

Communities That Care

Community and Societal-Level Strategies Menu

For the prevention of adolescent substance abuse in Colorado



COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment



Preventing Adolescent Substance Abuse in Colorado

This guide for Colorado communities funded to use the Communities That Care approach includes community and society-level strategies that reduce youth use and abuse of marijuana, alcohol, and prescription drugs.

Mission Statement

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's marijuana education program, authorized in statute to support local prevention programs (C.R.S. 25-3.5-1004: 25-3.5-1007), received marijuana tax funds to implement local youth substance abuse prevention activities using the Communities That Care (CTC) planning framework. The mission of the Colorado CTC initiative is to promote healthy development, improve outcomes, and reduce problem behaviors among youth in Colorado through achieving the following objectives:

- Reduce risk factors or increase protective factors commonly associated with underage use or abuse of substances as measured by the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey.
- Delay initiation and reduce current use of marijuana, alcohol, and opioids among middle and/or high school students.

Problem Statement: Youth Substance Abuse

Addressing underage marijuana use, alcohol use, and prescription drug abuse are priorities for multiple state departments in Colorado. Reduction in youth substance use and abuse improves the likelihood of educational success and promotes community safety (<u>Chatterji, 2003</u>; <u>Horwood et al., 2010</u>; <u>Kitsantas et al., 2004</u>). Through the implementation of evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and practices in communities across Colorado, the state will enhance and strengthen the health of its youth, families, and communities.

Substance abuse prevention is one of Governor Hickenlooper's flagship priorities for Colorado, and this issue has been categorized as one of the administration's "<u>Winnable Battles</u>." It is a recurring topic of discussion in his annual State of the State addresses, as well as a priority in his administration's health policy agenda detailed in "<u>The State of Health: Colorado's Commitment to Become the Healthiest State</u>." Under his leadership, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has funded the CTC model in 46 communities, which empowers these communities to select, implement, and evaluate evidence-based prevention strategies to address youth substance abuse.

In order to achieve these substance abuse prevention goals, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has partnered with <u>University of Washington's Center for Communities That Care</u> to provide training and coaching to local communities to implement the program. During Phase 3 of CTC, communities complete an assessment, select priority youth outcomes and risk and protective factors, and determine the resource gaps related to those priorities. In Phase 4, communities create an action plan to fill those resource gaps.

In order to support Colorado communities in completing Phase 3 and Phase 4 tasks, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has developed this Community and Society-Level Strategies Menu to guide primary prevention efforts (i.e., efforts that aim to prevent disease or injury before it ever occurs).

Communities That Care: Funding Opportunity for Community Agencies

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requested ongoing funding generated by the marijuana tax fund for the purpose of youth substance abuse prevention related to marijuana, opioids (including heroin or prescription drugs), and alcohol. Initially, approximately \$6.8 million was available for community implementation, data collection, evaluation, and training. At the request of the Governor's Office, this funding was to be used to implement local evidence-based youth substance abuse prevention strategies within the CTC model.

What is Communities That Care?

Communities That Care (CTC) is an evidence-based community prevention operating system identified as a "promising program" by the <u>Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development</u> evidence-based registry. The CTC model was selected for the statewide initiative because of its strong research base in achieving community-level reductions in youth substance use, delinquency, and violence. For more information on CTC, see <u>www.communitiesthatcare.net</u>, as well as the description of CTC on the Blueprints website at <u>http://www.blueprintsprograms.com/factsheet/communities-that-care</u>.

Communities That Care Foundation: Promoting Positive Youth Development through Social Development Strategy

Social Development Strategy is the theoretical foundation of the Communities That Care model. This approach emphasizes providing young people with opportunities, skills, and recognition in order to strengthen their bonds with family, school, and community. Social Development Strategy organizes information about protective factors into a strategy for action that any adult can use in his/her/their daily interactions with young people. In essence, this approach asserts that individuals develop bonds to individuals, groups, and organizations when those entities provide opportunities for involvement, teach the skills necessary for involvement, and provide positive feedback regarding their involvement (Hawkins et al., 1985). Strong bonds motivate young people to follow the clear standards for behavior shared by those individuals, groups, and organizations. Following these standards then leads to healthy behavior.

In a study that followed 808 10-year-olds for more than 15 years, this approach was proven successful. When parents and elementary teachers were provided training in how to implement Social Development Strategy with elementary school children, even 15 years later, these children had significantly better outcomes than those who did not experience the benefits of the training. Positive youth outcomes included: a greater percentage of students who graduated high school on time, better economic outcomes, better mental health, significantly fewer sexually transmitted diseases (especially among those at greatest risk), and fewer teen pregnancies (Hawkins et al., 2008).

