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Review of Cannabis-Related Programmatic Activities for Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program Coalitions

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Abstract

Legalization by states of medical and non-medical cannabis use is increasing the accessibility of cannabis to Americans. While cannabis use remains illegal for youth, enhanced effective approaches preventing youth's cannabis use are important. The Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program is administered by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and represents the nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent and reduce youth substance use. Coalitions use the Seven Strategies for Community Change to ensure the creation of comprehensive action plans and a community-wide approach for preventing youth substance use. This study's objective is to review the cannabis programmatic activities implemented by DFC coalitions, identify common themes, and assess whether activities align with the Seven Strategies for Community Change. Review of biannual progress report (PR) data collected from August 2020 to February 2021 was conducted to determine common themes, strengths, and areas of improvement among cannabis programmatic activities. Of the 727 funded coalitions, 73% ($n=532$) identified cannabis as a substance they focused their activities on in their PR submissions, and 488 unique cannabis programmatic activities were reviewed. Cannabis programmatic activities were assigned to one of six common themes: 1) *dissemination* ($n=167$), 2) *training and education* ($n=147$), 3) *community partnerships* ($n=99$), 4) *policy and enforcement* ($n=51$), 5) *miscellaneous* ($n=15$), and 6) *communities of focus* ($n=9$). Findings could inform local organizations about common types of youth cannabis-related prevention activities implemented at the community-level. The least commonly reported strategies, such as communities of focus, may highlight opportunities for expanded prevention efforts for coalitions.

Keywords

Cannabis Use; Youth Substance Use; Community Coalitions; Substance Use Prevention

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Background

Current State of Cannabis Policy Landscape

In the United States, over 1 in 5 high school students report that they currently drink alcohol, and over 1 in 6 report they currently use cannabis [1]. While more research is needed to better understand the health effects of cannabis use, there are known health consequences of cannabis use among youth. For instance, regular and frequent cannabis use during adolescence is associated with impairments in learning, memory, and attention, especially as the brain continues to develop until age 25 [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Previous research has identified a strong relationship between daily cannabis use before age 17 and lower rates of high school graduation, risk for cannabis dependence, developing cannabis use disorder, use of other illicit drugs, and suicidal behaviors [2, 9, 10, 11]. Over the past decades, the perceived risk of regular cannabis use has decreased among adolescents [8, 12]. However, between 2022 and 2023 perceived risk of harm of regular cannabis use increased among 8th graders (53.6–54.4%), 10th graders (42.2–47.0%), and 12th graders (27.6–31.4%) [13–15]. Despite this positive trend in perceived risk of harm of regular cannabis use by youth, there is still a need for focused and effective interventions to protect American youth from cannabis-associated harms.

The cannabis landscape across the United States is rapidly changing. In 2000, eight states allowed medical cannabis use and no states permitted non-medical adult cannabis use [16]. As of January 2025, 24 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia allow non-medical adult cannabis use, and 39 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia allow medical cannabis use [16]. While non-medical cannabis use remains illegal for all persons under 21 years of age in the United States, non-medical adult use legalization in Canada has been associated with easier access to cannabis [17]. Previous research has found exposing adolescents to cannabis marketing, whether through social media platforms or billboards, increases their odds of past-year cannabis use, weekly cannabis use, and cannabis use disorder [18, 19]. In addition to policy changes over the past two decades, cannabis products and routes of administration are evolving. For example, the concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the main psychoactive cannabinoid in most cannabis products, has been increasing over time [20, 8]. Some modes of use (e.g., dabbing) facilitate the use of highly concentrated THC products, and youth who use highly concentrated products are at an increased risk of developing cannabis use disorder [21].

Together, the issues of expanded legalization, the related potential for increased access to cannabis among youth, and the well-known deleterious effects of cannabis use during youth and adolescence underline the need for focused cannabis prevention efforts among youth. Such efforts have begun to be implemented in communities across the United States, but to our knowledge, no formal review of such commonly implemented programs and practices exists. An assessment of these efforts and, particularly the extent to which evidence-based prevention efforts are being implemented in communities addressing these issues, could help inform future prevention activities, reduce the potential harmful effects of legalization, and shape substance use behaviors among youth and adolescents.

