

Interim DFC Program Evaluation Findings Report

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The purpose of this report is to provide the results of interim analyses that have been conducted in order to respond to ONDCP questions before the full evaluation of the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program is completed in 2009. The theoretical underpinning of the DFC program is that coalitions mature over time; and, as they mature, they have a greater ability to impact their communities, through their capacities and efforts, in a way that ultimately contributes to reductions in substance abuse among youth in those communities. The results presented in this report first examine how trends in reported Past 30-Day use among DFC coalitions compare to reported use at the national level, using data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS). Next, the evaluation team investigated how communities with DFC coalitions compared to communities without DFC coalitions using the subtraction methodology described in the methods section below. These first two investigations are especially important to understanding the potential effectiveness of the DFC program nationally. Finally, to investigate the issue of coalition maturity over time and the linkage to substance abuse outcomes, the evaluation team developed a typology for each of the coalitions based on the stage-of-development theory. Analyses were conducted to determine whether there are differences in Past 30-Day substance use rates by the coalition typology (i.e., stage of maturity), and if so, did these rates differ as a function of grade level and drug type.

The first section of this report is organized according to a series of guiding questions and background information on how that question was answered and any additional findings. The second section provides summaries of the methods used to answer these questions.

INTERIM FINDINGS

1. How do DFC communities compare to National YRBS data on Past 30-Day use rates for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana?

The results of the analysis show that Past 30-Day use rates among youth (in grades 9-12) in DFC communities were significantly lower than National YRBS rates when compared to the same grade levels and for all three substances. More specifically we find:

- Past 30-Day use rates reported by DFC youth in grades 9-12 increased until 2003 – 2004, after which Past 30-Day substance use rates decreased;
- When compared to the YRBS data, DFC youth (grades 9-12) reported Past 30-day substance use rates that are significantly lower than Past 30-Day substance use rates reported by YRBS youth in similar grades; and,
- Rates of Past 30-Day substance use among youth (grades 9-12) in DFC communities show an accelerated decline in rates of use since 2003 – 2004 when compared to Past 30-Day use trends reported by YRBS youth in similar grades.

More specific information on the analyses for each substance is presented below.

Alcohol. Among DFC coalitions, reported Past 30-Day use of alcohol increased steadily until 2004 at which point use in these communities began to drop at an accelerated rate through 2008, the last period for which DFC data were available (see Figure 1). Relatively few coalitions provided use data for their communities for the years 2000 – 2002 and for 2008 (see Table 1). Given the low number of DFC communities providing data for 2001, and the variability of results from those communities, no significant differences in alcohol use rates between DFC communities and national YRBS results can be observed for 2001. In all other years for which comparison data are available, **alcohol use is lower in DFC communities than in the YRBS national sample.** As can be observed in Figure 2, the two-order polynomial trend lines fit both the YRBS and DFC mean data exceptionally well, explaining 96.1% and 96.4% of the variation in observed scores.

Table 1: Annual Mean Alcohol Use and 95% Confidence Intervals: Random Effects Averaging Using Noniterative Method of Moments¹

Year	# of Coalitions	DFC			YRBS		
		Mean	-95% CI	+95% CI	Mean	-95% CI	+95% CI
2000	3	25.2%	14.6%	39.9%			
2001*	7	34.4%	23.9%	46.8%	47.1%	44.8%	49.3%
2002	51	37.0%	34.5%	39.6%			
2003	104	37.2%	35.1%	39.4%	44.9%	42.5%	47.4%
2004	292	38.1%	37.0%	39.2%			
2005	427	35.4%	34.4%	36.4%	43.3%	40.5%	46.1%
2006	416	28.7%	27.9%	29.5%			
2007	282	21.4%	20.5%	22.4%	44.7%	42.4%	47.0%
2008	47	16.6%	14.3%	19.2%			

¹ Years with a * indicate no significant difference between DFC and YRBS respondents.

Figure 1: DFC Coalition Youth (Grades 9-12) Report Significantly Less Past 30-Day Alcohol Use than YRBS Youth

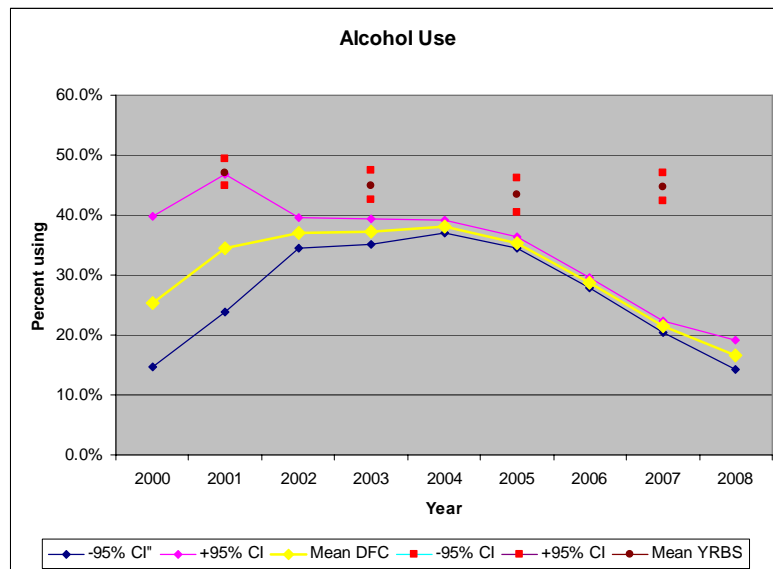
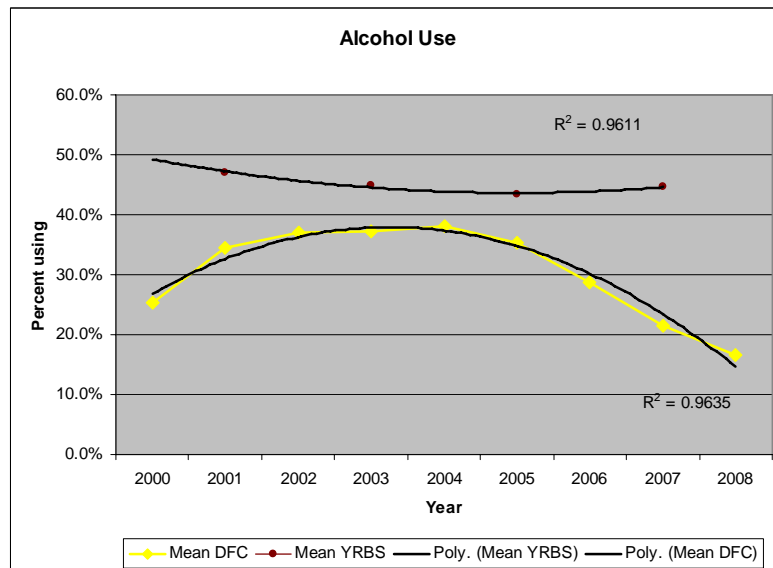