Overall, <u>Kim et al. (2015)</u> found significantly higher levels of protective factors in CTC communities as compared to control communities. The authors identified that there were significantly more opportunities for prosocial involvement in the community, recognition for prosocial involvement in schools, and interaction with prosocial peers for youth living in CTC communities.



Adolescent Substance Abuse Risk and Protective Factors

Communities engaging in the CTC approach are tasked with prioritizing risk and protective factors that are linked to targeted health and behavior problems.

Risk and Protective Factors that Predict Youth Substance Abuse

- Risk factors are predictors of problem behaviors in adolescence. They are those characteristics or situations that are known to increase the probability of negative health or behavioral outcomes.
- Protective factors buffer against risk factors. Protective factors mitigate or protect against negative health or behavioral outcomes.

Prevention science research suggests that the <u>most effective methods</u> for preventing adolescent substance abuse involve addressing both risk and protective factors that exist in every domain of life—identified in the <u>social-ecological model</u> as the domains of community/society, school, family, and individual/relationship.

Youth substance abuse and negative mental health outcomes are often interconnected and share risk and protective factors (<u>Khantzian, 1997</u>). Implementing a shared risk and protective factors approach not only has the potential to prevent these problems, it also has the potential to leverage resources and partnerships across state and community-based agencies in order to effectively break down issue-specific silos within agencies and enhance the sustainability of these initiatives.



The risk and protective factors listed in the following chart will be the focus of the CTC-related prevention efforts in Colorado.

COMMUNITIES THAT CARE RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS AND IMPACTED OUTCOMES ACROSS THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL MODEL

				mput		nes Across ch	e Socio-ecological Model
Communities that Care Risk & Protective Factors	Substance Abuse	Depression & Anxiety	Teen Pregnancy	School Dropout	Violence	Deliquency	Colorado Data Sources
			COMMUNIT	Y / SOCIET	TY		
vailability of Substances	X				X		Healthy Kids CO Survey (HKCS) local report with scaled risk and protective factors
ommunity Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Substance Use	X				X	x	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors, Commun Resource Assessment
ow Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization	x				Х	X	Identify during Assessing Community Resources work, voting participation, admissions to prison by county of residents
ransitions and Mobility*	X	X		X		X	Secondary data sources and qualitative methods, key informant interviews and local housing data
xtreme Economic Deprivation	x		X	X	X	x	Unemployment rates, free and reduced lunch, number of TANF recipients, number of food stamp recipients, educational attainme and single-parent households, cost of childcare, family-friendly business practices
rotective: Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	X					Х	Identify during Assessing Community Resources work
rotective: Recognition for Prosocial Involvement	X	Х			Х	X	Identify during Assessing Community Resources work
			SCH	IOOL			
cademic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School	X	X	X	X	Х	X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors
ack of Commitment to School	X		X	X	X	X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors, high scho dropout rates
rotective: School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	X					X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors
			FAJ	WILY			
amily Management Problems	х	x	X	X	Х	X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors, percenta of children in foster care
amily History of Substance Abuse	x	X	X	X	X	X	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS; the Center for Disease Control's survey of health-related risk behaviors, including substance abuse)
avorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in Substance Use	x				X	X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors
rotective: Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	X					X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors
		IN	DIVIDUAL /	RELATION	ISHIP		
avorable Attitudes Toward Substance Use	Х		X	X	Х	X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors
arly Initiation of Substance Use	X		X	X	Х	X	HKCS local report with scaled risk and protective factors
few communities use alternative data sources for Transitions and M nart, though not all communities may have available data sources to			to address this	risk factor a	are part of th	he Colorado Me	enu of Systems Change Strategies. For that reason, it is included in this

- To view chart in landscape: <u>Click here</u>: or copy & paste link: <u>http://bit.ly/R_P_Factor_Chart_CTC_CO</u>
- To download, <u>Click here</u>: Select File > Download as > PDF Document

If questions arise in the process of identifying and collecting data from these and other sources, the University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence in Boulder is providing technical assistance for CTC in Colorado. CU Boulder can help CTC-funded Coalitions build capacity, knowledge, and skills to better collect, interpret, and use data to inform the creation of the Community Profile during Phase 3.



Introduction to Community and Societal-Level Strategies Menu

Below is a menu of community and societal-level primary prevention SYSTEMS CHANGE strategies with the goal of reducing risk factors and improving protective factors for adolescent substance abuse in Colorado.

