



# 2013-2014 Annual Report

“Healthy choices build healthy families, healthy communities, and a Healthy Providence.”

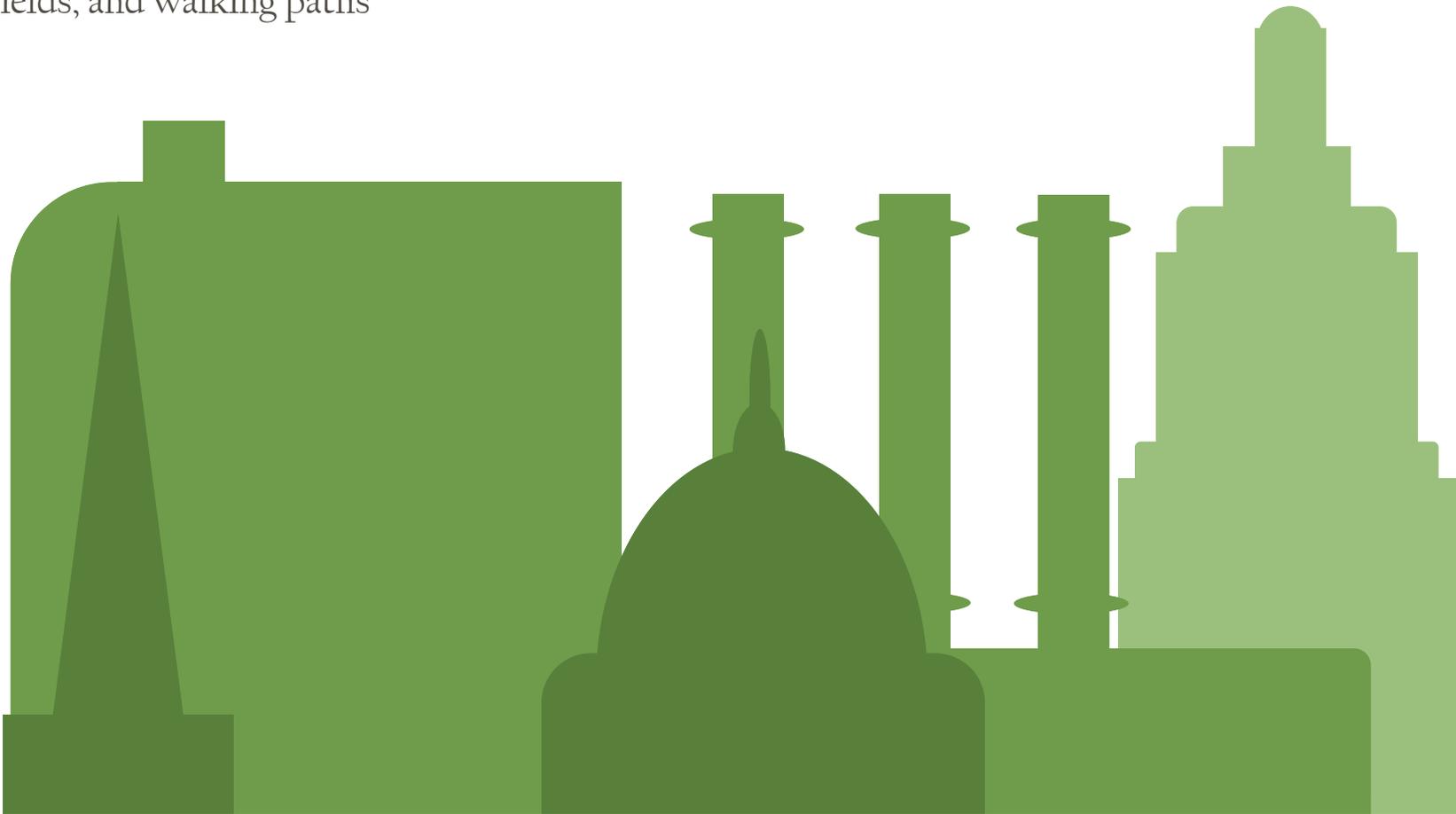


**HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES  
OFFICE**

[www.providenceri.com/health](http://www.providenceri.com/health)

## **Mayor Angel Taveras' vision for the City of Providence is to create a healthy and vibrant City:**

- ◆ with an abundance of opportunities for walking, biking, sports, and exercise
- ◆ where residents in every neighborhood, even those without traditional supermarkets, have access to fresh and affordable fruits and vegetables
- ◆ filled with community and school gardens, access to farm-based produce, eggs and meats, and opportunities for urban agriculture
- ◆ with schools that serve healthy and nutritious meals, and children have ample opportunity for physical activity and access to recreational programs
- ◆ where alcohol and tobacco are not available to youth in stores, where youth make positive healthy choices and parents are knowledgeable and involved
- ◆ where children, youth and residents feel safe and have full access to neighborhood parks, fields, and walking paths



October 2014

Dear Mayor Taveras, Providence City Council members, Community Partners, and Providence Residents,

It is my pleasure to present the Second Annual Healthy Communities Office Report.

In August 2012, Mayor Angel Taveras signed an executive order establishing a Healthy Communities Office. Since then, our office has worked with a range of partners within and outside of city government to effect change in the places where people live, work, learn, and play. We are driven by the Mayor's conviction that Providence youth and all residents deserve opportunities for physical activity, access to nutritional food, smoke-free and drug free surroundings, and programs that support positive social norms.

The executive order requires that at the end of each fiscal year the Healthy Communities Office issue an annual report on the previous year's work. As we look back on our work, we also look forward to how we can expand on this work in the coming year. We will continue serving all Providence residents through policy, environmental, programmatic, and infrastructural change.