Figure 2: DFC Coalition Youth (Grades 9-12) Report Accelerated Rates of Declining Alcohol Use Since 2004



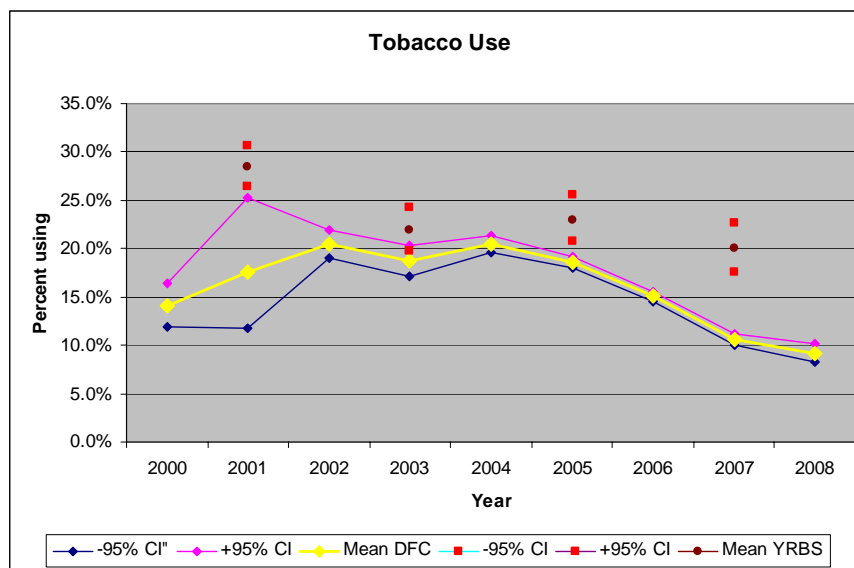
Tobacco. Among DFC coalitions reporting outcome data for tobacco, Past 30-Day use of tobacco increased between 2000 and 2002, declined slightly in 2003, and returned to its 2002 level in 2004. Since 2004, Past 30-Day tobacco use among high school aged youth (grades 9-12) in DFC communities has decreased steadily (see Figure 3). Relatively few coalitions provided use data for their communities for the years 2000–2002 and for 2008 (see Table 2). **With the**

exception of 2003, Past 30-Day tobacco use rates among high school aged youth were significantly lower among DFC youth than among youth generally as represented by the YRBS national sample in all years for which comparison data are available. As can be observed in Figure 4, the two-order polynomial trend lines well fit both the YRBS and DFC mean data, explaining 82.6% and 92.8% of the variation in observed scores.

Table 2: Annual Mean Tobacco Use and 95% Confidence Intervals: Random Effects Averaging Using Noniterative Method of Moments²

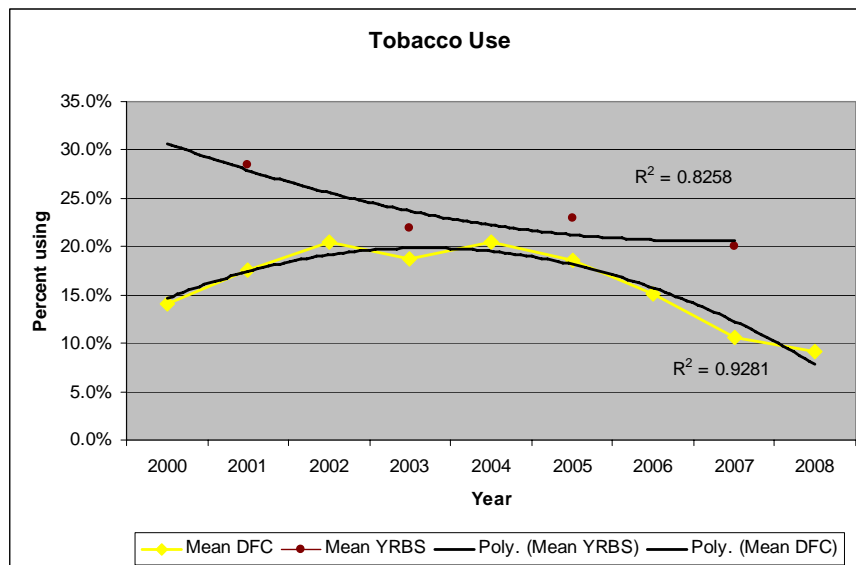
Year	# of Coalitions	DFC			YRBS		
		Mean	Low	High	Mean	Lower	Upper
2000	3	14.1%	12.0%	16.5%			
2001	7	17.5%	11.8%	25.3%	28.5%	26.4%	30.6%
2002	51	20.5%	19.0%	22.0%			
2003*	101	18.7%	17.2%	20.3%	21.9%	19.8%	24.2%
2004	289	20.4%	19.6%	21.4%			
2005	424	18.6%	18.0%	19.2%	23.0%	20.7%	25.5%
2006	413	15.0%	14.5%	15.6%			
2007	280	10.6%	10.1%	11.1%	20.0%	17.6%	22.6%
2008	46	9.2%	8.3%	10.1%			

