



# Impact of Poverty

## Buffalo Public School District Health Related Services

Buffalo Poverty Research Workshop IV  
Friday, March 1, 2013

Assunta Ventresca, R.N., M.S.M., Director  
[arventresca@buffaloschools.org](mailto:arventresca@buffaloschools.org)  
716-816-3912

# Poverty Impacts on Health & Learning

## Developmental

- Begins before birth: quality of mother nutrition and prenatal care
- Parent-child interactions
- Less access to learning-oriented toys
- Less access to developmentally appropriate activities

## Asthma

- Environmental
- Access to preventive health care

## Obesity

- Lack of opportunities for physical activity
- Lack of access to nutritionally dense foods

# Variables that Increase the Risk of a Child Living in Poverty

- Teen Mother
- Mother unmarried at time of child's birth
- Mother does NOT obtain high school diploma or GED

Risk increases with each additional variable

- 27% higher if one variable is present
- 42% higher if two variables are present
- 64% higher if three variables are present

If NONE of these variables are present the risk of living in poverty is 7%

# Poverty Limits the Chances of Educational Attainment

Children living in poverty are at risk for:

- Poor Health
- Social Emotional Problems

Poor Health and Social Emotional Problems Impact on  
Academic Success

Educational attainment is one of the prime mechanism for  
escaping poverty

# BPS Current Reality

87.74% Free & Reduced Lunch

Physical activity

- Bussing – 90%
- Limited opportunities during school day

Nutrition

- Free breakfast & lunch for all – started fall 2012
- Breakfast in the classroom – started fall 2011

Behavior Health Risks (BPS YRBS report)

- Higher rate of suicidal thoughts /attempts
- Rate of sexual activity/early engagement

Health Education

Health Service:

- Nurse in every school & 13 School Based Health Centers
  - Immunization monitoring, administer meds/treatments, first aid, etc...
- Dental screening/services initiated spring 2012
- STD testing pilot in one high school

# Strategies

Partnerships/Collaborations

Shared Vision: *Healthy School Communities*

Wellness Policy

- Framed on CDC's Coordinated School Health

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

- Sexual Forums Held

Health Committees Established

- Diverse Stakeholders

School Health/Wellness Teams

- Complete School Health Index
- Develop Wellness Plan

# Moving Forward

## Physical Activity

- Meet NYS Regulations for Physical Education
- Daily Recess PK-6 & infuse physical activity in classroom

## Nutrition

- Meet USDA requirements and wellness policy
- Garden Tool Kit

## Health Education

- Introducing a new health curriculum
- HS Seniors offered sexual health education this spring

## Health Services

- Expand dental services/STI testing/grade level physicals
- Assure families have access to health insurance

Establish Mental, Emotional & Behavioral Health Committee

# 8 Components of Coordinated School Health

