

EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

The Geelong Project and The Upstream Project

RESEARCH EXCHANGE GROUP ON COST &
VALUE IN HEALTHCARE

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Geelong Project

- Geelong (Australia) is an early identification / intervention approach for the prevention of future youth homelessness. It focusses on keeping youth connected to education, their families and their communities.
- Using a Youth Focused and Family Centered Approach, the Geelong Project connects schools and community services to identify young people who are at high-risk of becoming homeless.

The Upstream Model

- A Way Home Canada and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, are supporting the adaptation of the model to a Canadian Context called “The Upstream Project.”

Geelong project snapshot:

Screening

- Student Needs Survey (SNS) – Compares at-risk students to the general population. Referrals are jointly decided between the team and schools.

Service Delivery

- The Geelong is based on a 3 tier system based on need.
 - Tier 1 – Non- Case work response. Includes referral to other services – promises further monitoring.
 - Tier 2- Case work support – brief counseling type of work, Some case management by the team.
 - Tier 3 – Wrap around case management – most intensive and used for cases that require multi services.
- Young people can go in and out of the tiers depending on need, and can be monitored until graduation.

Geelong Project - Notable Outcomes

- Geelong proactively identified and intervened with 95 young people and 43 family members.
- 100 % of young people remained engaged in school, increased engagement or returned to school.
- 100 % of the young people supported have retained or obtained safe, sustainable accommodation.
 - 82.2% remained or returned to home of origin
 - 13.8 were supported into alternative accommodation when home was not appropriate.

Relevance to Educational Outcomes Work in NL

- Therefore, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable 10-15% of the school population is not only an educational issue.
- Early intervention has been shown to provide a lifetime of cost savings (\$16,000 per year for each school drop out avoided)

