



Spink County Coalition

The Spink County Coalition currently operates under a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) for underage alcohol prevention & a School and Community Partnership Tobacco Prevention Grant. *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 has been focused on preventing substance abuse problems and other related issues in the community, but plans to expand the scope of activities to include a more holistic approach to health and safety of the residents of Spink County.



The Issue

In 2010, 47.5% of 7th-12th grade students in Spink County reported current use of alcohol. This included students who reported having at least one drink (beer, wine, or hard liquor) in the past year. Annual tobacco use in 2010 for grades 7-12 was 27.2%.

(Spink County Schools Pride Survey December 2010)

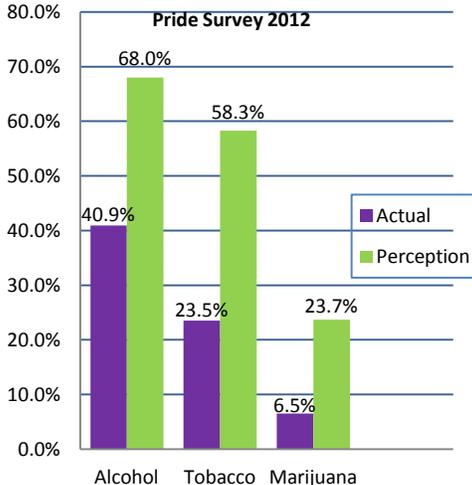
The Trends

Good news! According to the comparisons from the Pride Surveys done in the Spink County Schools in 2010 and 2012, alcohol use among students in grades 7-12 decreased from 47.5% to 40.9% and binge drinking from 24.2% to 20.8%.

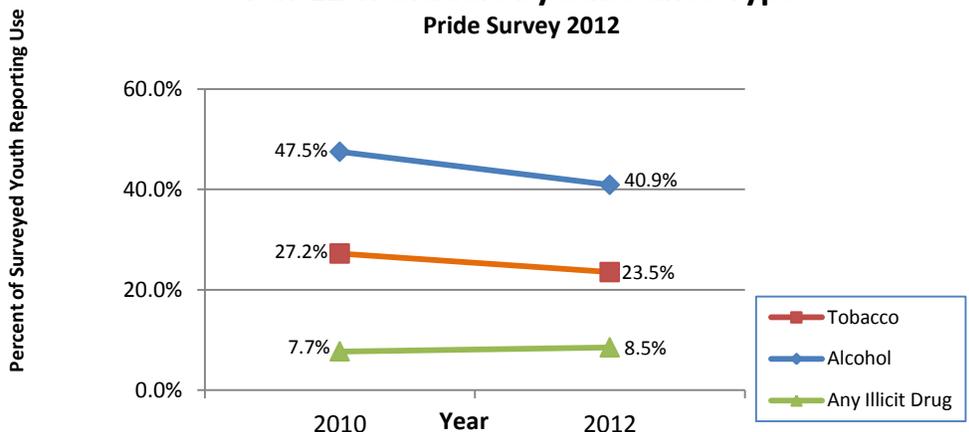
Annual underage tobacco use has also decreased, according to the same survey, from 27.2% to 23.5% during that same time. Although it is encouraging to see tobacco use decreasing, our youth are still smoking at a higher rate than the adult population in Spink County (18%). (www.countyhealthrankings.org)

Based on these trends, the 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! 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.

Spink County Students' Use: Perception of Peer Usage versus Actual Reported Student Use



Annual Substance Use among Spink County 7th-12th Graders by Substance Type
Pride Survey 2012





The Response

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

- **Project SUCCESS Prevention Program** to educate youth about the risk of alcohol and tobacco use, provide youth leadership opportunities, and offer substance-free activities in the Spink County schools, and look at school level substance abuse policies.
- **Alcohol Restrictions at Community Events** to provide training to alcohol beverage servers to reduce alcohol access to underage youth. This strategy also includes reviewing alcohol policies at the community and county levels.
- **Assisting with compliance checks** to reduce youth access to retail sources of alcohol and increase enforcement of existing alcohol laws.
- **Strengthening Families** to provide education and support to families with children ages 10-14.

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

Looking at the accomplishments the Spink County Coalition has helped to produce, the Coalition's impact is evident. The Spink County Coalition is making a difference. Check out these accomplishments!

- Worked with local officials to modify alcohol licensing regulations
- Worked with the Spink County Sheriff's Office to support, coordinate, and increase compliance checks in the community.
- Implemented Project SUCCESS at Doland, Hitchcock/Tulare, Northwestern, and Redfield schools reaching about 500 students by providing educational classes, referrals, individual and group sessions and school-wide awareness projects
- Started SADD Chapters in all four Spink County schools
- Offered Strengthening Families classes for kids 10-14 and their parents
- Hosted 3 Techniques in Alcohol Management (TAM) trainings
- Created 2 tobacco prevention billboards
- Assisted Northwestern School in revision of alcohol, nicotine, and other drug policy
- Co-sponsored a Community Wellness Fair

Your Help is Needed!

In May 2014, the Spink County Coalition Prevention Funding may end. 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 Project SUCCESS prevention counselors in our schools, the Coordinator position and to continue our Coalition activities and events as well. The benefits of continued funding will provide opportunities for the community to continue to gain momentum with the goal of reducing youth substance abuse.

Community Partners in Spink County

- ★ *Spink County Sheriff's Office*
- ★ *South Dakota Developmental Center*
- ★ *Doland Public School*
- ★ *Hitchcock/Tulare Public School*
- ★ *Northwestern Public School*
- ★ *Redfield Public School*
- ★ *Redfield SADD Adult Advisory Board*
- ★ *Community Memorial Hospital*
- ★ *Spink County Public Health*
- ★ *Redfield Area Ministerial Association*
- ★ *NE South Dakota Area Health Education Center*
- ★ *Northeast Mental Health*
- ★ *SD National Guard, Drug Demand Reduction Program*



Representatives from these organizations and businesses working together to reduce substance abuse in Spink County.

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