



RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

July 2025 Newsletter

Region 4 - Prevention Professionals| Research Solutions Inc.

"Building safer, stronger communities through education and prevention."

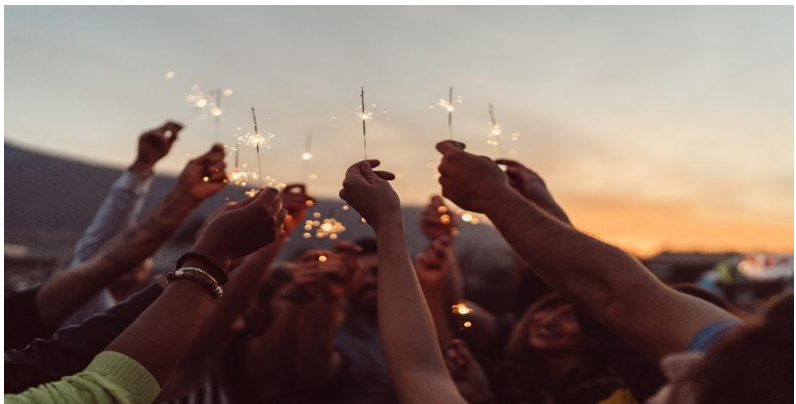
📍 *Serving Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett & Randolph Counties*

Stay Safe This Summer: Celebrate Responsibly, Prevent Tragedy

Summer is here, and kids are out of school. Arkansas roads will soon be busy with both in-state and out-of-state vacationers heading to explore the many parks, lakes, and rivers that “The Natural State” has to offer. Summer is a wonderful time for families and friends to make memories together. Often, these gatherings include alcohol, but mixing drinking with driving or boating can have deadly consequences.

As prevention professionals, we want to remind everyone that while summer celebrations often include alcohol, mixing drinking with driving or boating can have devastating consequences.

According to the Arkansas Department of Public Safety, in the most relevant and recent Arkansas FY2022 Highway Safety Annual Report, published in 2023, 34% of fatal automobile accidents in the state involve alcohol, which is slightly below the national average of 36%. This data was published by the Arkansas Highway Safety Office (AHSO), which operates under the Arkansas Department of Public Safety. This report includes detailed data and performance measures related to impaired driving and seasonal crash trends.



During the summer months, alcohol-related crashes increase, and many of these accidents result in fatalities. The Fourth of July weekend is typically the deadliest holiday for travelers.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) increases enforcement on lakes and rivers during major holidays like Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. In 2024, 24 impaired boaters were arrested, but thanks to increased patrols, no alcohol-related boating deaths were reported over the Fourth of July weekend—a powerful reminder that prevention works.

If you plan to travel the open roads or enjoy time on Arkansas lakes this summer, please do not drink and operate a vehicle or boat. Protect yourself, your passengers, and others around you.

Prevention in Action: How Strategies Create Healthier Communities

Prevention isn't just about avoiding risk—it's about building environments where positive choices are easier to make. Whether you work in education, public health, law enforcement, youth services, or a local nonprofit, prevention strategies provide tools that support long-term behavioral change.

Why Prevention Matters Across Sectors:

Schools benefit from lower absenteeism, stronger academic outcomes, and reduced behavioral issues. **Law enforcement** sees fewer youth-related incidents, overdoses, and impaired driving cases. **Healthcare systems** reduce preventable ER visits and improve mental wellness outcomes. **Faith-based and civic groups** foster connectedness and provide meaningful protective factors.

By using data-driven prevention frameworks, communities can collaborate to increase protective factors—like strong family bonding, youth leadership, and early intervention—and decrease risk factors, such as availability of substances, community disconnection, and perceived peer approval of use.

Data is everything, and a tool used to rebuild and strengthen homes and communities. Region 4 risk factors discovered in the recent Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment 2024 provide insight into areas we, as a community, can cultivate that will promote more protective factors. Find the detailed report here and select to view Region 4

<https://arkansas.isadata.com/regions.php?year=2024>

5-Step Guide: Build a Prevention Logic Model for Any Setting

Step 1: Define the Problem (Use local data to identify the need.)

Example: “18.9% of 10th graders report past-month marijuana use (Region 4 APNA, 2024).”

Step 2: Identify Risk and Protective Factors (Determine what's contributing to the problem and what can buffer it.) **Risk:** Easy access, low perception of harm. **Protective:** Parental involvement, school bonding

Step 3: Choose Evidence-Based Strategies (Select strategies proven to work based on your community's needs.)

Examples: Peer-led prevention programs, policy changes, media campaigns, training workshops

Step 4: Map Out Resources and Activities (List what you'll need and what you'll do.)

Inputs: Staff, funding, data, partnerships Activities: School presentations, coalition meetings, parent education nights

Step 5: Define Outcomes (Set clear short-, mid-, and long-term goals.) **Short-term:** Increase in youth knowledge about marijuana risks. **Mid-term:** Reduced past-30-day use rates. **Long-term:** Healthier youth behaviors and stronger community resilience



Want to Build a Logic Model With Our Team? We're here to help. Reach out to the team at www.researchsolutionsinc.org to schedule a training or consultation for your organization or coalition.

Region 4 Prevention

Highlight

AUGUST 18, 2025 @ 9 am- 3 pm; Join us as we spend the day focusing on data-driven discussions, collaborative planning, and strategies to realign and rebuild supportive environments to help our youth thrive.

Please use the QR Code to register!

Stay Connected for more information or to get involved: Check out all of our newsletters, feel free to share with others, and stay updated on future events and prevention resources

 info@researchsolutionsinc.org

 www.researchsolutionsinc.org

follow us on Social Media at

<https://www.facebook.com/Region4PreventionRepresentative/>

Remember: This summer, we urge everyone to:

Plan: Designate a sober driver for both cars and boats.

Be aware: Alcohol impairs judgment, coordination, and reaction time on land and water.

Look out for others: Speak up if someone is about to drive or boat under the influence.

Let's work together to keep our communities safe. Don't let alcohol turn a joyful moment into a lifelong tragedy. Our choices matter — protect yourself, your loved ones, and everyone sharing the road or water with you.



Stay safe. Have fun. Drug Free