

Reclaiming Futures for our children, families and communities

VENTURA COUNTY RECLAIMING FUTURES
August 2011



The problem

Too many teens today are struggling with drugs, alcohol and crime.



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The problem

More than 2 million children are arrested each year.

Four out of five teens in the juvenile justice system are under the influence of alcohol or drugs while committing crimes.



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The problem

Only 10 percent of youth with substance abuse disorders actually receive treatment.

Two-thirds of juvenile detention facilities are holding children who are awaiting mental health treatment.



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What we know

They are not “bad kids.”

They are kids who need:

- Treatment
- Community support



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What we know

Treatment

- Helps reduce recidivism
- Saves money
- Builds safer communities

Yet most juvenile courts aren't set up to detect and treat substance abuse or provide mental health services.



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We are Reclaiming Futures

- Started 10 years ago by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Ten pilot sites developed and tested the Reclaiming Futures model
- Now a national learning collaborative and movement
- Additional funding by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust



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Evaluation: Reclaiming Futures works

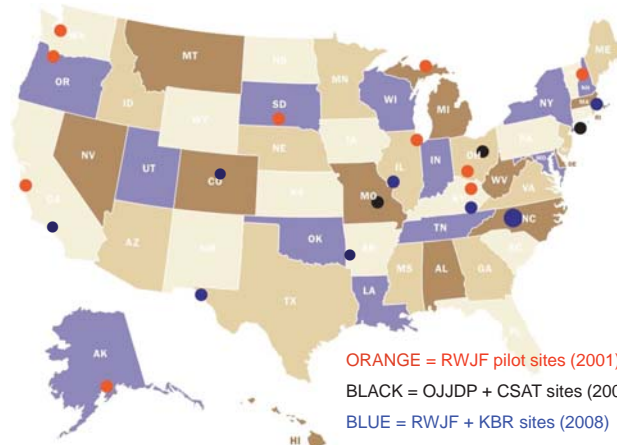
- Independent evaluation by the University of Chicago and the Urban Institute show the model is working
- Surveys measured 13 yardsticks over pilot period of initiative
- Statistically significant improvements in 12 out of 13 measures



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We are one of 26 communities



ORANGE = RWJF pilot sites (2001)

BLACK = OJJDP + CSAT sites (2007 & 2009)

BLUE = RWJF + KBR sites (2008)

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The Reclaiming Futures model



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The Reclaiming Futures approach

- More treatment
- Better treatment
- Beyond treatment



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Screening, assessment comes first

- Youth must be screened using a reputable screening tool.
- If substance abuse is indicated, the teen is assigned to a service team.



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Better treatment is essential

- Reclaiming Futures promotes evidence-based treatment, geared specifically for teens.

Challenging ourselves to make wise decisions about alcohol and other drugs
©1995 Robert Schwebel, Ph.D.

www.sevenchallenges.com

The SevenChallenges

1. We decided to open up and talk honestly about ourselves and about alcohol and other drugs.
2. We looked at what we liked about alcohol and other drugs, and why we were using them.

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3. We looked at our use of alcohol and other drugs to see if it had caused harm, or could cause harm.
4. We looked at our responsibility and the responsibility of others for our problems.
5. We thought about where we seemed to be headed, where we wanted to go, and what we wanted to accomplish.
6. We made thoughtful decisions about our lives and about our use of alcohol and other drugs.
7. We followed through on our decisions about our lives and drug use. If we saw problems, we went back to earlier challenges and mastered them.

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Beyond treatment: building relationships

- Programs don't change people... relationships do.
- Successful programs build relationships.
- But when programs end, family and community relationships remain.



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Beyond treatment: how you can help

- Become a mentor or natural helper
- Educate them – help teens return to high school or go on to college or job training
- Employ them – jobs make a huge difference
- Provide job shadows and internships



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Beyond treatment: how you can help

- Help them give back through youth leadership and community service
- Donate (game or movie tickets, bowling, pizza – whatever you can give)
- Advocate for teens in the justice system



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Ventura County Reclaiming Futures

- Expanded services to at least 130 juvenile offenders
- Primary diagnosis of substance abuse or a primary diagnosis of mental illness and a secondary, co-occurring diagnosis of substance abuse
- Seven Challenges Program
- The Superior Court of California, County of Ventura -- together with its collaborative partners the Ventura County Probation Agency, the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department, the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department – Alcohol and Drug Programs, Interface Children Family Services, and Girls Incorporated of Carpinteria will provide expanded and enhanced services to juvenile offenders.



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Goals



1. Improve the operation of the Ventura County Juvenile Drug Court
2. Improve the screening and assessment of juvenile drug court participants
3. Improve clinical mental health and substance abuse treatment services for juvenile drug court participants
4. Promote increased training for project staff members,
5. Increase collaboration among collaborative partners.
6. Increased participant and family involvement in individualized case planning
7. Increased gender-specific programming
8. Increased participant completion of individualized case plans,

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Goals



9. Reduced recidivism rates
10. Reduced incidents of substance abuse among project participants
11. Increased community partnerships designed to better serve juvenile offenders through juvenile drug court

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Outcomes



1. Increased participant and family involvement in individualized case planning
2. Increased gender-specific programming
3. Increased participant completion of individualized case plans
4. Reduced recidivism rates
5. Reduced incidents of substance abuse among project participants
6. Increased community partnerships designed to better serve juvenile offenders through juvenile drug court

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Contact

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