

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Coalition Name:

I. Community Description:

- A. Describe the community geographically.
- B. Describe the community demographically (including the denominator)
- C. Define your community
 - 1. Communities of Place, interest or experience.
 - 2. The other relevant “communities within your community.”

II. Community Needs:

- A. Consequences
- B. Problem Behaviors (Drug Use)
- C. Root causes and Local Conditions (for each drug)

III. Community Resources

Describe the resources that promote positive consequences and behaviors, protective factors and local conditions that build protection and assets that can be used to change poor local conditions.

Identify any gaps in resources.

IV. Community History

- A. Historical origins of community generally.
- B. Historical origin of related issues.
- C. History of community organizing for community improvement and related issues

V. Problem / Goal Statements

- A. Write one Problem Statement for each drug to be addressed. (The coalition will create a logic model for each drug).
- B. Describe why each drug was prioritized.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT *ACME COUNTY ACTION COALITION*

I. Community Description: Acme County, a rural/suburban county in the southeast part of the state. The population demographics include:

- 157,325 people, 50,243 households, and 39,389 families residing in the County (43.1% have children under the age of 18 living with them).
- It is expected the County will experience a 47 percent growth in population during the next 10 years. Acme County is comprised of a younger population, with the highest percentage of its residents in the 25-44 age group (30% of total population). Elderly residents, over the age of 65, make up only 10% of the total population. Acme County is a mix suburban and rural community with proximity to several large cities that contributes to its increasing exposure to the drug problems associated with large urban centers.
- The racial makeup of the county is 59% White, 24% Black or African American, 10.7% Native American, 2% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 2.2% from other races, and 2% from two or more races. 14.3% of the population is Hispanic or Latino of any race (US Census 2010).

Acme County is comprised of many geographical areas. There are several different cities within the County: Blue Cove Springs, Endburg, Green Park, and Capstone Heights. When identifying themselves as Acme County residents, individuals will quickly refer to their neighborhood, town or city as their community. It is clear geographical boundaries are used by our residents to define their communities.

II. Community Needs: The following community data have been identified:

- According to the 2015 State Youth Substance Abuse Survey (SYSAS), Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Acme County students with onset, and a rate of 16.8% for binge drinking, Acme County ranks similarly in these areas in comparison to the State as a whole. However, Acme County ranks 1.7% higher than the state when looking at past-30-day-use.
- Past 30-day use of alcohol (33.7%) in Acme County is more prevalent than past-30-day tobacco (30.8%) and marijuana (23.5%) use. Between 2009 and 2011, overall past-30-day alcohol use among middle school students decreased 4.4 percent, but increased .9 percent among high school students.
- Since 2013, personal disapproval for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly has decreased 1.7 percentage points, and peer approval of drinking alcohol regularly has increased 3.8 percentage points. This trend indicates progressive increase in favorable attitudes toward underage alcohol use.
- 20% of all arrests in Acme County from drug offenses were among juveniles in comparison to 9% statewide. Acme County also had a higher percentage of youth liquor law violations.
- The School Safety Incident Report shows an increase among the county's students of alcohol reported offenses from 2011 to 2015. Significantly, 56 students were suspended for alcohol possession and/or use on school property during the first semester of the 2014-15 school year.
- In a collaborative effort between Acme County Sheriff's Office and Acme Action Coalition, a series of compliance checks were conducted between the months of October 2015 and February 2016. Out of 150 businesses checked, 30 were not in compliance (44%), indicating a possible need for increased training and education, as well as increased positive and negative reinforcement.

During the initial needs assessment Coalition members also identified several areas of focus or ‘Root Causes’ in our community. At a town hall meeting in January 2016, ACME County residents prioritized the following priority root causes (intervening variables):

- Favorable attitudes within the community and within families toward alcohol and tobacco use
- Ease of access to and availability of drugs (especially alcohol and tobacco)
- Favorable peer attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use
- Community apathy toward issues related to substance addiction
- Lack of opportunities for children who want to become involved with prosocial activities

Local conditions contributing to the identified root causes include:

- Parents providing alcohol in their homes because they believe it is “safer” and a “rite of passage,”
- Local law enforcement “looking the other way” because they have more important issues to deal with
- Local manufacturing industry creates an atmosphere in which heavy, frequent drinking is acceptable and well within the norm,
- Availability from alcohol outlets including sales to minors and availability of fake ids
- Lack of transportation for youth who want to participate in prosocial activities,
- Lack of prosocial opportunities and under-advertised/publicized opportunities that do exist for youth
- Low attitude toward education, prevailing belief that opportunities for educational and economic advancement are limited in our region.

III. Community Resources: Acme Action Coalition has many capacity resource strengths on which to build including:

Key leaders and stakeholders from law enforcement, school district, public health, local medical center, business community, faith-based organizations, media, juvenile justice, government, service providers along with youth and parents are represented on our coalition. Local resources include:

- Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant funding for 5 years 2014 – 2019 includes funding for individual and environmental strategies to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among youth.
- The Governor’s Office of Drug Control has also provided additional funding resources through grant block programs to address youth drug use problems related to underage alcohol usage.
- Coalition members have been able to attend CADCA’s Leadership Forums, Mid-Year Institute, National Coalition Academy, Regional Conferences, and others.

IV. Community History: Acme County was named for statesman George Acme. Acme County is one of 67 counties in the State and the county seat is Blue Cove Springs given the name by the fact that the Acme River curves the banks of the town which is surrounded by evergreens. In 2011, Acme Action Coalition was established as a collaborative community effort to address these emerging issues. Since then, various federal and state grants have been awarded to the coalition, which have contributed to its building momentum and increase capacity. Currently, several community stakeholders are represented in the coalition’s membership such as: the School District, Sheriff’s Office, Department of Health, Faith Community, Youth Serving Organizations, Prevention and Service Providers, Business Community, etc.

V. Problem Statement - Underage Alcohol Use in Acme County.