



*The Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention (WASAVP) stands up for the health and safety of youth. There is no greater investment in our future than our children.*

## **COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION**

*Prevention of Substance Abuse and Violence*

**The need for Community Based Prevention Programming** was established in 1989 through RCW 43.270 to increase statewide efforts to reduce the incidence of substance abuse and violence through collaboration of educators, law enforcement, local government, treatment and concerned community and citizen groups. In 2012 state funding was eliminated for these efforts. It is wide to **restore prevention capacity through local collaborative efforts**. Most community-based prevention programs utilize the proven research-based framework of “Communities That Care Model established through the research of Hawkins and Catalano at the University of Washington.

Gaps in prevention collaborations left by DBHR’s targeted substance abuse prevention programs point because prevention education and advocacy are not available in EVERY community across Washington.

Supporting the healthy development of youth is the top priority of **Community Based Prevention programs**. Today our local communities are negatively impacted by the opioid epidemic and the rising use of illegal drug like methamphetamine and cocaine. There is a continued effort on the part of industry advocates to expand the advertisement and availability of marijuana and alcohol. Data from the DEA suggests that methamphetamine is on the rise as well.

More importantly, attitudes toward the harm of regular marijuana use are softening. 37% of WA State 12th graders believe there is no/low risk of harm from regular marijuana use (2012 WA State Healthy Youth Survey), an increase from both the 2008 survey (29%) and 2010 survey (35%).

Funding **Community Based Prevention programming through our counties will increase** prevention education and the capability to implement evidence-based prevention programs to reverse this trend.

Community Mobilization is a valued and proven community-based prevention program.

## Community-Based Prevention is:

### **Evidence-Based:**

- The Washington State Institute for Public Policy documented that **Community Mobilization** is an effective evidence-based program that utilizes the proven “Communities That Care” framework.

### **Proven Impacts:**

- Proven program practices have reduced youth initiation of cigarette smoking by 33%, alcohol use by 32%, and shown that 24% of youth are less likely to start engaging in delinquency activities.
- From 2000 to 2011 **Community Mobilization** strategically partnered strategically with law enforcement, treatment, ecology and health to reduce domestic meth production across the State by 93%.

### **Cost Effective:**

- WSIPP documented that **Community Mobilization** is estimated to generate \$5.30 in cost savings per dollar invested – an estimated \$89 million from 2005 – 2011 (Prevention Science 2011).
- Proven Community Mobilization programs have shown consistent positive results:
  - **Established local coalitions that drive local solutions in partnership with local law enforcement, government, schools, business and treatment agencies to address the root causes of drug use and violence;**
  - *Universal community-wide prevention education on youth marijuana and alcohol use.*
  - **Effective DUI intervention/prevention programs that work collaboratively with law enforcement and treatment to provide DUI Panels.**
  - *Intervention on youth violence through the application of evidence-based models to prevent mental health and behavioral disorders.*
  - **Community-wide grassroots mobilization of residents in partnerships with law enforcement to reclaim neighborhoods from gangs, illegal drug trafficking and associated violence.**
  - *Needs assessments describing the extent and impact of substance abuse and violence at the local level.*
  - **Program evaluation demonstrating program impact.**

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