

## Telling the Story of a Comprehensive Prevention Strategy and Community Saturation

### **Purpose**

Some of the most important characteristics of effective intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention strategies are:

- Comprehensive: implementing multiple components in various settings at all levels of the social ecology or across the Spectrum of Prevention©
- Sufficient dosage: community members are exposed to enough programming to have a potential impact; activities “saturate rather than sprinkle”
- Appropriately timed: activities are developmentally appropriate and the strategy includes a continuum of activities for different age groups

An evaluation report that focuses on results for each separate activity, however, may fail to describe the “big picture” of the overall strategy. A “saturation matrix” is a template for visually displaying how different activities fit together to make a comprehensive strategy. Since many IPV and SV programs implement activities within multiple school districts (or school buildings), the saturation matrix is also a way to display the program’s reach into different schools and to describe the developmental progression of activities across the grade levels. In addition to providing a way to highlight the comprehensive nature of a project, a saturation matrix can also be used to quickly assess areas where dose, reach, or comprehensiveness is lacking.

The saturation matrix can also be used as a “dashboard” report for presenting actual outputs for a specific time period by inserting the number of participants for each activity.

### **Template**

The Comprehensive Prevention Saturation Matrix template and example are just starting places for telling your story. The example provided here is from a county-level IPV/SV prevention project with a focus on implementing a range of activities in all the school districts in their rural county. School districts are therefore used for the columns. However, other entities and community settings could be represented by the columns, such as school buildings within a large district, neighborhoods, faith communities, population groups, or levels of the social ecology or spectrum of prevention.