Thank you taking the time to review this report. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 421-2489 or [pasen@providenceri.com](mailto:pasen@providenceri.com) with questions regarding our work or suggestions as to how we can work together for a healthier city.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Asen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Asen

# Contents



**About the HCO**

**Healthy Eating & Active Lifestyles**

**Substance Abuse Prevention**

**VetCorps**

i	A Brief History of the Healthy Communities Office
ii	Funding
1	<i>Healthy Eating</i>
2	Summer Meals Program
4	Cyclovia
6	Urban Agriculture
8	Healthy Eating in Providence Schools
9	Zumba in the Park
10	Healthy Communities Radio
11	Power of a Healthy Community
12	Lots of Hope Urban Greenhouse
13	<i>Substance Abuse Prevention</i>
14	Youth Substance Abuse Survey Results
15	Tobacco Use Prevention
16	In School Prevention Series
18	Alcohol Use Prevention
19	Arrive Alive
20	Mapping of Tobacco & Alcohol Outlets
24	Health Fairs
25	CADCA Trainings
26	Prescription Drug Take Back Day
28	Providence-Central Falls Prevention Partnership
30	<i>Providence Vetcorps</i>
31	Mayor's Veteran's BBQ
32	Volunteering Veterans Awards Breakfast
33	Mayors' Veteran Job Fair
34	VetCycle Project
35	Healthy Communities Office Contacts



## A Brief History of the Healthy Communities Office

In August of 2012, Mayor Angel Taveras signed an executive order expanding the Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council (MSAPC) to create a new Healthy Communities Office (HCO) to serve as a platform for Healthy Community policy, systems change, community coordination and financing.

Two advisory boards support the work of the Healthy Communities Office.

The Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council (MSAPC) had been operating as an effective coalition since 1987. The MSAPC is now within the Healthy Communities Office, and remains the lead drug and alcohol prevention voice and policy making body for the City of Providence.

In January 2013, the HCO also convened a new Healthy Communities Advisory Council made up of more than dozen stakeholders from around the city to provide input and support to the city's healthy eating, active living, and other public health initiatives. The work of the HCAC and MSAPC are coordinated and connected through a unified Healthy Communities Office staff.

# funding & current grants

*For FY2014, less than 20 percent of the office's budget came from the City of Providence general fund. Our current grants are listed and described below.*

## Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support and Mentoring Grants

Since the passage of the DFC Act in 1997, the DFC program has funded nearly 2,000 coalitions and currently mobilizes nearly 9,000 community volunteers across the country. The Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC) provides funding to community-based coalitions that organize to prevent youth substance use. The philosophy behind the DFC program is that local drug problems require local solutions. We have received \$125,000 per year from DFC, with our current grant ending in September 2014. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the program.

In addition, in September we received one of only 19 new DFC Mentoring grants nationwide to share our experience and expertise with Central Falls, as they work to build up and strengthen their relatively new prevention coalition. This is a one-year grant for \$75,000.

## Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA)

An annual legislative appropriation administered by the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals funds RISAPA.

Thirty-five municipal task forces, covering all of the state's 39 cities and towns, engage in local needs assessments; and planning, implementation, and evaluation of strategies, policies, and programs to produce long-term reductions in substance use and abuse. We received \$69,653 in FY2014. for this work, a cut of 22.6% from the previous year.

## Centers for Health Equity and Wellness (CHEW)

In January 2013, The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) awarded \$100,000 grants to eight community organizations serving low-income neighborhoods in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls, including the Healthy Communities Office. These grants are made through federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funds. The CHEW grant was renewed in January 2014 and may be renewed for up to one additional year through December 2015. The HCO's grant is focused on multiple interventions aimed at increasing healthy food access and consumption in the city.

*Funding continued on next page...*

## funding and current grants cont.

### CHAMPS

The Healthy Communities Office was awarded a one year, \$45,000 grant by the National League of Cities and the Food Research and Action Center to increase Providence students' access to nutritious food by expanding federal Afterschool and Summer Meal programs. Good nutrition has a positive impact on children's development and academic performance. The Healthy Communities Office is committed to ensuring that children have access to healthy meals not only during the school day, but also after school and during the summer months. With this funding, we have worked actively to raise awareness about the important of nutrition and healthy eating for kids, increase participation in meal service programs, and enable more afterschool enrichment programs to serve free, healthy snacks and meals.

### Cities Expanding Health Access to Children and Families

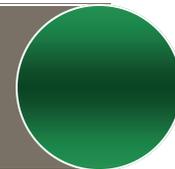
In November, Providence was one of 12 cities nationwide to receive a planning grant from the National League of Cities to develop an 18-month plan aimed at reducing the number of children and parents in Providence who lack health insurance through increasing Medicaid and CHIP enrollment, known collectively in Rhode Island as RItE Care. The grant for \$29,455 funded six months of planning work with a range of organizations, as well as key informant interviews with over 40 individuals across the city. The resulting plan was submitted to NLC in May and at the end of this fiscal year, we were notified that we are one of eight cities to be selected for an 18 month implementation grant of \$190,000, to begin July 2014.



# Healthy Eating & Active Lifestyles



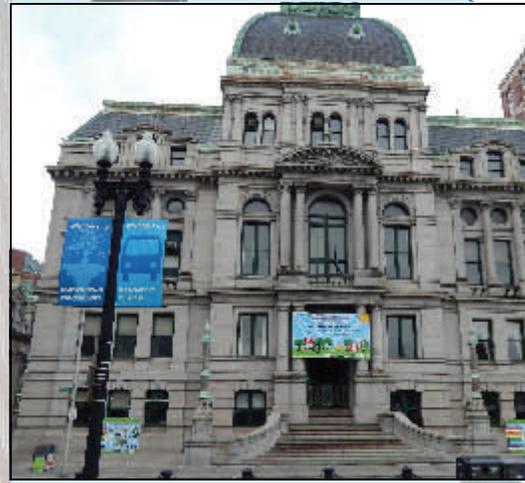
## Section 1



# Summer Meals Outreach Campaign

## “Healthy Kids , Healthy Communities, Healthy Providence”

In Summer 2014, the HCO was awarded a \$45,000 grant from the National League of Cities to increase participation of children and youth in the Summer Meals Program as well as expand Afterschool Meals participation during the school year. This grant funding, along



worked to draw youth to summer meals through new activities in city parks.

Through CHAMPS, the city also increased the number of schools receiving afterschool snacks, and initiated a pilot afterschool supper program at two Providence Afterschool Alliance Sites which is expanding to all five PASA sites this year.

with technical assistance from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), allowed us to develop and implemented an outreach and media campaign with support from a wide range of sponsors using bus signs, magnets on city vehicles, hundreds of banners at schools, playgrounds, fire stations, and partner organization sites; as well as radio and TV promotion. The city established new, open sites with partner organizations and





**Healthy Tips!**  
**¡Pautas de Salud!**



Half of your plate should be fruits and veggies.  
*La mitad de tu plato debe ser frutas y vegetales.*






Read food labels for nutrition information.  
*Lee las etiquetas de los alimentos para más información nutricional.*



Bigger isn't always better!  
*¡Más grande no es siempre lo mejor!*







Healthy foods are accessible to you.  
*La comida saludable está a tu alcance.*



Drink 8 glasses of water every day.  
*Bebe 8 vasos de agua cada día.*







Get out and exercise!  
*¡Sal y haz ejercicio!*



Healthy choices build healthy families, healthy communities, and a Healthy Rhode Island!  
*¡El tomar decisiones saludables construyen familias y comunidades saludables, por un Rhode Island Saludable!*

**FREE Summer Meals for Teens and Kids in Providence Parks.**  
**Call 211\* for Info!**

**Comida de Verano GRATIS para Jóvenes y Niños en los Parques de Providence.**  
**¡Para más Información, Llama al 211\*!**



Healthy Kids. Healthy Communities. Healthy Providence.  
Niños Saludables. Comunidades Saludables. Un Providence Saludable.





