

OASIS Coalition 2016 Annual Report



Over the past year (2016), the OASIS coalition has seen exciting growth, built new partnerships, addressed policy issues and successfully implemented substance abuse prevention strategies in Stoughton. By working together, coalition staff and partner agencies all helped to make Stoughton a healthier place in which to live, work and play.

Efforts to reduce youth alcohol and drug use could not have been achieved without the support and participation of coalition members and partners. Over the past year among OASIS has collaborated with dozens of partners across the town, region and state, all of whom share a goal of creating reducing youth alcohol and other drug use.

As we work to achieve continued success, it will be critical to build and maintain these partnerships. We welcome new and continued connections with local organizations and individuals who are interested in attending coalition meetings, trainings, participate in programming, educate others on the risks of youth substance use and partner to create and sustain policy change.

This report will provide additional information about specific initiatives, project outcomes and strategies for 2016. If you would like to learn more about the coalition please contact us or visit www.stoughtonoasis.org.

About Us: Established in 2004, the mission of the OASIS coalition is to work collaboratively to reduce youth substance abuse by: reinforcing healthy community norms; decreasing youth access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and creating sustainable policy changes that will support healthy youth choices.

The two long-term goals of OASIS:

1. OASIS will be a sustainable coalition through strengthened coalition internal capacity as well as increased community collaboration.
2. OASIS will reduce youth substance use in Stoughton as measured by reductions in youth current (30 day) alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug misuse.

2016 Successes

OASIS had a very busy and effective year. Here is a snapshot of some of our successes.

Community Education:

- Produced 10 episodes of “U-Knighted “ for a Healthy Stoughton with Stoughton Media Access Corporation (SMAC).

- Provided workshops on substance abuse prevention for all 6-8 graders.

- Shared oral and video testimony for Legislators on the value of data driven prevention and the Stoughton model.

- Offered 5 Hidden in Plain Sight display events, reaching over 150 parents with youth drug prevention information.

- Developed educational materials about marijuana legalization to educate the community.

- Produced training video for coaches, parents, athletes and teachers on *Protecting the Athlete’s Brain: Concussion and Pain management (opiate prevention)* with SMAC, Stoughton Public Schools and Dr. Dan Muse (Signature Healthcare).

- Offered virtual medication safety workshop for municipal employees through Municipal Wellness Committee.



Coalition Partners Training and Professional Development:

- Provided free TIPS (Alcohol Beverage Server) training for servers in Stoughton’s bars, restaurants in clubs in collaboration with Norfolk District Attorney’s office and the Stoughton Liquor Licensing Board.

- Hosted Marijuana Strategies conference for law enforcement and public health officials in collaboration with DA Morrissey’s Office, Avon, Needham and Weymouth Coalitions.

- Collaborated with SPS Health education department to provide trainings, data and resources for updated drug and alcohol education, including: Social Norms training, Lifeskills curricula training (through Norfolk DA’s office) and purchase of Alcohol Edu to be implemented with all 9th grade students in 2017.

Developed “Coalitions Learning Together”, a regional prevention networking and training group to share alcohol and other drug prevention resources across the region and state.

Hosted quarterly professional development trainings and networking opportunities.

Grants:

- Awarded MA Promise Fellow for 5th consecutive year to implement Stoughton Youth Leadership Institute. For the 2016/2017 academic year 28 SLI participants have logged 241 community service hours to date.

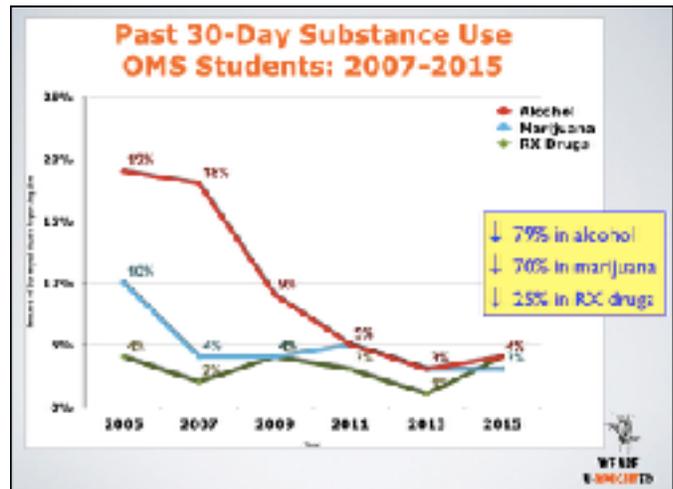
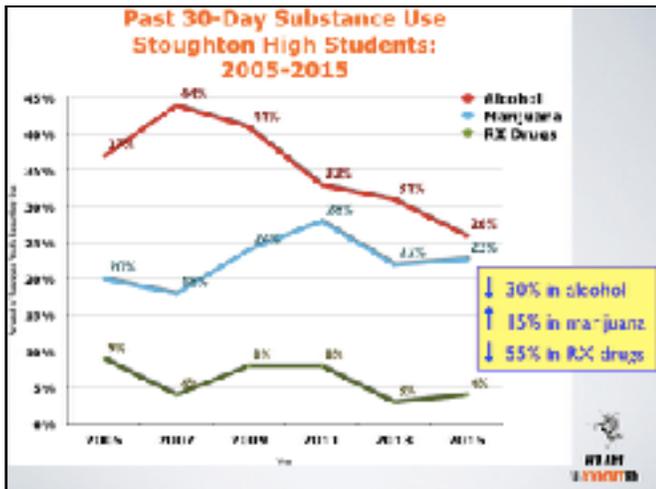
- Received competitive national Cardinal Health Grant to address safe medication disposal.

