

PREVENTION WORKS! VT

What is a community coalition?

A coalition is a group of individuals and/or organizations with a common interest who agree to work together toward a common goal. That goal could be as narrow as obtaining funding for a specific intervention, or as broad as trying to improve permanently the overall quality of life for most people in the community.

In Vermont, community coalitions in 23 communities are working with organizations and individual members to design and implement community wide substance abuse prevention strategies. These strategies are intended to change community norms and standards of conduct related to substance abuse within the community.

Who should belong to a coalition?

Any interested community member is welcome to join their local coalition. To ensure that a comprehensive prevention strategy is implemented there are 12 sectors that each coalition strives to engage. (See the sector wheel). Community coalitions are comprised of community members who are mobilizing at the local level -- and statewide under the PW!VT umbrella -- to make their communities safer, healthier and drug-free.

How do coalitions make a difference in communities?

Coalitions educate the community, increase community involvement in local substance abuse prevention initiatives and implement prevention programs that have been proven effective.

The strategies coalitions use include:

- Public information
- Early interventions & referral
- Community-based processes
- Education
- Substance-free social opportunities
- Environmental approaches.

A comprehensive approach using as many or all six prevention strategies works best!



Often, community problems or issues are too large and complex for any one agency or organization.

Coalition building is a smart strategy that promotes coordination and collaboration and makes efficient use of limited community resources.

By connecting multiple sectors of the community in a comprehensive approach, community coalitions achieve real outcomes.

Prevention Works! VT

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