

THE CHASCo REPORT

CHASCo FUNDS CAMPUS DRUG & ALCOHOL ASSESSMENTS

Do you know what your students' drug and alcohol usage looks like? CHASCo members do!

Collecting baseline data is a key first step for campus prevention efforts, so CHASCo provided funding and technical assistance to 11 institutions in the 2010-2011 academic year for completion of the Core Survey. The survey helped these campuses assess the behavior patterns and usage characteristics of their students.

The Core Drug and Alcohol Survey is a national instrument developed by Southern Illinois University. It is the largest alcohol and other drug database in the country

regarding college students.

Preparation for the assessment began in November 2010 when Diane Berty, Vice President of Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities (TICUA), presented strategies and tips to CHASCo members to increase survey participation and representativeness of institutional samples.

Participating schools received executive summaries and full reports of their own data sets, as well as executive summaries of a national reference sample. These reports allowed institutions to see how their student alcohol and other drug (AOD) use patterns compare with national

The LARGEST Alcohol & Other Drug DATABASE

statistics, to recognize trends over time, and to identify areas of strength or weakness in their current prevention efforts.

CHASCo leadership also received full reports of the aggregate state data, allowing the Executive Committee to evaluate state-wide coalition prevention strategies and make adjustments where needed.

SEPTEMBER 2011

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 11 CHASCo member institutions conducted the CORE Drug & Alcohol Survey
- 14 CHASCo member institutions received grant funding for social norms campaigns
- CHASCo provided grant funding for 25 late night, alcohol free programs at member institutions
- CHASCo provided 8 professional development programs serving 30 member institutions

RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR SOCIAL NORMS CAMPAIGNS

One of the most researched strategies in the AOD prevention field is social norms theory. This theory states that people behave in ways they perceive to be typical of an environment.

When AOD use is considered, college students often over-perceive the amount of use by their peers, inadvertently creating a

false peer pressure to use substances more frequently and in greater amounts.

Using data from the Core Survey, 14 CHASCo member institutions were awarded a total of \$27,000 for social norms campaigns. These campaigns educated college students on the actual usage norms on their specific campuses.

Research has shown that, when conducted well, social norms campaigns reduce high risk drinking and drug use behaviors.

CHASCo will continue to monitor usage data at these campuses to see if the social norms campaigns are being effective at institutions of higher education in Tennessee.

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Union University sponsored a late night concert by The Civil Wars last October using CHASCo grant money.

LATE NIGHT PROGRAMS OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO DRINKING

Union University booked The Civil Wars and Will Gray and Gretel. Watkins College of Art, Design & Film had the Tranny Roadshow. Middle Tennessee State University funded free Third Thursday programming every month, with activities from bowling and laser tag to miniature golf and go carts.

Campus Programming grant!

Over fall 2011 and spring 2012, CHASCo awarded \$25,000 in matching funds to member schools in support of alcohol-free alternative campus programming.

Alcohol-free alternative campus programs are not only alcohol free, but also aim intentionally to offer students healthier entertainment choices. These events are planned for evening or late

night to coincide, and compete, with high incidence of drinking among students.

Many schools use this grant to support and enrich existing programming or to fund events that they might not otherwise be able to offer. In both cases, this grant program allows schools of all sizes and compositions to do more than they thought possible in alcohol-free alternative campus programming – and their students see the benefit.

How was this possible?

Through CHASCo’s popular Alcohol-Free Alternative

“AN ONGOING BENEFIT TO CHASCO MEMBERSHIP IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND FREE AND REDUCED-COST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.”

CHASCO SPONSORS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

An ongoing benefit to CHASCo membership is the opportunity to attend free and reduced-cost professional development opportunities.

In the 2010-2011 academic year, CHASCo sponsored programs during its bi-monthly meetings that addressed topics like prescription drug abuse and survey administration best practices.

Additionally, CHASCo provided scholarships to 26 members to attend the Department of Education’s National Meeting on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention in Washington, DC., in October 2010.

CHASCO also sponsored 26 members to attend the Tennessee Advanced School

on Addictions in Nashville in May 2011.

Lastly, CHASCO offered a full day workshop on bystander intervention programs in higher education in June 2011. The workshop was led by Jenny Rabas of the Missouri Partners in Prevention Coalition and was attended by 42 CHASCo members and affiliates.

INTERESTED IN CHASCO MEMBERSHIP?

Membership in CHASCo is simple. Visit www.tnchasco.org and click on the “Get Involved” link to download a membership application. Membership is free and is valid for three years.

CHASCO COACHES TO ASSIST CAMPUSES WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING

After receiving funding from a SAMHSA “Service to Science” grant, CHASCo is training six higher education prevention professionals to coach member campuses through the development of alcohol and other drug prevention strategic planning.

The six coaches were chosen from CHASCo member

schools and include a public and private school representative from each of the state’s three geographic divisions.

The coaches will each be paired with a school in their area and will conduct site visits and phone consultations to help the staff identify goals and strategies relative to AOD prevention.

Training was provided by Beth DeRiccio, a national expert in alcohol and other drug abuse prevention in higher education.

