

MACKINAC COUNTY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION
September 14, 2007

1. Immediate reactions to data presentation:
 - Youth numbers seem under-reported
 - Youth numbers include only alcohol and not other substances
 - Struck by 8 year old drinking – they must get it from home
 - Have heard of babysitters getting kid high and thinking it's funny
 - Parents allowing kids to taste it at an early age may be part of the problem

2. Factors (intervening variables – why is this happening?)
 - Family/parents – that's what kids see
 - Remember – those in the room don't work with the “general public” but with the problems
 - Trends are going down – there are good programs impacting kids
 - This is a community-wide issue and we are not reaching adults
 - There are fewer alcohol-related activities
 - Family contributes – “as long as you're home”
 - College factors – media, social acceptance/norms
 - Rural area, not much to do – higher rates
 - Prominent use in schools
 - What else to do – peer pressure/parties

3. What efforts are underway to address this issue?
 - Primefor Life – coordinated with courts and in 9th grade health class
 - DARE
 - State Police Sheriff's department – one time programs
 - Tried to do youth activities at the high school during the car show
 - Took away beer tent at car show because residents complained
 - More positive youth groups – YACs
 - More community events that do not include alcohol
 - Security system in place at the Casino

4. What's working and what isn't?
 - Prescription drug use is an emerging issue
 - Maternal infant support
 - New youth program – protecting you protecting me
 - Active Faith-based youth groups
 - Theater groups
 - Tribal youth groups and programs

5. What are the challenges?
 - Community acceptance
 - Cultural values
 - “Not that big a deal”
 - “I'm over 21 and this is my house”
 - Insufficient funds for treatment

6. Lessons learned
 - One time events are good but on going efforts are more effective

- Law enforcement – there is plenty, but it depends on where you live and sometimes who you are
 - Great Start Report will draw information from the community
7. What outcomes would you like to see from this process?
- Parenting – something to impact adults at that level
8. Final Comments
- Drug court has the potential to have an impact (sobriety court) – 3rd offense drunk driving or drug use – adults – alternative to jail (also through tribal court) – needs funding – 12-18 month program emphasis is on treatment