The Summer Meals Program is run by the City's Parks Department. During the school year our 90% of the children and youth in the City of Providence qualify to receive free or reduce meals, and only around 12% access the Summer Meals when school is out. During the summer of 2013 under 127,000 summer meals were served, and in 2014 our work helped increase that number to more than 163,000. With more than 101 sites for distributions of the summer meals, which include over 30 parks and more than 70 camps, and day cares, our city promotes "Healthy Food Access" through this program.



# Cyclovía

Cyclovía is a car-free event that opens the street for people of all ages to walk, skate, run, bicycle, exercise and socialize.

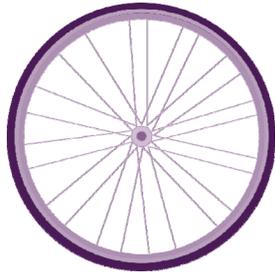


07.28.13—Valley Street

On July 28th, 2013, the Healthy Communities Office hosted its second Providence Cyclovía of the season, and its third ever held. The first of the season had been held in June 2013

09.15.13—Hope Street

The Hope Street Cyclovía was a huge success and saw support from both residents and business in the area.



06.30.14—Broad Street

We continued working on Cyclovia on 2014, with three events set for the summer. The Broad Street Cyclovia was a huge success and brought the neighborhood together.





## Urban Agriculture

The Healthy Communities Office works to promote the development of healthy, sustainable communities through urban agriculture initiatives. Current projects include the City's Lots of Hope urban agriculture initiative, composting, and implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan as it relates to food, waste, and land use.



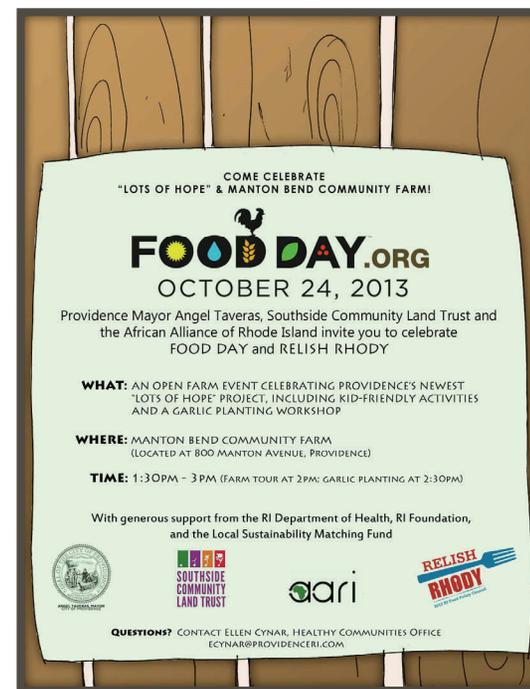
## Accomplishments

- Completion of Manton Bend Community Farm-Providence's first full-scale Lots of Hope project.
- Addition of Meader Street Farm (Federal Hill) and Sky Hill Farm (Olneyville) to Lots of Hope farm portfolio.
- Received competitive grant from RI Foundation and Partners for Place to build The Lots of Hope Urban Greenhouse to provide season extension for local growers and connect urban agriculture to Providence school food service.
- Conducted The City of Providence Urban Agriculture Assessment to survey potential city-owned properties for Lots of Hope.
- Helping to lead Food Sustainability Work Group for Providence Sustainability Action Plan.

“Providence COMPOSTS!”, the city’s neighborhood-based composting pilot:

Fall 2013- Diversion of 2.3 tons of organic material from land-fill with two pilot sites (Smith Hill Neighborhood-*Frey Florist & Greenhouse and Bradlee Consulting*; Federal Hill Neighborhood-*West Broadway Neighborhood Association and Meader Street Farm*)

Spring of 2014- Expansion of pilot to include third site (West End Neighborhood-*West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation and the Sankofa Initiative's Parade Street Community Farm*); This pilot is serving 105 Providence households



# Healthy Eating in Providence Schools

Establishing positive behaviors at a young age helps Providence youth grow up to be healthy adults. Providence schools play a critical role in promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles and the Healthy Communities Office works closely with PPSD and community partners to support a healthy learning environment.

- Piloted USDA's supper program at Gilbert Stuart Middle School, Esek Hopkins Middle School; served 6,720 suppers to Providence students. The program is slated to expand to three additional schools in the Fall of 2014.
- Received a grant through the RI Foundation to develop and inform best practices for establishing school gardens and develop garden-based curriculum integration.

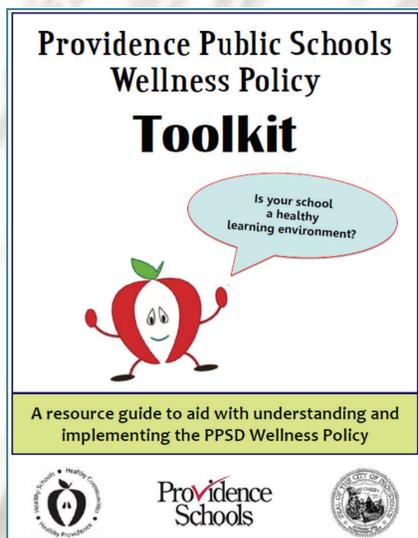
- Partnered with Sodexo to serve RI-grown vegetables and showcased garden carts in all Providence elementary schools for Food Day / Relish Rhody.

- Participated and supported the work of the PPSD Wellness Committee.

- Conducted first-ever PPSD Farm-to-School Assessment to identify opportunities to incorporate garden-based learning into the classroom setting.

- Developed a PPSD Wellness Policy Toolkit to aid with the understanding and implementation of PPSD's new Wellness Policy.

