
DFS Annual Report 2020



Priority 1

Decrease the Occurrence of Overdose Deaths Due to Prescription Drugs and Opioids

Drug Free Sarasota partners with all law enforcement agencies to secure monthly totals for the number of prescription drugs collected at the county's permanent drop box locations.

- Currently, there are (5) receptacles across the county. Each law enforcement agency has at least one permanent drop box to collect unused/expired prescription medicines.
 - In 2019, there were approximately 3,500lbs of collected prescription medicines. Not all law enforcement agencies reported year-end totals.

Drug Free Sarasota also continues to partner with the Sarasota County Health Department to provide an alternate means of safe disposal for homebound residents.

- Drug Free Sarasota purchases Detera Drug Deactivation Kits, which are transported by a Sheriff's Office representative, for distribution at (3) Health Dept. Sites throughout the County. Caregivers of homebound residents are able to pick up Detera to encourage participation in safe prescription drug disposal.
 - Since 2016, over 2,700 pouches which contain up to 90 pills have been disseminated into Sarasota County as a free service.

Drug Free Sarasota partners with local organizations to provide presentations throughout the year to educate residents on the importance of properly securing, monitoring and safely disposing of prescription medicines. During these presentations, the coalition also provide local data on current overdose deaths, use of naloxone, and birth rate of infants who are diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome due to their mother's use of opioids while pregnant.

The coalition monitors the number of overdose deaths due to unintentional injury (primarily due to the illicit consumption of drugs) on an annual basis to monitor the effectiveness of coalition strategies related to prescription drugs.

- In 2018, 233 persons in Sarasota County Residents had an identified drug in their bodies at the time of death.

Priority 2

Decrease the Occurrence of Underage Drinking

Drug Free Sarasota (DFS) partnered with the National Guard's Civil Operations Unit to bring Night Vision to the city of Sarasota. Night Vision is an interactive presentation which informs students on the dangers of underage drinking, consumption of tobacco, illicit use of prescription medicines, use of marijuana, and use of stimulants.

- Night Vision Presentations occurred at the following schools:
 - Riverview High School-544 students
 - Venice High School-438 students
 - North Port High School-769 students
 - Sarasota High School-685 students

The Coalition continues to expand its efforts of providing acknowledgement and positive alternatives for local youth who voluntarily pledge to remain drug and alcohol free for on calendar year within the county. Drug-Free Youth(D-Fy) is a local initiative which praises, rewards, and recognizes youth who pledge to remain drug and alcohol free and back this verbal pledge with proof of their commitment by submitting to and presenting a negative drug screen.

D-Fy continues to promote positive peer pressure and support area youth via:

- Expanding operation in the city of Sarasota. The initiative now functions in Sarasota High School, Sarasota Military Academy and Riverview High School. Monthly enrollment events were adjusted this school year to be held all day, once a month to capture students who may have conflicts with joining the initiative due to transportation or after school commitments. Although enrollment events were delayed due to securing parental consents and subsequently impacted by COVID-19. DFS enrollment events reflect the following for the 2019-2020 school year:
 - Riverview High School: 126 enrollments, 14 re-enrollments
 - Sarasota High School: 184 enrollments, 72 re-enrollments
 - Sarasota Military Academy: 2 enrollments, 2 re-enrollments
 - Venice High School: 229 enrollments, 112 re-enrollments

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- North Port: 448 enrollments, 95 re-enrollments
 - Prior to graduation, D-Fy seniors are given honor cords to celebrate and acknowledge their personal commitment to remain drug and alcohol free and participation in the initiative. Honor cord hand out was greatly impacted by COVID-19.
 - Approx. 64 students at Sarasota High School were given honor cords.
 - The D-Fy exclusive 4th annual countywide Dodgeball Tournament was cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

The coalition tracks monthly enrollment, re-enrollment rates of youth joining the initiative to monitor successes and needs for improvement.

Priority 3

Decrease the Occurrence of Newborns diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Drug Free Sarasota (DFS) along with host agency; Healthy Start Coalition, as well as coalition-fiscal agent and partner First Step of Sarasota, Inc., rolled-out the inaugural Regional Substance Exposed Newborn Summit. The primary intent of this summit was to provide cross-county best practices and opportunities for improvement when serving these high risk infants and their pregnant mothers. The secondary intent of the summit is to consider if detoxing pregnant women who are opiate addicted is a viable option.

- The targeted geographical areas for attendees where: Desoto, Charlotte, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.
- Each substance abuse prevention coalition in the respective counties listed above were attendees and provided county-specific report out of best practices.
- The audience for this two day summit included any person that provided services for this high risk patient-population.
 - There were 125-130 attendees at the 2nd Annual SEN Summit.

The Coalition continues to partner with Healthy Start Coalition and First Step of Sarasota, Inc. to provide Clean Start Presentations throughout the year. This is a power point & video presentation that educates community members who are at risk of unplanned pregnancies on the reality of how illicit use of substance impact fetal development.

- There were 8 Clean Start Presentation this fiscal year.

The coalition tracks birth rates for this population quarterly to monitor if prevention efforts promote reduction in birth rates.

- **88 babies were monitored in 2019.**