

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:



Underage Drinking Task Force Being Established

Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) of Anderson County works with the community, local alcohol outlets, law enforcement, government officials and beer boards to prevent and reduce underage drinking in Anderson County.

To better accomplish this goal and to facilitate a better working relationship between business, law enforcement, government officials and beer boards, an Underage Drinking Task Force in Anderson County is being established. Each of these respected entities play important role in preventing and reducing underage drinking in Anderson County. By participating in the Underage Drinking Task Force, local leaders will play a critical role in identifying barriers and developing solutions to reduce underage drinking in our community.

The inaugural meetings are September 24, 2013 at 8:00 A.M. for law enforcement, government officials and beer boards and September 26, 2013 at 8:00 A.M. for alcohol outlets. The meetings will be held at “Biz Town,” located in the Junior Achievement Building in Clinton (2135 N. Charles G. Seivers Boulevard). Breakfast will be provided so please RSVP by September 17 to ASAP of Anderson County at (865) 457-3007 or Michael@ASAPofAnderson.org.

Thank you for your vigilance in protecting the youth of Anderson County! We hope you will join us in our endeavor to create a healthy and vibrant community.

[www.ASAPofAnderson.org](http://www.ASAPofAnderson.org)



ASAP  
QUARTERLY:  
Prevention Matters

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3—September 2013



FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Stephanie A. Strutner, MPH, Executive Director

DFC National Evaluation Shows Support  
for Funding Community-Based Coalitions

As most of you are aware, ASAP of Anderson County is funded in part through a Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program (administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy with support from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). Since the Drug Free Communities Act was passed in 1997, thousands of coalitions across the country have benefitted from the ability to develop local solutions.

Recent data indicate that where DFC dollars are invested, youth substance use is lower. Over the life of the program, youth living in communities funded by a DFC project have experienced significant reductions in alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use.

Among these communities, middle school youth show a 16% reduction in alcohol use, 27% reduction in tobacco use, and 23% reduction in marijuana use. High school youth in the same communities show reductions in alcohol use by 9%, tobacco by 16%, and marijuana by 7%.

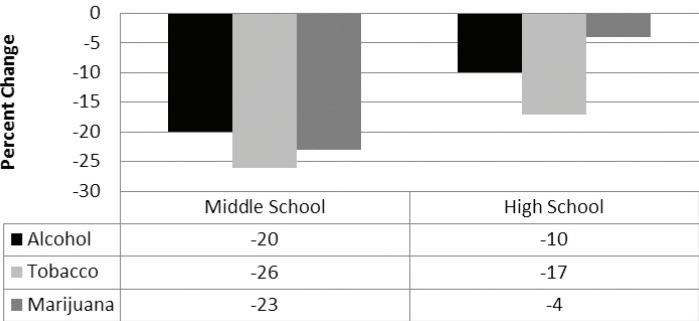
The contributions of community coalitions are identified as being a critical part of the National drug prevention infrastructure.

Rates of substance use have shown a significant decline in DFC communities across all substances, as illustrated by the chart pictured here. In addition, prevalence of past 30-day use is significantly lower in DFC high school students as compared to a nationally-representative sample of high school students.

While drug abuse continues to be at the forefront of the minds of so many, as our coalition continues to move forward, let us not lose sight of the fact that perceptions of substance use are moving in the right direction. Among DFC funded grantees, perception of risk for alcohol and tobacco have increased significantly, as did youth perception of parental disapproval. Historical data shows that as perception of risk is high, prevalence of use will be low.

Thank you so much for all you do to aid in prevention efforts in this community! Keep up the good work.

Percent Change in Prevalence of Past 30-Day Use: DFC Grant History



## ASAP UPDATES:



- Operation Medicine Cabinet, held on August 24, 2013, netted 177 pounds of medicine
- The Operation Rx permanent medicine disposal bin installed at CPD collected 38 pounds during June, 127 pounds during July, and 62 pounds in August
- ASAP Coalition Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at First Baptist Church in Clinton at noon in room 104. **Please join us!**

## ALLY ACCOUNT:



Submitted by: **Kim Guinn, RN MS**

Over 1,700 community leaders across the nation convened in Austin, Texas last month to strengthen their capacity to create and maintain drug-free communities. Stephanie, Michael and I took on the Lone-Star state, and triple digit temperatures, to participate in CADCA's 12th Annual Mid-Year Training Institute. Eight presentation tracks engaged participants from everything on how to address prescription drug abuse

to how to mobilize resources to achieve large scale social change. I left Texas encouraged but also anxious of what lies ahead for ASAP.

As I listened to coalition members across the country discuss their barriers to developing effective drug coalitions, I counted our own blessings of being a part of a young coalition which has already made remarkable environmental change in Anderson County. This change is no doubt due to our strong and supportive Coalition membership, superior guidance from our Board of Directors, and multi-talents of our Executive Director and staff.

