



Anytown Partners

A Drug-Free Communities Coalition

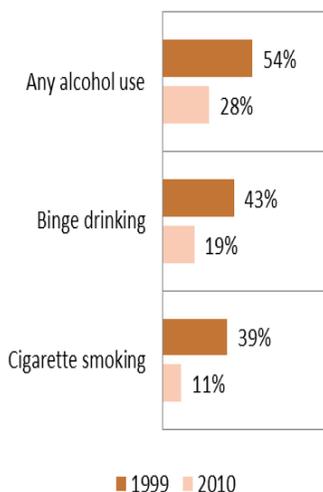
Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug-Free Communities coalitions mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating locally-based data-driven strategies to reduce substance use.

The Coalition

Anytown Partners is a community coalition focused on preventing substance abuse problems and other related issues in the community. Coalition members have been successful in mobilizing resources in the community and collaborating to reduce the use of illegal drugs and underage alcohol use in the Anytown community.



Past 30-Day Substance Use by Anytown Youth, 1999 and 2010
Illinois Youth Survey



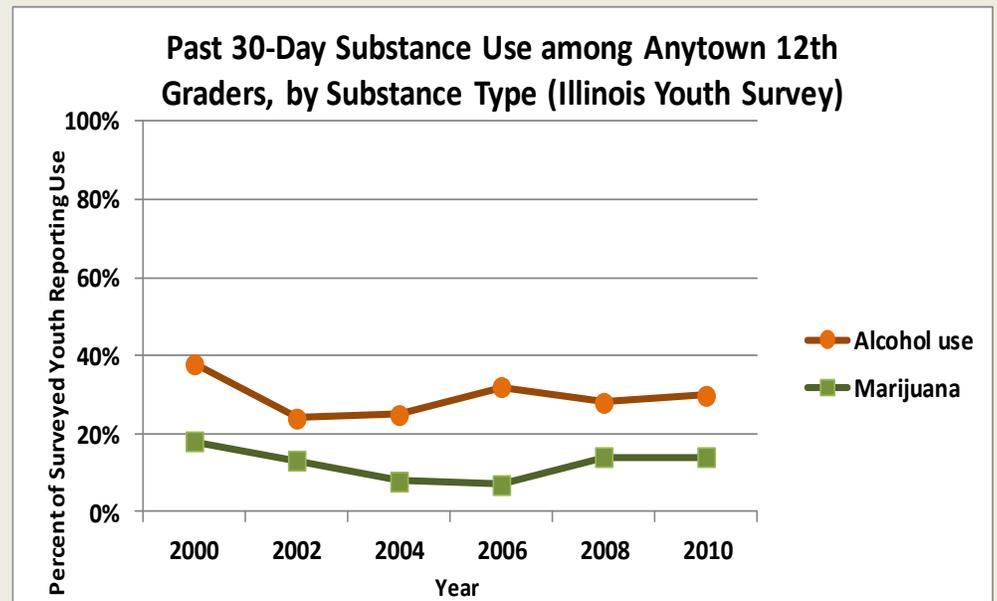
The Issue

In 2010, 30% of 12th grade students in Anytown reported current use of alcohol. This included students who reported having at least one drink (beer, wine, or hard liquor) in the past 30 days.

The Trends

In 2006, the Illinois Youth Survey showed that 38% of Anytown youth reported alcohol use in the past 30 days. Five years later, the number of our youth who reported alcohol use dropped significantly. This change happened because of the hard work of many community partners.

Additionally, the Illinois Youth Survey showed that, from 2000 to 2010, binge drinking among Anytown 12th graders dropped 25%! Cigarette smoking in this group also decreased by 30% and alcohol use decreased by 25%. Based on these trends, Anytown Partners know their efforts to inform youth and adults about the risks involved in underage drug and smoking are making a difference in the community!



Data Source

Illinois Youth Survey 2000-2010, <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu>



The Response

Anytown Partners take an active role in addressing the problem of youth substance use through prevention strategies targeting youth in the schools, community institutions, and policies. These strategies include:

- **Compliance Checks** to reduce youth access to retail sources of alcohol and increase enforcement of existing alcohol laws.
- **Party Patrols** to reduce access to alcohol from peers and party settings.
- **All Stars Curriculum** to educate youth about the risk of alcohol use.

In addition, Anytown Partners seeks to increase community awareness of substance use and related problems and promote the message that adolescent drinking and drug use is *everyone's* problem. Informing parents and other community members about the issue is an essential step in preventing youth substance use.

Accomplishments

Looking at the accomplishments Anytown Partners has helped to produce, the coalition's impact is evident. Anytown Youth Partners is making a difference. Check out these accomplishments!

- Worked with local officials to pass a social host ordinance
- Worked with Anytown Police Department to increase alcohol enforcement activities and implement a Party Patrol program.
- Worked with local partners to support, coordinate, and increase compliance checks in the community.
- Promoted the "Parents Who Host Lose The Most" campaign to reduce the number of parent-hosted underage drinking parties
- Implemented the Life Skills curriculum in 5th-8th grades throughout the school district

Your Help is Needed!

In 2010, 25% of Anytown 11th grade student reported binge drinking—a reduction of 20% from ten years ago. This success is due largely to the work of the Anytown Partners.

But in 2012, Anytown's Drug Free Communities grant will end. Unless we can secure community support through existing and new community partnerships, the gains we have seen in our community will be threatened.

Funds are needed to support law enforcement efforts--specifically the stipends and overtime pay officers receive to conduct compliance checks and party patrols. We also need to funds to support our half-time community development staff position. Without this position, the momentum gained on reducing youth substance use in our community work will be lost.

Community Partners in Anytown

- ★ Anytown Parents
- ★ Anytown Community School District First Baptist Church
- ★ Illinois Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- ★ Juvenile Court Services
- ★ Illinois County Department of Human Services
- ★ Illinois County Public Health
- ★ Anytown Parks and Recreation Department
- ★ Anytown Police Department
- ★ Central Illinois Community Action
- ★ Youth Services of Anytown



Representatives from these organizations and businesses working together to reduce substance abuse in the

Contact

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