Figure 3: DFC Coalition Youth (Grades 9-12) Report Significantly Less Past 30-Day Tobacco Use than YRBS Youth



² Years with a * indicate no significant difference between DFC and YRBS respondents.

Figure 4: DFC Coalition Youth (Grades 9-12) Report Accelerated Rates of Declining Tobacco Use Since 2004

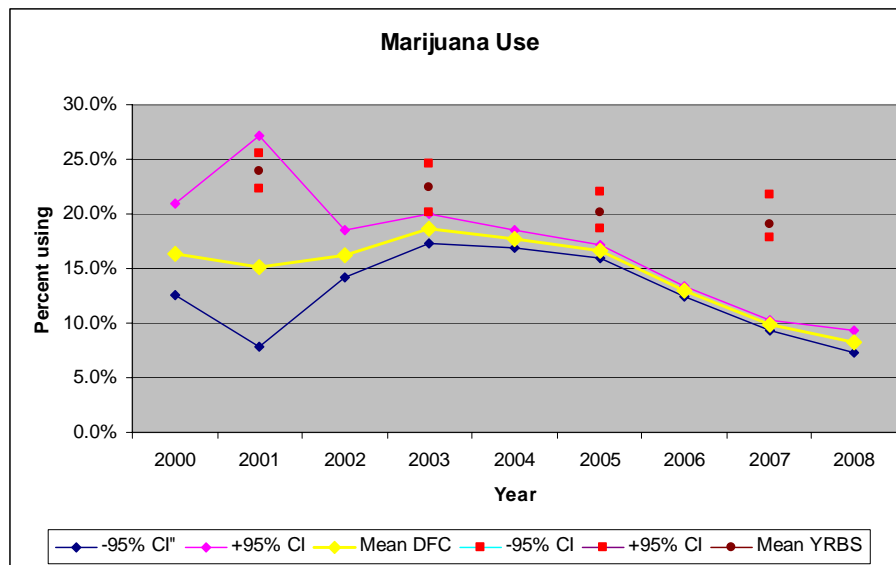


Marijuana. Past 30-Day use of marijuana among high school students (grades 9–12) in DFC communities rose slightly between 2000 and 2003, after which use began dropping at an accelerated rate through 2008, the last period for which DFC data were available (see Figure 5). Relatively few coalitions provided use data for their communities for the years 2000–2002 and for 2008 (see Table 3). Given the low number of DFC communities providing data for 2001, and the variability of results from those communities, no significant differences in marijuana use rates between DFC high school students and national YRBS results can be observed for 2001. In all other years for which comparison data are available, **marijuana use is significantly lower in DFC communities than in the YRBS national sample.** As can be observed in Figure 6, the trend lines fit both the YRBS and DFC mean data adequately, explaining 99.0% and 89.9% of the variation in observed scores.

Table 3: Annual Mean Marijuana Use and 95% Confidence Intervals: Random Effects Averaging Using Noniterative Method of Moments³

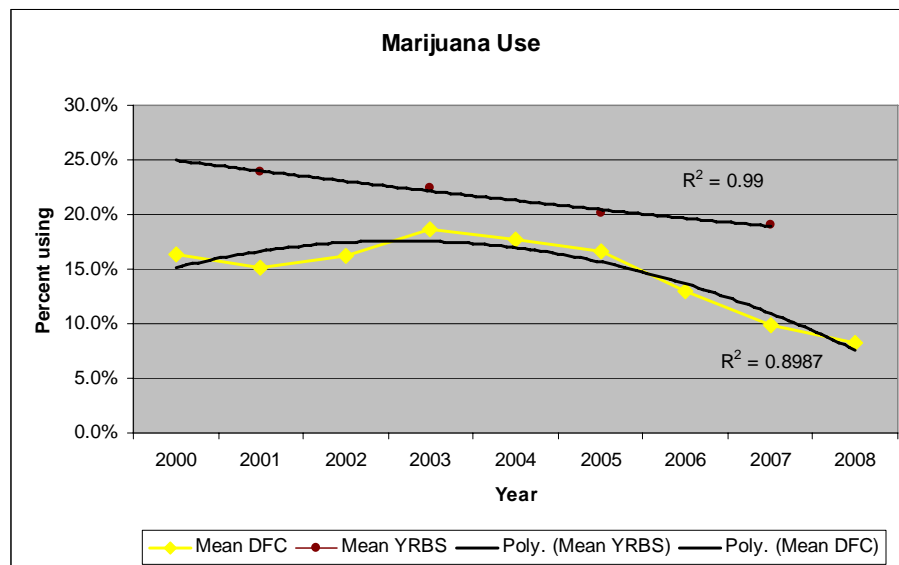
Year	# of Coalitions	DFC			YRBS		
		Mean	Low	High	Mean	Lower	Upper
2000	3	16.3%	12.5%	21.0%			
2001*	8	15.1%	7.8%	27.1%	23.9%	22.3%	25.5%
2002	51	16.2%	14.2%	18.5%			
2003	98	18.7%	17.3%	20.1%	22.4%	20.2%	24.6%
2004	281	17.7%	16.9%	18.5%			
2005	415	16.6%	16.0%	17.2%	20.2%	18.6%	22.0%
2006	407	12.9%	12.5%	13.4%			
2007	281	9.8%	9.3%	10.3%	19.7%	17.8%	21.8%
2008	46	8.3%	7.2%	9.4%			

Figure 5: DFC Coalition Youth (Grades 9-12) Report Significantly Less Past 30-Day Marijuana Use than YRBS Youth



³ Years with a * indicate no significant difference between DFC and YRBS respondents.

