

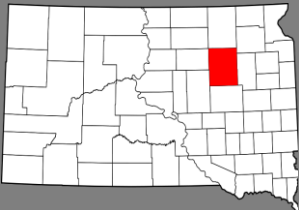


Spink County Coalition

The Spink County Coalition currently operates under a South Dakota State Block for underage alcohol prevention. *Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, The Coalition mobilizes communities within Spink County to prevent youth substance use by implementing evidenced-based, data-driven strategies.*

The Spink County Coalition is committed to supporting healthy lifestyle choices through education, collaborative planning, and community involvement.

The Coalition focuses on preventing substance abuse and other related issues in the community by improving health and safety in Spink County.



The Issue

At the inception of the Spink County Coalition in 2010, 23.7% of 7th-12th grade students in the Redfield School reported use of alcohol in the past 30 days. Thirty-day tobacco use in 2010 for grades 7-12 was 20.4%. Binge drinking (5 or more drinks within a few hours) was 11.9%.

The Trends

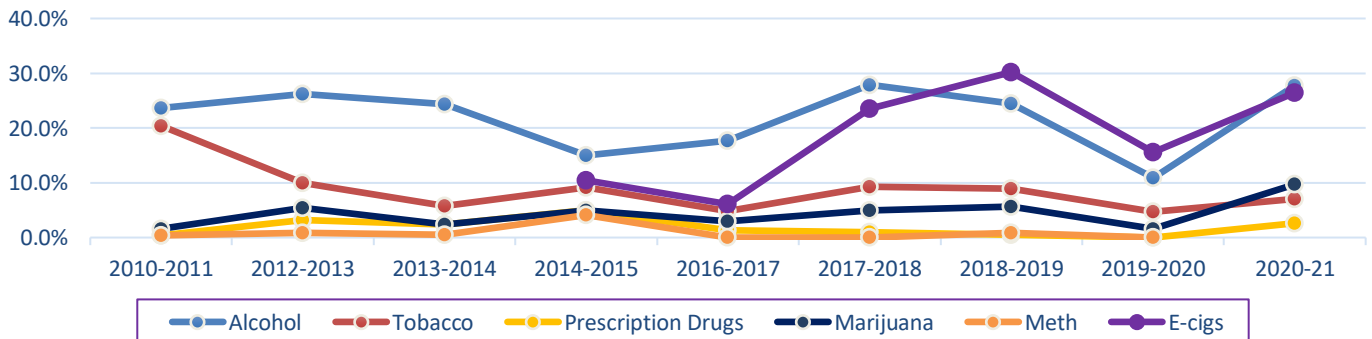
Comparisons of the Pride Survey data collected in the Redfield School in 2010 and 2019-20, thirty-day alcohol use among students in grades 7-12 decreased from 23.7% to 21.5% and binge drinking increased from 11.9% to 19.4% in 2019-20.

According to the same survey, thirty-day underage tobacco use has also decreased, from 20.4% to 8.6% in 2018. However, there has been a significant increase in vaping from 10.5% in 2015 to 25.8% in 2019-20.

(Redfield School Pride Survey 2019-20)

Spink County Coalition Partners know their efforts to inform youth and adults about the risks involved in underage alcohol, tobacco and other drug use are making a difference in our communities, but there is much more to accomplish! These changes happened because of the hard work of many community partners and the implementation of evidence-based programs and strategies in our schools and communities in Spink County.

**30-Day Reported Use Trends
Redfield School 7th-12th Grades
Pride Surveys 2010-2021**



The Response

The Spink County Coalition Partners take an active role in addressing the issues of substance use through prevention strategies targeting youth in the schools, community institutions, and policies and practices. These strategies include:

- **Project SUCCESS Prevention Program** educates youth about the risk of alcohol and tobacco use, provides youth leadership opportunities, and offers substance-free activities for students. It is also a prevention resource for schools and communities and also encourages policy revisions to reflect current trends.
- **Assists the Sheriff's Office with compliance checks and beverage server training** to reduce youth access to retail sources of alcohol and increase enforcement of existing alcohol laws as well as partnering to sponsor National Night Out and provide safe driving educational events for youth and adults.
- **Partners with the Redfield Park and Recreation Department** to secure grants that improve the health of the residents of Spink County.
- **Collaborates with Community Memorial Hospital** to provide resources to patients regarding opioid misuse.

In addition, the Spink County Coalition seeks to increase community awareness of substance use and related problems and promote the message that adolescent drinking and drug use is *everyone's* problem. Informing parents and other community members about the issue is an essential step in preventing youth substance use.

Accomplishments

The Coalition's impact is evident. The Spink County Coalition is making a difference. Check out these accomplishments!

- Worked with the Spink County Sheriff's Office to support, coordinate, and increase compliance checks in the community and offer presentations to students about safe driving
- Created and interactive CORE Prevention Day at the Redfield Public School to approximately 300 students and 40 staff. National and local speakers educate on core prevention topics such as substance use, mental health, and personal safety.
- Engaged Redfield SADD students in community service projects, peer to peer mentoring, and presentations to school, community organizations and government to address local issues of concern
- Started a Narcotics Anonymous Support Group in Redfield
- Co-sponsored the Community Wellness Fair
- Hosted several Town Hall meetings on underage alcohol, meth, and opioid issues
- Created a Community Crisis Response Support Team
- Started the Reflections Recovery Home
- Provided resources and educational materials to parents, faculty, staff, and students on substance misuse

Your Help is Needed!

Grant funding makes it difficult to sustain programs. Unless we can secure community support through existing and new community partnerships, the gains we have seen in our community may be threatened.

Funding is needed to continue providing the Project SUCCESS prevention program in our schools and communities. The benefits of continued funding will provide opportunities for the communities to continue to gain momentum with the main goal of reducing substance misuse to succeed in making Spink County safe and healthy.

Community Partners in Spink County

- ★ Community Memorial Hospital
- ★ Northeast Mental Health
- ★ NE South Dakota Area Health Education Center
- ★ Redfield Kiwanis
- ★ Redfield Lions
- ★ Redfield Area Ministerial Association
- ★ Redfield Narcotics Anonymous Chapter
- ★ Redfield Park & Recreation
- ★ Redfield Public School
- ★ Redfield SADD Chapter
- ★ South Dakota Developmental Center
- ★ Spink Area Support Network
- ★ Spink County Sheriff's Office
- ★ Spink County Public Health
- ★ Three Wise Women Counseling Services
- ★ Doland Public School
- ★ Northwestern Public School
- ★ Hitchcock/Tulare Public School

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