Problem Statement and Community Needs Assessment – Adolescent Marijuana Use (Broward County, Florida)

Problem Statement: Children and youth are experiencing serious consequences caused by marijuana use that is also placing them at dramatically higher probability of drug addiction and mental health problems in adulthood. (Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health)

Substance Related Consequence

- Marijuana users age 14 or younger are **6 times** more likely to have a **drug dependency** problem and **twice** as likely to have a serious mental illness as an adult then those who do not use the drug until age 18 or older. (SAMHSA: NSDUH)
- 88 % of Broward County primary drug and alcohol treatment admissions among those below 18 years of age were for marijuana (FL DCF 2018)
- Weekly marijuana users who started as teenagers have an IQ 8 points lower on average than those who don't use (Nat'l. Academy of Science 2012)

Substance Use Behavior

- 10,023 (or 14.7%) Broward County high school students and 1,259 (or 2.8%) Broward County middle school students report current marijuana (past 30-day) use (2018 FYSAS).
- 6.2 % of Broward County high school youth (n=4,227) first used marijuana by the age of 13 or younger (2018 FYSAS).
- 18.4% of Broward County high school youth (n=12,546) have ridden with a marijuana using driver in the past 30 days and 6.8% (n=4,636) have driven after using marijuana (2018 FYSAS).

Intervening Variables

- Adults Attitudes
- Children and Youth Attitudes
- Social Norms
- Availability

Local Contributing Factors

- 27% of Broward County adults believe that smoking marijuana regularly presents only a slight risk or no risk of harm at all. (*2013 BRFSS)*
- 57% of Broward County residents reported they do not believe that smoking marijuana once a month presents a great risk of harm (NSDUH Sub-state Data)
- 6.2 % of high school students in Broward County believe their parents don't think it is wrong for them to smoke marijuana as do 2.1 % of middle school students (2018 FYSAS)
- 8% of Broward County youth and adults aged 12 and above report having used marijuana in the past 30 days. (NSDUH Sub-state Data)
- 27,155 (or 24 %) Broward County middle and high school students report that it is not wrong for someone their age to smoke marijuana. (2018 FYSAS)
- 75.808 (or 67%) middle & high school students in Broward County do not consider weekly use of marijuana presents a great risk of harm (2018 FYSAS)
- 84,295 (or 74.5%) of Broward middle & high school students do not consider trying marijuana once or twice presents a great risk of harm (2018 FYSAS)
- 32,021 (or 28.3%) middle & high school students in Broward County believe their friends don't think it is wrong to smoke marijuana (2018 FYSAS)
- 51% of Broward County middle and high school students who have smoked marijuana in the past 30 days report that they have been drunk or high at school as compared to 5 % of those who have not smoked marijuana in the past 30 days (2016 FYSAS)
- Marijuana accounted for 19% of all South Florida crime lab drugs in first half of 2018 ranking second only to cocaine in criminal cases (DEA: 2018 NFLIS)

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