Drug-Free Communities Support Program

The Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program is the nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent youth substance use [22]. The DFC program provides up to \$125,000 annually to community coalitions to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners to create and sustain a reduction in youth substance use. DFC recipients can receive up to five years of funding per award, for a maximum of ten years. In 2024, the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which administers the DFC program, funded over 750 coalitions across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands.

The bedrock of DFC is the community-based coalition, which is made up of 12 required sectors (e.g., parents, businesses, law enforcement; Fig. 1) that work collectively to build capacity to reduce youth substance use. DFC continues to expand their reach to communities across the country, as of 2022 approximately 20% of Americans lived in communities with a DFC-funded coalition and in the 2024 fiscal year over 750 DFC coalitions received funding [23]. Coalitions are required to recruit members from the 12 sectors to design an approach, leverage existing services, and implement a comprehensive strategy with the goal of youth substance use prevention. Coalitions are required to direct prevention activities toward at least two substances (e.g., alcohol and cannabis) and develop an annual action plan describing planned programmatic activities for the budget period that align with the two DFC goals: (1) building capacity, and (2) reducing youth substance use.

Seven Strategies for Community Change

The "Seven Strategies for Community Change," (henceforth referred to as the Seven Strategies), provide a framework for a comprehensive, community-wide approach for preventing youth substance use at the community level (Table 1). The Seven Strategies include: (1) *providing information*, (2) *enhancing skills*, (3) *providing support*, (4) *enhancing access and reducing barriers*, (5) *changing consequences*, (6) *physical design*, and (7) *educating/informing about policy* [24]. *Providing information*, *enhancing skills*, and *providing support* focus on individuals and small groups. These strategies often rely on person-to-person interactions and may not have broad reach. *Enhancing access and reducing barriers*, *changing consequences*, *physical design*, and *educating/informing about policy* reinforces the first three strategies and creates a comprehensive community-level approach to youth substance use prevention. The strategies and activities coalitions choose to implement are selected and tailored to the needs and attributes of the community.

Objective

Promising activities to prevent youth initiation of cannabis use are needed at the community level. DFC coalitions have implemented comprehensive plans and activities, such as raising awareness, training, policy, and community-wide strategies, to address youth cannabis use and identify problems in their communities. This study reviewed the programmatic activities implemented by DFC coalitions to prevent youth cannabis use and assessed whether activities align with the Seven Strategies.

Methods

Identification of Common Themes among Cannabis-Related Activities

At the time of this review, DFC coalitions were required to submit biannual progress reports (PR) including strategy sections representing each of the Seven Strategies. Coalitions can report on multiple programmatic activities within each of the strategy sections.

Since coalitions reported on multiple programmatic activities in their PRs, the coalitions' submissions were analyzed at the activity level. For cannabis-related programmatic activities to be included within the dataset, the coalitions had to explicitly state they were targeting cannabis, marijuana, cannabidiol (CBD), or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their activities. If the coalitions mentioned they were targeting cannabis, marijuana, CBD, or THC, then these activities were considered "cannabis-related." Activities recording no progress during the reporting period, August 2020 to February 2021, or those that were not related to cannabis, marijuana, CBD, or THC were removed from the dataset. Five study team members independently reviewed cannabis-related programmatic activities initially identified from each PR section to prescribe one to three keywords or phrases that could describe each. Examples of keywords or phrases used during this process were "education," "community events," "neighborhood safety," and "awareness about local policies." The study team collectively reviewed the keywords and assigned themes based on the keywords. Lastly, each PR section was analyzed to identify the most and least common themes. During the review process, salient and successfully implemented programmatic activities were flagged (Table 2). Indicators of success reported by the recipients included large community turnout at events, knowledge gained from training, and engagement with social media messaging and ads. The study team determined that the most infrequently reported themes across all activities were areas where coalitions and local organizations could improve their cannabis-related prevention efforts. The miscellaneous theme served as a catch-all for activities that did not clearly fit within another identified theme.