Figure 6: DFC Coalition Youth (Grades 9-12) Report Accelerated Rates of Declining Marijuana Use Since 2004



Background Information:

One key focus of the National Evaluation is to determine the impact of DFC coalitions on lowering the prevalence of substance abuse in their communities (e.g. the proportion of minors consuming alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana in the previous 30 days) compared to national estimates. This allows the evaluation to benchmark the achievements of the DFC coalitions against national use rates. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS), a national dataset of related substance abuse measures, was used as the present benchmark.

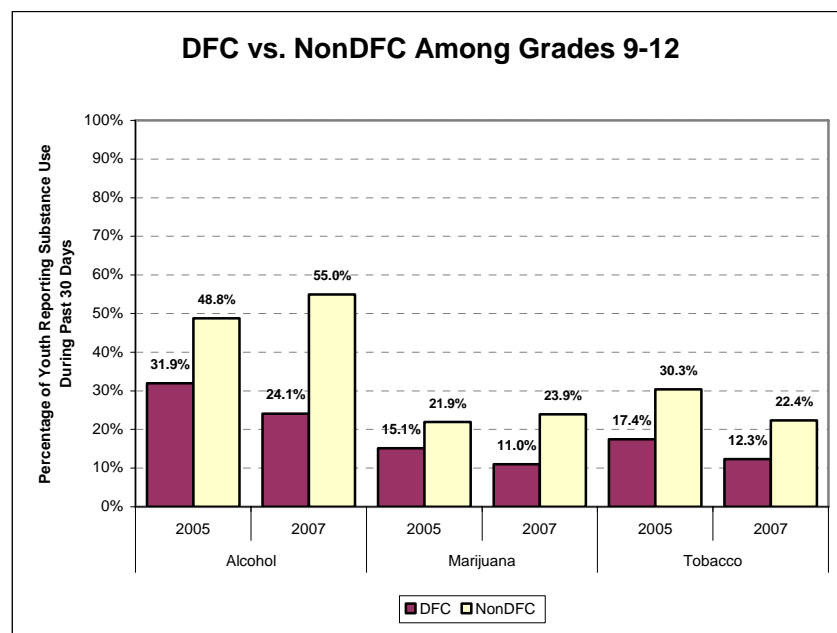
2. How do DFC communities compare to communities without DFC coalitions?

The results of the analysis indicate that DFC communities report more favorable 30-Day Past use rates (i.e., lower) as compared to Non-DFC communities. In addition to comparing DFC communities against national benchmarks on important outcome indicators to evaluate the program, we also examined differences in outcomes between communities with DFC coalitions and those without DFC coalitions represented. These analyses allow us to compare DFC coalition effectiveness on Past 30-Day use rates to outcomes of a mathematically constructed control community.

Data for this analysis were available for 2005 and 2007. For both these two time periods, DFC communities reported:

- In both 2005 and 2007, DFC communities report significantly less Past 30-Day alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use than non-DFC communities (see Figure 7; grades 9-12);
- Between 2005 and 2007, among DFC communities there was a significant decrease in the percentage of Past 30-Day use rates, across all three substances, (grades 9-12); and,
- In contrast, between 2005 and 2007 among non-DFC communities we observe the following Past 30-Day use rates in (grades 9-12):
 - Only tobacco decreased significantly, and
 - no significant change in marijuana and alcohol use rates.

Figure 7: DFC Communities Report Significantly Lower Substance Use Rates Compared with Non-DFC Communities



Note: N=852 is the number of DFC Coalitions funded since 2004 with actual or imputed data for Past 30-Day use for grades 9-12. The actual sample of coalitions used to construct these results shown in Figure 7 above varies by year and by reported substance (see Table 5).

Background Information and Additional Results

A major question of the National Evaluation of the DFC Program is whether the program is effective in reducing substance use in the targeted communities. To answer this question, we investigated whether the substance use rates (i.e., the proportion of minors consuming alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana in the Past 30-Days) in communities with DFC coalitions were lower compared to communities without DFC coalitions. Ideally, one would want to have comparable substance use outcome data for communities with and without DFC coalitions. Unfortunately, a single national database is not available that provides consistent data for all communities in the U.S. on substance use at the zip code level. Therefore, a comparison of DFC communities with matched communities not receiving grants is not possible with the current evaluation. The

National Evaluation's Expert Review Group (ERG), comprised of leading scientists and practitioners, recommended that the evaluation compare DFC grantee communities with the rest of the communities in the state. A statistical method was developed by the National Evaluation Team, and approved by the ERG, that enables a comparison of youth substance use rates in DFC communities within a state to rates for the remainder of the state. Data on Past 30-Day use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana for youth in grades 9–12 was used in this analysis and derived from DFC program grantees reports and from the federally sponsored Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS).

