Abstract: The community plays an important role in the success of substance abuse prevention efforts. However, current funding structures and a focus on limited approaches to prevention delivery have created a large gap between what substance abuse prevention professionals practice and what the community at large knows about prevention. The concept of "community" has not always been well-defined in the field of prevention, and there are few mechanisms to engage grassroots community members in evidence-based substance abuse prevention. This article explains how Wandersman et al.'s (Am J Community Psychol 41:171-181, 2008) Interactive Systems Framework can be applied to grassroots prevention efforts. The authors describe a Community Prevention Support System that collaborates with the Professional Prevention Support System to promote the adoption of evidence-based substance abuse prevention practices at the grassroots, community level.


Abstract: The Interactive Systems Framework for Dissemination and Implementation (ISF) was introduced as a heuristic systems level model to help bridge the gap between research and practice (Wandersman et al., in Am J Commun Psychol 41:171-181, 2008). This model describes three interacting systems with distinct functions that (1) distill knowledge to develop innovations; (2) provide supportive training and technical assistance for dissemination to; (3) a prevention delivery system responsible for implementation in the field. The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a major prevention innovation launched by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The SPF offers a structured, sequential, data-driven approach that explicitly targets environmental conditions in the community and aims for change in substance use and problems at the population level. This paper describes how the ISF was applied to the challenges of implementing the SPF in 14 Rhode Island communities, with a focus on the development of a new Training and Technical Assistance Resources Center to support SPF efforts. More specifically, we (1) describe each of the three ISF interacting systems as they evolved in Rhode Island; (2) articulate the lines of communication between the three systems; and (3) examine selected evaluation data to understand relationships between training and technical assistance and SPF implementation and outcomes.
Monitoring the Future (MTF), an annual survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in the United States, is a key indicator of drug use among our Nation's youth. The results of the 2012 MTF study, released today, reveal that while overall youth drug use (as measured by past 30-day use of any drug) was unchanged from last year's estimates, a number of drug categories showed significant reductions between 2011 and 2012 for some grades. Among 8th graders, for example, the study showed a decline in past-month use of any illicit drug other than marijuana, and it revealed encouraging reductions in certain categories of use in that age group for cocaine, inhalants, amphetamines, crack, and heroin.

For more information about Monitoring the Future or to view the latest survey results, read the MTF Fact Sheet or go to www.drugabuse.gov/news-events

Sharing Stories of Hope about Addiction and Recovery

The Partnership at Drugfree.Org has launched a new multimedia campaign called The Hope Share. Persons in recovery, their families and friends, and those who have lost a loved one to addiction are invited to share their stories of hope so the millions of Americans currently suffering from addiction, as well as their loved ones and those who have lost someone to addiction, know they are not alone. The campaign is designed to dispel the myths and stigmas that surround addiction and recovery and to connect individuals, families, and communities. In addition to providing a website for sharing stories, strength, hope, and information, the campaign is developing and running television and print ads.

Visit The Hope Share website at thehope-share.drugfree.org, to learn more about the program, read or watch videos of others' stories, or share your own.
This time of year most of us are making plans for gatherings and celebrations with family and friends. But sadly, there are 10,000 people who won’t be home for the holidays because they lost their lives this year in substance-impaired driving crashes in the United States. The problem is so deadly that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has placed substance-impaired driving on its annual Most Wanted List highlighting the most critical changes needed to reduce transportation accidents and save lives.

At the NTSB, we investigate accidents across all modes of transportation. We understand the intense public concern and media scrutiny following a commercial airline crash or train derailment. Yet more than 90% of transportation-related deaths occur on our nation’s roadways. The numbers are staggering: more than 30,000 people a year are lost to traffic crashes. More than 30% of these deaths involve substance-impaired driving; it would take a major commercial airliner crash every week to reach the same number of deaths.

Absent is the intense public concern, and there is little media scrutiny of these crashes. Where is the call for increased safety measures? I believe that complacency is part of the problem. In his book *One for the Road: Drunk Driving Since 1900*, author Barron Lerner quotes physician Ralph Hudson who said: “This national embarrassment and disgrace has not been just the accumulation of death and injury but, rather, the strange acceptance of death and injury as a way of life.” It’s time for everyone to challenge the notion that drugged and drunk driving crashes are inevitable. We must work together to identify and support new measures to curb the carnage on our roadways.

Like the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the NTSB has begun to call greater attention to the issue of drugged driving, a problem that still goes unrecognized by many. In fact, a recent survey of teens revealed that while 87 percent of teen passengers would speak up to ask a driver to refrain from getting behind the wheel after drinking, only 72 percent of teen passengers would do the same for a driver who has used marijuana. But while there is compelling evidence that illegal, over-the-counter, and prescription drugs are playing an increasing role in traffic crashes, there are no standards or testing criteria for these substances, and their role in crashes is often under-reported. That’s why last month the NTSB issued new safety recommendations calling for a common standard of practice for drug toxicology testing and increased collection, documentation, and reporting of test results.

As we move into 2013, the NTSB will continue to work with Federal agencies like ONDCP and continue advocating for measures that will push us towards the goal of zero highway deaths due to substance-impaired driving. Regardless of how they travel, everyone should be able to get home safely for the holidays.

*The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents, promoting transportation safety, and assisting victims of transportation accidents and their families.*

*By Debbie Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board*
I Am Mom!
A United Way of Broward County Media Campaign

It’s tragic to see kids drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana or using any other drug. Tragic because they have their whole life ahead of them. Tragic because we, the adults in our community, are often guilty of just accepting it as a social norm. We the adults in our community too often look the other way. We don’t get involved or even worse, we don’t think it’s that big of a deal. It is tragic because today through science and research we know just how grave the effects of alcohol and other drugs are on a still developing brain. Sadly, many of our kids are experimenting at younger and younger ages which is now scientifically proven to exponentially increase the likelihood of addiction throughout that child or teenager’s life.

Research tells us time and time again that kids say parents are the #1 influence in their lives. Furthermore, moms have the most intimate knowledge of their kids’ behaviors. It follows that moms who band together with other like-minded moms will substantially increase the possibility that their kids will make the better choice when faced with the decision of whether or not to use alcohol, marijuana or any other drug. And, make no mistake, virtually all of our children will have to make that decision at some point in their young lives.

Instilling hope, structure, perseverance, resiliency and determination in our children and teens requires a village. Moms are the natural first step in creating and securing this village. Moms surrounded by other moms who are like-minded, create a structure, a village, a place for kids to grow up free from alcohol and other drugs. To find out more about the "I am MOM" campaign and how to get involved and learn more about keeping our kids away from alcohol or other drug use, please call 1-800-334-4568.
The Florida Department of Children and Families Mission is to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency. Our vision is to be recognized as a world class social services system, delivering valued services to our customers. We are committed to providing a level and quality of service we would want for our own families.

We Embrace Core Values of Integrity, Accountability, Responsiveness, Empowerment, Collaboration, Innovation, Personal Responsibility, Quality, Urgency, and Choice.