



Drug-Free Communities Support Program

National Evaluation:

2018 National Evaluation

End-of-Year Report

Executive Summary

A Report by the

Office of National Drug Control Policy

June 2019

—2018—

Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program National Evaluation End-of-Year Report

Executive Summary Prepared by Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program National Evaluation Team

I am excited to share with you the results of the 2018 Drug Free Communities National Evaluation. This year's results show the continuing positive impact of DFC coalitions in their communities every day. There were 713 DFC grant recipients funded in FY 2017, supporting DFC coalitions committed to meeting the goals of the DFC program by building community capacity and reducing youth substance use. DFC coalitions are found in small and large communities nationwide: In 2018, 1 in 5 Americans — or approximately 62.8 million — lived in a community with a DFC funded coalition.

It is clear that the dedication of our DFC coalitions has produced results, particularly around reducing youth substance use. In 2018, DFC coalitions reported a decrease in youth use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and the misuse of prescription drugs. Several promising practices were identified by our DFC coalitions, including hosting a youth coalition, engaging the Law Enforcement sector, and building community capacity to address opioid use. Please join me in congratulating our DFC coalitions on working hard to build a better future for our youth!



Jim Carroll

James W. Carroll, Director
The Office of National
Drug Control Policy

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

FY 2017 DFC-FUNDED COALITIONS

713*
COMMUNITY
COALITIONS
HELD GRANTS

UP TO **\$125,000** PER YEAR

UP TO **5 YEARS** PER AWARD

*MAXIMUM **10 YEARS** OF FUNDING

***413** Years 1 thru 5 | **300** Years 6 thru 10

2,600+
GRANTS AWARDED

to more than **1,700** communities,
in all 50 States, Territories,
and Tribal Communities since 1998.

COMMUNITY REACH

Since 2005, 49% of the U.S. population has lived in a community with a DFC coalition. In FY 2017...



62.8M

AMERICANS LIVED
IN A DFC-FUNDED
COMMUNITY



2.5M
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
STUDENTS



3.6M
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS



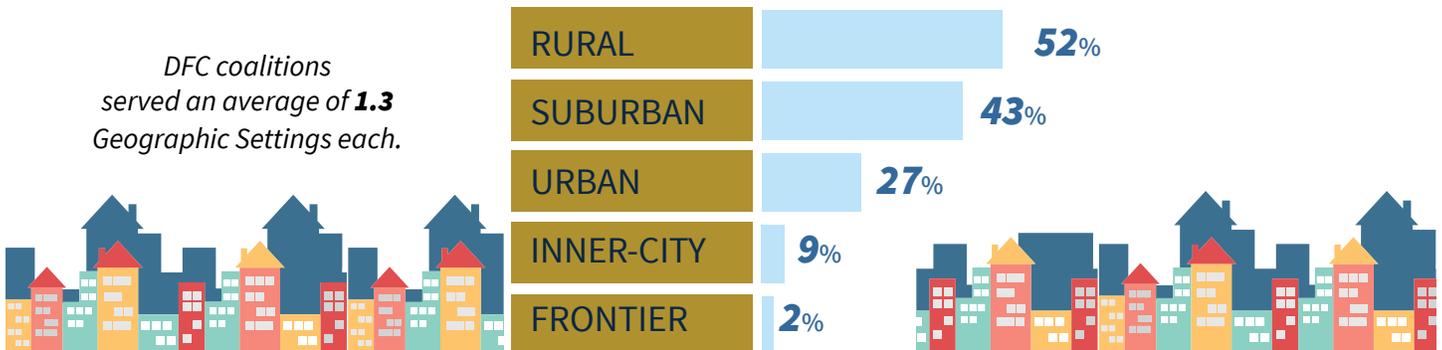
1 in 5

AMERICANS LIVED
IN A DFC-FUNDED
COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SERVED

DFC coalitions are asked to identify the type of geographic setting(s) they serve with their prevention efforts. Among the DFC coalitions reporting in August 2018, coalitions self-reported serving:

*DFC coalitions
served an average of **1.3**
Geographic Settings each.*



TOP 10 TARGETED SUBSTANCES

DFC coalitions select up to five substances they target in their communities.

