

For Immediate Release
September, 2013

FMI Contact:

Jo Morrissey, jmorrissey@mcdph.org | 773-7737
Bridget O'Connor, bridget.oconnor@opportunityalliance.org | 553-5872
Beth Blakeman-Pohl, beth@cascobaycan.org | 865-3985 x 208
Melissa Fochesato, mfochesato@midcoasthealth.com | 373-6957

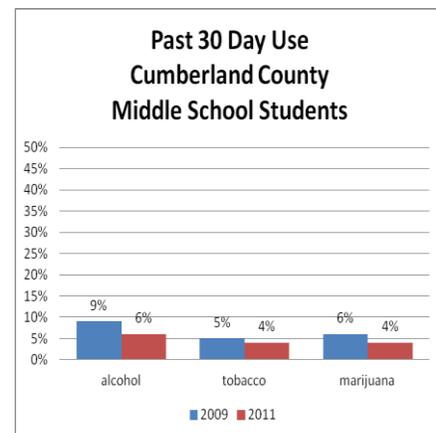
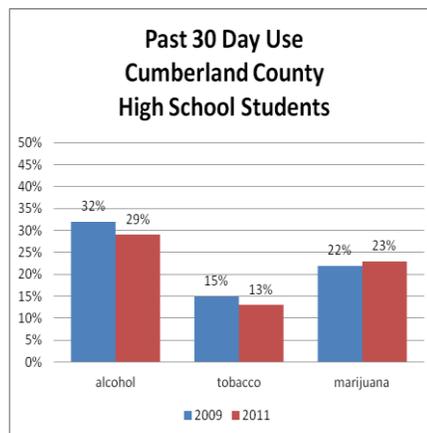
\$558,000 for Alcohol and Drug Prevention in Cumberland County

Cumberland County, ME—Four prevention coalitions in Cumberland County recently received \$125,000 each to continue their substance abuse prevention work. Those coalitions include 21 Reasons, Communities Promoting Health Coalition, Casco Bay CAN, and Communities Against Substance Abuse. Together, these coalitions reach almost every community in Cumberland County. In addition, Communities Promoting Health Coalition received \$58,000 to Mentor Westbrook’s Communities That Care Coalition so that they, too, can one day become a DFC funded coalition. Funding is from the Office of National Drug Control Policy [Drug Free Communities \(DFC\)](#) program. There are a total of 16 DFC coalitions across the state of Maine, and 620 across the country.

“We are fortunate in Cumberland County that so many partners have come together to build Drug-Free Communities Coalitions and implement proven strategies to prevent substance abuse. The change they are creating in their communities make it easier for parents to protect kids and for teens to stay drug-free,” states Rebecca Matusovich, Cumberland District Public Health Liaison with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention/DHHS.

A recent evaluation of the DFC program¹ showed youth substance use declined faster in communities with DFCs than those without when compared to the National Youth Risk and Behavior Surveillance System² (YRBSS) results. Past 30-day use for alcohol and tobacco declined for middle and high school students in Cumberland County according to the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey³ (MIYHS). However, marijuana use continues to be an obstacle locally and nationally. Past 30-day use of marijuana declined among middle school youth, but increased for high school students according to both the YRBSS and MIYHS. The data may tell us why. Nationally, data reported by DFC coalitions show a decline in the perception of risk for using marijuana among middle school (-6.0 percentage points) and high school (-3.1 percentage points) for youth in DFC communities—including those in Cumberland County. Perception of parental disapproval of marijuana use did not change significantly during this time period.

These charts depict alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use among middle and high school students within Cumberland County per MIYHS. The same trends are depicted in the YRBSS.



DFC coalitions engage the entire community in strengthening cultural norms and supporting youth in making healthy decisions.

¹ http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/dfc_2012_interim_report_annual_report_-_final.pdf

² <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>

³ <https://data.mainepublichealth.gov/miyhs/home> (see reports and fact sheets)