

# ND Community Readiness Survey Results

October 2008

## Who?

14,400 survey were sent to community members statewide

1725 surveys were sent to key informants

- \*School Counselors
- \*Family Medicine Physicians
- \*Licensed Social Workers
- \*Licensed Addiction Counselors
- \*Prevention Coordinators
- \*Local Law Enforcement
- \*Sheriff Departments

Response Rate

Community members - 16.8%  
key informants - 36.29%

## Goal

To gauge perceptions of alcohol and other drug use in North Dakota communities.

**The five pertinent areas that were addressed in the survey were:**

- 1) Community perception of an ATOD problem;
- 2) Permissiveness of attitudes towards ATOD use;
- 3) Community support for ATOD prevention;
- 4) Community perception of adolescent access to alcohol and other illegal substances; and
- 5) Overall perception of community commitment.

\* ATOD – Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drugs

## Now What?

By addressing communities at local levels, we can begin to identify the real issues that are plaguing our communities. It is our hope that this project will lead to promising initiatives and lead to preventative measures that can decrease the rate of ATOD concerns in North Dakota.



## Results

### Adult Use of Alcohol

When the **Community Members** were asked to rank the seriousness of adult use of alcohol, 65.2 percent indicated this to be a minor-moderate problem in their community, 23.2 percent felt this was a serious problem, and 5.4 percent indicated this was not a problem in the community.

Similarly, 58 percent of the **Key Informants** felt this was a minor-moderate problem in their community, 39.8 percent responded this was a serious problem, and only .5 percent indicated this was not a problem in the community.

### Youth Use of Alcohol

Alcohol use by youth was considered to be more of a problem within the selected communities, while 45.3 percent of the **Community Members** perceived this as a minor-moderate problem and 41.3 percent felt this was a serious problem within their community.

The majority of the **Key Informants** (62.2%) felt that alcohol use by youth was a serious problem, whereas 35.4 percent indicated this to be a minor-moderate problem.

### Contribution of Drug and Alcohol Use to Crashes or Injuries

When respondents were asked to indicate their beliefs regarding the contribution of drugs/alcohol to injuries, 49.9 percent of the **Community Members** believed that this was a minor-moderate problem, while 34.7 percent felt this was a serious problem within their community.

Approximately 38 percent of the **Key Informants** indicated this to be a minor-moderate problem, while the majority (58.3%) considered this to be a serious problem.



### Laws Prohibiting Giving Alcohol to Your Own Children

There was a disparity in beliefs regarding support for laws in terms of providing alcohol to “your own” children. Nearly 67 percent of the **Community Members** supported this law and 31.8 percent were not in favor of this type of law.

Results from the **Key Informants** indicated less of a difference in opinions, in which 75 percent responded “Yes” they would be in support of this law and 23.8 percent reported that “No” they would not be in favor of this law.

### Presence of Community Action Plan

For the **Community Members**, 22.1 percent responded that “Yes” they do have a community action plan in place, 15.4 percent specified that “No” there was not a plan in place, and 60.1 percent of respondents “Did Not Know” if their community had any action plan in place.

For the **Key Informants**, 35.9% answered that “Yes” their community does have an action plan to deal with alcohol/substance abuse issues, 19.4% indicated that “No” the community has no plan in place, and 43.3% “Did Not Know” whether there was an action plan in their community.

## North Dakota Facts

#1 in binge drinking rates for ages 18-25 according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

One of the lowest states with perceived risk of harm by alcohol according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

40% of all arrest in ND in 2007 alcohol related – 25% of all adult arrests were DUI's according to the ND Attorney General's North Dakota Crime Summary

36% of domestic violence cases in 2007 involved alcohol use by the offender according to North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

598 crashes in 2007 alcohol or drugs were a contributing factor and 63 North Dakotans died last year because a driver was under the influence of alcohol according to the North Dakota Department of Transportation