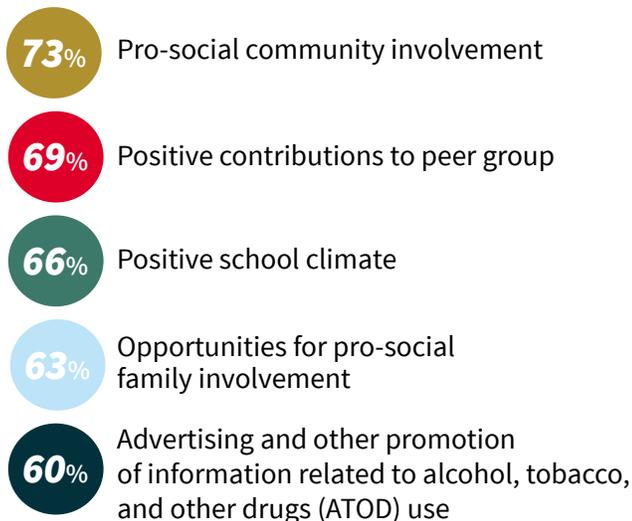
The percent of coalitions who reported focusing on each of the following substances are shown below:

• Alcohol	98%	• Prescription Drugs (Non-Opioids)	39%
• Marijuana	90%	• Heroin	26%
• Any Prescription Drug	90%	• Over-the-Counter	11%
• Prescription Drugs (Opioids)	87%	• Synthetics	11%
• Tobacco	63%	• Methamphetamine	6%

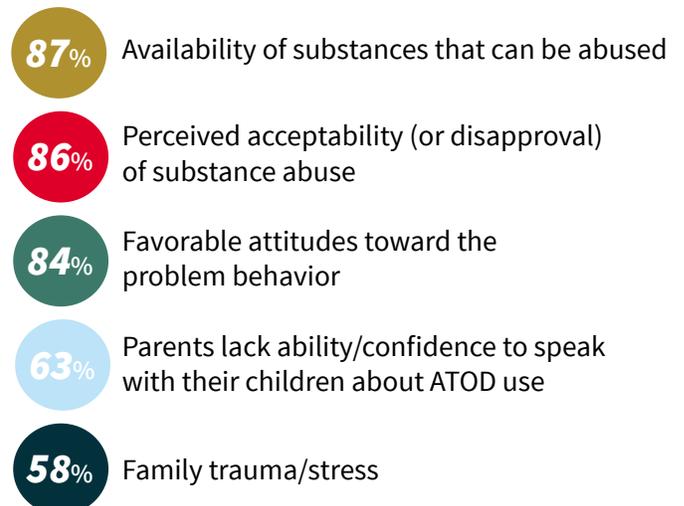
TOP 5 COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE FACTORS AND RISK FACTORS

Protective factors are characteristics that decrease the likelihood of substance use and its associated harms. Conversely, risk factors are characteristics that may increase the likelihood of substance use and its associated harms, or increase the difficulty of mitigating these dangers. DFC coalitions are encouraged to identify local protective and risk factors existing within their communities to assess where to focus their prevention efforts.

Community **PROTECTIVE** Factors
(% of DFC coalitions selecting factor)



Community **RISK** Factors
(% of DFC coalitions selecting factor)



BUILDING CAPACITY



DFC coalitions are building capacity and mobilizing the community to address youth substance use.

SECTOR MEMBERSHIP/ENGAGEMENT

DFC coalitions were asked to indicate the involvement, on average, of active members from each sector in coalition activities. Involvement was rated on a 5-point scale, with 1 indicating 'low' involvement and 5 indicating 'very high' involvement.



95%

of DFC coalitions reported having at least one active member from each of the 12 sectors in August 2018.



33,500

Individuals mobilized by DFC coalitions to engage in youth substance use prevention work.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

DFC coalitions selected up to three activities they engaged in the most to build their capacity to serve their community during the reporting period. The top three activities were:



MOBILIZING THE COMMUNITY

School Sector Engagement

Several DFC coalitions reported strong collaboration with School sector members, often partnering on data collection and use, youth programming, and event planning. School districts served as a primary link between the DFC coalitions and parents.