Results

Cannabis, marijuana, CBD, or THC were mentioned in 532 (73%) of the 727 DFC coalition PRs collected from August 2020 to February 2021. When the PRs were broken down to the activity level, there were 722 activities in the dataset. From these 722 activities, 488 (67.6%) unique cannabis-related programmatic activities were identified (Table 1). The six overarching themes identified for the cannabis-related activities included: (1) dissemination ($n=167$, 34.2%), (2) training and education ($n=147$, 30.1%), (3) community partnerships ($n=99$, 20.3%), (4) policy and enforcement ($n=51$, 10.5%), (5) miscellaneous ($n=15$, 3.1%), and (6) communities of focus ($n=9$, 1.8%) (Table 2).

Common Themes among Coalitions' Cannabis-related Programmatic Activities

When reviewing cannabis-related activities by how coalitions reported them in accordance with the Seven Strategies, they were distributed as follows: providing information ($n=135$; 27.7%), educating/informing about policy ($n=127$; 26.0%), enhancing skills ($n=70$; 14.3%),

physical design ($n= 48$; 9.8%), change consequences ($n= 40$; 8.2%), reducing access and enhancing barriers ($n= 35$; 7.2%), and providing support ($n= 33$; 6.8%) (Table 1).

Themes Identified Within Each Seven Strategy Section

Strategy Section 1: Providing Information: Among the 135 cannabis-related programmatic activities included in the *Providing Information* Seven Strategies category, *dissemination* was the most common theme identified ($n= 74$, 54.8%). The dissemination theme encompassed two initial components: providing information to the public and implementing media campaigns. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, coalitions deviated from their typical implementation strategies and focused on ways to provide information to their community while adhering to social distancing restrictions. Many coalitions connected with their communities via social media and their website, leading to this being a common theme. Coalitions also hosted special events and frequently used youth volunteers to disseminate information to community members (e.g., drive-thru community events, youth-led media campaigns, or hosting special events at schools) (Table 3).

Strategy Section 2: Educating/Informing about Policy: Of the 127 cannabis programmatic activities included in the *Educating/Informing about Policy* Seven Strategies category, *dissemination* was the most common theme identified ($N= 42$, 33.1%). A common activity implemented by coalitions was informing community members of social host ordinances. Social host ordinances or social host liability laws are used to reduce underage drinking by holding any individual who has knowingly allowed or provided alcohol to minors accountable for any injury, damage, fines, or death that occurs due to alcohol use [25]. Other coalitions proposed modifications to school substance use policies. When coalitions were involved in changing school substance use policies, they typically promoted changing the consequences associated with substance use on school grounds. This could include implementing diversion programs with an education component or referring students to substance use services.

Strategy Section 3: Enhancing Skills: Among the 70 cannabis-related programmatic activities included in the *Enhancing Skills* Seven Strategies category, *training and education* was the most common theme identified ($n= 53$, 75.7%). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, coalitions typically held virtual training sessions for parents, youth, and community members. One coalition reported hosting a training session on recent legislation of non-medical cannabis use for coalition members. In addition to this event, coalitions reported releasing podcasts about substance use prevention and creating online trainings to address youth cannabis and alcohol use.

Strategy Section 4: Physical Design: Among the 48 cannabis-related programmatic activities included in the Physical Design Seven Strategies category, *community partnerships* was the most common theme identified ($n= 18$, 37.5%). Community partnerships encompass collaborative efforts, community-wide events, and impacting the physical environment of the community. Coalitions focused efforts on hosting safety and environmental-focused events, increasing awareness, and community partnerships. Coalitions addressed issues related to the safety and environmental aspects of their community by assessing the density of

cannabis dispensaries, scanning product ads in the community and online, and community clean-ups of substance use paraphernalia. Within this strategy section, coalitions also focused on partnering with local organizations, sharing resources, and hosting community-wide events.

