

Handout 10

Environmental Strategies Selection Guide

Selection of Document: Environmental Strategies: Selection Guide, Reference List, and Examples of Implementation Guidelines

Prepared by: Kristianna Pettibone, PhD, Shelly Kowalczyk, MSPH, Linnea Laestadius, The MayaTech Corporation

With assistance from: Jessica Nargiso, MA, Community Research and Services Team, University of Rhode Island, Molly Smith, Westat, Robert Orwin, PhD, Westat, Rebecca Buchanan, PhD, Westat

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Introduction

It is well documented that environmental strategies are an effective way to prevent and reduce substance abuse. Unlike traditional substance abuse interventions, however, there is not a quick, easy curriculum that you can pull off of a shelf and implement. In addition, relatively few environmental strategies are included on lists of evidence-based interventions such as the National Registry of Effective Programs and Practices (NREPP), maintained by SAMHSA.

To assist SPF-SIG state and community grantees in selecting and implementing environmental strategies to prevent and reduce substance abuse, we have created a list of strategies that the grantees may choose, although they are not limited to using the environmental prevention strategies in this list. These strategies utilize diverse approaches in achieving a desired effect including policy change, media campaigns, enforcement/compliance regulations and so forth, and allow the grantee to select a strategy that is most appropriate for their particular goals. This list was created based on a review of the literature as well as input from state SPF-SIG grantees, members of the SPF-SIG Expert Technical Assistance Group and the cross-site evaluators.

Methods

We began with a literature search using PubMed, EBSCO and Google. The search terms used for conducting this literature review were chosen from a matrix of approximately 50 environmental strategies that was created by Jessica Nargiso, a graduate student working with Paul Florin at the University of Rhode Island. In addition, we reviewed the list of resources identified in *Literature and Resources on Environmental Strategies to Prevent Substance Use and Abuse* and included any articles from this list that seemed to fit the data we were seeking. We used the environmental strategy names, or a shortened form if necessary, as our search terms and limited our search to those articles in published journals and to documents provided on organizational Web sites such as the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration and the Marin Institute. We were specifically looking for articles that 1) described the strategy, 2) provided guidelines for

implementation, 3) identified output measures to evaluate the strategy, and 4) evaluated the effectiveness of the strategy at reducing substance abuse.

Through this process we identified 275 potential articles and documents. We reviewed the abstracts and identified 152 articles that fit our search criteria. Teams of two researchers reviewed each of the 152 articles. We followed a systematic review protocol to document whether each article:

- 1) Provided a general description, implementation guidelines, output measures or assessed effectiveness;
- 2) Should be considered evidence-based because it was published in a peer-reviewed journal, listed in NREPP, provided by Centers for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) or for some other reason;
- 3) Was implemented in the substance abuse prevention field; and
- 4) Described any adaptations that could be made to address setting, target population or specific substance.

The codes were compared and where the coding did not match, the researchers came to a consensus by reviewing the article again and discussing the issues. All article reviews were recorded using an abstract review template to standardize the review process.

Environmental Strategies Selection Guide

The Selection Guide is intended to help state and community grantees select an environmental strategy to meet their needs. The chart identifies those strategies for which we found a general description, implementation guidelines and output measures. The chart also indicates if any information was provided to assess the effectiveness of the strategy at preventing or reducing substance abuse. Finally, we provide an indication of what substances are targeted (alcohol, tobacco, other drugs) and whether or not the strategy could be adapted for other substances. We also indicate the target populations (by age) that would be appropriate for these strategies.

Limitations of the Selection Guide

The Selection Guide does not provide an exhaustive list of environmental strategies that can be used to prevent and reduce substance use. We tried to identify as many strategies as possible, and ended up only including those for which we could find appropriate documentation. The Selection Guide only includes environmental strategies that were implemented in the substance abuse prevention field. Our original plan was to expand our literature review to areas outside substance abuse, such as physical activity promotion; however, we felt that we identified enough strategies within the substance abuse prevention field to provide a solid base of environmental strategies from which to choose. Finally, the Selection Guide tends to focus on environmental strategies that relate to alcohol and tobacco use. Many of these strategies could be adapted for implementation in another setting, for another target population or to address a different substance, but we were unable to find data to document these adaptations.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES SELECTION GUIDE

