



CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP  
RICE UNIVERSITY

# HOUSTON ACTION RESEARCH TEAM



Rachel Moore, Ranie Lin, Charlie Dwight, Shannon Chen

## *Analyzing HFD's Community Safety Programs, Spring 2019*

This HART, comprised of undergraduate students from statistics, economics, and social policy analysis, partnered with the Houston Fire Department to devise a procedure to measure the effectiveness of HFD's public education programs. As part of their normal public outreach activities, HFD regularly performs fire safety puppet shows to teach important fire safety skills to young children; however, the department has never systematically evaluated the effectiveness of this or other related programs. After both identifying best practices for evaluating programs and performing a needs assessment, the team developed an activity sheet to measure changes in student's fire safety knowledge after viewing the puppet show. The team attended and evaluated a series of puppet shows as a case study and to test the general evaluation procedures, in order to make recommendations on how HFD can improve the effectiveness of their public education programs. Key recommendations include the need to ensure consistency within programs, target specific vulnerable populations for additional programs, proactively partner with other community organizations, and diversity program offerings to meet public needs.

### Puppet Show Scores Broken Down by Question

