

Grantee Profile

Mendocino County

Willits and Fort Bragg Education for Resiliency (WAFER)

Mendocino County Alcohol and Drug Program will use selective and indicated strategies from the Project SUCCESS program to reduce or eliminate youth binge drinking and frequent marijuana use. A full range of school-based and after school early prevention and intervention programming, including educational groups, parent education and student leadership activities will be provided to high-risk youth. Outcomes for high school and continuation school students include increases in perceptions of AOD-related harm, refusal skills, school connectedness, and attendance, and decreases in high-risk behaviors and perceptions of peer use. Middle school students will increase prevention knowledge and refusal skills. These outcomes will be measured through regular tracking and reporting and pre/post and follow-up surveys.

PROGRAM COMPONENT 1. *Reduce frequency and level of high-risk marijuana and alcohol use among high-risk high school students.*

- Full range of school-based AOD prevention and early intervention services.
- Engagement of parents in planning, implementation and evaluation
- Groups for teaching resistance, social competency, and changing social norms

Population(s) Served

- High rate use/binge drinking behaviors
- 140 youth annually
- Fort Bragg High School
- Noyo Continuation High School
- Sanhedrin Continuation High School
- Willits High School

PROGRAM COMPONENT 2. *Increase awareness of AOD harm and refusal skills among at-risk seventh grade students. Deliver Project SUCCESS to all seventh graders and link students with community referrals.*

Population(s) Served

- All at-risk seventh grade students
- Approximately 275 students annually
- Baechtel Grove Middle School
- Fort Bragg Middle School

Science-Based Criteria

Project SUCCESS – SAMHSA Model Program

Program Settings

- School-based (during school)
- School-based (after school)

Program Strategies

- Mentoring
- Parent engagement
- Parent education
- AOD education
- Community public awareness campaign

Risk Characteristics of Target Population

- Culture of acceptance
- Parental complicity
- Poor academic achievement and attendance
- High rates of binge drinking and incidence of marijuana use

Planning and Collaboration

Mendocino County AODP will coordinate the project through monthly WAFER partner meetings structured for information sharing, ongoing planning and process and outcome discussions. Project partners include Fort Bragg School District, Willits Unified

School District, Health and Human Services Social Services Branch, community hospitals and clinics, Fort Bragg and Willits police departments, Mendocino County Office of Education, Mendocino County Youth project, Safe Passage Family Resource Center and Willits Action Group. Additionally, parents will be included in ongoing planning, implementation and evaluation through interviews, surveys, school-based parent groups, and community organizations. Information on the project will be disseminated through activities such as a quarterly newsletter, presentations, articles in the newspapers and postings on AODP's www.stopteendrinking.org website.

Evaluation

The WAFER coordinator will work with an external evaluator. An evaluation plan will combine participatory techniques with a qualitative and quantitative method to document program implementation and provide feedback, involving youth and project partners to enhance program improvement.

Sample Performance Indicators

- Number of students completing 8-12 group sessions
- Number of parents participating in activities
- Pre/post curriculum test results
- Number of students referred for direct intervention services
- Number of referral resources identified
- Number of juvenile AOD arrests

AOD Administrator

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