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Examples of Drug Prevention In Communities: What is the role of governments and the public?

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Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Rome, Italy
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Overview

- The Drug Free Communities (DFC) program in the United States
- Examples from the drug prevention coalition field
- CADCA's International Programs

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Community Based Drug Prevention Coalition Initiatives Before the DFC Program

- In 1990, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation created the Fighting Back Initiative.
    - Funded 14 communities

- Also in 1990 the Federal Government developed the Community Partnership Program,
    - Funded 251 community partnerships through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

- The DFC program was specifically designed based on the successes and the “lessons learned” from Robert Wood Johnson’s Fighting Back Initiative and CSAP’s Community Partnership program.

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1997 - The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

- National program of federal grants directly to community coalitions to reduce youth substance use

- Community coalitions can apply for up to $125,000 dollars per year for a period of up to five years

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DFC Program Requirements

To be eligible to compete for a DFC grant, a local coalition must:

- Have the reduction of substance abuse among youth as its principal mission
- Target multiple drugs
- Have active representation from the each of the 12 sectors
- Provide a dollar for dollar local match of Federal funds (can be in-kind)

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The DFC Program Has Broad Federal Support in Both the Administration and Congress

- Since it's inception, the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program has had:
  - the full support of 3 Presidential Administrations; and
  - broad bi-cameral, bi-partisan support from the U.S. Congress in terms of authorizations and appropriations

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- The DFC program has broad support in the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch because:
  - DFC grantees are data driven
  - DFC grantees have the necessary infrastructure to address both pervasive (e.g. , marijuana, methamphetamine, inhalants, cocaine, etc.) and emerging drug trends (e.g., K2/spice, bath salts and prescription drug abuse);
  - DFC grantees have reduced youth drug use levels in funded communities to levels lower than the national average

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The DFC Program Is A Central, Bi-partisan Component of U.S. Demand Reduction Strategy

- The DFC program has been a central component of the United Drug Control Strategy since its passage in 1998.

- Democratic and Republican Administrations have all highlighted the DFC program as a critical demand reduction component of the National Drug Control Strategy every year since the program's inception.

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The DFC Program

- The US has invested a total of $981.8 million in the DFC program since it began in 1998.
- Approximately 2,000 community anti-drug coalitions have been funded
- The US currently supports approximately 700 DFC grants and is investing $92 million annually in the DFC program.
- CADCA is the primary training and technical assistance provider for the program

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The Drug Free Communities program, has proven successful in reducing youth substance use.

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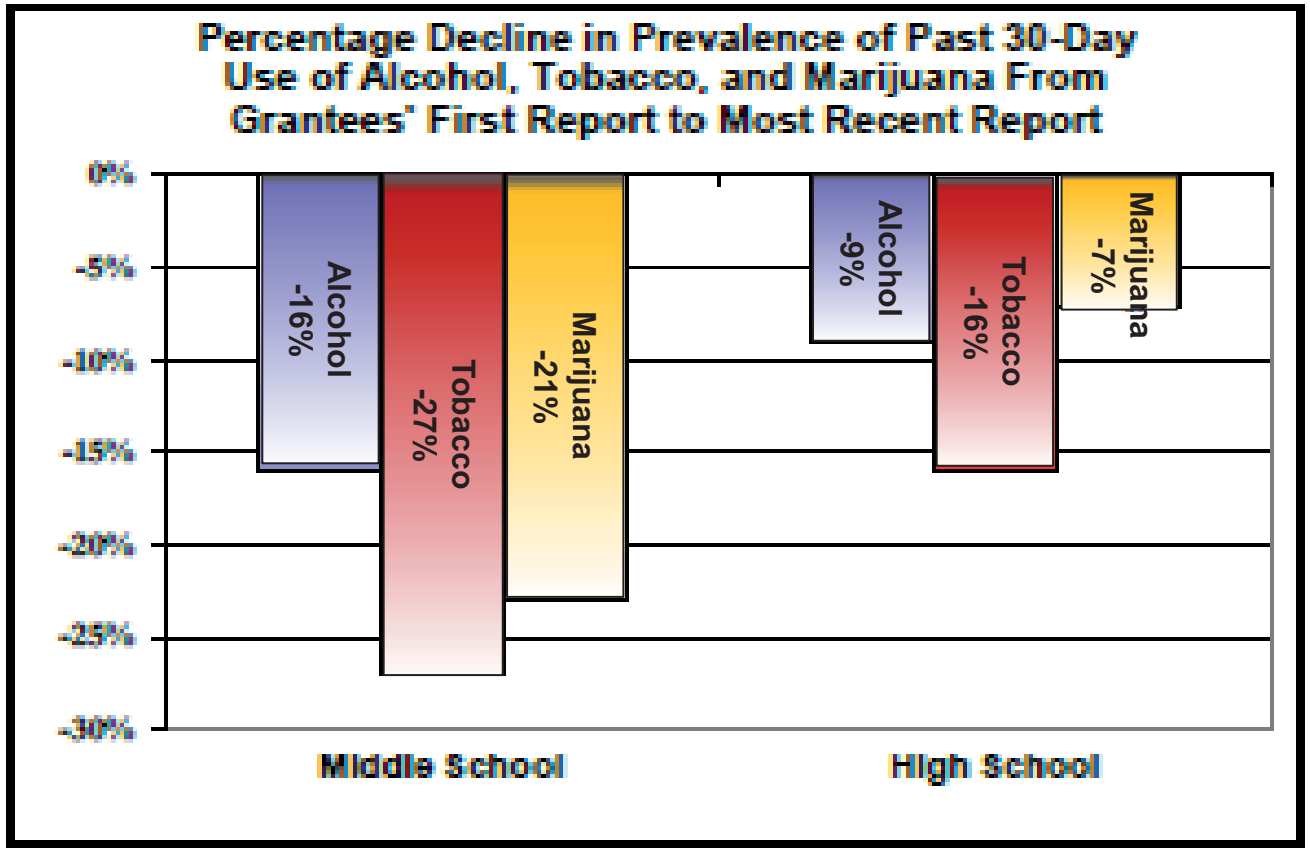




Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Program

- **Recent evaluation data indicate that where DFC dollars are invested, youth substance use rates are lower than in non DFC-funded communities.**
  - Over the life of the DFC program, youth living in DFC communities have experienced significant reductions in 30-day alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use.

Percentage Decline in *Use*: First Report to Most Recent Report



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DFC Coalitions Have Lower Substance Abuse Rates than Non-DFC Coalitions

- Prevalence of 30-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana was lower for high school students in DFC-funded communities than among a nationally representative sample of high school students taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

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A Small Investment In a DFC Community Pays Large Dividends

- A small investment of federal funds ($125,000 per year per community) yields results in lower youth drug use rates

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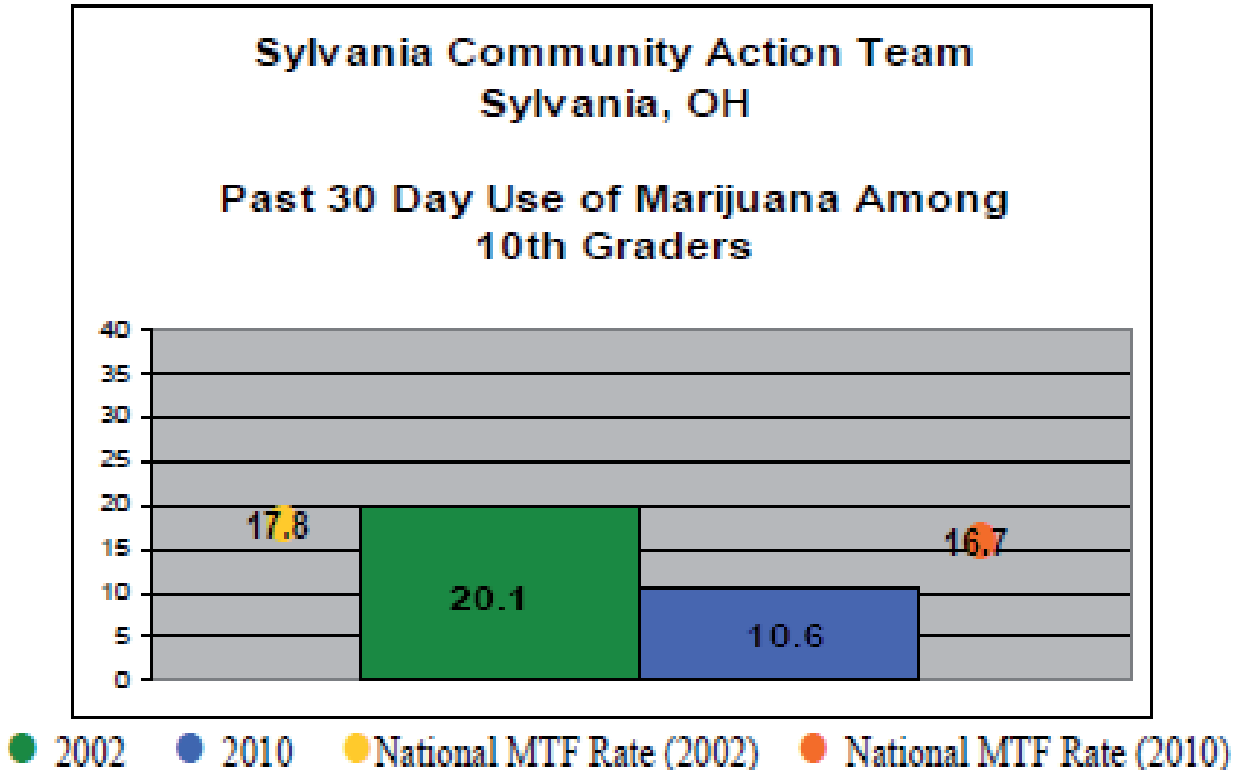




Examples of local results in DFC funded communities

Local Coalition Success Story:
Sylvania Community Action Team (Ohio)

In this DFC community, past 30 day use of marijuana use among 10th graders decreased over an 8-year period from 20.1% in 2002 to 10.6% in 2010, **a 47.3% decrease**.