A Health Equity Approach

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued "<u>A Practitioner's Guide for Advancing</u> <u>Health Equity: Community Strategies for Preventing Chronic Disease</u>," which emphasizes the importance of policy, systems, and environmental improvement strategies to reduce health disparities at the community and societal-level:

"Such interventions have great potential to prevent and reduce health inequities, affect a large portion of a population, and can also be leveraged to address root causes, ensuring the greatest possible health impact is achieved over time" (p. 3).

Health (both behavioral and physical) is not the same as health care. The provision of health care is responsible for only about 10 percent of what ultimately determines health status. A person's community and environment are typically the largest determinants of health status. Thus, effective efforts to promote health and prevent illness need to focus on community environments. The "environment" in a public health context is defined not just as the condition of the physical surroundings, but also includes the social and economic spheres that play a role in shaping health. Many of the greatest public health achievements, like motor vehicle safety improvements, have relied on the use of laws, regulations, and environmental improvement strategies.

Based on the public health prioritization of population health strategies, the Department has chosen to highlight evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies at the *community and societal-level* in this list, which include public policy and systems improvements. These *community and societal-level strategies* will help to institutionalize prevention strategies, enhance sustainability, and reach more of the population than individual-level programs alone.

If a community determines a gap in evidence-based strategies for individual/relationship-level interventions, the community may look for alternative funding sources to complement the CTC strategies. Funding is available to community from other state agencies to implement individual/relationship-level strategies, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is available for support and technical assistance.

Method of Selecting Strategies

In order to begin the process of identifying a preliminary list of community and societal-level youth substance abuse prevention strategies, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment conducted a search of fourteen registries and lists that evaluate programs and practices and focus on community and societal-level prevention strategies (see <u>Appendix 1</u> for details).

For strategies included in this Menu, the following standards were adhered to:

- Representation on at least one empirical study (usually multiple studies) that met the following criteria:
 - Addresses specified risk or protective factor or a significant related correlate;
 - Demonstrates positive adolescent substance abuse prevention outcomes;
 - Utilizes rigorous quantitative evaluation methodologies, such as randomized control trial, interrupted time series analysis, regression discontinuity, or other quasi-experimental designs (for example, propensity scoring for comparison communities);
 - Accounts for threats to external validity of study, including selection bias, sample bias, and baseline equivalency, statistical control, and assigned to conditions (in quasi-experimental studies);
 - Accounts for threats to internal validity of study (attrition rates and fidelity in implementation); and,
 - Demonstrates sustained outcomes, such that program implementation tools are available for communities to replicate the strategy.

The preliminary document was reviewed by the University of Washington's Center for Communities That Care, and the strategies and activities were found to be consistent with research.

Please note that this Strategies Menu is viewed as a foundation of information from which Coalitions can formulate more specific action plans. There are many links to external references and resources that CTC Facilitators can utilize to focus their efforts. For this reason, it is essential that readers access this document on a computer in order to be able to open the linked information.

An Important Note About Lobbying

Grantees shall not use State funds provided under this Contract for the purpose of **lobbying** as defined in Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) 24-6-301(3.5)(a). Lobbying includes "communicating directly, or soliciting others to communicate, with a covered official for the purpose of aiding or influencing" a list of specific activities, including introducing legislation, calling a special session, or affecting state rule-making bodies. "Covered official" means the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, or a member of the General Assembly (C.R.S. § 24-6-301(1.7)(a)).

Additionally, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act (C.R.S § 1-45-101 et seq.) prohibits the use of state funds to support or oppose citizen petitions, referred measures, tax changes, tax policy changes, or revenue changes that have had a title set by the title board convened by the Secretary of State, or submitted for that purpose; or had a title fixed, or been referred, by municipal legislative body.

In summary, the following activities are not allowable under these funds: 1) Communicating with a member of a rule-making board or commission or a rule-making official of a state agency which has jurisdiction over the subject matter of a rule. 2) Supporting or opposing any ballot question or ballot initiative that has been referred by the General Assembly or the governing body of a political subdivision to a vote of the people.

Identifying Innovative/Promising Strategies Beyond this Strategies Menu

The strategies described below can be funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. However, it is important to note that the menu is not comprehensive. Communities are welcome to consider other evidence-based primary prevention strategies to address their specific needs, especially as new research emerges. Communities *may <u>not</u>* implement these strategies until they receive approval from the Department. The Department will work with communities considering other primary prevention and population health strategies (not individual programs) that are not on this list to ensure they are evidence-informed and meet community needs. Again, innovative and promising practices must meet the following criteria:

- Evidence of impact (based in theoretical model or direct evaluation of impact)
- Population-based (addressing the community or societal levels of the socioecological model)
- Primary prevention (addressing upstream factors)

Evidence of capacity to implement innovative strategies must be demonstrated, in addition to a clear plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation.

