

# Kootenai Alliance for Children & Families

## Communities That Care (CTC) Survey

Summary 2006

In November of 2006, the Communities That Care Youth Surveys were administered in both Coeur d'Alene High Schools. Approximately 450, 9th and 12th grade youth completed the surveys and the results have been analyzed and reported by Pride Surveys.

We are now able to compare this data to the results from the CTC Youth Surveys that were administered in 2004. From these comparisons and survey results, new risk and protective factors have been identified. The next step for the Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families Communities That Care® process is to identify evidence-based programs that address our community's new risk factors. This report will serve as a guide for our KACF members to choose evidence-based programs to build Protective Factors that will reduce the risks identified.

### Protective Factors

Protective factors are conditions that buffer children and youth from exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way that young people respond to risks. Young people in Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families reported high levels of the protective factors of Community Opportunities for Pro-Social Involvement, Belief in the Moral Order, Social Skills, and School Opportunities for Pro-Social Involvement. These areas represent identified strengths in our community and are areas we can build on. However, students reported lowest overall scores for the following protective factor scales: Community rewards for pro-social involvement and school rewards for pro-social involvement. While policies that target any protective factors could potentially be an important resource for students, focusing prevention planning in these areas could be especially beneficial. It is thus recommended that while special attention be placed on areas of low protective factor scale scores, working to enhance or develop programming in any of the protective factor areas is recommended.

### Risk Factors

Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout, teen pregnancy, and/or violence. The CTC Youth Survey indicated the highest risk factors as being:

Transitions and mobility - Even normal school transitions can predict increases in problem behaviors. When children move from



elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school, significant increases in the rate of drug use, school drop-out, and anti-social behavior may occur.

Low Commitment to School- This risk factor is measured by using survey questions such as How interesting are most of your courses to you?

Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use and Firearms - This risk factor is measured by using survey questions such as If a kid smoked marijuana in your neighborhood, would he or she be caught by the police?

Communities that are characterized by high rates of mobility appear to be linked to an increased risk of drug and crime problems. The more people in a community move, the greater is the risk of both criminal behavior and drug-related problems in families. While some people find buffers against the negative effects of mobility by making connections in new communities, others are less likely to have the resources to deal with the effects of frequent moves and are more likely to have problems.

Why is the Transition and Mobility issue so prevalent in Kootenai County? There can be many reasons for this including; the increase in the cost of housing while the average wage remains extremely low, family conflicts that result in separation, and divorce, homelessness among youth and families, youth who are being bounced around from one relative to another, the continuous increase in population in our community, increase in property values and taxes, and many more.

Other risk factors that measured somewhat higher than the normative average of 50 were; Academic Failure, Friends Use of Drugs, Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior and Sensation Seeking.

Kootenai Alliance for Children and Families will be focusing our efforts on reducing these identified risk factors and we invite parents, community and civic organizations and the general public to join us in our efforts to increase protective factors in Kootenai County.

Monthly meetings are the second Friday of each month at St. Pius Catholic Church, 625 E. Haycraft Ave. in Coeur d'Alene. Meetings begin promptly at 11:45 a.m. KACF has just started a new "Lunch and Learn" series that will offer trainings on various issues related to substance abuse prevention, as well as other informative topics. Our first presentation, Gangs In Our Community, was held on March 9, 2007. For more information, please contact Tammy Rubino at [kootenai\\_alliance@hotmail.com](mailto:kootenai_alliance@hotmail.com), or 676-8293.