

Republic Reducing Alcohol and Drug use Coalition (R RAD Coalition) Strategic Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

Overview of Plan

Introductory paragraph that describes the coalition and geographic area served:

Republic Reducing Alcohol and Drug use (R RAD) Coalition is a collaborative body of community members that convenes monthly to address the issue of substance abuse prevention for Republic, a frontier community located in Ferry County, in the Northeast corner of the State of Washington. The coalition's service area encompasses the attendance boundaries of the Republic School District, which includes the Ferry County seat and the county's only incorporated city, Republic. The school district's boundaries encompass 477 square miles, serving 339 students in a single K-6 elementary school, a 7-8 middle school, and a 9-12 high school, co-located on a single campus. Of those students in the K-12 Republic School District, 67% qualify for free or reduced price lunch. Grace Christian Academy, a small private K-8 school, is also located within city limits, with a student enrollment of 14.

Mission and Vision:

R RAD brings together youth, parents, policy makers, professional behavioral health organizations, local businesses, educators, faith community leaders, judicial and law enforcement members, and senior citizens with the mission to promote a community-wide partnership to reduce and discourage underage drinking and substance use. Together, the coalition will create a base of support for behavior change.

By maximizing local, regional, state, and national resources and networks, R RAD will realize its vision of a safe community where youth are encouraged and empowered to choose to be alcohol and drug-free to pursue their dreams and realize their full potential.

Identification of problem behaviors:

Results of the 2012 Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) and 2013 Community Attitudes and Perceptions Survey (CAPS) identified that increasing numbers of Republic youth are engaging in high risk behaviors with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. Specifically, 29% of students who completed the survey consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, 21% engaged in binge drinking, 51% don't think regular drinking is risky, 74% don't think drinking is wrong, and 89% believe their peers are drinking. A spike in reported prescription drug abuse is also a concern since research indicates that nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter medication remains a significant part of the teen drug problem¹.

HYS results also indicated that 28% of youth believe that the community does not think drinking is wrong. Poor family management was also an indicated problem with 48% of youth reporting that their parents do not ask about homework, do not have clear rules, or know where they are or who they are with when not at home. CAPS results showed that 27% of respondents believed it is okay for parents to offer their children alcoholic beverages in their home and 41.67% think most adults in the community feel it is okay for parents to offer their teenage children alcohol in their home.

Compounding this troubling data, previous community-based prevention efforts were not sustained and had often been conducted in isolation of other organizations with similar objectives.

Priorities, Strategies and Activities:

Driven by this data, R RAD has established the following targeted priorities that span the four domains of the National Institute of Drug Abuse's research into risk and protective factors which have been demonstrated to be psychosocial predictors of adolescent substance abuse:

¹ DrugFacts: High School and Youth Trends. Revised January 2014. Retrieved from www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/high-school-youth-trends.