Strategy Section 5: Change Consequences: Among the 40 cannabis-related programmatic activities included in the *Changing Consequences* Seven Strategies category, *policy and enforcement* was the most common theme identified ($n= 17$, 42.5%). Policy and enforcement activities included supporting increased surveillance in local hotspots and partnering with law enforcement for compliance checks of youth cannabis use. A coalition reported using an evidence-based diversion program for first-offense cannabis use, in partnership with case management for support.

Strategy Section 6: Enhancing Barriers and Reducing Access: Among the 35 cannabis-related programmatic activities included in the *Enhancing Barriers and Reducing Access* Seven Strategies category, *community partnerships* was the most common theme identified ($n= 13$, 37.1%). Among coalitions focusing on community partnerships, examples included educating teachers and school nurses about topics related to cannabis and providing signage to dispensaries regarding the importance of safely disposing unused cannabis. One coalition reported on a salient initiative to help youth who were vaping and smoking at school to participate in education and cessation support groups to help them quit. Through this process, the coalition influenced schools to agree to alternatives to suspending youth from school.

Strategy Section 7: Providing Support: Among the 33 cannabis-related programmatic activities included in the *Providing Support* Seven Strategies category, *community partnerships* was the most common theme identified ($n= 15$, 45.5%). Coalitions hosted parent and student educational sessions, organized substance-free events, and provided support to local advocacy groups. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, coalitions implemented creative activities to disseminate information to the public, such as hosting a drive-in movie event. This event allowed coalition members the opportunity to connect with youth and adults while maintaining physical distance during COVID-19.

Discussion

Almost 3 in 4 DFC coalitions identified cannabis as one of their target substances and implemented cannabis-related activities. These activities aligned with the Seven Strategies, which showcases communities' prioritization of preventing youth cannabis use.

Assessed Areas of Improvement, Gaps, and Strengths

The most common themes identified across reported cannabis-related activities were *dissemination*, followed by *training and education*, *policy and enforcement*, *community partnerships*, *miscellaneous*, and *communities of focus*. The least commonly identified theme was communities of focus. When coalitions did report cannabis-related programmatic activities within this theme, examples of activities included: providing resources and information to families in need and providing linkage to care to treatment services and

community resources, if needed. The theme was communities of focus which aligns with the *Providing Support* Seven Strategies category, which focuses on offering opportunities to reduce substance use risk and enhance protection, and was also the least commonly reported strategy category.

An example of enhancing protection in communities to reduce substance use risk would be limiting the number of cannabis advertisements in the community. Populations have been disproportionally affected by cannabis use due to dispensary locations that have placed certain groups at increased risk for exposure to cannabis advertisements [26]. These groups report higher exposure rates to cannabis dispensary advertisements, compared to their counterparts [26]. One proposal to address cannabis advertising exposure is to restrict cannabis dispensary's online and billboard advertisements to locations where no more than 30% of the target audience is under the age of 21 (known as the 70/30 rule). In addition to the 70/30 rule, other policy proposals include restrictions on advertisements that target youth by prohibiting the use of toys, cartoon characters, and other elements designed to appeal to younger audiences [26].

Strengths among cannabis-related programmatic activities, which were the most frequently identified themes, included *dissemination, training and education, policy and enforcement, and community partnerships*. The theme of *dissemination* directly maps onto the *Providing Information* Seven Strategies category. Providing information ranges from hosting educational workshops, distributing data, or developing mass media campaigns [24]. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements, coalitions had to establish unique ways to disseminate information materials to their communities. Providing information was one of the Seven Strategies that could be adapted and continued in the virtual environment. Creating online materials and disseminating information via websites and social media channels was a common practice of organizations during the pandemic [27]. Many public health organizations relied on social media to bring awareness to public health protections against COVID-19 [28]. Coalitions used social media to increase health promotion and bring awareness to their communities on topics related to youth substance use. Creating virtual videos, social media posts about substance use and coping skills, expanding messaging across various social media platforms, and continually updating their websites were all ways coalitions tackled adapting to the changing environment and continued implementing activities. Establishing unique ways to provide information helped coalitions stay connected and keep their communities informed.