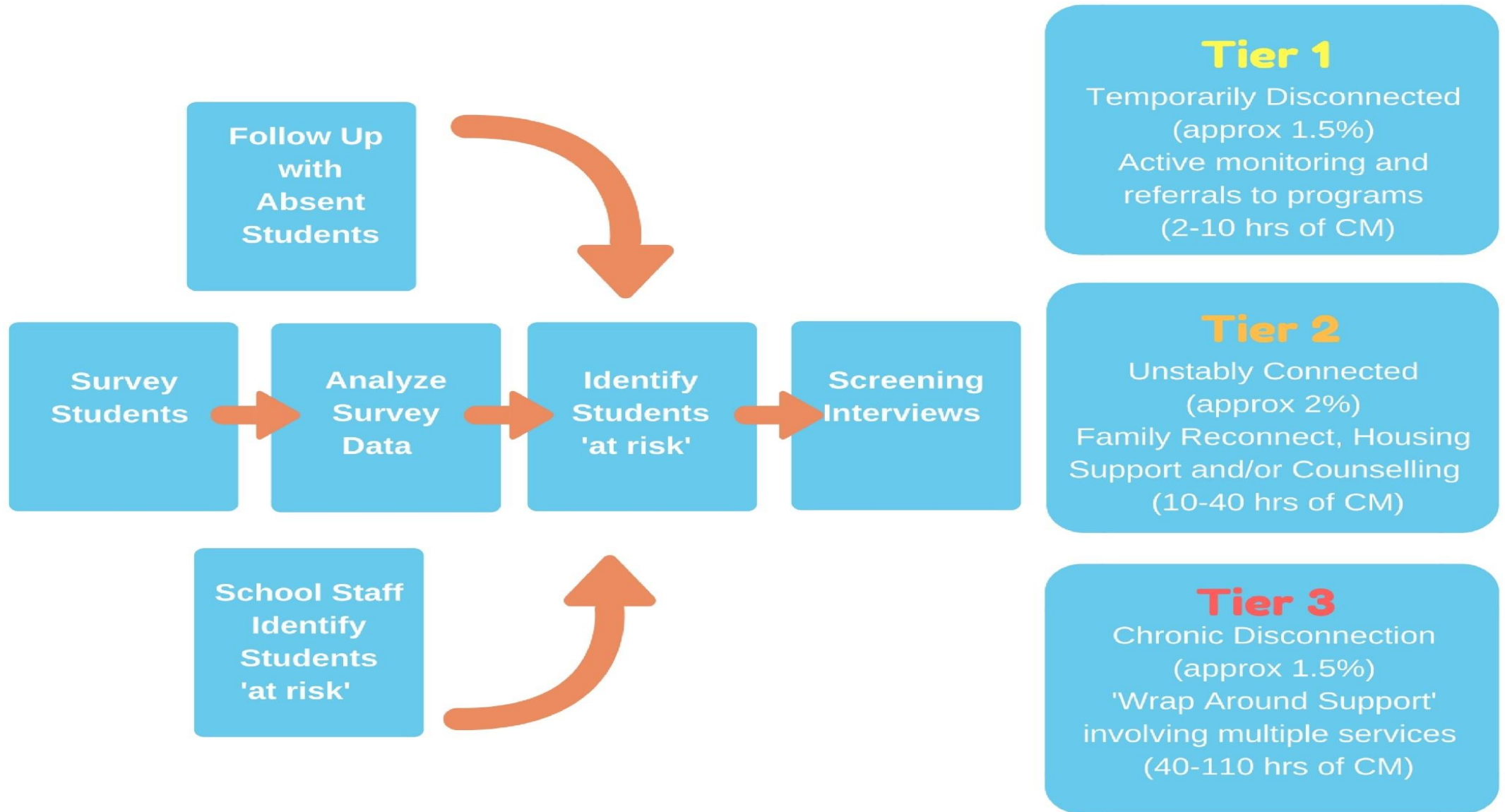
Upstream Project - 4 components

- 1) Collective Impact – the project brings together schools, community groups, government agencies, and other key people.
- 2) Population Screening – Uses a peer-reviewed screening tool that identifies youth at risk.
- 3) Flexible Service Delivery Model – Based on four core principals.
 - i) Place based approach – Keeping youth in their communities
 - ii) No wrong door – Breaking down barriers to access
 - lii) Youth centered/family focused – preserving natural supports
 - iv) Step up-Step down – Provides appropriate level of intervention in real time.
- 4) Outcome measurement
 - Outcome star – evaluation tool effective for case management.
 - All data is analyzed through program and process evaluation.

Upstream Project - Goals

1. Transform the way we respond to youth homelessness by **shifting the focus to prevention**
2. **Reduce the number of young people who experience homelessness**
3. **Support Canadian communities** with planning and implementation of school-based prevention programs based on the TGP model
4. Noticeably **reduce school drop-out rates, family breakdown and involvement in crime**
5. Significantly **increase school engagement, graduation rates and access to safe, stable housing**

Upstream Process



Why does prevention matter in education?

- The same factors that lead a youth to homelessness, are typically the same ones that lead to youth dropping out of school. Integrated models of early identification and intervention are key to collaborative system redesign to move away from traditional crisis driven responses.

School-community partnerships

- “School-based prevention approaches can help the education system identify and quickly intervene when young people are at risk of homelessness or dropping out of school. These programs provide the necessary supports to reduce these risks, strengthen families, and keep youth in place. Typically based on collaborations between schools and local community services, these partnerships require a coordinated and strategic systems approach.”
(Coming of Age, 2017)

Educational Engagement, Vulnerability for Youth Homelessness

Coming of Age (1100 youth, 13-24, 47 communities, including 77 from St. John's)

- Ongoing Housing Instability (50% more than one place in a year)
- High Chronicity (31% chronic, 21% episodic)
- Nutrition (46% had access to healthy food only once a week or less)
- Mental Health (85% symptoms of distress)
- Educational Disengagement (53% drop out rate)
- Employment (75% unemployed)
- Criminal Victimization (68% victims of crime)
- St. John's youth homeless rate sits at 30%, National average is 20%

Additional Information

- <http://www.thegeelongproject.com.au/>
- In partnership with A Way Home Canada and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Dr. David Mackenzie will be in St. John's
 - November 13th: 8:30 - 12:00 presentation and dialogue at the NL Housing and Homelessness Network
 - November 13th: 6:30 - 9:00pm public presentation and panel in partnership with the Harris Centre (Vital Signs)

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