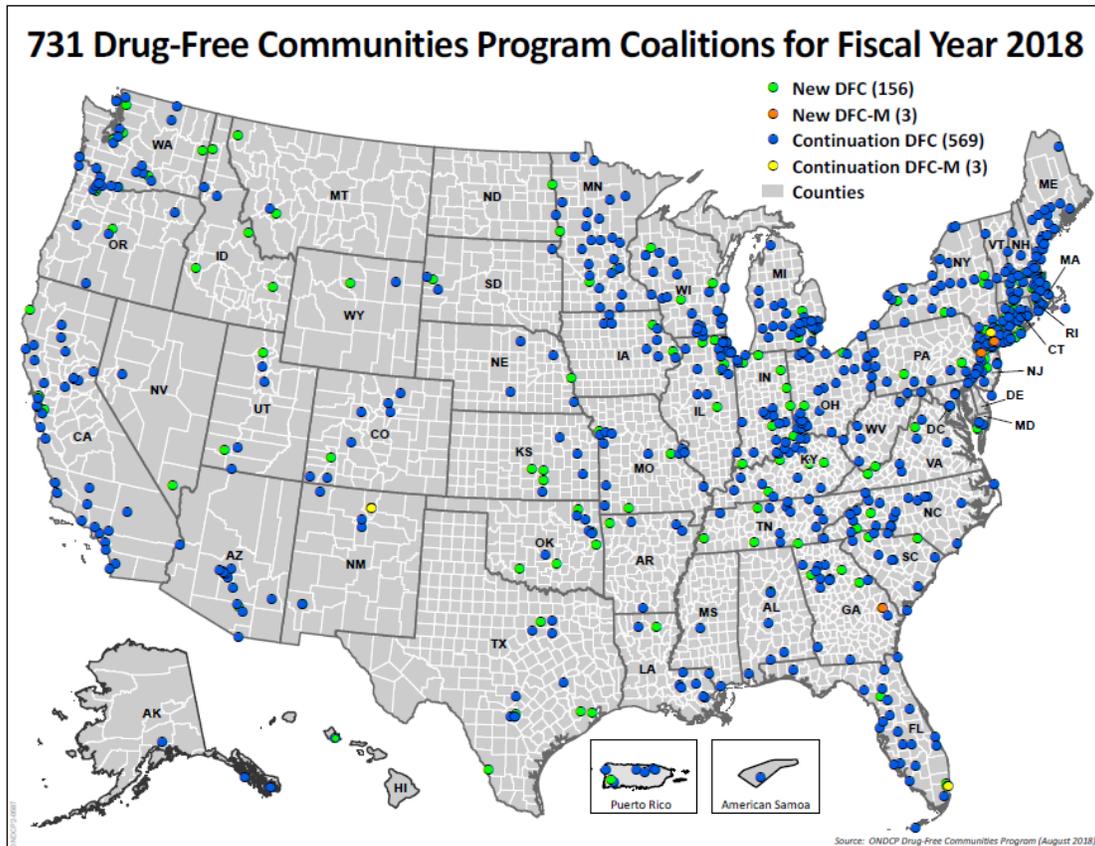


## FACT SHEET:

# Office of National Drug Control Policy Drug-Free Communities Support Program



The Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997, is the Nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent youth substance use. Directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the DFC Program provides grants to community coalitions to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners to create and sustain a reduction in local youth substance use.



Surveys indicate that substance use rates among youth, while relatively stable, remain unacceptably high. Data from one national survey (2017) indicates that high school seniors are more likely to smoke marijuana than cigarettes and that 17% of high school seniors reported binge drinking (i.e., 5 or more drinks in a row) in the past two weeks.<sup>1</sup> A second national survey found similar results in 2017 with high school youth engaging in a range of risky behaviors including 30% reporting alcohol use within the past 30 days, 20% reporting marijuana use within the past 30 days, and almost 10% reporting smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days. In addition, 14% reported taking pain medication without a prescription or other than how prescribed at least once in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

### The Solutions are in the Community

Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage multiple sectors of the community and employ a variety of environmental prevention strategies to help improve the communities' environments to address local substance use risks and problems. DFC-funded coalitions involve local communities in finding solutions and also help show youth at risk for substance use that most of our Nation's youth choose not to use substances.

