

Abstract

The Darrington Prevention Intervention Community Coalition (DPICC) is a grassroots volunteer organization established in January, 2011 to prevent and reduce underage drinking and other substance abuse in Darrington, Washington. Located in the upper Stillaguamish Valley of North Snohomish County, the Coalition adopted a data-based decision making approach known as the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to influence positive and lasting change within the community and the entire Darrington School District catchment area.

Anchored by J. David Hawkins and Rico F. Catalano's risk and protective factors approach to substance abuse prevention, the Coalition's engagement in this framework seeks to answer five basic questions that align with the model's five step process:

1. **What is the problem?**
 - Stage: Assessment
 - Action: Analyze local data
2. **What do we have to work with to address the problem?**
 - Stage: Capacity
 - Action: Build prevention capability
3. **What is our plan for addressing the problem?**
 - Stage: Planning
 - Action: Develop a thoughtful, data-driven plan
4. **What are we going to do to get the work done?**
 - Stage: Implementation
 - Action: Put effective prevention programs and policies in place
5. **How will we know if we have succeeded?**
 - Stage: Evaluation
 - Action: Measure our efforts for positive changes



The Strategic Prevention Framework is a mechanism for the Coalition to make meaningful connections between people, data and interventions. Most importantly, the SPF is an on ongoing process; the DPICC will return to these five steps again and again.

Utilizing the processes in this framework, the Darrington Prevention Intervention Community Coalition prioritized five risk and protective factors, across three domains, that science has demonstrated to be psychosocial predictors of adolescent substance abuse:

Domain: Community

(R) Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms & Crime

(P) Community: Bonding

Domain: Peer

(R) Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior

(R) Early Initiation

Domain: Family

(R) Family Management Problems

To influence these predictors, the Coalition will support a mix of direct service, community organizing and environmental strategies throughout Darrington and the Darrington School District catchment area that will increase:

- Community readiness to address laws and norms favorable to drug use
- Youth bonding to adults with prosocial values
- Knowledge of family management skills

And decrease:

- The risk associated with friends who engage in the problem behavior
- The risk associated with early initiation of the problem behavior