- Provided technical input to PPSD's school food service request for proposal; for the first time, the RFP for the 2014-2019 school years required a minimum purchase of 15% local RI products.





Zumba in the Park is an initiative from the Healthy Communities Office to promote overall health and wellness by using Zumba, an aerobic exercise that incorporates Latin dance, to attract people into staying active in their everyday life. The initiative also encourages Providence residents to think of their parks as places to be healthy and active.

Through this event, people have an environment in which they can feel comfortable exercising and have the opportunity to socialize while doing so.

In the past year, Zumba in the Park has been held 8 times.



# ZUMBA in the Park

# Healthy Communities Radio



HCO staff organized a radio program called “Healthy Communities/Comunidades Saludables” that aired for more than 12 weeks on the following Spanish language radio Stations: Latina 100.3, Poder1110 WPMZ. And Radio Renacer. Through these programs, we reached tens of thousands of Providence residents.

Guest speakers ranged from Michelle McKenzie from the Miriam Hospital who

discussed overdose prevention in Rhode Island, to Jorge Cardenas from Sodexo, who discussed the Back to School Celebration and Sodexo’s other community work, and Senator Juan Pichardo, who discussed Veterans issues.

Our colleagues Ellen Cynar and Azade Perin discussed healthy lifestyles and healthy food access by discussing the different youth meal programs being promoted by the HCO throughout the city of Providence.

*Through the radio programs, various guest speakers were brought in to discuss healthy lifestyles and drug use prevention.*





## The Power of a Healthy Community

### Movement, Play and Nutrition

Evidence shows the powerful impact of teaching children healthy behaviors early in life, and exposing them to healthy foods at an early age. That is why the HCO partnered with Ready to Learn Providence (R2LP) to sponsor an “I am Moving, I am Learning” early childhood educator training for a group of approximately 15 Spanish-speaking home childcare providers. The goals of the curriculum are to increase the quantity of time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity during daily routines, to improve the quality of structured movement experiences

intentionally facilitated by adults, and to promote healthy nutrition choices every day.

In addition, the HCO and R2LP partnered in November on “The Power of a Healthy Community”, an event that brought more than 150 child care providers and their family together with more than two dozen health and community organizations, to help providers integrate nutrition and physical activity into their home day cares and to help connect the families they serve with important resources.



## Lots of Hope Urban Greenhouse

Through conversion of vacant, city-owned properties, the Lots of Hope Urban Greenhouse will support urban agriculture season extension, linkages to food service procurement, and garden-based school curriculum integration.



nearby schools. We will do this by identifying curriculum, through which PPSD elementary and middle schools can fully utilize the greenhouse. We will measure and report outcomes for these curriculums. Furthermore, we will promote waste diversion in the City and at the schools.



# PARTNERS FOR PLACES

The purpose of the Urban Greenhouse is to address the barrier of a short growing season in RI and provide infrastructure to enable micro-enterprise and economic

development opportunities.

We have identified City-owned property for the greenhouse. In the coming months we will develop the greenhouse design, identify market growers for greenhouse through public process, and develop ways to measure the health and economic outcomes of the greenhouse.

We will support garden-based education and curriculum linkages for



## RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION

# Substance Abuse Prevention

Under 30?



Show Us Your ID.

"Join us as part of the solution to underage drinking in our community."

*Acme Liquors*

A TIPS RBS Certified Establishment



HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES  
OFFICE  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
MAYOR ANGEL TAVERAS



## Section 2



# THE MAYOR'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE Prevention COUNCIL

The Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council is made up of community advocates and experts from the fields of addiction, youth services, education, treatment, housing, media, and prevention.

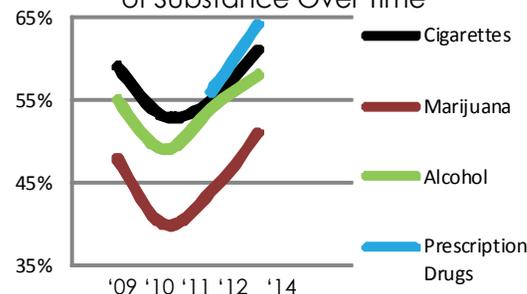
The Mission of the MSAPC is to protect youth and prevent harmful alcohol, tobacco and drug use by: implementing evidenced-based programs, building

awareness, providing effective education, supporting comprehensive environmental strategies, and promoting the health and wellness of individuals and communities.

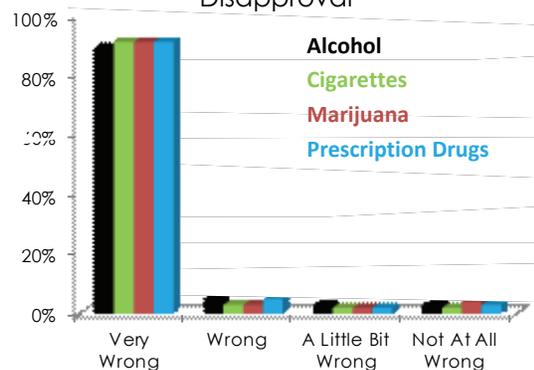
During the past year, the MSAPC met a total of eight times. At each meeting, the MSAPC director and staff reported on their work since the last meeting. MSAPC members also gave presentations on how their work continues to improve our community and how it supported the MSAPC's mission.



PASA Survey- Perception of Harm of Substance Over Time



PASA Survey- Perception of Parent Disapproval



## Providence After School Alliance Youth Survey Summary

In 2014, as in years past, we surveyed nearly 500 middle school students participating in the Providence After School Alliance to determine their past 30-day use, perception of risk, perception of parental disapproval, and perception of peer disapproval related to the use of alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and prescription drugs. We found

- Minimal rates of use and acceptance reported for all substances
- Alcohol and marijuana continue to be substances most used
- Slightly higher rates of use and lower perceptions of risk for our PASA sample when compared to the same-age national sample
- Rates of risk perceived improved from the previous survey year for both regular marijuana use and trying marijuana once or twice

# Tobacco Use Prevention

## Tobacco Cessation Classes

The HCO worked throughout the year to expand access to smoking cessation services for uninsured and underinsured Providence residents who want to quit. Most recently, we have been holding cessation classes every Thursday morning at the Elmwood Adult Day Health Care Center in collaboration with HEALTH, Tri-Town CAP, and the Rhode Island Department of Health.

## Radio Programs

The HCO held a program on Radio Renacer with Arline Pineda, Master Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist at Thundermist Health Center, to promote healthy living and tobacco prevention. This radio program discussed the dangers of



tobacco and the importance of tobacco prevention and cessation.