DFC coalitions worked with School sector members to plan school-based strategies such as student wellness programs, prevention curricula, and professional development for teachers and staff.

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION



DFC coalitions engaged in a comprehensive range of strategies for developing local solutions to local problems.

A primary purpose of collaboration across sectors that traditionally work independently is leveraging skills and resources in planning and implementing prevention strategies. To assess what DFC coalitions are doing, 41 unique prevention activities have been identified, organized by the Seven Strategies for Community Change. Below are the percentages of DFC coalitions who reported engaging in at least one activity within each of the seven strategies, as well as the most commonly implemented activity within each strategy.

PERCENTAGES OF COALITIONS

engaging in each of the **7 Strategies** for Community Change

• Providing Information	100%
• Enhancing Skills	97%
• Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers	84%
• Providing Support	80%
• Changing Consequences	66%
• Changing Physical Design	63%
• Modifying/Changing Policies	60%

MOST COMMON ACTIVITIES

across each prevention **Strategy**

• Information Dissemination	92%
• Youth Education and Training	85%
• Reducing Home and Social Access	68%
• Alternative Social Events	64%
• Strengthening Enforcement	45%
• Identifying Physical Design Problems	30%
• Drug-Free Schools	25%



A majority of DFC coalitions engaged in a mix of strategies, with **MORE THAN HALF (57%)** implementing at least one activity from at least six or all seven strategies



CORE MEASURES FINDINGS

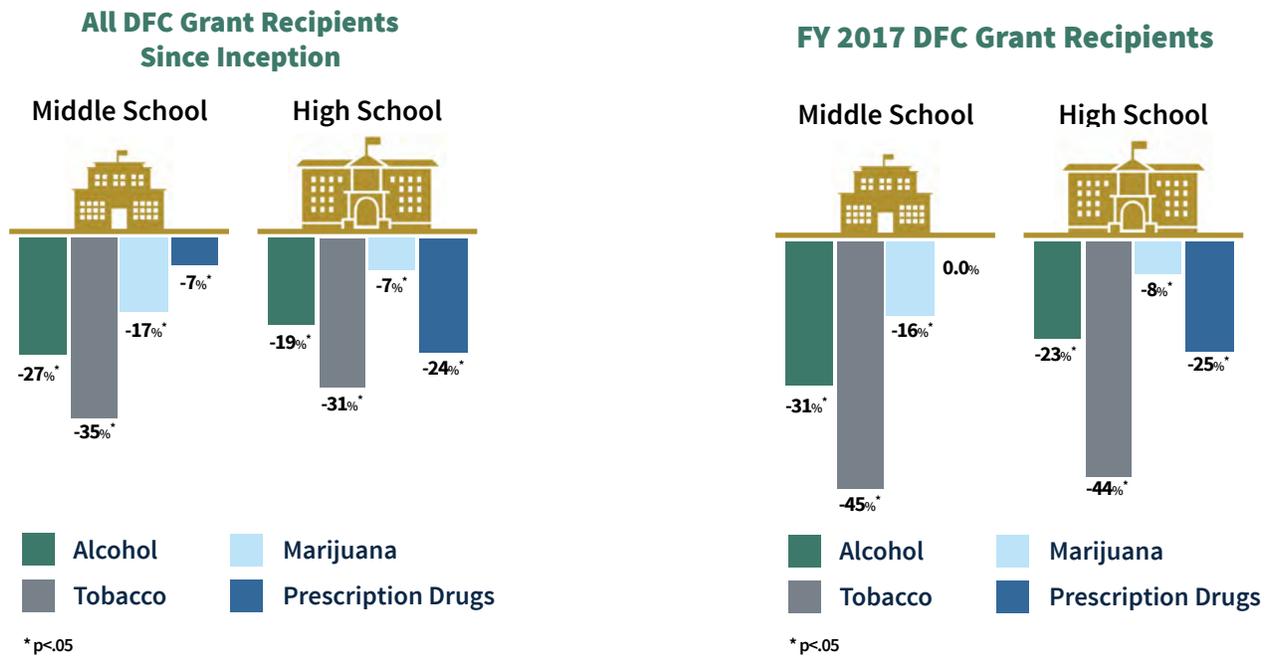
DFC coalitions are required to collect and submit new core measures data every two years. Data are collected through surveys of youth with questions on past 30-day use, perception of risk, perception of peer disapproval, and perception of parental disapproval for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and the misuse of prescription drugs. Through this data collection, DFC coalitions are able to measure trends among youth in their communities.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PAST 30-DAY USE

