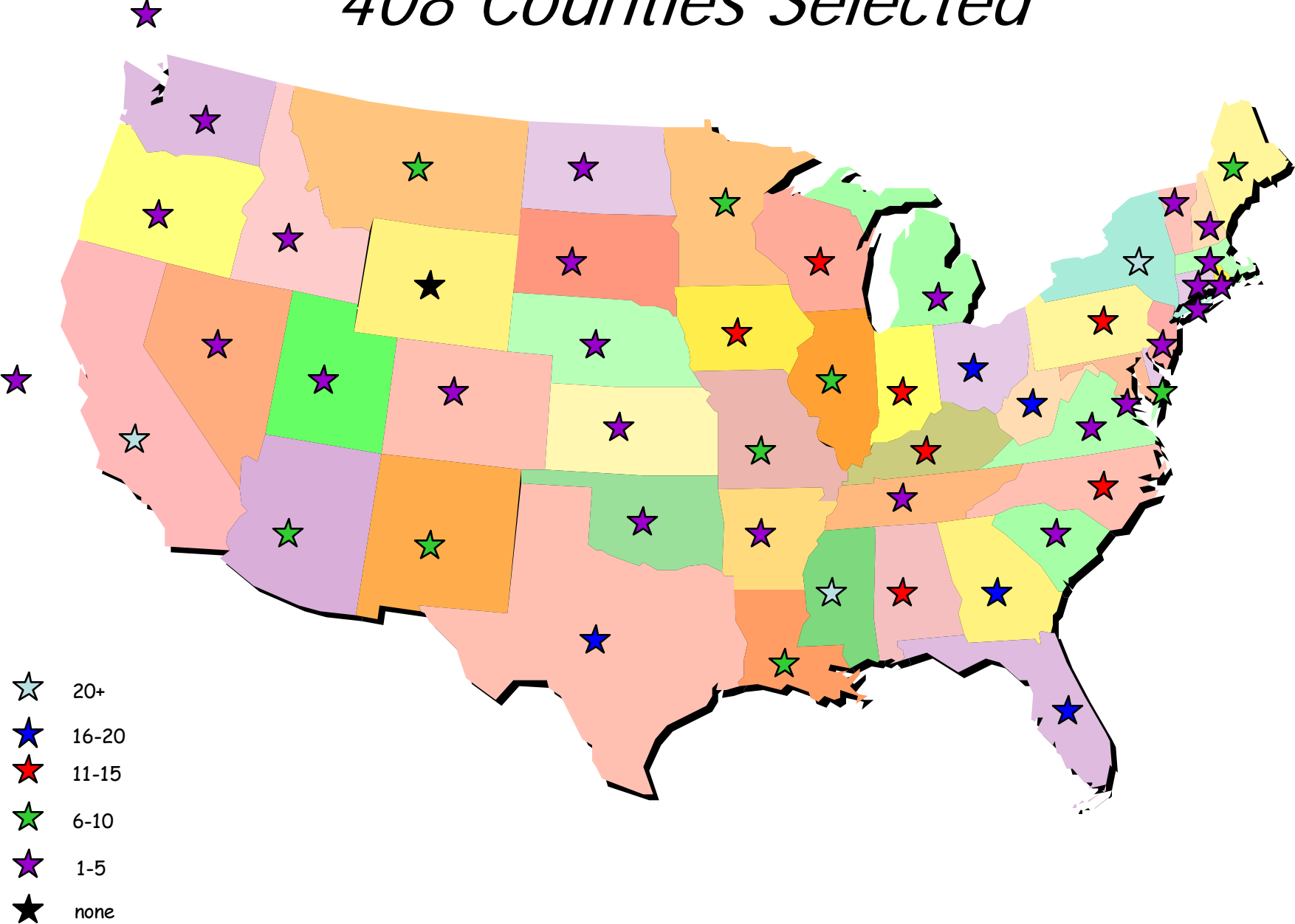
Definition of Youth Tobacco Cessation Program

- 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

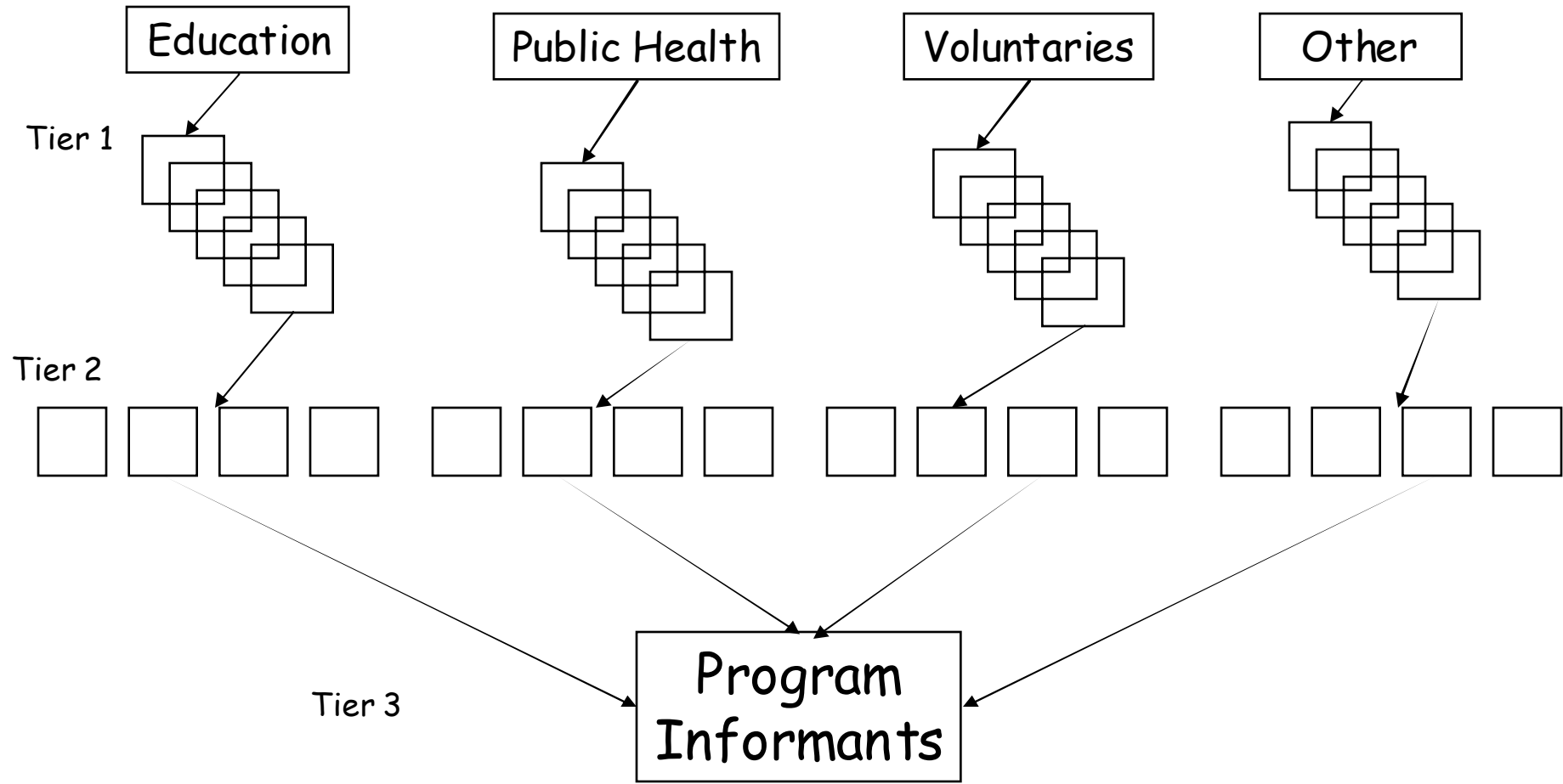
