

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
MID-YEAR TRAINING INSTITUTE

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THE POWER OF THE MOVEMENT



APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

State and Coalition Responses to the Federal Enforcement Priority Areas for Marijuana

Description:

Marijuana continues to be illegal as a Schedule I substance under Federal Law. Coalitions can play an important role in gathering and organizing information that might be helpful to federal prosecutors and their own communities. Participants in this session will learn about the 8 Enforcement Priorities set out by the U.S. Attorney General. They will then become familiar with the role that coalitions can play in collecting local information that aligns with these priority areas and how changes in marijuana law might impact each area of the Strategic Prevention Framework.

Taking It Home Worksheet

Speaker	What's Important	What Might Be Easiest?	First Action Step

Key Informant, Listening Session Questions

A word about data:

Remember- no single data source or type of data (key informant interviews, surveys, etc...) by itself is enough to create a set of strategies. The questions included here can have many different sources, but are really designed for face-to-face interaction. Please note that some of these questions can be answered through large-scale school surveys or other sources, but since you really need at least two types of data these questions also apply to interviews, focus groups, listening sessions, etc...

Questions to ask about use? (Typically used to address either the problem or the risk factors)

- Who is using? What ages?
- When are they using? After school, at school, weekends, at certain events, etc...?
- Where are they using?
- How much are they using?
- Are there any specific occasions that they are using?

Questions to ask around consequences:

- What consequences do we see from use in our community?
 - Health?
 - Financial?
 - Educational?
 - Legal?
 - Professional?
 - Employment?

BUT WHY? /BUT WHY HERE?

When identifying root causes (“but why”) and local conditions (“but why here?”) the questions should get at the context /environment in which use occurs. The questions should data collected should lead to local conditions that are specific, identifiable and actionable, meaning they should be something that you can see in the community – and a condition or behavior that can be changed.

Availability

If there is Retail Availability:

- Are youth accessing the substance(s) from retail vendors?
- Are stores selling paraphernalia that accompanies use? Which stores?
- Are they checking ID’s if necessary?
- Are store owners and staff trained in what is necessary for maintaining legal compliance?
- Are compliance checks conducted?
- What happens to those retailers who fail? Who pass?
- Are youth stealing from stores/outlets? Which ones?
- Are stores selling “substitutes” for the actual product? Or other products for which there are important negative community consequences but are still legal for youth to purchase?

If there is Social Availability:

- How are youth getting from non-retailer (social) sources?
- Who is providing? Friends, siblings, parents, strangers? When, under what conditions? Are there special occasions when this occurs?
- Are youth getting at parties? What kinds of parties (Adult parties?, Chaperoned? All youth? Before or after certain events? Etc...)
- How do they know where/when to go?

- Are parents providing or just not monitoring?
- Do youth have access at family or community events?

Favorable Youth/Peer Attitudes: Remember that local conditions need to be linked to risk factors. The challenge here is to gather data indicating that a certain kind of use relates to risk factors. For example, using around other youth or in areas where they are likely to be seen by other youth is potentially an indication of favorable attitudes by those youth. Likewise, using in front of adults or where they are likely to be caught by adults may indicate a youth perception of adult/parental approval.

- Do youth think they will get caught using the substance? By parents? By local law enforcement? At school?
- What are the actual legal, social or other consequences if they get caught?
- Do youth fear the consequences – are they meaningful and consistent for all?
- Where do youth use the substance? After school, before school, evenings, on weekends? Will they get caught at these locations? ()
- What are the practices around use? Is there a tendency to use large amounts over short time periods?
- What does “peer pressure” look like? (only youth can tell this)
- How are youth viewed by other youth when they use the substance?
- Do youth know the risk of physical harms of the substance? Of the harms associated with how they use (e.g. binge drinking has more severe consequences than other forms of drinking)?

Favorable Parental Attitudes:

- Do parents use the substance themselves? What are their patterns of use? Do youth see this use?
- Do parents know the harm caused by the substance use?
- Do parents see the substance use as culturally acceptable? How? Under what circumstances?
- Do parents take a “harm reduction” approach to use— e.g. take away the keys? Host parties where use occurs?
- Do parents talk with their children about substance use? Do they provide clear standards about no use and provide consistent consequences if caught?
- If the child has a party in the home or someone else’s home what do parents do?
- Do parents think other parents accept the substance use?

Community Laws and Norms: Important to remember that this works at two levels. On one level you may have laws (community laws) but they are not enforced (community norm is to NOT enforce). On another level, community norms need to be at the “community” level AND be a norm (regularly accepted), not just a youth norm. The youth norm of drinking during prom may or may not be a norm that is generally accepted by the community. When deciding on local conditions, it is important to know the difference, since “youth norms” is probably linked to the risk factor positive youth attitudes/acceptance.

Laws

- What laws are in place relating to substance?
- What is the perception of enforcement of these laws in the community?
- How much support is provided to law enforcement by the community to support the laws?
- Are the laws adjudicated? What is the follow up to an arrest or citation?
- Do youth perceive that laws are a) in place? b) enforced and c) adjudicated?

Community Norms

- Is the use of the substance associated with community events? Public events? Private events?
- Are there standards of behavior that excuse or promote the use of the substance? (for example, pressure to succeed that promotes the use of certain non-prescribed drugs?)
- What is the exposure of young people to these norms? Is the exposure more intense at certain times of the year? In certain places within the community?
- Are there “rites of passages” in the community that involve the substance? What are they?

Data Buckets for Federal Priorities

Category	Question	Sources
Distribution to Minors	<i>Are youth accessing marijuana through retail vendors?</i>	<i>Youth focus groups</i>
Drugged Driving	<i>Have marijuana related crashes increased?</i>	<i>Police Reports</i>
Use of Firearms	<i>Have there been any crimes where firearms have been used in the sale, manufacture, or distribution of marijuana?</i>	<i>Police Reports</i>
Public Safety	<i>What is the number of domestic violence calls that involve marijuana use?</i>	<i>Police Reports</i>

Data Buckets for Federal Priorities

Category	Question	Sources

Comprehensive Strategies / Intervention Map

Problem:

Risk Factor (But Why?):

Local Condition (But Why Here?):

Strategy	Intervention
Provide Information	
Build Skill	
Provide Support	
Access / Barriers	
Incentives / Disincentives	
Physical Design	
Policies or Regulations	

ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

ACTION	HOW? (Steps)	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?



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Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities. The National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute works to increase the knowledge, capacity and accountability of community anti-drug coalitions throughout the United States. CADCA's publications do not necessarily reflect the opinions of its clients and sponsors.

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CADCA National Coalition Institute
625 Slaters Lane, Suite 300, Alexandria VA 22314
Web site: www.cadca.org
Social network: <http://connectedcommunities.ning.com>
Telephone: 703-706-0560, ext. 240
Fax: 703-706-0579
E-mail: training@cadca.org

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