(From first report to most recent report)



DFC coalitions reported that substance use/misuse **DECLINED** for youth living in DFC-funded communities.



IMPACT



Coalitions significantly **INCREASED** the number of youth who reported past 30 day non-use.

The significant changes associated with having a FY 2017 DFC coalition in the community translated to thousands of additional youth making the choice not to use a given substance.



*Note: Number of estimated youth is based on extrapolating the percentage change to the potential reach based on census estimates.

CORE MEASURES FINDINGS BY SUBSTANCE

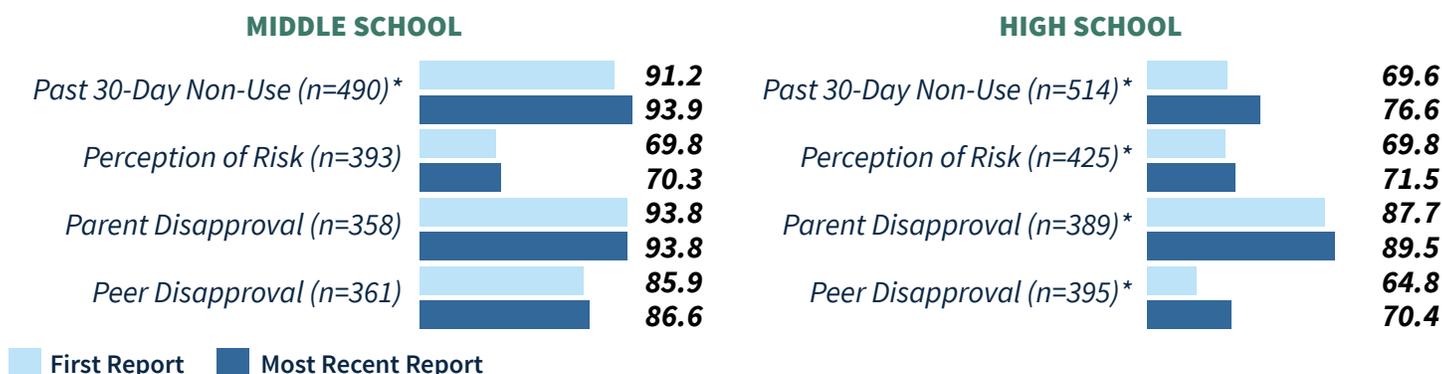
Core Measures data are analyzed in two ways: (1) for all available data from DFC coalitions since the inception of the grant and (2) for only the DFC coalitions funded in FY 2017. All core measures data are analyzed from the first report to the most recent report, and asterisks indicate a statistically significant finding. Only results from the FY 2017 group are highlighted here; more detailed findings, including from the all-DFC group, can be found in the full evaluation report.

Alcohol Core Measures

Key findings:

- Past 30-day non-use increased significantly among middle school and high school youth.
- There were significant increases in perceived risk, parental disapproval, and peer disapproval among high school youth.
- Perception of peer disapproval was higher for middle school youth than for high school youth.

