

LANCASTER PREVENTION COALITION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

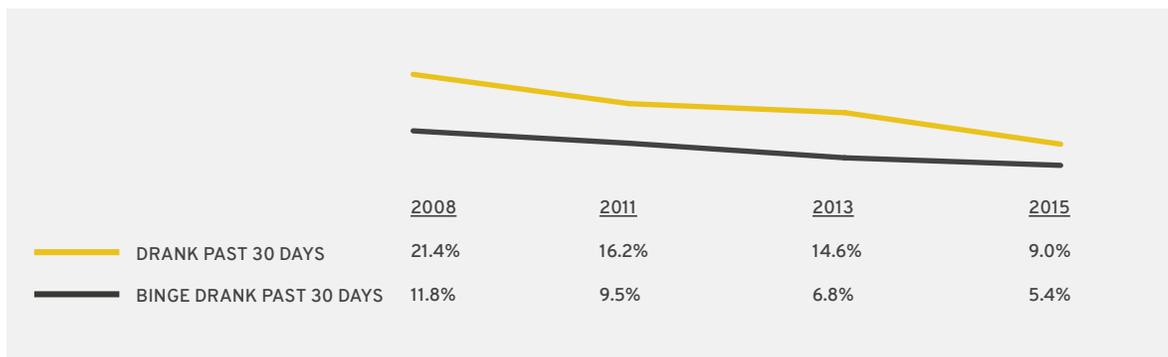
The Lancaster Prevention Coalition was one of thirteen coalitions that received SPF-PFS funding to implement efforts focused on reducing problems related to underage drinking by preventing the onset, as well as reducing underage drinking among Nebraskans aged 12 to 20, in one of the eleven targeted Nebraska counties during year-two of funding.

The LPC reported completing an assessment during year-two of funding, as well as using assessment data to inform prevention media in year-two SPF-PFS efforts by incorporating the data into their planning efforts. For the second phase in the SPF process, capacity, structural changes to the coalition were reported as absorbing action teams into the larger coalition. Partnerships identified during year-one of SPF-PFS funding were described as continuing. Despite the many sector partnerships identified, the LPC reported wanting more law enforcement and mental health professionals/agency involvement.

The LPC was surprised with their year-one Coalition Capacity scores, as their scores in inter-organization relationships went down when their data was re-analyzed with a smaller portion of their coalition. Moving forward, the coalition wants to focus on building knowledge on inter-organizational relationships, as well as coalition learning. The coalition reported having a strategic plan, which has been updated in the past year. In addition, the coalition reported conducting activities that produced gains in organizational resources during the second year of SPF-PFS funding. The most significant gains in capacity were identified as growth in cultural competency, reaching out and connecting with the cultural community, and obtaining new partners. Barriers to capacity during year-two were described as time and involvement.

Data indicators show that slightly less than one-tenth of Lancaster County youth have drunk alcohol in the past 30 days, and less than 6% have binge drunk in the past 30 days. Lancaster County females reported higher rates of past 30 day alcohol use and binge drinking than both Lancaster County males and females statewide, with the exception of 10th graders. White youth in Lancaster County held the highest rates of past 30 day alcohol use, whereas Hispanic youth held the highest rate statewide. Black youth in Lancaster County reported the highest rates of past 30 day binge drinking, whereas Hispanic youth held the highest rate statewide. Over half of parents that participated in SPF-PFS programming reported talking with their child about the dangers of alcohol within the past 12 months, while only approximately two-fifths of Lancaster County youth reported talking with at least one of their parents about the dangers of alcohol use during the past 12 months.

PAST 30 DAY USE AND BINGE DRINKING



Source: Nebraska Risk & Protective Factors Student Survey (NRPFSS)

Liquor law violations amongst 12-20 year olds in Lancaster County were 23.4 per 1,000 people in 2014, which is higher than the statewide average of 18.0. Approximately 1.0% of hospitalizations amongst 12-20 year olds in Lancaster County in 2014 were alcohol related, which is lower than the statewide average of 1.1%.

During year-two of SPF-PFS funding, the LPC implemented six strategies. The greatest year-two implementation successes were described as positive feedback from participants, and increased flexibility with strategy implementation. Barriers were identified as recruitment for strategy participation, program evaluations not completed due to lack of time, and difficulty collecting data from the talkaboutalcohol.org website. The coalition believes their efforts are changing targeted outcomes due to participant retention, positive feedback, and improved communication between youth and parents amongst participants. No modifications to their strategies during year-two were reported. Their fidelity scores for year two were 63% (Spring) and 81% (Fall) for talkaboutalcohol.org, 83% and 0% for All Stars, 100% and 83% for CLFC, and 100% for Love & Logic.

The next phase in the SPF process is evaluation. During year-two, the LPC reported communicating evaluation findings to key stakeholders and key informants in their community via the year-one evaluation results presentation, and having data on their website. The LPC reported year-two accomplishments in this area as partnering with Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) to conduct the LPS parent survey, and having a high response rate. Barriers were described as difficulties collecting data from their talkaboutalcohol.org website.

Sustainability and cultural competency are guiding principles in the SPF framework. The LPC reported changes in leveraged funding from year-one via using braided funding for specific strategies, and having county prevention funds. Their plans to sustain their current strategies are to use mini-grants and building on partnerships to hand over ownership. The coalition plans on growing capacity, and building relationships to help sustain the coalition. Cultural competency and behavioral health disparities were addressed during year-two by expanding efforts with a culturally adaptive strategy, and conducting more initiatives with the local cultural centers.

Furthermore, the LPC has been provided opportunities for T/TA specifically geared toward assistance with their SPF-PFS initiatives by the DBH staff, RPCs, and the evaluation team. The T/TA event/activity noted as the most useful during their year-two efforts was the Prevention Retreat hosted by their Behavioral Health Region. The coalition mentioned having interactions with other SPF-PFS coalitions through guidance from DBH, and at training events. However, they mentioned that not enough networking opportunities are made available, and would prefer a less formal, discussion-based format moving forward.

Overall successes for year-two were described as having successful strategy implementation. However, challenges spending SPF-PFS funding in a short timeframe was noted as a challenge. Over the next SPF-PFS funding year, the Lancaster Prevention Coalition would like to see rates of underage drinking decrease, have their upcoming Youth Alcohol Profile tool be seen as valuable by partners in the community, move more toward environmental efforts from activity-based efforts, and have more youth and cultural diversity involvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recruit missing sector representation;
2. Increase/enhance evaluation efforts;
3. Research additional/supplemental culturally relevant programming;
4. Continue to work toward building sustainability;
5. Continue to work on implementing strategies to fidelity.