However, I must admit that I am somewhat fearful of what lies ahead. We cannot rest on our laurels as a coalition. I took away from CADCA that there are too many horrible synthetic drugs, such as Krokodil, that are being created across the world today. One day this monster will show its ugly head here in Anderson County just like Heroin will soon try to do. We must remain vigilant with our vision to create safe, healthy and drug-free communities. ASAP's work has just begun.

In closing, I am reminded of the notable quote from author Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Let us continue to be persistent as a coalition and fight the good fight!

## NOTES:

### Opportunity for Training for Healthcare Workers Available

ASAP is always interested in new innovations used to prevent substance use and abuse. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) worked jointly with Medscape and introduced a new tool to help health care professionals. The online training course will teach participants how to use the two question screening tool regarding alcohol habits as well as estimate risk and conduct various levels of intervention. Brief motivational interviewing is also reviewed as this thought to have the best potential effectiveness for the adolescent population in treating, reducing, and eliminating substance use disorders. Screening is recommended by NIAAA and the American Academy for Pediatrics for all adolescents regarding alcohol use. Health care professionals will earn 2.5 continuing education credits or contact hours. The CME course requires a Medscape user name and password which can be set up for free at [www.medscape.com](http://www.medscape.com).

### Thanks to our donors!

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## RECENT HAPPENINGS:

### "Ask a Pharmacist" Lunch-and-Learn Held at Senior Center

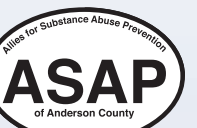


On Friday, August 30, 2013, in collaboration with the Oak Ridge Senior Center, the South College School of Pharmacy and the Oak Ridge Police Department, ASAP hosted "Ask a Pharmacist," a lunch-and-learn event and medicine take-back at the Oak Ridge Senior Center. Eighteen seniors listened to Dr. Mike O'Neil from the South College School of Pharmacy as he delivered useful information regarding current problems seen with prescription drugs; information on how seniors can help protect themselves, their families and their medicines; and tools for storing and disposing of medicines. Dr. O'Neil stated, "People need to respect their medications, not fear them. No medication is without risk. Every medication we take is a risk-benefit decision and many times the risks outweigh the benefits."

Following the group presentation, seniors were given the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with a South College School of Pharmacy student or faculty Pharmacist to discuss specific questions regarding their personal prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines. Officer Daniel McFee of the Oak Ridge Police Department was on site at the event to give seniors an opportunity to dispose of their unused, unwanted or expired medications. Coalition member and participant Wendy Williams said, "This was a really good program and very appropriate for the senior audience."



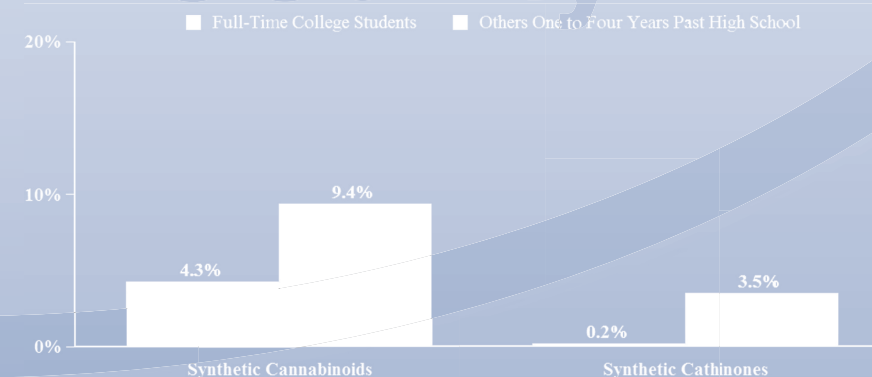
## SUBSTANCE ABUSE BYTES:



### Full-Time College Students Less Likely to Use Synthetic Cannabinoids or Cathinones Than Other Young Adults

Our education system has always encouraged post-secondary education, but new data suggest this effort is far more important than we once thought. Young adults not in college are more than twice as likely to report using synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic cathinones than those attending college full time, according to the most recent data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. Nearly one in ten high school graduates who were one to four years out of high school reported using synthetic cannabinoids, also known as spice or K2, in the past year, compared to 4.3% of full-time college students. Similarly, 3.5% of young adults not attending college reported using synthetic cathinones, also known as bath salts, compared to 0.2% of full-time college students. While there are currently 18 synthetic cannabinoids and 3 synthetic cathinones illegal at the federal level, these laws are often circumvented by the production, sale, and use of new synthetic cannabinoid and cathinone metabolites not covered by current legislation.

### Young Adults Not in College More Than Twice As Likely to Report Past Year Synthetic Cannabinoid or Synthetic Cathinone Use As Full-Time College Students\*, 2012



\*Full-time college students were defined as persons one to four years past high school who said they were taking courses as full-time students in a two- or four-year undergraduate college at the beginning of March 2012.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., Bachman, J.G., and Schulenberg, J.E., Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2012, Volume 2: College Students and Adults Ages 19-50, 2013.

Available online at [http://www.monitoringthefuture.org//pubs/monographs/mtf-vol2\\_2012.pdf](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org//pubs/monographs/mtf-vol2_2012.pdf).