Summary estimates for Past 30-Day alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use in DFC communities were developed for all DFC communities for years 2005 and 2007 (see Figure 7). These years were selected as they correspond to available YRBS estimates. It should be noted that not all states contribute YRBS data each year. Table 4 gives the number of states and/or the District of Columbia that contributed data to the YRBS in years 2003 through 2007.

Table 4: Number of States Contributing YRBS Data by Year

Year	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana
2003	34	34	34
2005	41	31	41
2007	40	40	40

The total number of DFC coalitions funded and represented in the COMET database since 2004 is 1087. Of the total DFC coalitions funded since 2004, 852 supplied at least 1 Past 30-Day use rate observation in COMET for at least 1 grade (9-12) that was either observed (self-reported by the coalition) or could be imputed for this analysis. Two types of data imputations were conducted. First, because DFC communities are only required to supply data at two-year intervals, it was necessary to impute results for those DFC communities submitting data in years 2004, 2006, and or 2008. In addition, because DFC communities can supply data for any of three grades between grades 6 and 12, and are not required to submit data on the same grades in subsequent submissions, it was necessary to impute values for DFC communities that had only partial data for the grade levels of interest (9-12 since YRBS corresponds to these grade levels). The methods of imputing data were based on both interpolations and extrapolations depending on the data available. For purposes of this analysis, we also removed the Utah coalition (since it is represented by the entire state) and any DFC coalitions for which we did not have information on the target community. The sample of coalitions used in Figure 7 is further restricted to those that were in a State represented by YRBS in 2005 and 2007. As a result of these procedural restrictions, ultimately between 425 and 533 (depending on the substance) DFC coalitions contributed to the subtraction methodology results reported in Figure 7 (see Table 5). Finally, as shown in Table 5, approximately one-quarter of the 2005 DFC substance use estimates (and 20% of the 2007 estimates) are based on actual data provided by DFC coalitions without any imputation for grade level. In all, approximately 55% of coalitions provided at least one data point for 2005, while about 35% of coalitions provided at least one data point for the 2007 estimate (see the last column of Table 5).

Table 5: Distribution of DFC Coalitions Contributing Data to the DFC/Non DFC Analysis

Year	Substance	# DFCs with actual or imputed 30-Day Past use rates for grade level 9-12	# DFCs Contributing Data to Figure 11 (restricted to Coalitions Corresponding to YRBS States in 2005 and 2007)	# without Imputation for any grade	# with at least one updated Record (Report Period 3, 3.5, 4)	# with at least one reported Record
2005	Alcohol	852	533	143 (26.8%)	102 (19.1%)	298 (55.9%)
	Marijuana	852	533	138 (25.9%)	102 (19.1%)	290 (54.4%)
	Tobacco	852	425	104 (24.5%)	83 (19.5%)	234 (55.1%)
2007	Alcohol	852	506	102 (20.2%)	178 (35.2%)	178 (35.2%)
	Marijuana	852	506	101 (20%)	178 (35.2%)	178 (35.2%)
	Tobacco	852	506	102 (20.2%)	177 (35%)	177 (35%)

3. Do Past 30-Day use rates differ as a function of coalition typology within specific substances and by grade level?

The results of the analysis of the typology by Past 30-Day use rates shows that use rates do vary as a function of the typology for the two time periods examined (2006 and 2007). All DFC coalitions were classified into one of four categories based on the stage-of-development typology derived from the Coalition Classification Tool in 2006 and 2007 as follows: Establishing, Functioning, Maturing and Sustaining. Because there were relatively few coalitions categorized as Functioning and Sustaining, we combined the outcomes for the least mature coalitions (Establishing and Functioning) into one group and the outcomes for the most mature (Maturing and Sustaining) into another group for purposes of this analysis. Descriptive analyses were conducted using outcome data available (i.e., no imputation was implemented) separately for grades 9 through 12 and three substances (see Figures 8–11).

The results can be summarized as follows:

- Between 2006 and 2007, Past 30-Day use rates for all DFC coalitions have declined for all three drugs measured (i.e., alcohol, tobacco and marijuana) and for all grades 9-12;
- In 2007, Maturing and Sustaining coalitions reported lower Past 30-Day use rates when compared to Establishing and Functioning coalitions, for all three drugs and for all 4 grades measured (9-12); and,

- In 2006, there were few differences between coalition type and Past 30-Day use rates for marijuana and tobacco. However, Past 30-Day use rates reported for alcohol were lower in both 2006 and 2007 for Maturing and Sustaining DFC coalitions when compared to Establishing and Functioning coalitions.

Figure 8. Distribution of DFC Coalition by Typology, Year of Outcome Data Collection, and by Drug Type - 9th Graders

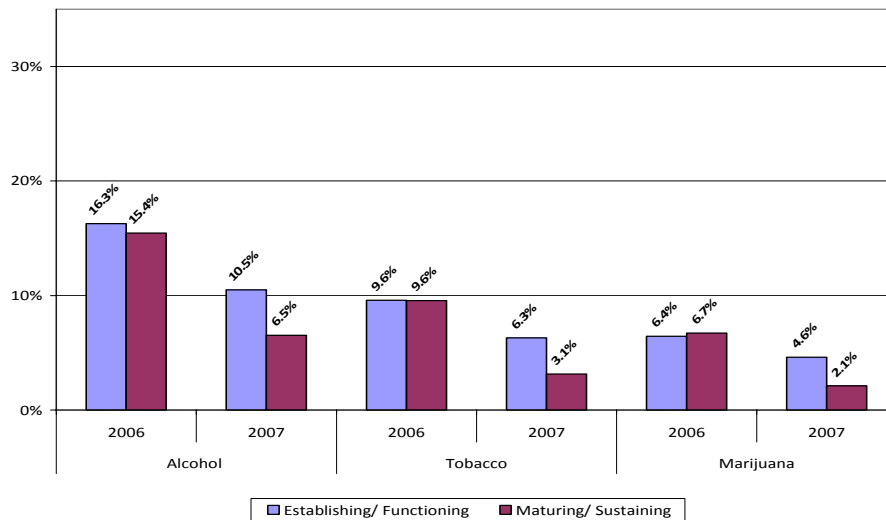


Figure 9. Distribution of DFC Coalition by Typology, Year of Outcome Data Collection, and by Drug Type - 10th Graders