Request the "Innovative Strategy Submission Proposal" for more information from your CTC Coach. If the proposal is accepted, the Department strongly encourages consultation with the University of Colorado Boulder technical assistance team to ensure that a suitable evaluation plan is in place.



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I.A.1: <u>Building Community Support for Ordinances,</u>
.A.1: Building Community Support for Ordinances,
ns, Requirements for Establishments Selling Liquor, a, or Promoting Prescription Drug Use
I.A.2: <u>Build Public Support for Conventional</u> ent of Existing Laws
I.A.3: <u>Leverage Statewide Mass Media Campaigns to</u> ommunity and Social Norms
B.1:Build Public Support for Sustainably-Funded that Support Stable, Affordable Housing
I.B.2: <u>Facilitate Community Support for School</u> <u>ns</u>
I.C.1: <u>Facilitate Hot Spot Mapping to Increase</u> ty Organization

social service personnel) live outside the community, residents' sense of commitment will be lower. Lower rates of voter turnout and parent involvement in school also reflect attitudes about community attachment. Neighborhood disorganization makes it more difficult for schools, churches, and families to promote positive social values and norms.	Strategy I.C.2: <u>Build Public Support for Community-wide</u> <u>Implementation of Programs Designed to Address Low</u> <u>Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization</u>
I.D. Extreme Economic Deprivation	Strategy I.D.1: <u>Build Community Support to Alter the Physical</u> <u>Environment</u>
Children who live in deteriorating neighborhoods characterized by extreme poverty, poor living conditions, and high unemployment are more likely to develop problems with alcohol and other drug use, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and dropping out of school. They are also more likely to engage in violence towards others during adolescence and adulthood. Further, children who live in these areas and have behavior or adjustment problems early in life are even more likely to develop problems with drugs. To learn more about how extreme economic deprivation impacts youth, read <u>"Healthy Youth Development without Displacement: Realizing the</u>	Strategy I.D.2: <u>Make Community Resources for Housing and</u> Other Assistance More Accessible to Eligible Families
	Strategy I.D.3: <u>Increase Awareness of Eligibility for Earned</u> Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit
	Strategy I.D.4: Address Low Employment
	Strategy I.D.5: <u>Build Public Support for Family-Friendly Business</u> <u>Practices</u>
Vision of Healthy Communities for All" by the Prevention Institute. I.E. Opportunities and Rewards for Prosocial Involvement Youth report opportunities to participate in positive activities and interactions with prosocial adults in their neighborhood. Youth report that young people are	Strategy I.D.6: <u>Build Public Support for Quality Childcare Early</u> in Life
	Strategy I.E.1: <u>Recruit and Reward Youth Participation in</u> <u>Community Coalitions</u>
	Strategy I.E.2: <u>Build Public Support for Creating Community</u> Spaces for Youth
recognized by adults in the community for positive participation in community activities.	Strategy I.E.3: <u>Promote Social Development Strategy, Positive</u> Youth Development in Colorado, Broadly in the Community
II. School - Risk and Protective Factors	
II.A. Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School	Strategy II.A.1: See the section Strategy 1.D.6: Build Public Support for Quality Childcare Early in Life
Beginning in the late elementary grades, academic failure increases the risk of all five problem behaviors (substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school drop-out, violence). The evidence appears to show that	Strategy II.A.2: <u>Connect Families to Head Start, Early Head</u> Start, and Preschool Education
the experience of failure, not any lack of intellect, increases the risk of these problem behaviors.	Strategy II.A.3: Promote Academic Achievement
II.B. Lack of Commitment to School Lack of commitment to school means the child no longer sees the role of student as meaningful and rewarding. Young people who have lost this commitment to school are at higher risk for all five problem behaviors (substance abuse, delinquency, teen	Strategy II.B.1: <u>Build Public Support for District-wide</u> <u>Implementation of Evidence-Based School Climate Interventions</u>
	Strategy II.B.2: <u>Build Public Support for the Inclusion of Safe</u> <u>School Policies for LGBT Students</u>
pregnancy, school drop-out, violence).	Strategy II.B.3: <u>School Policy Enforcement Review</u>
II.C. School Opportunities for Prosocial	Strategy II.C.1: <u>Build Public Support for Increased Funding and</u>
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Involvement Opportunities are available for youth to participate	Access to High Quality Extracurricular Activities for Youth		
meaningfully in their classrooms and school.	Strategy II.C.2: <u>Build Public Support for District-wide</u> Implementation of Evidence-Based Social-Emotional Learning		
III. Family - Risk and Protective Factors			
III.A. Family Management Problems Poor family management practices include a lack of clear expectations for behavior; failure of parents to supervise and monitor their children (knowing where	Strategy III.A.1: See the section <u>Strategy I.D.5: Build Public</u> Support for Family-Friendly Business Practices		
they are and whom they're with); and excessively severe, harsh, or inconsistent punishment. Children exposed to these poor family management practices are at higher risk of developing all five problem behaviors (substance abuse, teen pregnancy, school drop-out, violence).	Strategy III.A.2: <u>Build Public Support for Community-wide</u> Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Programs		
III.B. Family History of Substance Abuse In a family with a history of addiction to alcohol or	Strategy III.B.1: Increase Integrated Care Practices in the Community with Colorado State Innovation Model (SIM) Resources		
other drugs, children are at increased risk of developing alcohol or other drug problems themselves.	Strategy III.B.2: <u>Build Public Support for Mandated Screening</u> , <u>Brief Intervention</u> , and Referral to Treatment Trainings for <u>Health Care Professionals in the Community</u>		
III.C. Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in Substance Use Parents' attitudes and behavior toward drugs, crime, and violence influence the attitudes and behavior of their children. Children whose parents approve of or excuse them for breaking the law are more likely to become involved with juvenile delinquency. If parents use illegal drugs, are heavy users of alcohol, or tolerate children's use, children are more likely to become drug users in adolescence. The risk is further increased if parents involve children in their own drug- or alcohol-using behavior—for example, asking the child to light the parent's cigarette or get the parent a beer from the refrigerator. Parental approval of children's moderate drinking, even under supervision, increases the risk that children will use marijuana and develop problems with alcohol or other drugs.	Strategy III.C.1: See the section <u>Strategy I.A.3: Leverage</u> <u>Statewide Mass Media Campaigns to Change Community and</u> <u>Social Norms</u>		
III.D. Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement Youths report having opportunities to participate meaningfully in family responsibilities and activities with their parents or caregivers.	Strategy III.D.1: <u>Build Public Support for and Organize</u> Family-Friendly Community Events		
	Strategy III.D.2: See the section <u>Strategy III.A.2:</u> Build Public Support for Community-wide Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Programs		
IV. Individual/Relationship - Risk and Protective Factors			