Another strength identified was *training and education*, which was 30% ($n=147$) of reported cannabis-related activities. *Training and education* directly align with the *Enhancing Skills* Seven Strategies category. Surveys and knowledge assessments were incorporated into training sessions to assess the information retained by participants and identify aspects considered the strengths of the training as well as needed areas for improvement. Coalitions incorporated workshops focused on educating youth about substance use prevention, communication skills, and team-building exercises with aims for youth to make informed decisions around substance use and share accurate information with their peers. These workshops are similar to competence-enhancement programs that focus on teaching youth problem-solving skills, coping strategies, and social skills that equip youth with skills to

navigate challenges in their everyday life, but also in situations related to substance use [29]. Other ways coalitions aligned their activities with the enhancing skills Seven Strategies category were by hosting virtual webinars discussing harms of cannabis use and its effects on the developing brain, creating online trainings accessible on their websites, and hosting forums to update the community on legalization of non-medical cannabis use in their state.

Policy and enforcement was another strength identified across cannabis-related programmatic activities. The identified policy and enforcement theme directly aligned with the Educating/Informing about Policy Seven Strategies category. Coalitions highlight policies that provided individuals access to substance use services if they were found to be vaping or smoking cannabis on school grounds. Comprehensive school tobacco use policies have been found to have an effect on student's smoking behaviors, such as reducing their odds of smoking initiation [30]. A comprehensive school tobacco policy has been previously defined by inclusion of the following components: (1) restricting the use of substances on school grounds; (2) restricting the use of substances near school grounds; (3) students are not allowed to leave schools grounds throughout the day; and (4) incorporating prevention education programs [31, 32]. These policies decrease the punitive nature of a first offense and provide youth with access to resources and services to improve their health. Another way coalitions increased access to resources and intervention services was by enrolling youth with a first-offense cannabis charge into intervention programs for cannabis. These intervention programs were offered as an alternative disciplinary action to receiving out-school suspension.

An additional strength identified was *community partnerships*, which included activities like providing youth with alternative options in their community through drug-free social events (e.g., school-wide events like awareness weeks and conducting community-wide environmental scans). Conducting community-wide environmental scans directly aligns with the *Physical Design* Seven Strategies category. Coalitions reported conducting surveillance on substance use/retail locations. Retail dispensary density scans have been used to identify where cannabis dispensaries are in comparison to schools, common walking paths of youth and populations are at increased risk of substance use. Coalitions not only assessed dispensary proximity to schools, but also unlicensed dispensaries in the area and assessment of products sold from dispensaries in the area.

Limitations

There are several limitations to this study. Some coalitions reported they were unable to implement activities during the reporting period or had difficulty sustaining activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby limiting data. Secondly, for cannabis programmatic activities to be included within the dataset, the coalitions had to explicitly state they were focusing on cannabis use in their PR, therefore some activities not explicitly mentioning cannabis but were cannabis-focused may have been missed. Other limitations are related to potential coding bias since coding is subjective especially when an activity seemed to fit multiple themes. This subjectivity may introduce bias into how themes were assigned. Next, these findings cannot be generalized to other organizations outside of DFCs. The last limitation of this study is the time elapsed since data collection (August 2020 -

February 2021). The findings remain relevant as they highlight cannabis-related activities implemented by coalitions that showed promise in addressing cannabis use among youth, some of which align with evidence-based practices. These insights can inform other local and community-based organizations by identifying commonly implemented strategies, gaps in current programming, and practical examples of approaches that may be adapted in similar settings. However, given the dynamic nature of cannabis legalization in the U.S., future analyses of similar data could build on these findings to assess how the evolving policy environments influence the development, selection, and implementation of cannabis-related activities implemented by DFC coalitions.

Future Implications

Findings from this study could inform local organizations on common types of youth cannabis-related activities implemented at the community-level, as well as gaps such as activities reported less frequently and least common themes. Moving forward, mapping cannabis-related activities reported by DFC coalitions onto the known best available evidence for preventing youth cannabis use could help ensure that communities are addressing cannabis issues in the most efficient and effective ways possible. Coalitions can use resources from the Community Guide and Community Preventive Services Task Force. They've recently assessed the literature and determined family-based interventions are an effective strategy for reducing substance use initiation and substance use among youth [33]. These resources can help guide state and local organizations toward using evidence-based prevention strategies to ensure their prevention efforts are most effective at decreasing and preventing youth cannabis use and associated outcomes.