## Prevention Week

HCO performed a tobacco prevention presentation at two locations for the Elmwood Adult Health Care Center. About 185 people attended the programs and learned about the dangers of tobacco and of ways to protect themselves and their families. After the presentation, HCO staff



promoted its 10-week tobacco cessation classes.

## Smoke Free Parks

This policy prohibits smoking or tobacco usage of any kind in and around Providence City Parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities and protects children from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

Due in great part to the leadership and support of Mayor Taveras and the work of the HCO, the Providence Board of Park Commissioners passed a policy in May banning the use of tobacco products in city hall. As this report went to print, the City Council was considering an ordinance to make the ban permanent and establish a fine.





# The In School Prevention Series

The In School Prevention Series features experts from prevention, treatment, education, and addiction. There are three main audiences for the ISPS: Parents, High School Students, and Middle School Students. Topics include suicide prevention, opioid overdose, and general wellness. Our speakers discuss social norms and reasons for use as well as immediate steps to prevention abuse among their families.

Working closely with community partners and schools, the ISPS is able to tailor our outreach based on each schools specific data and student body makeup. The presenters are engaging and help to generate a productive dialogue amongst students and staff alike.

Middle School Prevention Presentations addressed issues of

mindfulness with attention to the specific needs of middle school students. This allows us to impact the culture of the whole school. Making smart and healthy choices builds multiple supportive factors.

We believe that together we can empower students with information about drugs and alcohol, which will lead to increased education and decreased substance abuse among students as well as their families





461 Middle School Students Reached

323 High School Students Reached

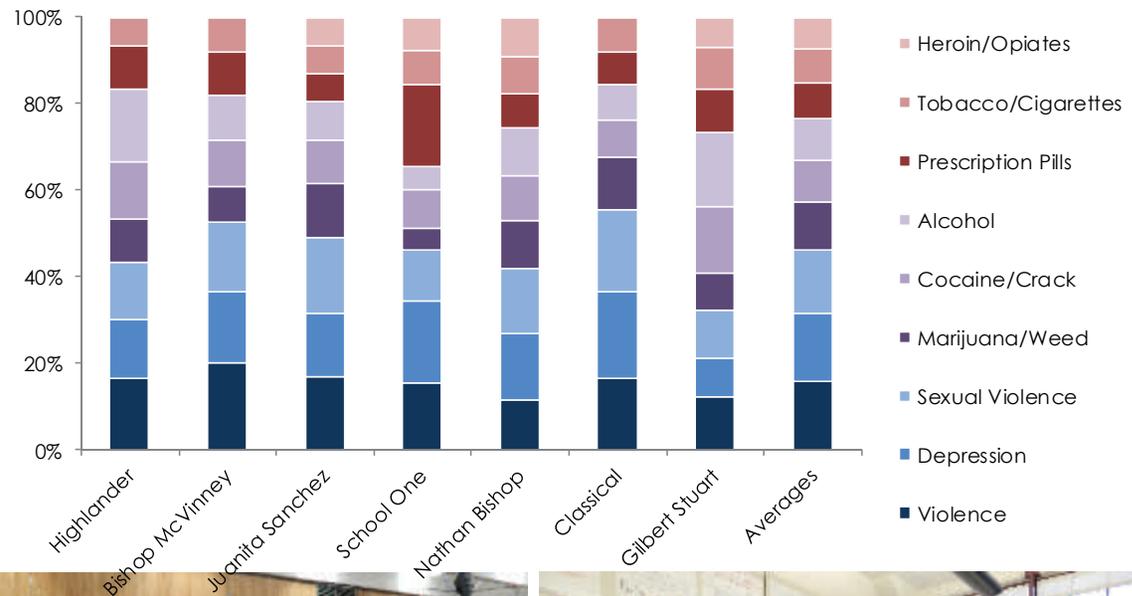
Following each presentation, students were surveyed about the program and their interest in future topics. Top responses were consistently Violence, Depression, and Sexual Violence.

This data gives the ISPS the ability to be flexible and to be able to market presentations to each individual school.

“Drinking doesn’t only affect me, it affects the people around me.”

-Providence HS Student

Requested Topics for Future Presentations



# Alcohol Use Prevention

## The Power of Parents

HCO prevention staff completed a number of “Power of Parents” trainings to Providence parents. This training, developed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, focuses on the strong influence that parents have in their children’s decisions to abstain from underage alcohol use by helping parents enter conversations with their children about alcohol.

**MADD’s “Power of Parents” training aims to provide parents with strategies on how to help their children make better decisions.**



## Public Outreach

MSAPC participated in a press conference with MADD about alcohol prevention at the Providence Safety Complex, to mark the beginning of an educational push by the Providence police and other police departments across the state to promote sober driving

# The Arrive Alive Program



## Distracted and Drunk Driving Prevention

The Arrive Alive Program was, in one word, effective. We targeted families and young adults to reinforce through a compelling intervention the messages they have heard elsewhere about the dangers of drunk and distracted driving

**Both Arrive Alive Programs made apparent the critical role of passengers in preventing distracted and impaired driving.**

August 17th, 2013

Back to School Celebration

We were able to serve families that otherwise may not have received an opportunity to teach their teens or even learn for themselves, the dangers of distracted or impaired driving.

September 21st, 2013

Rally 4 Recovery

The Rally gave us a vocally supportive crowd. These newfound supporters made it a point to teach their teens the dangers of distracted or impaired driving.

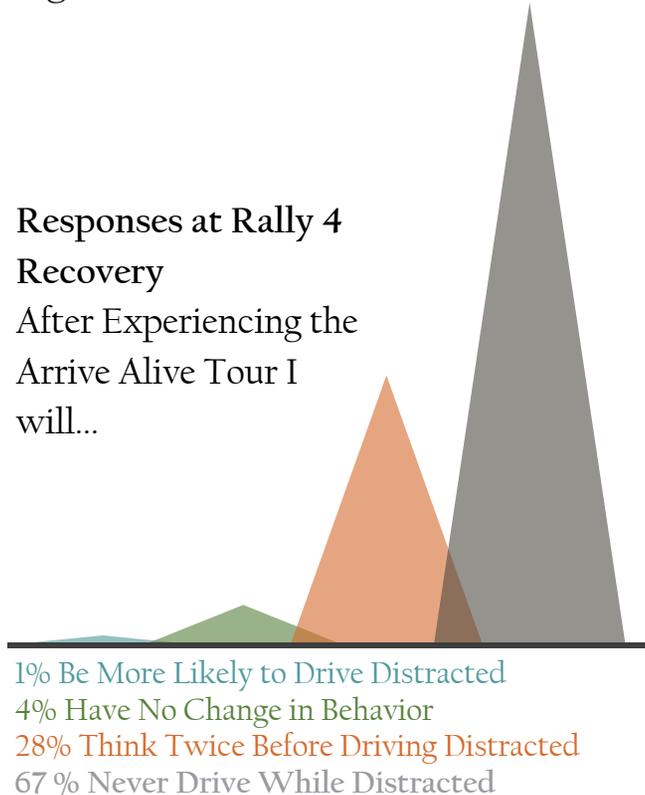
Funding for the Arrive Alive Program was provided by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. The grant allowed us to target distracted and drunk driving amongst the most at-risk populations.

