



Fact Sheet

SS/HS Is Reducing Violence and Substance Use Among Our Youth

The number of arrests for violent incidents at schools under the Safe Schools Alliance Protocol dropped from 64 to 19 in just under 4 years. (Crook-Deschutes SS/HS initiative, Redmond, OR)

Referrals for discipline infractions had been cut by more than half; short-term suspensions had declined by a third; and reports of fights, harassment, and threats had decreased substantially. (Project director, Olympic SS/HS initiative, Bremerton, WA)

Crime in the Rockaways has declined dramatically during the 3 years of [the SS/HS initiative]. Complaints of crimes against persons, perhaps the broadest overall measure of violence, dropped 50 percent in the Rockaways from June 2000 through June 2003. (Grant evaluator, Far Rockaway SS/HS initiative, Far Rockaway, NY)

The number of students who reported using cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana decreased significantly over the course of the SS/HS initiative in the Houston Independent School District. (Grant evaluator, Houston SS/HS initiative, Houston, TX)

From the beginning, the vision of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative was to reduce violence and substance abuse among our youth, in our schools, and in our communities. Because of the Initiative, more than 150 communities across the country are doing just that—helping youth to become stronger by building infrastructures to strengthen healthy child development, thus reducing violent behavior and substance abuse.

On the west coast, the SS/HS grant site in Redding, CA, is reporting that discipline referrals for crime and violent issues dropped 27 percent in just 1 year. Across the country in New York City, the SS/HS grant site in Far Rockaway reports that crime in their community has declined dramatically during the 3 years of their SS/HS initiative.

Many SS/HS initiatives also are finding that their programs are helping to reduce or prevent the use of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. The results are promising.

The faces of SS/HS are many, but the vision is one—safe schools, healthy students.

Faces of SS/HS: Far Rockaway, NY

Rockaway Peninsula, a strip of land 11 miles long at the southeast corner of New York City in Queens, is the setting of the Project for Rockaway Youth in Safety and Education (PRYSE). With a population of nearly 100,000, this urban community's residents live in low-income, high-density public housing, nursing homes, and halfway facilities. More than 24 percent of Rockaway's population falls below the poverty level. Sixty-one percent of the adults do not have a high school diploma, and the unemployment rate is 10 percent. Nearly three-quarters of the children in school qualify for free meals. With a desire to reduce youth violence and strengthen families, School District 27, partnering with family health centers, city mental health agencies, and the mayor's office, began to build on a broad coalition of community groups. A wide variety of school- and community-based services have been implemented designed to reduce the risk of violence and improve the quality of life for the students and families of Rockaway. Funded in 2000, PRYSE focuses on collaboration and community building not only to create culture change in their community, but to encourage belief and participation in the change process itself.