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Disclaimer:

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Fig. 1. Drug-Free Communities Twelve Required Sectors. This figure displays the 12 required sectors that make up Drug Free Community Coalitions that work collectively to build capacity to reduce youth substance use

Table 1
Cannabis-Related activities categorized by the seven strategies and corresponding frequently identified themes ($N = 488$)

Seven strategies for community level change	Description*	Frequently identified themes	Examples
Providing information ($N=135$)	Focus on designing activities such as educational presentations and seminars addressing substance use, including activities that focus on traditional media, social media, town halls, and web-based campaigns. ²⁴	- Dissemination ($n = 74$, 54.8%) - Training and Education ($n = 30$, 22.2%) - Community Partnerships ($n = 27$, 20%)	- Multiple coalitions partnered with their youth coalition members to host a Red Ribbon week campaign. Some of the Red Ribbon Week partnership activities included: creating PSA announcements that were distributed to students, youth created PowerPoint presentations with messages about cannabis, alcohol, and opioids that were played during the school announcements each day, and creating social media posts on topics like cannabis, vaping, and how to refuse substances when offered. - Examples of the community partnerships and events included drive-in movies, "Race 4 Recovery" event, cannabis town hall meetings, community-wide events, and virtual forums.
Educating/Informing about Policy ($N = 127$)	Focused on activities related to educating the community on evidence around how ordinances as well as local, state, and federal policies impact youth substance use. ²⁴	- Dissemination ($n = 42$, 33.1%) - Training and Education ($n = 36$, 28.3%) - Policy and Enforcement (25, 19.7%)	- Providing education to the community and businesses about local policies and laws, as well as disseminating information to their communities. - Implemented and continued their "Safe Home Smart Parties" program which educates parents on the social host laws that are in place as well as encouraging parents to take the pledge to provide substance-free and safe homes for youth.
Enhancing Skills ($N = 70$)	Focus on designing activities to increase the skills of the participants; these workshops and seminars may vary from zoom webinars to school-based interventions. ²⁴	- Training and Education ($n = 53$, 75.7%) - Dissemination ($n = 8$, 11.4%) - Community Partnerships ($n = 7$, 10%)	- Hosted a virtual retreat for youth who received information on use of cannabis, alcohol, and opioids. - Developed online mini trainings for youth and community members on alcohol, cannabis, and opioids. - Hosted presentations to school counselors on peer perception of substance use and resources for youth and schools.
Physical Design ($N = 48$)	Focus on enhancing protection against substance use or reduce the risk. ²⁴	- Community Partnerships ($n = 18$, 37.5%) - Dissemination ($n = 15$, 31.3%) - Training and Education ($n = 6$, 12.5%)	- Assessed youth foot traffic and walking routes in proximity to cannabis dispensaries. These activities included conducting environmental scans to identify physical design needs and gaps. - Created an environmental scan toolkit to distribute to potential partners in the community. The toolkits included information on a proposal to do an environmental scan on cannabis and other substances. - Coalitions increased awareness among community members by distributing signage to retailers on the purchasing age for alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis. As well as placed signage at schools stating, "no vaping" and "no marijuana" on school grounds.
Change Consequences ($N=40$)	Focus on altering the consequences for certain actions to either increase or decrease the likelihood of youth engaging in specific behaviors. ²⁴	- Policy and Enforcement ($n = 17$, 42.5%) - Dissemination ($n = 9$, 22.5%) - Training and Education ($n = 7$, 17.5%)	- Incorporated a teen intervention program so that instead of middle and high schoolers receiving out of school suspension they are referred to intervention sessions for tobacco- or cannabis-related offenses. - Efforts that focused on dissemination were geared toward disseminating information about consequences associated with breaking state and local laws on cannabis use and possession of cannabis. - Hosted a Drug and Alcohol Webinar series that discussed various topics, such as: current drug culture, and trends in cannabis use, underage drinking, and vaping. The webinar focused on teaching participants about the importance of connecting community resources in order to reduce harm and increase the well-being of youth in their areas.
Enhancing Barriers and Reducing Access ($N = 35$)	Focus on improving processes to increase the ease and ability to use various systems, services, and resources. These activities may include access to substance use treatment services and improving support access	- Community Partnerships ($n = 13$, 37.1%) - Dissemination ($n = 10$, 28.6%) - Training and Education ($n = 8$, 22.9%)	Engaged with local cannabis dispensaries to provide information in the form of postcards and stickers to inform customers of the need to dispose of unused cannabis in a safe manner and to use the local, 24-hour drop box at the Marshal's office for safe disposal. The goal of this strategy is to reduce the access to cannabis by area youth. Placed 500 postcards and stickers at 4 of the 5 local dispensaries and they were all used within 3 months.