Following the event nearly all reported, at both events, that they would have a new idea of what it meant to be a responsible passenger. The Arrive Alive Program does just as much to inform as it does to change the culture of distracted and impaired driving in Rhode Island.

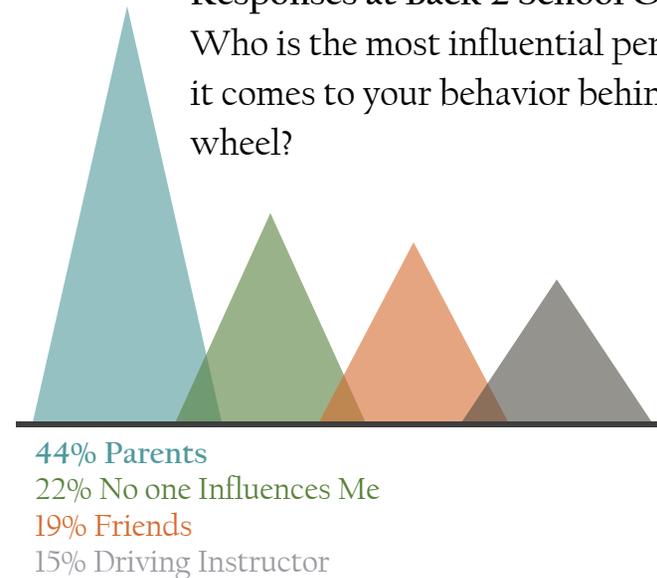


On September 21st, 2013, over 13,000 Recovery Advocates from across the country packed into Roger William National Memorial for the 2013 Rally 4 Recovery National Hub Rally. There were live entertainers, speeches and awards given out to leading members of the national recovery movement.

**Responses at Rally 4 Recovery**  
After Experiencing the Arrive Alive Tour I will...



**Responses at Back 2 School Celebration**  
Who is the most influential person when it comes to your behavior behind the wheel?



## A Spatial Analysis of Tobacco & Alcohol Sales Locations in Providence

Meaghan Pierannunzi, MPH Intern

Geographic factors, such as the location of alcohol and tobacco outlets and neighborhood socioeconomic status can influence the patterns of alcohol and tobacco use and related problems in that area. A high density of alcohol-selling outlets has been linked to a spectrum of negative effects including increased crime levels and littering. Both the Institute of Medicine and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that communities work to limit the number of tobacco retailers as an effective tobacco control measure. When tobacco retail outlets are concentrated

in certain neighborhoods or around schools, there are negative consequences for tobacco control and public health. Studies have documented that youth who live or go to schools in neighborhoods with the highest density of tobacco outlets have higher

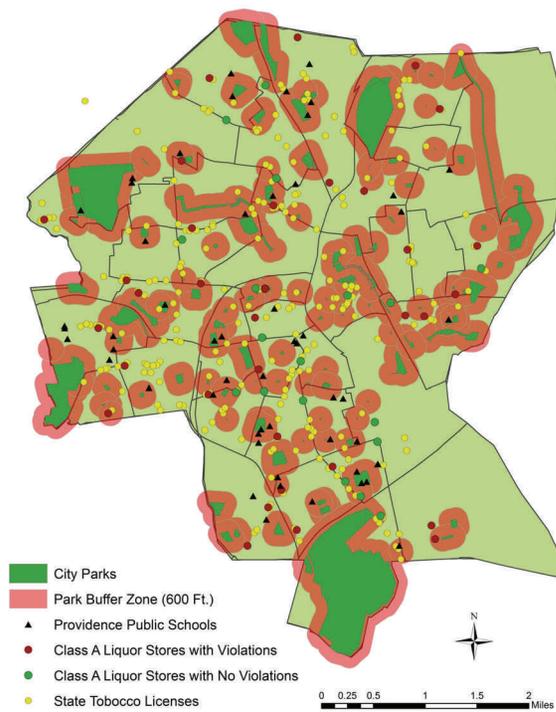
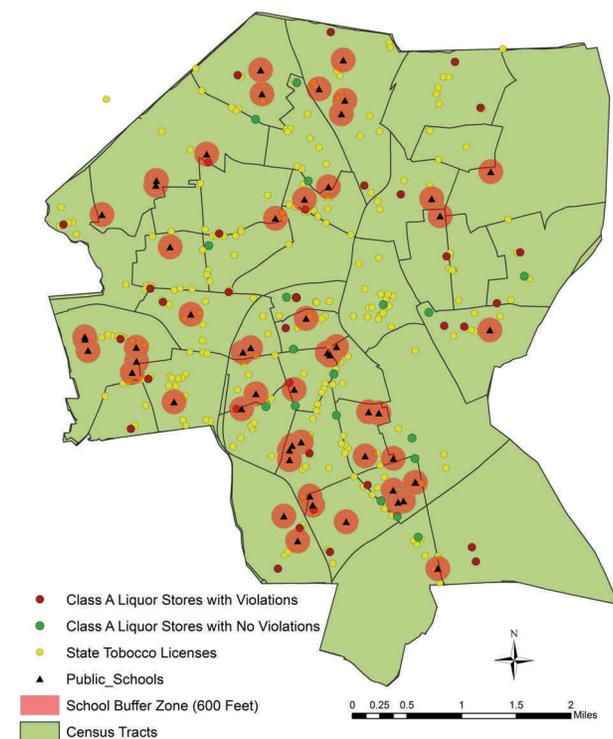
smoking rates compared to youth who live or go to schools in

neighborhoods with fewer or no tobacco outlets.