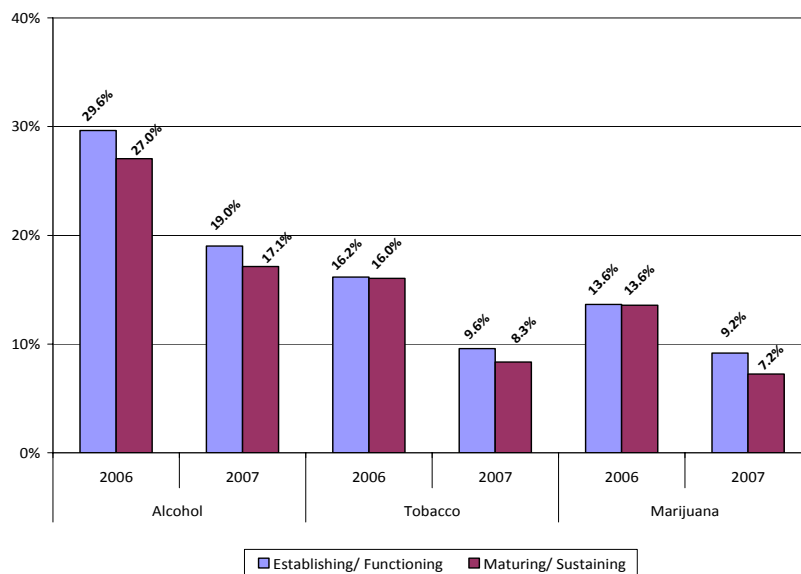


Figure 10. Distribution of DFC Coalition by Typology, Year of Outcome Data Collection, and Drug Type - 11th Graders

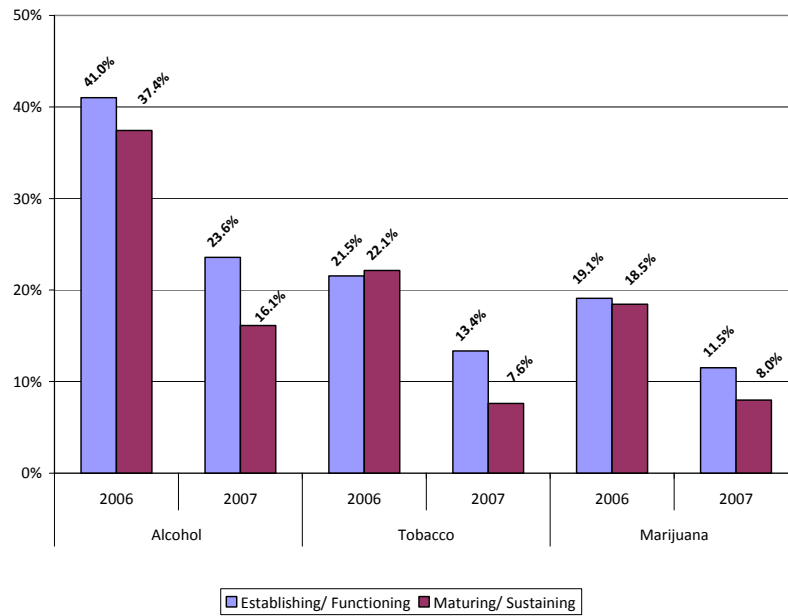
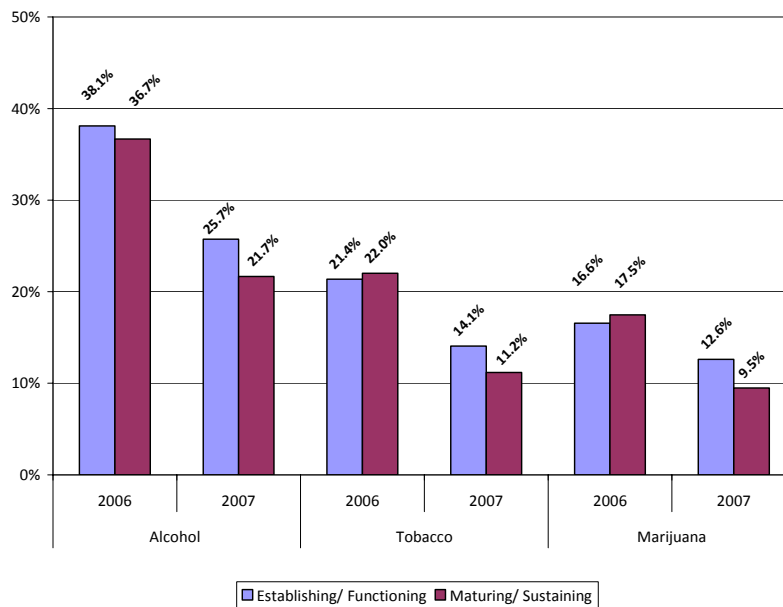


Figure 11. Distribution of DFC Coalition by Typology, Year of Outcome Data Collection, and Drug Type - 12th Graders



Background Information:

A major tenet of the theory used in the DFC National Evaluation is that coalitions mature and grow over time. It is theorized that more mature coalitions have greater capacity to affect or impact substance abuse in their communities. In analyses not shown, we find evidence that over time (between 2005 and 2007) DFC coalitions were “maturing”. More specifically, we find 85% of the Establishing coalitions in 2005 advanced to Functioning or above by 2007; 51% of the Functioning coalitions advanced to Maturing or above (46% remained the same) during this same time period; 21% of the Maturing coalitions advanced to Sustaining coalitions by 2007 (58% remained the same); and, 66% of the Sustaining coalitions remained Sustaining Coalitions in 2007. Together, the results presented above indicate support for the notion that the DFC coalitions are maturing over time, and that the most mature coalitions are indeed having the greatest impact on use rates as they report lower rates of Past 30-Day use, across grades and across the three main drugs of the program.