Alcohol: Change Over Time

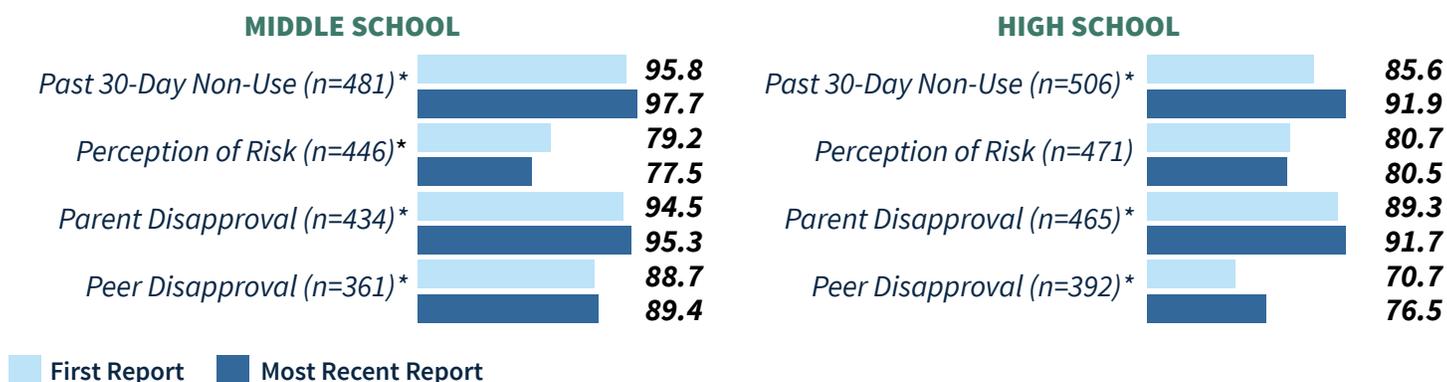


Tobacco Core Measures

Key findings:

- Past 30-day non-use increased significantly among middle school and high school youth.
- Perception of risk was high among both middle school and high school youth, but decreased significantly among middle school youth.
- Both parental disapproval and peer disapproval increased significantly for middle school and high school youth.
- For high school youth, perception of parental disapproval was higher than perception of peer disapproval.

Tobacco: Change Over Time

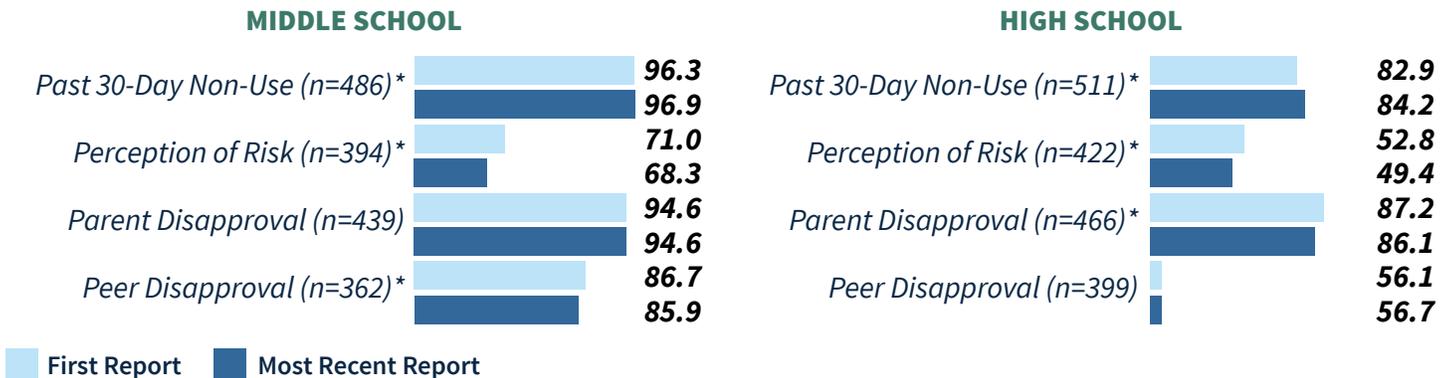


Marijuana Core Measures

Key findings:

- Past 30-day non-use increased significantly among middle school and high school youth.
- Perception of risk, perception of peer disapproval, and perception of parental disapproval were all high among middle school youth, but decreased significantly for both perception of risk and perception of peer disapproval.
- Perception of parental disapproval was higher than both perception of risk and perception of peer disapproval among high school youth. There were significant decreases in perception of risk and perception of parental disapproval among high school youth.

