

# Prevention<sup>IN</sup>Action

A 12-part series funded by the Partnership for Success Grant.

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## Building a New Infrastructure in Burrillville: Workers Wanted

Imagine a community-wide strategy to keep kids drug-free. Not just every parent and teacher but town organizations, businesses, faith communities, day care centers, pediatric offices, youth organizations and town departments coordinating their efforts to prevent underage substance use. Call it a “prevention infrastructure” focused on preventing first use and ensuring support services are readily available for kids who need help. It’s coming to Burrillville!

The [Burrillville Prevention Action Coalition](#) has been awarded a four-year, \$414,500 “Partnership for Success Grant” to develop this strategic prevention model in Burrillville. *Prevention in Action*, a 12-part e-learning series for town residents, is one of our PFS initiatives. We need your help and this series — all based on the latest prevention science — will explain how you, your business or your organization can become part of this prevention infrastructure.

We know that building a prevention infrastructure works. With the help of federal funds, thousands of communities across the United States have deployed this community-wide prevention strategy, and evidence shows sharp reductions in teen alcohol and drug use compared to control groups. Findings

from multiple community prevention studies over the last 10 years all reach the same conclusion. The most effective and sustainable way to reduce and prevent teen substance abuse is to coordinate the efforts of many community sectors to create and promote clear, positive, town-wide social norms about alcohol and drugs.



In future issues of *Prevention in Action*, which will be published monthly on the town listserv, we’ll give you a statistical picture of teen substance use in Burrillville today, our baseline for an evidence-based evaluation of our progress. Some issues will focus on how individual community sectors can engage in community-wide prevention, for example, how businesses, especially

those that provide products and services to kids, can engage in prevention. You’ll learn about a three-question evaluation that health care professionals can use to determine if a teen may be experiencing substance use issues. You’ll read about how teens who are actively involved in faith communities are more than 50 percent less likely to use alcohol or other drugs. And we’ll report on how successful prevention programs have a very positive impact on town budgets.

Burrillville certainly has the building blocks needed for a coordinated, town-wide prevention infrastructure. Parents, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, and many other town sections are engaged in making our town a healthy and safe environment for our youth.

BPAC’s task is to develop a more interconnected, sustainable prevention infrastructure, one that coordinates the good work so many people and organizations in town are already doing — and engage others in the community to share the work.

Welcome to your first issue of *Prevention in Action*. If you’d like to do something right now to strengthen Burrillville’s prevention infrastructure, forward this first issue of *Prevention in Action* to your friends. Word of mouth is a great prevention tool!



Next Issue: Burrillville Health and Wellness Survey

[www.burrillvillepac.com](http://www.burrillvillepac.com)