Sampling Methodology

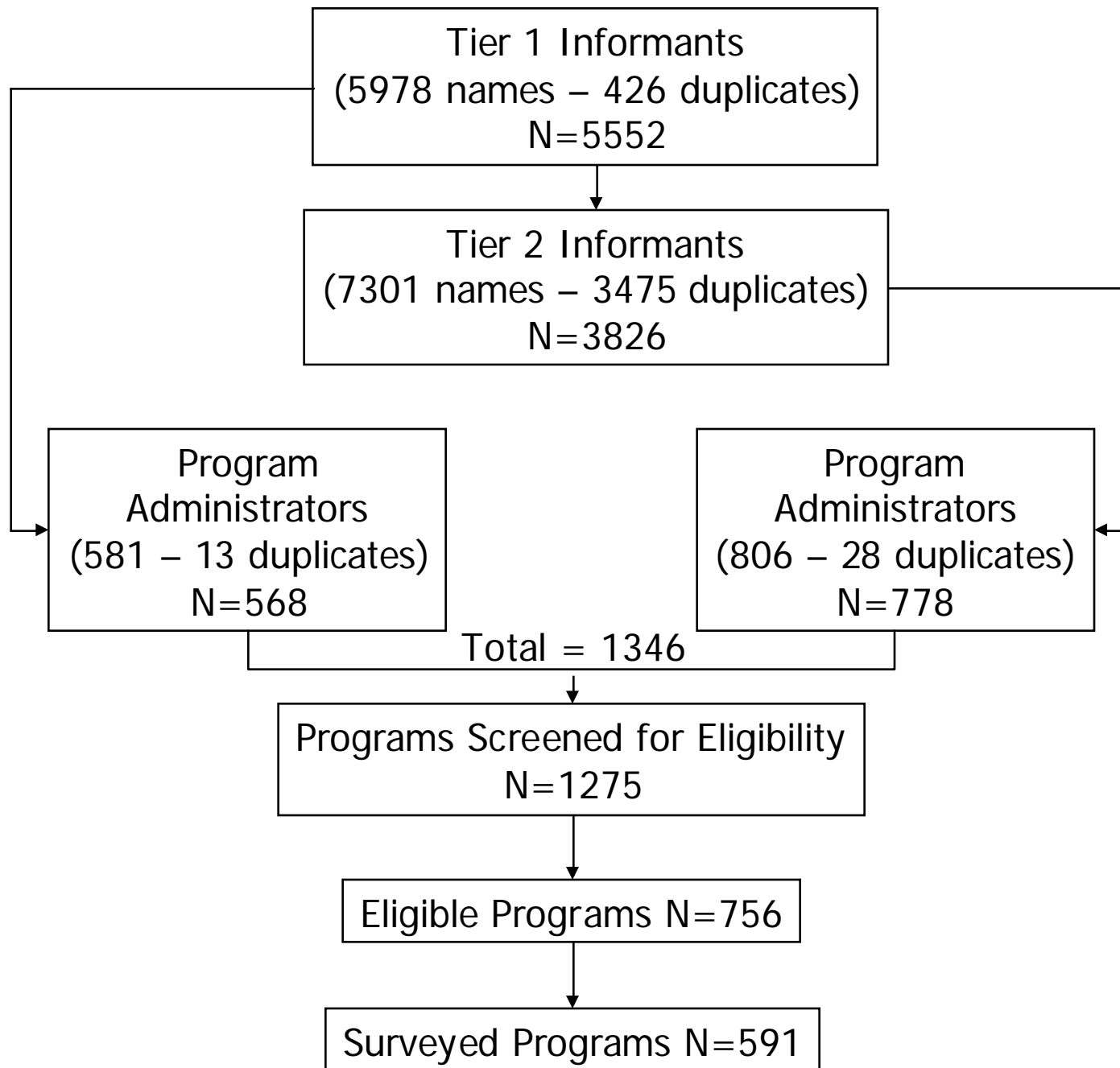
- Sample counties or groups of contiguous counties with probability proportional to size
- Size measure based on youth population (12-24 yrs)
- Counties stratified based on:
 - Urban or rural
 - % below poverty level
 - State investment in tobacco control (high, medium, low)

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