Marijuana: Change Over Time

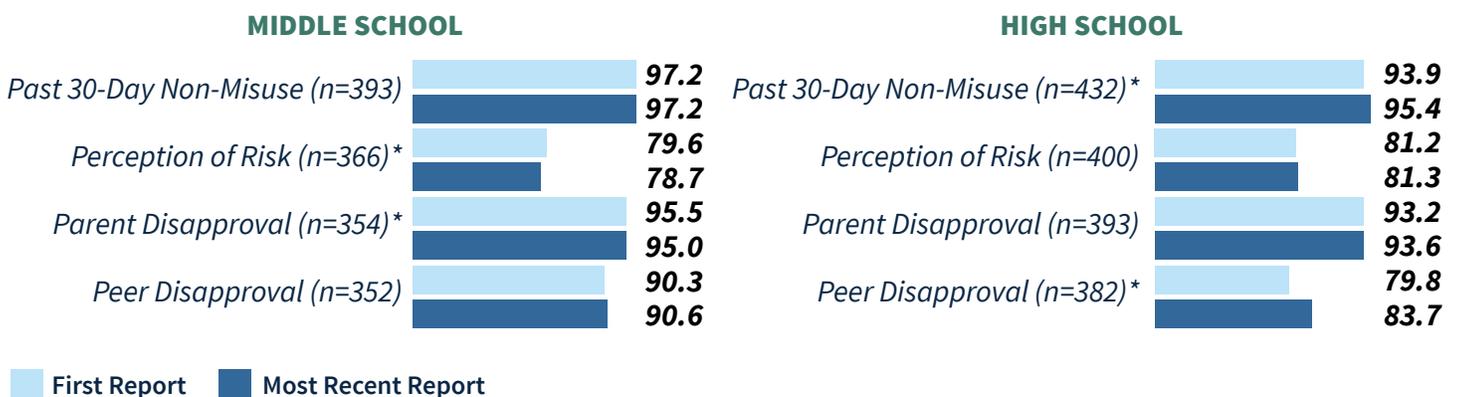


Prescription Drugs (Misuse) Core Measures

Key findings:

- Past 30-day non-misuse was quite high for both age groups, and further increased significantly for high school youth.
- Perceptions of risk, peer disapproval, and parent disapproval were high in both age groups.
- Perception of peer disapproval increased significantly among high school youth.
- While high, perception of risk and perception of parent disapproval decreased significantly among middle school youth.

Prescription Drug (Misuse): Change Over Time



PROMISING PRACTICES

Based on an analysis of progress report and site visit data, the DFC National Evaluation Team identified three promising practices in which DFC coalitions engage in order to achieve their goals.

These promising practices are: hosting a youth coalition, collaborating with the Law Enforcement sector, and addressing opioids.