Policy and Systems Changes:

- Collaborated with the Town Clerk’s Office, IT Department and Town Moderator to implement the use of clickers at Town Meeting.
- Supported Stoughton Police Department on refinement and implementation of protocol for opiate overdose follow up visits with SPD and BAMSI.
- Worked with Stoughton Public Schools to implement SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) screening protocol & associated materials for all 10th grade students at SHS in December.
- Sustained Prevention Coordinator position by incorporating it in the Youth Commission Budget.
- Collaborated with local parents and the Stoughton Board of Health to increase the minimum purchase age of tobacco products in Stoughton to 21.
- Implemented bi-annual prescription drug take backs in conjunction with Hazardous Waste Day.
- Revised Youth Health Survey for 2017 in collaboration with Superintendent, High School and Middle school administrations, School Nurses and Guidance Counselors.
- Requested clarifying language on legal issues related to alcohol infused food products from state Alcohol Beverage Control Commission in response to concerns from community members.



Outcomes - DATA



Our trend data indicates reductions in alcohol and prescription drug misuse among Stoughton High School and Middle School students over time. Marijuana use is up among High School students. This has been reinforced by recent focus group data among High School students who report that marijuana use is more of a problem than alcohol and that many students were happy that marijuana was legalized in the 2016 election.

Budget

Since 2005 OASIS has been funded by a federal Drug Free Communities Grant. The 2nd 5-year cycle of this grant ended in September 2016. Over the past 5 years, the Drug Free Communities Grant has provided \$125,000 a year to the OASIS coalition to support personnel, supplies, trainings, consultants, assessment and evaluation. In addition, the Town of Stoughton and other OASIS partners have contributed over \$150,000 each year of in-kind support (individual's time and expertise, space and supplies) towards substance abuse prevention.

In 2016, Town Meeting voted to move the Prevention Coordinator position into the Youth Commission budget. The coalition will continue to seek federal, state and local grant opportunities to support substance abuse prevention efforts in Stoughton.

Future Challenges

The landscape of youth substance abuse prevention is constantly changing. OASIS will continue to engage in assessment activities to identify emerging trends and areas of local need.

Some future challenges include:

- The new Massachusetts marijuana law: Legalizing marijuana will mean an increase in the amount of marijuana available in communities like Stoughton. Any time there is increased availability of drug, it becomes easier for young people to access and use that drug. Therefore we anticipate a significant amount of our energy going forward to be directed at combatting and reducing youth access to marijuana. In addition, there are many other significant challenge areas created by the new law, including; enforcement, increased visibility and availability of paraphernalia, municipal control concerns, edibles, drugged driving (youth and adults) and more.

- Issues with the opiate crises continue in Stoughton and throughout the State and Nation. Opiate overdoses are still increasing and the issues related to this crises continue to evolve. The Police are identifying new trends with dangerous drug combinations among users. More homes are being impacted by this issue, leaving more Stoughton youth living in households with family members struggling with addiction. These youth are at an increased risk for drug use themselves.

- The coalition is always watching for new trends in underage drug and alcohol use. Through the use of surveys, on-going focus groups and key partners in the schools, law enforcement, treatment, health care and youth serving agencies OASIS is able to identify emerging issues and work together to respond appropriately.

- Although cigarette use is on the decline, youth in Stoughton and across the Country are switching to other tobacco products and vaping nicotine products. OASIS is actively collecting information and developing strategies to address this issue as well.