IV.A. Favorable Attitudes Toward Substance	Strategy IV.A.1: See the section Strategy I.A.3: Leverage
Use During the elementary years, children usually express anti-drug, anti-crime, and prosocial views; they have	Statewide Mass Media Campaigns to Change Community and Social Norms

trouble imagining why people use drugs, commit crimes, and drop out of school. In middle school, as others they know participate in such activities, their attitudes often shift toward greater acceptance, placing them at higher risk.	Strategy IV.A.2: See the section <u>Strategy II.C.2: Build Public</u> Support for District-wide Implementation of Evidence-Based Social-Emotional Learning
IV.B. Early Initiation of Substance Use The earlier that young people use drugs, commit crimes, or first drop out of school or become sexually active, the greater their chances of having chronic problems with the respective behavior. Aggressive behavior at ages 4-8 predicts later violent behavior and truancy in the elementary grades predicts school dropout. For example, research shows that young people who start drug use before age 15 have twice the risk of drug problems than those who start after age 19.	Strategy IV.B.1: <u>Build Public Support for District-wide</u> <u>Implementation of a Systematic School Substance Abuse</u> <u>Screening Process and Referral to Treatment Procedure</u>
	Strategy IV.B.2: <u>Build Public Support for District-wide</u> <u>Implementation of Evidence-Based School Substance Abuse</u> <u>Prevention Curriculum</u>

V. Additional Strategies for Working with University Populations

VI. Additional Funding for Community and Societal-Level Strategies:

Strategy VI.1: <u>Earmark Local Excise or Sales Tax on Substances for Prevention Efforts Dedicated to a Specific</u> <u>Agency</u>

Strategy VI.2: <u>Apply for Additional Funding Opportunities</u>

VII. <u>Strategies at the Individual and Relationship-Level</u>: CTC Communities may select individual or relationship-level strategies for implementation using other funding sources within their communities. While these strategies are not the focus of this manual, they may be reflected in your community action plan.

VIII. Technical Appendix

APPENDIX 1: <u>Research Sources in the Development of Community and Societal-Level Strategies Menu</u>

APPENDIX 2: Implementation Tips - Community Tool Box

*Note that formatting and page numbers may be discrepant when viewing this document on a Mac.