METHODS USED IN THIS REPORT

Summary of the methodology used to answer the question: 1. “How do DFC communities compare to National YRBS data on Past 30-Day use rates for Alcohol, Tobacco and Marijuana?”

To prepare the data for analysis, all effect sizes (proportions) were naturally logged. The formula for doing this is:

$$ES_i = \text{Log}_e \left[\frac{p}{1-p} \right]$$

When proportions equaled zero, a proportion of 0.0001 was substituted for the zero value. All proportions were weighted by their inverse variance prior to averaging. The formula for doing this is:

$$w_i = \frac{1}{SE_i^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{np} + \frac{1}{n(1-p)}}^2} = np(1-p)$$

Where n = the number of cases in a sample and p = the proportion of Past 30-Day users in the sample.

Because the purpose of generating these means is to develop a best estimate of the average coalition’s experience for each year, weights were Winsorized (recoded to an boundary value) to the unweighted mean for each year and substance plus two standard deviations. This allows all coalitions to reasonably contribute to the average by keeping the coalitions providing data on exceptionally large samples from overwhelming the contribution of smaller samples. All averaging was accomplished using SPSS macros developed for this purpose by David B. Wilson and available on-line at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~dwilsonb/ma.html>.

Two-order polynomial trend lines were used to show the “line of best fit” fit both the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) and DFC mean.

Summary of the methodology used to answer the question: 2. “How do DFC communities compare to communities without DFC coalitions?”

One key focus of the National Evaluation is to determine the impact of DFC Coalitions on lowering the prevalence of various substance use outcomes in their communities (e.g. proportion of minors consuming alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana in the previous 30 days) when compared to communities that are represented by a non-DFC coalitions or a community that has no substance abuse prevention coalition at all. Ideally, the impact of the DFC Program would be captured by comparing the trend in Past-30 day use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana within communities targeted by DFC coalitions to the trend in communities that are not being targeted by DFC coalitions. A national surveillance system for substance abuse does not exist and identifying and capturing substance abuse information over time from

comparable “non-DFC” communities (i.e., those communities that are not being targeted by a DFC coalition) is not available for this evaluation. Instead, the evaluation has utilized a methodology where surrogates of outcome data for comparison communities were constructed by using a mathematical algorithm in combination with published YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System) and the estimated Past 30-Day use in DFC communities (from the COMET data system).

The methodology utilizes the fundamental principle that the published estimate across all communities in the state (obtained through the YRBS) corresponds to the population weighted sum of Past 30-Day use in both DFC and non-DFC targeted communities (see **Equation 1**). Therefore, subtracting the estimated Past 30-Day use in communities targeted by DFC coalitions from the state total must yield a resulting estimate for the non-DFC portion of the communities included in the state (see **Equation 2**). The resulting equation can then be used to derive variance estimates and for comparison to DFC targeted communities.

Equation 1. State Estimates of Past 30-day Use Equals the Sum of Past 30-day Use in Communities Targeted by DFC Coalitions and Communities not Targeted by DFC Coalitions

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{State} \\ \text{Past 30-} \\ \text{Day Use} \end{array} = w_i \begin{pmatrix} \text{DFC} \\ \text{Past 30-} \\ \text{Day Use} \end{pmatrix} + w_j \begin{pmatrix} \text{Non DFC} \\ \text{Past 30-} \\ \text{Day Use} \end{pmatrix}$$

Where w_i and w_j are the percentage of youth in the state that are in communities targeted by DFC coalitions and in communities not being targeted by a DFC coalition, respectively. Rearranging terms in this equation to solve for the non-DFC Past 30-Day use yields Equation 2:

Equation 2. Non-DFC Past 30-day Use Equals the State Estimates of Past 30-day Use Minus the Past 30-day Use in Communities Targeted by DFC Coalitions

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Non DFC} \\ \text{Past 30-} \\ \text{Day Use} \end{array} = \frac{1}{w_j} \begin{pmatrix} \text{State} \\ \text{Past 30-} \\ \text{Day Use} \end{pmatrix} - \frac{w_i}{w_j} \begin{pmatrix} \text{DFC} \\ \text{Past 30-} \\ \text{Day Use} \end{pmatrix}$$

Estimates of the Past 30-day use across all DFC coalitions in a particular state were estimated using a logistic regression model. Equation 2 also provides a mechanism for estimating the variance of the Past 30-day use in each state across those communities that are not being targeted by a DFC coalition. Ultimately, point estimates for both DFC and non-DFC communities within each state were calculated for forty of the fifty states for FY 2005 and for FY 2007. The point estimates across all participating YRBS states were compared and a population weighted average of the difference between the estimated Past 30-Day use in communities not being targeted by DFC coalitions and communities targeted by DFC coalitions was calculated.