Environmental Strategy	General Description Provided	Implementation Guidelines Available	Output Measures Defined	Effectiveness Assessed	Evidence-Based				Substance		Appropriate Populations
					Journal article	NREPP or other list	CAPT	Other	Targeted	Other Substances Could be Applied to	
RETAIL ACCESS											
Minimum age of purchase for alcohol and tobacco	✓			✓	✓				A, T		<21
Limit and restrict the location and density of retail alcohol outlets				✓					A		All
Conditional use permits/land use ordinances for alcohol outlets	✓	✓						✓	A		All
Regulations or bans on home delivery of alcohol	✓	✓						✓	A	T, Rx	<21
Responsible beverage service training	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	A		<21
Checking age identification for alcohol and tobacco	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	A, T		<21
Increase beverage servers' legal liability	✓		✓	✓	✓				A		<21
Minimum age of seller requirements	✓								A	T	<21
Restrict and enforce minors access to alcohol and tobacco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	A, T		<21
Instituting policies concerning cigarette vending machines	✓			✓	✓		✓		T		<16
Prohibiting minors from bars	No articles found.										
Methamphetamine precursor prohibition	✓	✓						✓	Meth		All

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SOCIAL ACCESS											
Curfews	No articles found.										
Laws against adult provision of alcohol and tobacco	No articles found.										
Teen party ordinances	See Party Patrols.										
Social host liability	✓							✓	A		All
Controls on alcohol service at private parties	No articles found.										
Alcohol restrictions at community events	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	A	T	All
Beer keg registration	✓	✓						✓	A		All
SOCIAL NORMS											
Alcohol use restrictions in public places	✓								A	T	All
Social norms campaigns/Social marketing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	A,T,OD		All
PROMOTION											
Alcohol and tobacco advertising restrictions in public places	✓	✓						✓	A,T		All
Prohibition of alcohol or tobacco sponsorship of events and other promotions	✓	✓						✓	✓	A,T	All
Countermarketing/counteradvertising campaigns	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	A,T		All
Media advocacy	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	A,T		All
Media literacy	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	A,T		All

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PERCEIVED RISK											
Lower (less than .08) blood alcohol content limits	✓			✓					A		All
Graduated licensing policies	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	A		16-20
Revoke license for impaired drivers	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	A		All
Use of mass media campaigns appropriately	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	A,T		All
ATOD warning posters	✓		✓	✓	✓				A,T, OD		All
Media (e.g., billboards, PSAs) that describe penalties for certain offenses	✓			✓	✓				A,T		All
PRICING											
Increase price or taxes on alcohol or tobacco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	A,T		All

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ENFORCEMENT											
Business/Merchant											
Compliance checks of alcohol or tobacco retailers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	A,T		All
Administrative penalties	✓			✓				✓	A,T		All
Suppliers of Alcohol to Underage Youth											
"Party patrols"	✓	✓						✓	A		<21
"Shoulder-tap" enforcement programs	✓	✓		✓				✓	A		<21
Drivers											
Enforce impaired-driving laws	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	A		All
Sanctions and monitoring for convicted drunk drivers	✓			✓	✓			✓	A		All
Immobilize or impound the vehicles of those convicted of impaired driving	✓			✓				✓	A		All
Random BAC testing for drivers	✓			✓					A		All
Sobriety checkpoints and use of passive breath sensors	✓		✓	✓				✓	A		All
Highly visible roadside sobriety checkpoints	✓	✓	✓					✓	A		All
Open container laws	✓	✓						✓	A		All
Possession by Youth											
Apply appropriate penalties to minors in possession of alcohol or tobacco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	A,T		<21
"Cops in shops"	✓	✓		✓				✓	A	T	<21

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OTHER											
College campus policies (parental notification of campus alcohol infractions; substance-free housing)	✓		✓	✓				✓	A,T		<21
Developing "alcohol units" in law enforcement	✓	✓						✓	A		All
Community Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol	✓			✓	✓	✓			A		All
Community Prevention Trials	✓			✓	✓		✓		A		
Get to know state legislators-general policy development	✓	✓						✓	A,T		All
Support clean indoor air laws	✓			✓					T		All

View full document at:

https://www.spfsig.net/public_folder/Grantee%20Committees/Environmental%20Strats/ES%20Binder/Environmental%20Strategies%20Binder%20Electronic%20Version.pdf