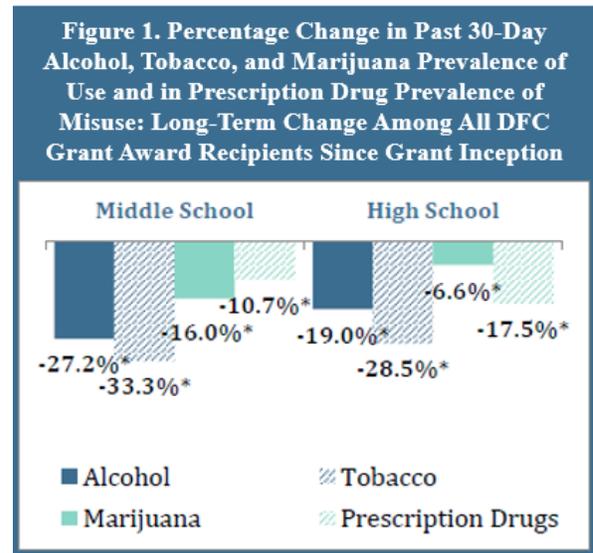
To increase local community participation in efforts to reduce substance use among youth aged 12-17, the DFC Program requires funded coalitions to include active participation from the 12 sectors of the community below.



- Coalition members conduct ongoing community assessments to prioritize efforts to prevent and reduce youth substance use. These assessments are used to plan and implement data-driven, community-wide strategies that address these complex social issues.
- The DFC Program requires funded coalitions to employ environmental prevention strategies, which are broad initiatives aimed at addressing the entire community through the adaptation of policies and practices related to youth substance use.

### Past 30-Day Substance Use Decreased Significantly

- As shown in Figure 1, the DFC Program is effective. Since the program’s inception, the past 30-day prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drug misuse has declined significantly among middle school and high school aged youth in DFC-funded community coalitions.
- Most (87%) DFC coalitions indicated that they targeted opioids (heroin, prescription drugs, or both), which is reflective of the ongoing national opioid crisis.<sup>3</sup>



### Providing Support for Communities Across the United States

- In FY 2018, ONDCP awarded 731 grants, the highest number in the program’s 20 year history. As a result, DFC funded 156 new, 569 continuation grants for coalitions already in a five-year cycle, 3 new DFC Mentoring grants, and 3 continuation DFC Mentoring grants. With community coalitions in all 50 states, this year’s DFC grant awards are the highest in the program’s 20 year history – a \$90.9M investment.
- In FY 2017, DFC funded community coalitions served communities with an estimated 58.6 million people, or 19% of the population of the United States. Similarly, nearly one in five youth was living in a community with a DFC in 2017 (19 % of all United States youth at the middle and high school level).<sup>4</sup>
- Community coalitions that are at least six months old can apply for up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years. Each coalition can apply for two cycles of funding, for a maximum of 10 years.
- To be eligible for DFC funding, coalitions must comply with a minimum one-to-one match requirement, thus doubling the Federal investment. The matching amounts – whether in-kind, donations, or cash – must come from non-Federal sources. Learn more by visiting: [WhiteHouse.gov/ONDCP](https://www.whitehouse.gov/ONDCP).

<sup>1</sup> University of Michigan. Monitoring the Future Study (December 2017) available here: <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/17data.html#2017data-drugs>

<sup>2</sup> Kann L, McManus T, Harris WA, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2017. MMWR Surveill Summ 2018;67(No. SS-8):1–479. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/2017/ss6708.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> ICF. (2018). Drug-Free Communities Support Program, 2017 DFC National Evaluation End-of-Year Report. Office of National Drug Control Policy. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/grants-programs>

<sup>4</sup> ICF. (2018). Drug-Free Communities Support Program, 2017 DFC National Evaluation End-of-Year Report. Office of National Drug Control Policy. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/grants-programs>