This project aims to provide information on the patterns of access to alcohol and tobacco in relation to poverty, race, and crime in Providence and will assess school and park proximity to alcohol and tobacco vendors. This work was conducted for the Healthy Communities Office. These maps will serve as a resource for the Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council, which has made aggressive changes to reduce tobacco use in the city.

This analysis will provide insight regarding the locations of alcohol and tobacco sales in each of the City's Council Wards and by census tracts.

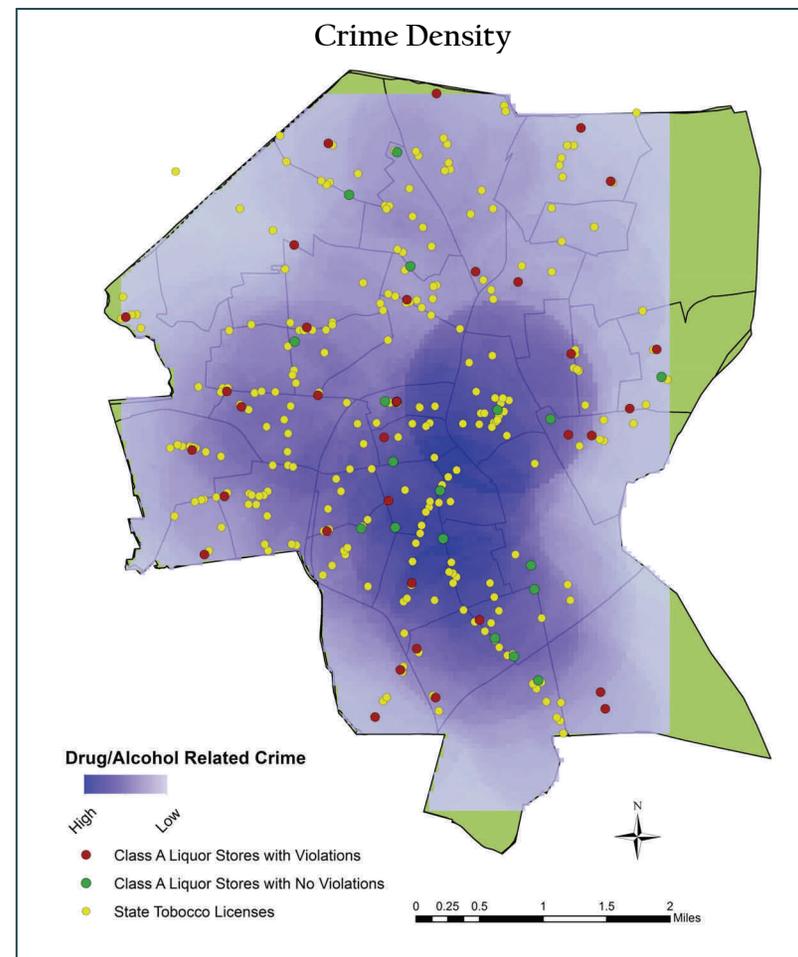
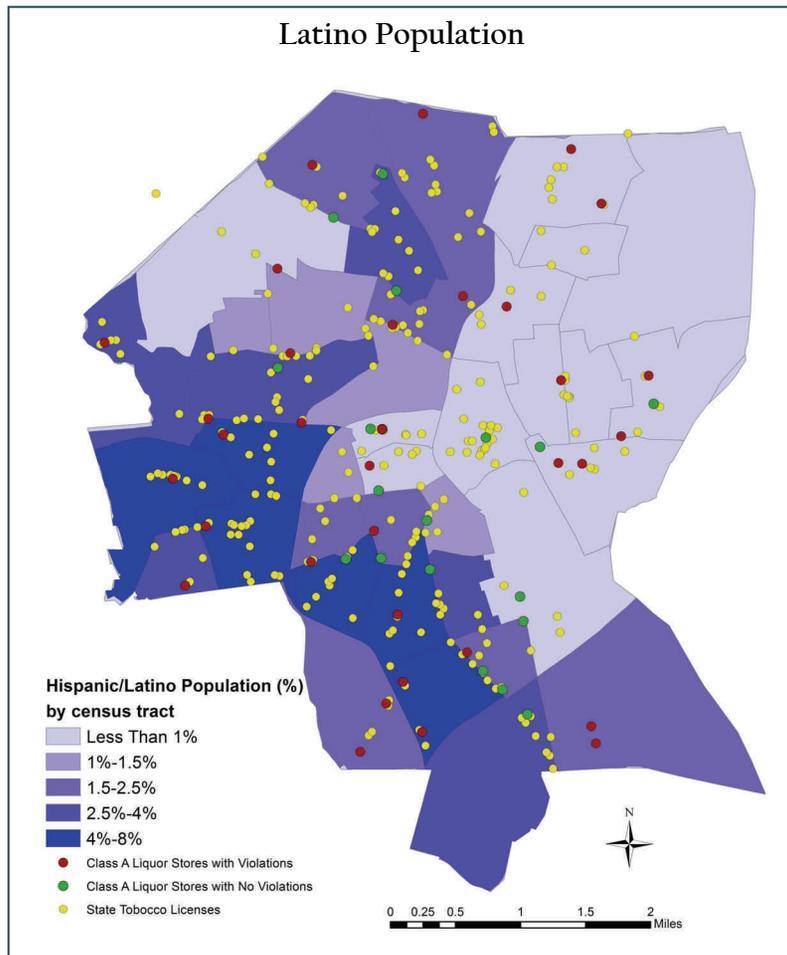
This work provides policymakers with information which can be used to achieve significant public health benefits, particularly for low-income and other populations disproportionately impacted by chronic diseases exacerbated by tobacco and alcohol use.



# Methodology

Addresses for all establishments with Class-A (off-premise) liquor, and/or State cigarette licenses were obtained from the City of Providence and geocoded using Google Earth. American Fact Finder was used to obtain 2010 census data regarding poverty status and race.

All data was cleaned in Excel and joined to TIGER census tract shape files, which were clipped to the Providence city boundaries. Choropleth maps were created to examine the population below the poverty line and the growing



Hispanic/Latino population.

Providence's planning department provided shape files for the following: ward boundaries, public parks, and public schools. Proximity analysis was conducted to create 600 foot buffer zones surrounding City public schools and parks.

The Office of the Public Safety Commissioner provided a shape file of all alcohol/drug related crime in 2013. This information was used to create a raster grid to examine the relationship between crime density and alcohol and tobacco locations.

