

# CSAP Community Partnerships

**Promising  
Ways to  
Prevent  
Alcohol,  
Tobacco,  
and Other  
Drug  
Problems**



**Foundations for Healthier Communities**

Part of CSAP's Promising Practices Series

***SAMHSA***



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention



## What Makes CSAP's Community Partnerships Stand Out?

### BROAD, PUBLIC/PRIVATE COLLABORATIONS

CSAP Community Partnerships must include:

- ◆ a representative from the chief elected official of the local governmental jurisdiction;
- ◆ at least seven organizations committed to prevention (e.g., service agencies, grassroots groups, private-sector organizations, local media, others);
- ◆ representatives of the major ethnic and racial groups in the community they serve.

### A FOCUS ON LONG-TERM CHANGES

- ◆ CSAP's partnerships stress actions for long-lasting change rather than one-time-only activities or events.

### ADDRESSING THE MANY FACETS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Substance abuse can include:

- ◆ the use of illicit drugs;
- ◆ alcohol abuse;
- ◆ alcohol and tobacco use by underage youth;
- ◆ misuse of prescription drugs;
- ◆ the effects of drugs and tobacco on newborns.

### COORDINATION OF NEW AND EXISTING PREVENTION SERVICES

- ◆ Coordination includes combining new and existing prevention services into a comprehensive, system-wide strategy.

## What Activities Have the Community Partnerships Undertaken?

CSAP's community partnerships develop long-range, comprehensive, community-wide plans for prevention — and then put them to work. Each community has formed a coalition of public and private-sector organizations to identify its needs for services, coordinate programs, and assess prevention outcomes.

### *Changing the System*

The partnerships are realizing the positive results of their efforts. A wide variety of policy and legislative changes have been

reported — from those that restrict access to substances to those that bring law enforcement closer to the community. Examples of community partnerships' actions include:

- ❑ breaking drug markets and demolishing crack houses;
- ❑ implementing community policing;
- ❑ lowering legal blood alcohol content levels for testing for intoxication;
- ❑ strengthening ordinances for preventing the distribution of alcohol to minors;

PROMISING WAYS TO PREVENT ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG PROBLEMS



Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's Community Partnerships

THE PRACTICE: Closing Crack Houses Through Neighborhood Action

The Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community (TMC) Miami, Florida

**OBJECTIVE:** To eradicate abandoned buildings which were giving shelter to illegal drug distribution activities, through a coordinated community effort

**OUTCOMES:** In 1988, after passage (supported by TMC) of a Dade County ordinance and a separate City of Miami ordinance, which conjoined building code enforcement efforts and law enforcement efforts: 475 crack houses were destroyed in Dade County and 1,001 were closed and sealed. Only 54 had been closed before the ordinance initiative.

- Since 1990, 1,281 more crack houses have been demolished.
- Between 1988 and 1994, the average reduction of crime in these areas has been 24 percent.
- Between 1988 and 1994, over 8,000 drug related arrests were made. Narcotics with a street value of more than \$2 million were seized from these areas.
- In the years 1989 through 1994, 7,059 structures were closed or demolished. This represents a 130% change from the pre-ordinance situation.

The Miami Coalition (TMC), founded in 1988, is a community volunteer organization with over 3,100 active participants dedicated to reducing substance abuse and its effects through a comprehensive strategy that includes prevention, education, intervention, treatment and law enforcement. Upon receiving Center for Substance Abuse Prevention funding in 1990, The Miami Coalition increased staff to (1) support the Law Enforcement Task Force and the Family Neighborhood Task Force, and (2) to reach out to the 27 municipalities in all of Dade County with information about a new system for closing crack houses.

The system for closing crack houses coordinates the efforts of city code enforcement and police officials. The Miami Coalition promoted the passage of a new ordinance which called for the demolition of structures that (a) are vacant, in various degrees of disrepair, or deemed hazardous and unsanitary, and (b) are places where controlled substances are used, stored, or distributed. As a result of The Miami Coalition's support for diverse organizations to plan and coordinate services more effectively, the partnership had a definite impact on lowering the supply of drugs and drug activity in high-risk neighborhoods throughout the entire county.

The success of the Law Enforcement Task Force has established an nationwide precedent for utilizing coalitions to create local planned change.



DESIGNED TO AFFECT

**Population:** Those engaged in the use distribution, and sale of crack cocaine and other controlled substances  
**Substance:** Crack cocaine, marijuana, powder cocaine, heroin  
**Activity:** The use, sale and distribution of crack cocaine and other controlled substances

POTENTIAL FOR COST SAVINGS

Cooperation among agencies has cut the expensive processing time for demolition permits from a matter of weeks to only a few days.

PARTNERS

- building code enforcement officials
- citizens' groups
- court and corrections officials
- police organizations
- colleges and universities
- religious organizations
- public information groups
- treatment and rehabilitation facilities

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Chief  
 Community Prevention and  
 Demonstrations Branch  
 Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
 5600 Fishers Lane Rockwall II  
 Rockville, MD 20857  
 (301)