Seven strategies for community level change	Description*	Frequently identified themes	Examples
Providing Support (N = 33)	and outreach such as childcare, public transportation, healthcare, housing, or multilingual materials. ²⁴ Focus on curating activities and opportunities for people to participate in to either enhance their protection from substance use or reduce their risk. ²⁴	- Community Partnerships (n = 15, 45.5%) - Dissemination (n = 9, 27.3%) - Training and Education (n = 7, 21.2%)	• “Hot spot” task force continues to monitor youth substance activity and added new signage in parks/public areas relating to the new vaping/marijuana ordinances. • Transitioned the youth Cannabis Intervention and Support group from an in-person meeting to a zoom meeting. The virtual format of the intervention and support group made it possible for other communities to participate. • Distributed information on underage drinking, cannabis use, and information about mental health resources to event attendees.

* Additional information related to the Seven Strategies for Community Change can be found here <https://www.preventionnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/seven-strategies-for-community-change.pdf>

Table 2
Six overarching themes of reported Cannabis-Related activities

Six Overarching Themes	
Dissemination	Activities that provide information to the public or the implementation of media campaigns via social media or coalition websites.
Training and Education	Activities that involve training and education and increased awareness.
Policy and Enforcement	Activities that were policy-related or involved local law enforcement.
Community Partnerships	Activities that involved collaborations and partnerships, safety- and environment-focused events, and special events.
Communities of focus	Activities for the communities of focus included providing materials in multiple languages or outreach to underserved populations.
Miscellaneous Activities	Activities that did not fit into another category.

Table 3Total count of Cannabis-Related activities for themes identified across progress report (PR) data (*N* = 488)^a

Seven Strategies for community change	Frequently identified themes					
	Dissemination	Training and Education	Policy and Enforcement	Community partnerships	Communities of focus	Miscellaneous
Providing Info. (<i>N</i> = 135)	74 (54.8%)	30 (22.2%)	0 (0%)	27 (20%)	1 (0.74%)	3 (2.2%)
Educating/Informing about Policy (<i>N</i> = 127)	42 (33.1%)	36 (28.3%)	25 (19.7%)	13 (10.2%)	6 (4.7%)	5 (4%)
Enhancing Skills (<i>N</i> = 70)	8 (11.4%)	53 (75.7%)	2 (2.9%)	7 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Physical Design (<i>N</i> = 48)	15 (31.3%)	6 (12.5%)	4 (8.3%)	18 (37.5%)	1 (2.1%)	4 (8.3%)
Change Consequences (<i>N</i> = 40)	9 (22.5%)	7 (17.5%)	17 (42.5%)	6 (15%)	0 (0%)	1 (2.5%)
Reducing Access & Enhancing Barriers (<i>N</i> = 35)	10 (28.6%)	8 (22.9%)	3 (8.6%)	13 (37.1%)	0 (0%)	1 (2.9%)
Providing Support (<i>N</i> = 33)	9 (27.3%)	7 (21.2%)	0 (0%)	15 (45.5%)	1 (3.0%)	1 (3.0%)
Total	167	147	51	99	9	15

^aBased on the activity that was reported, coalition responses may have been coded for more than one theme. This results in varying theme counts for certain sections