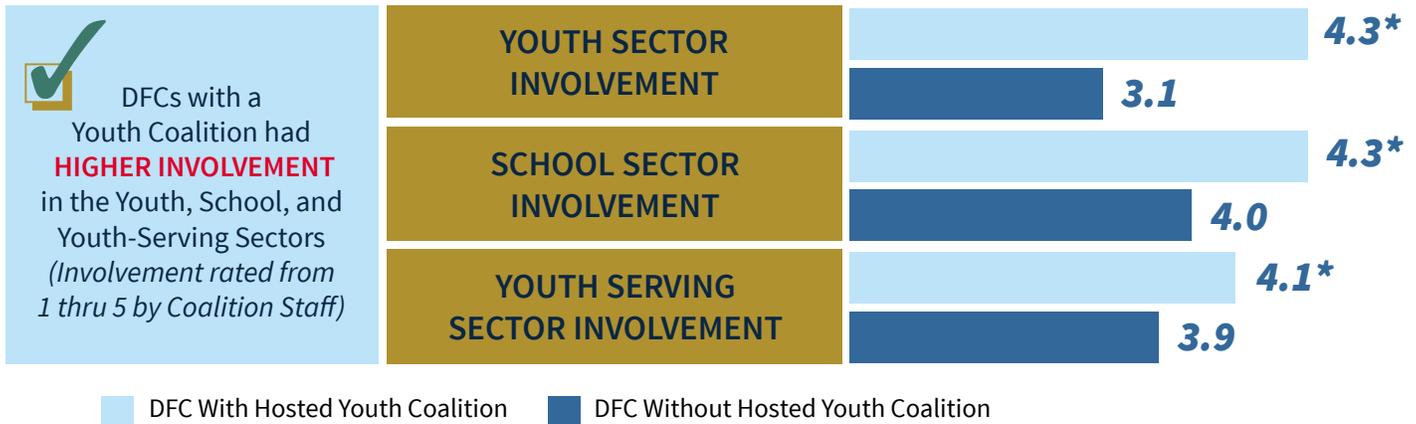
HOSTING A YOUTH COALITION

DFC coalitions are a strong example of working with youth to provide opportunities for positive youth contributions and development, rather than solely doing things for or to youth in their communities. A youth coalition is a group of youth who work together to plan and implement activities related to the mission of the full coalition. Youth coalitions generally meet independently with youth serving in key leadership roles, while an adult coalition member is present as a mentor or leader.

72% of DFC coalitions hosted a youth coalition in 2018 – up from **66%** in 2017

87% of these coalitions reported their youth coalition met at least **once a month**

83% reported that these youth coalitions are **highly or very highly involved** in planning and implementing activities



 DFCs with a Youth Coalition had **HIGHER INVOLVEMENT** in the Youth, School, and Youth-Serving Sectors (Involvement rated from 1 thru 5 by Coalition Staff)

* Significant difference, $p < .05$.

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND YOUTH COALITIONS

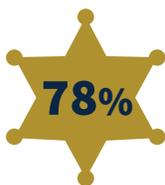
 **DFC coalitions with a Youth Coalition were more likely than those without to engage in certain activities, across a broad range of Implementation Strategies.**

Below are the percentage point differences between DFC coalitions with a Youth Coalition, versus DFC coalitions without a Youth Coalition, who reported engaging in certain activities. DFC coalitions with a Youth Coalition were more likely to engage in:

- +22 Youth Education and Training: Sessions focusing on providing information and skills to youth
- +14 Reducing Home and Social Access to Alcohol, as well as Other Substances
- +19 Alternative Social Events: Drug-free parties and other events supported by the coalition
- +12 Teacher/Youth Education and Training
- +14 Recognition Programs
- +10 Community Member Education and Training

COLLABORATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Many DFC coalitions reported working closely with Law Enforcement sector members and this collaboration was examined more closely in the context of coalition activities and accomplishments. The Law Enforcement sector can include local, county, and State law enforcement and emergency services, school resource officers, juvenile justice, and probation offices. In addition, at the Federal level, Law Enforcement sector engagement often included agencies such as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and ONDCP’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) grant recipients.



of DFC coalitions report **High** or **Very High** engagement with Law Enforcement Sector.



STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTOR

Below are the percentage point differences between DFC coalitions with High Law Enforcement Sector engagement, versus DFC coalitions with Low Law Enforcement Sector engagement, who reported engaging in certain activities. DFC coalitions with High Law Enforcement Sector engagement were more likely to be involved in:

- +20** Strengthening Enforcement
- +13** Business Training
- +18** Strengthening Surveillance
- +10** Direct Face-to-Face Information Session
- +16** Reducing Home and Social Access
- +9** Parent Education and Training

COLLABORATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

2018 site visits found common **SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES** to **BUILD COLLABORATIONS** with Law Enforcement:



Focus on relationship building



Communicate regularly and with purpose



Be persistent

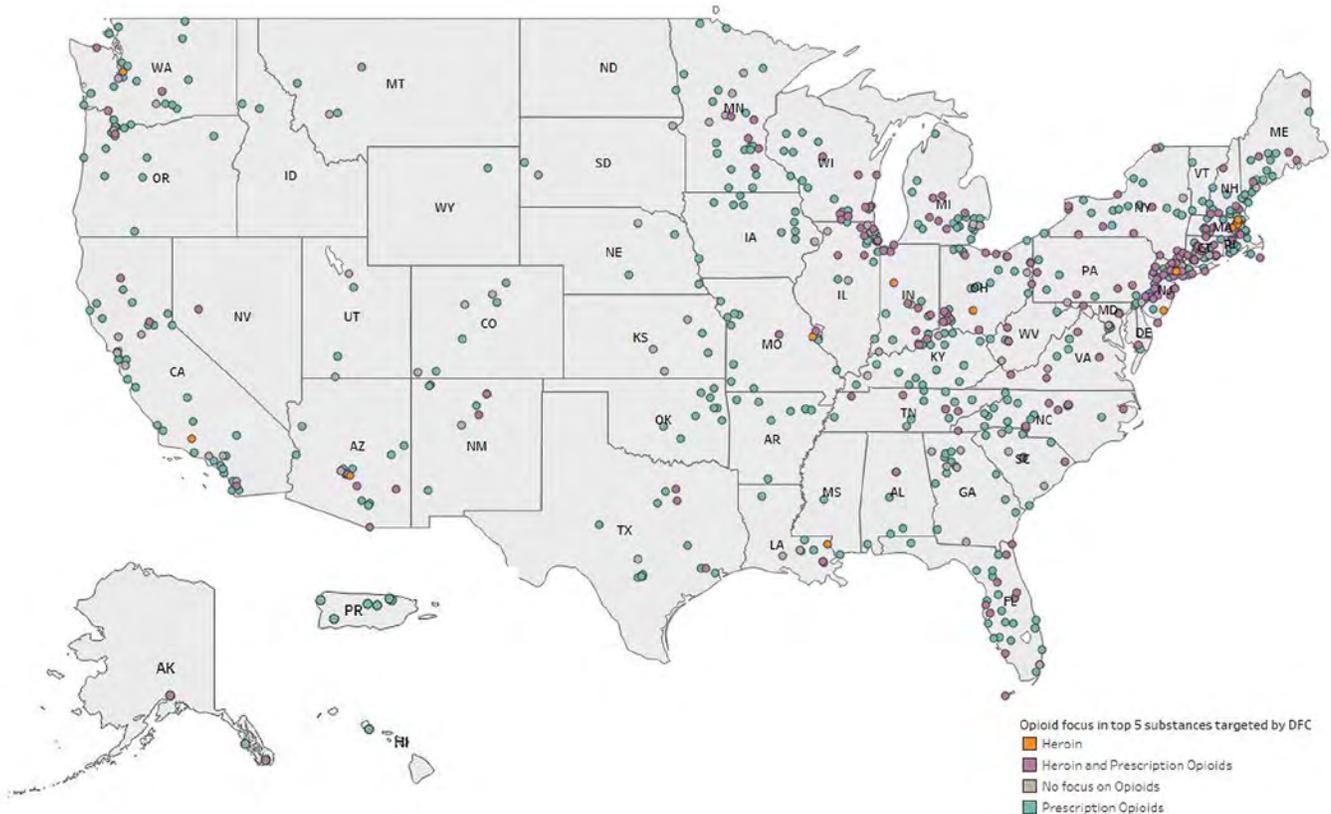
“Find an advocate inside the police department who has an interest in helping with prevention efforts. Make sure you understand law enforcement’s priorities, goals, and approaches so your work together helps both parties. Remain flexible to new ideas and collaboration—the best ideas come when all parties know they are working towards the same goal.”

— Coalition Staff Member

BUILDING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS OPIOIDS

DFC coalitions are encouraged to focus on building capacity to identify local problems and address them with local solutions. One way to understand the extent to which DFC coalitions are meeting this goal is to examine how they address new substance challenges that arise in their communities. During recent years, many DFC coalitions reported needing to address the increase in issues related to opioids in their local community.

Opioids are a top concern: 89% of FY 2017 DFC coalitions targeted heroin, prescription opioid drugs, or both (named as a top 5 targeted substance).



73%

of DFC coalitions specifically mentioned working to address either prescription drugs or opioids in their August 2018 Progress Report.

COMMON STRATEGIES INCLUDE:



Educating and training the community



Prescription drug take-back and disposal programs



Forming or participating in Opioid Task Forces