The specific decision rules used to estimate substance use in DFC communities are as follows:

- When the DFC community supplied data for a given year, grade, and substance it was considered eligible for the analysis and included. When updated records were encountered (e.g., a unique value and sample size for 2005 was updated in 2006), it was assumed that this represented additional data and a sample size weighted average for the year was calculated.
- When the coalition provided three or more years of data for a grade and substance, but did not provide data for 2005 or 2007 for example, a value for the missing year(s) was imputed for the coalition for these years using a linear extrapolation.
- When fewer than three coalitions provided estimates for a grade and substance, a predicted value based on a mixed-model regression was inserted in place of the missing value. This predicted value was derived using the entire DFC data file and was modeled by grade and year with the variance component attributed to the coalition.

The difference in reporting between coalitions 2005 and 2007 data (subtracting their 2007 score from their 2005 score) determined coalition *change over time*. Coalitions had improved if their *change over time* was positive. Means for each variable were calculated, and a statistical test (i.e., t-tests) determined if means from 2005 and 2007 were statistically or *significantly different* from one another. The commonly used alpha probability level of .05 or lower was used as the cut-off to establish statistical significance. This means that there is a low probability (5% or less) that the findings were due to chance.

Summary of the methodology used to answer the question: 3. “Do Past 30-Day use rates differ as a function of coalition typology within specific substances and by grade level?”

A major tenet of the theory used in the DFC National Evaluation is that coalitions mature and grow over time. It is hypothesized that more mature coalitions are more likely to affect or impact substance abuse in their communities as compared to less mature coalitions. A typology based on maturation stages of development can demonstrate that as a coalition develops its capacities to conduct internal functions needed for development and maintenance as well as the capacities for its external functions (those needed to prevent substance abuse), the coalition is more likely to reduce substance abuse. The proposed coalition typology framework used by the study team is developed from the existing research literature. It merges three main themes in the literature: maturation (coalitions get better over time); coalition processes (e.g., SAMSHA’s Strategic Prevention Framework) and coalition capacities (e.g., knowledge, skills, resources, and relationships needed to meet goals and achieve functions). This typology rests upon a conceptualization of coalitions moving through four “stages-of-development”: (1) Establishing; (2) Functioning; (3) Maturing; and, (4) Sustaining.⁴ Briefly, Table 6 below shows a summary of each of the four stages and describes the expected infrastructure/capacities and

⁴ The [Battelle Final Evaluation Design Document](#) dated July 1, 2005 describes each of the 4 stages in detail.

level of competency to perform various functions of each stage. As shown, as coalitions move through these stages, they acquire greater sophistication with respect to their organizational structure, capacity, and focus of efforts as well as in their levels of competency to perform vital functions necessary to impact change.

Table 6. Description of Prevention Coalition Stage-of-Development Typology

Stage of Development	Proposed Typology			
	Establishing →	Functioning →	Maturing →	Sustaining
Description	Initial formation with small leadership core working on mobilization and direction	Follows the completion of initial activities, focus on structure and more long range programming	Stabilized roles, structures, and functions; Confronted with conflicts to transform and “growing pains”	Established organization and operations, focus on higher level changes and institutionalizing efforts
Level of Competency to Perform Functions	Primary learner	Achieving proficiency; still learning and developing mastery	Achieved mastery; learning new areas; proficient in others	Mastery in primary functions; capacities in the community are sustainable and institutionalized

The Coalition Classification Tool (CCT) is a survey instrument designed by the study team to describe and classify the DFC coalitions. While the CCT contains 17 pages of question items, in developing the typology for the DFC coalitions we focused on the questions in the CCT which collect information on the capacities and functions across the four key dimensions that are part of a set of comprehensive scales included in the instrument. The four scales (and 6 sub-items in each) in the CCT instrument are coded on a 5-point scale as follows: “Novice” (or score of 1 on the 5-point scale) was defined that the coalition is still learning how to perform the function in the various areas and could therefore benefit from assistance from others; “Proficient” (or score of 3 on the 5-point scale) indicates that the coalition thought they were competent in performing the function; and, “Mastery” (or score of 5 on the 5-point scale) was indicated by those coalitions that believed they were at an expert level of performance in the areas and could train or be of assistance to others in performing these functions. For each coalition we calculated a mean score across each of the items in each dimension and overall. In addition, mean scores were calculated for each of the three survey waves of the CCT that have been fielded to date (2005, 2006, and 2007). Coalitions reporting average scores overall that were between 1 – 1.9 (novice average rating) were categorized as Establishing; Coalitions reporting average scores between 2 – 2.9 (novice to proficient average rating) were categorized as Functioning; Coalitions reporting average scores between 3- 3.9 (proficient average rating) were categorized as Maturing; and Coalitions reporting average scores between 4-5 (highly proficient to mastery average rating) were categorized as Sustaining.

This initial examination of the current coalition typology supports the notion that DFC coalitions are maturing over time and that more mature coalitions report lower rates of Past 30 Day Use by the various grade levels examined (grades 9-12) and across all of the three main drugs of

interest to the program (i.e., Past 30-Day use rates of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco) as compared to less mature coalitions. Descriptive analyses were conducted using reported outcome data available for grades 9 through 12 and for three substances of interest – alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. These analyses were conducted using actual outcome data submitted by coalitions in 2006 and 2007; no imputation was implemented. Outcome data was included if it was reported in the same year that the coalition assessment tool (CCT) was completed and therefore the stage-of-development assessed in order to align the outcome with the category of the typology that was most proximate in time. Outcome data for Sustaining and Mature coalitions were combined as were outcome for Establishing and functioning coalitions because there are fewer coalitions categorized Sustaining and Establishing combined with relatively low numbers of coalitions reporting outcomes data make the estimates for the four separate typology groups unstable and potentially biased.