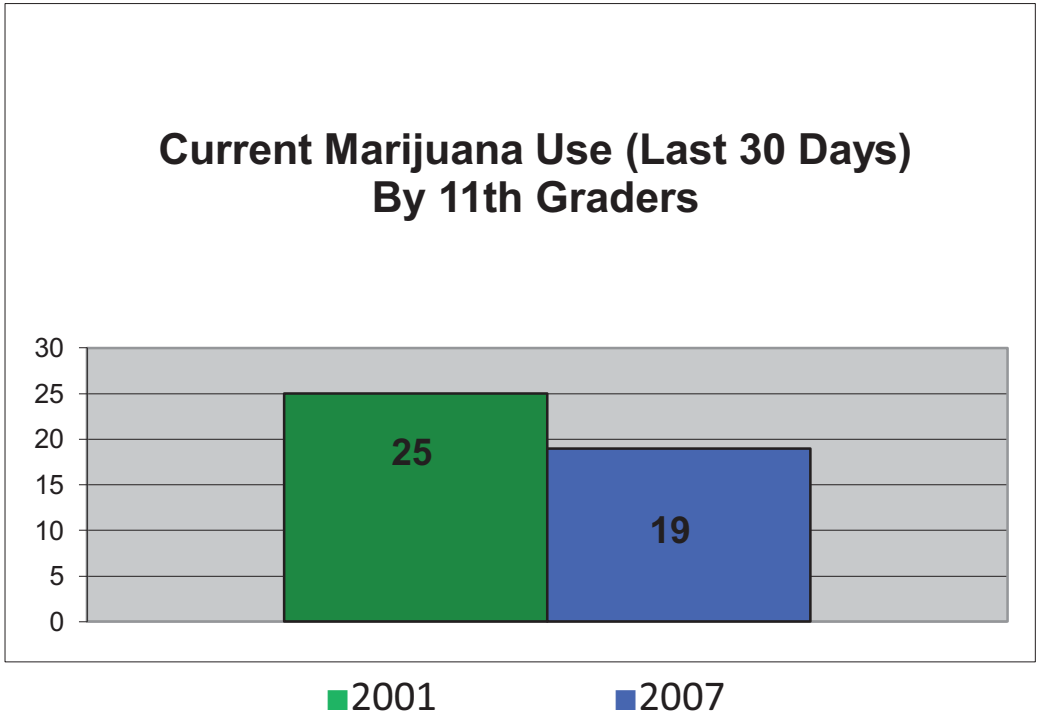
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Strategies Implemented To Achieve Reductions

- Partnering with local newspapers to raise awareness about the risks/harms associated with marijuana use
- Increasing law enforcement capacity
- Providing parent education workshops
- Providing youth leadership training
- Working with local schools to implement zero tolerance policies related to drugs

North Coastal Prevention Coalition, California Declines in Youth Marijuana Use



Current marijuana use (last 30 days) decreased at a rate of 24% among 11th grade students in Carlsbad, from 25% in 2001 to 19% in 2007.

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Strategies Implemented To Achieve Reductions

- Increase public awareness of harm of marijuana use by youth
- Counter pro-marijuana marketing through local media and social marketing campaigns
- Reduce the sale of pro-drug merchandise and drug paraphernalia through passage and enforcement of local ordinances
- Increase youth leadership in marijuana prevention efforts

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- While there are approximately 2,000 DFC funded coalitions in the United States, there are also active community anti-drug coalitions which are not federally funded

- These include graduates of the DFC program and those funded by state and local sources

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Evaluation of CADCA's Model to Build Effective Community Coalition Change Agents

- External Evaluation Team
  - Michigan State University
  - Led by Dr. Pennie Foster-Fishman
- Conducted annually since 2003
- Mixed Methods Approach

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Summary of CADCA's Evaluation Findings

- Training and Technical Assistance from CADCA help coalitions:
  - Develop their Capacity
  - Pursue Comprehensive Strategies
  - Promote Community Change
- The Framework for Change fits for young and old coalitions, urban and rural coalitions.
- Coalitions are growing in all of the elements of the CADCA community problem solving model.
- Training and Technical Assistance trigger a process of change that improves a coalition's potential to achieve population level reductions in drug abuse rates.

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Building Safe, Healthy, Drug-Free Communities Together



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