

## Native American Youth and Substance Abuse



Center for Applied  
Behavioral Health Policy  
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## The UICAZ:

# Project Overview

### What is the UICAZ about?

- [Governor Janet Napolitano Campaign to Address Underage Drinking](#)
- Target population: Urban Native American youth, ages 9-18 in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson

### The Project

- Local coalitions led by lead agency:
  - Phoenix Indian Center
  - Tucson Indian Center
  - Native Americans for Community Action
- Goal: implement a research proven data-driven process called the Strategic Prevention Framework

## The Project

### ■ 3 Clear Objectives

- Develop a comprehensive, ongoing and active coalition on both the statewide and local level
- Data collection process
  - Gather existing data on target population
  - Conduct further collection in gap areas
    - Focus groups/mini-surveys, etc.
- Strategic Planning

## Strategic Prevention Framework



5 steps

## Coalition Building Process

- Members include schools-CBO's-local government-legal-police-spiritual-parents-community members-youth
- Decisions made by a comprehensive coalition
  - coalition allows for comprehensive planning and partnering
  - planning done by coalition
  - problem is addressed by community members



Needs  
Assessment

Results:  
Identified risk factors

## Needs Assessment Process

- Elicited and obtained contribution from coalition members
- Contacted agencies, organizations, and departments for supplementary data.
- Gathered data from existing and completed studies.

## Needs Assessment Process, Cont'd

- Gathered quantitative and qualitative data through surveys and focus groups.
  - Surveys
    - Parents, students, and prevention and intervention staff members
  - Focus groups
    - Elementary school students (age 9-12), middle school students (age 12-14) and secondary school students (age 14-17). Parent and adult groups.

## Data Sources

- Census Tract
- Arizona Department of Education
- Indian Education Departments
- Public School/Districts
- Maricopa County
- Coconino County
- Pima County
- AZ Underage Drinking Prevention Committee Findings, 2007

## Data Sources Cont'd

- Arizona State Departments
- County level Emergency Departments
- Publications and reports
- Arizona's *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*
- *Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in Native American Communities*
- *Prevention Committee 2006 Summary*

## Data Sources Cont'd

- Governor's Youth Commission Focus Groups
- Pima Prevention Partnership
  - Adult Perception Telephone Survey
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- *Emergency Department (ED) Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, Final Estimates*

## Data Source Cont'd

- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
- SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2006)
- Arizona Youth Surveys
- Pima County Substance Use Treatment Services: Assessment and Recommendations (2007)
- University of AZ Student Health
- And many more!

## State Data

Alcohol remains the single most serious substance abuse problem facing Native American communities today, and children and adolescents are no exception to the substance abuse epidemic.

Gerard, S. (2005). Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in Native American Communities

## State Data

**“In Arizona, alcohol kills more youth than all other drugs combined.”**

Holly Orozco, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor, Division For Substance Abuse Policy, 2008.

## Local Findings

**Problem Statement #1:** Native American youth consume alcohol or engage in binge drinking at rates well above the state average.

**Problem Statement #2:** Native American youth reported past 30 days use of alcohol and drugs at a higher percentage rate than any other racial/ethnic group in Arizona

**Problem Statement #3:** Access to alcohol from siblings and family members is the biggest contributor to underage drinking among Native American youth.

**Problem Statement #4:** Insufficient culturally based activities for urban Indian youth

## Risk Factors

- Individual: Favorable attitudes toward drug use/early onset of AOD use/alcohol/drug use
- Family: Family history of problem behavior/parent criminality
- School: Low bonding/low school attachment along with truancy/frequent absences
- Peer ATOD use
- Availability/use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in homes and neighborhood.

## Resources

- Available by community
  - Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T,
  - Tribal Youth Program (TYP),
  - The Haven –Native Ways (Tucson)
  - La Frontera
  - Native American Connections
  - Native Health
  - Coconino County Alliance Against Drugs

## Data-Driven Process

- Compiled data by Urban Center
- Developed lead problem statements
- Statewide problems also identified
- Shared at local coalition meetings
- Interim reports provided
- Basics for strategic plans



## DRAFT Plans – Sample goals

- To reduce the use/abuse of alcohol among Native American youth through raising awareness of the problem.
- Decrease the negative influence of underage drinking by family and peers
- Decrease the accessibility of alcohol to Native American youth under the age of 21 years
- Identify existing resources and increase support for UICAZ's underage drinking prevention efforts

## DRAFT Plans – Sample objectives

- By December, 2009, increase Native American youth and adult awareness of the dangers of alcohol use and binge drinking by 20%.
- By December 2010, educate 20% of urban Native American youths and families about the harmful effects and major influential factors in underage urban Indian alcohol use.
- By December 30, 2009, educate community leaders and members about the legal, social, and environmental implications of providing under age youth with alcohol.

## DRAFT Plans – Sample strategies

- Develop an awareness Social Marketing campaign on consequences of underage urban Indian alcohol use.
- Create a resource center for Native American youth and family services providing resources addressing underage drinking and other social issues.
- Adopt a culturally competent social marketing campaign for the urban Indian community utilizing the Draw the Line Campaign.

## Focus for FY09/10 Plans...

- Media
- Policy
- Coalition Building/  
sustainability



## Contact Information

### Native Americans for Community Action

- 2717 N. Steves Blvd., Ste. 11, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, OFFICE (928)-526-2968, FAX (928)-526-0708

### Phoenix Indian Center

- 4502 N. Central Ave., Ste. 250, Phoenix, AZ 85012, OFFICE (602)-264-6768, FAX (602)-274-7486

### Tucson Indian Center

- 96 E. Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701, OFFICE (520)-884-7131, FAX (520)-884-0240