## Conclusion and Discussion

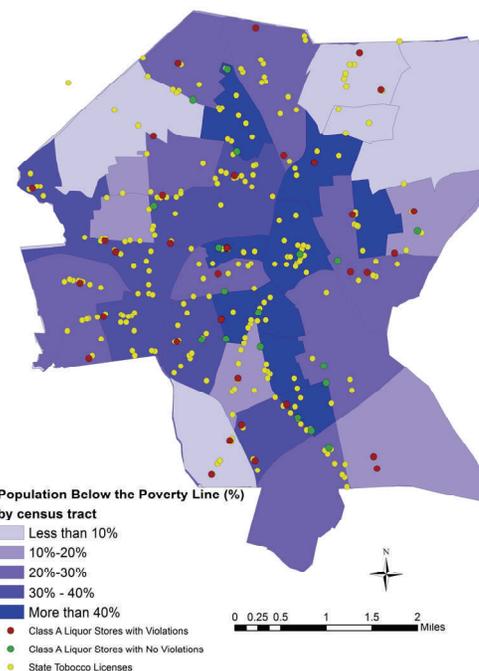
This project indicates that there is a greater density of Class-A liquor stores with violations (selling to minors, for example) in areas with higher poverty levels. The maps also indicate that the central and western neighborhoods of Providence have higher density of

licensed alcohol and tobacco locations, in addition to increased density of crimes related to drugs or alcohol. These neighborhoods have a concentrated and growing Hispanic and Latino population. This information could inform intervention strategies as Providence demographics change.

Finally, the proximity analysis indicated that there are a number of tobacco and alcohol locations located within a 600 foot buffer zone of the City's parks and public schools.

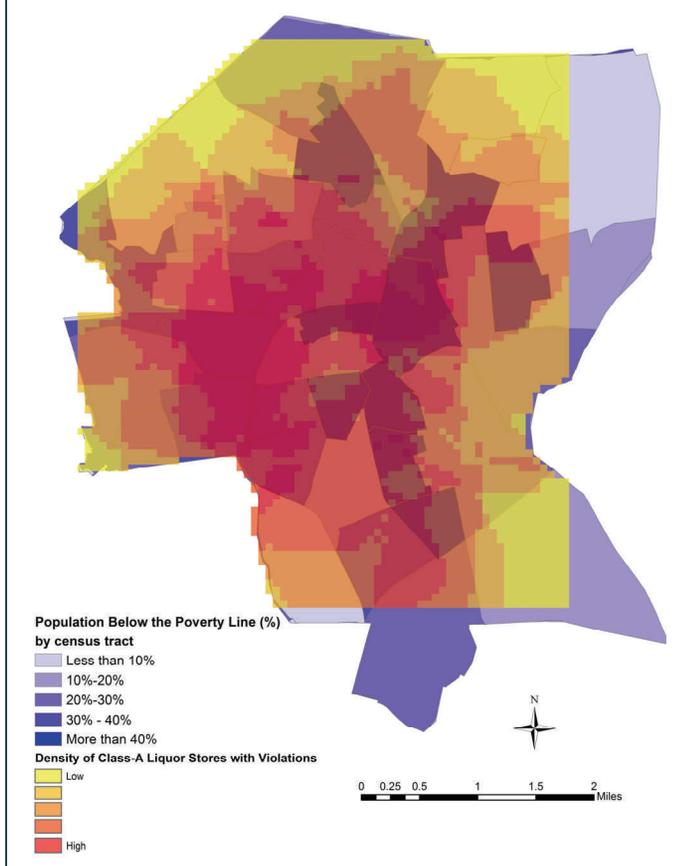
This analysis identifies the locations that should be prioritized in future policy and public health initiatives. A limitation of this analysis is that it is presenting information from one point in time and cannot communicate the trends in alcohol and tobacco prevalence in Providence. Additionally, the crime data used were incidents coded as drug and alcohol

### Licensed Class-A and Tobacco Locations In Relation to % Population Living in Poverty



related. Other crimes may have been related to alcohol, but were not captured in this data set. Future analyses could examine these parameters at different time point to establish trends, examine the distribution of the population under the age of 18 in relation to density of alcohol and tobacco locations, and also identify the establishments closest to each respective school and park.

### Density of Liquor Stores w/ Previous Violations In Relation to % Population Living in Poverty



# Health Fairs

The HCO has partnered with community organizations to host health fairs throughout Providence. Our work at these fairs focused on providing educational information regarding substance abuse prevention and highlighting the importance of preventing youth consumption of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and other drugs. The

strength of parental influence in young people's decisions to avoid drugs was heavily emphasized. Over 2,500 people attended the 25 fairs, which were held at Mary Fogarty Elementary, Providence Career and Technical Academy School, and Walgreens Pharmacy, among other locations.



### National Coalition Academy

Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

04.08.13 - 04.12.13,

06.03.13 - 06.07.13

08.05.13 - 08.09.13

### Mid-Year Conference

Austin, TX

07.22.13 - 07.25.13

### National Leadership Forum

Washington, DC

02.03.14 - 02.06.14

# Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Trainings

Healthy Communities Office staff participated in three CADCA trainings throughout the year.

All three trainings attracted prevention and treatment professionals from across the country. At the three-week-long National Coalition Academy, HCO staff became immersed in coalition building, intervention planning, and environmental strategy development.

Both the Mid-Year Conference and National Forum gave HCO staff the chance to learn about up-and-coming local, regional, and national programs.

HCO Staff were selected to give two presentations to peers from around the country. The first covered HCO efforts to build sustainable programs and was given to a large group of Drug Free Communities Grantees. The second was a review of the 2013 VetCorps Program given to National VetCorps Members, Volunteers, and Staff.



# Prescription Drug Take Back Days

The Healthy Communities Office has been working intensively since 2012 to address the overdose epidemic by removing dangerous and often abused prescriptions from our community.

The office hosted its fourth and fifth Rx Drug Take Back Days on October 26, 2013 and April 26, 2014. The events were very successful and brought in more than 1,100 Providence residents and hundreds of pounds of unused prescription drugs.

The Walgreens on Elmwood Avenue served on both dates as the site of a community health fair. This celebration of all things health included some of the biggest names in Rhode Island health care and allowed the MSAPC to better implement the drug take-back bin program as well as distribute additional prevention resources to Providence residents.



## Prescription Drug Take Back Events Stats

October 26, 2013

Lbs of Prescription Drugs Collected: 183

April 26, 2014

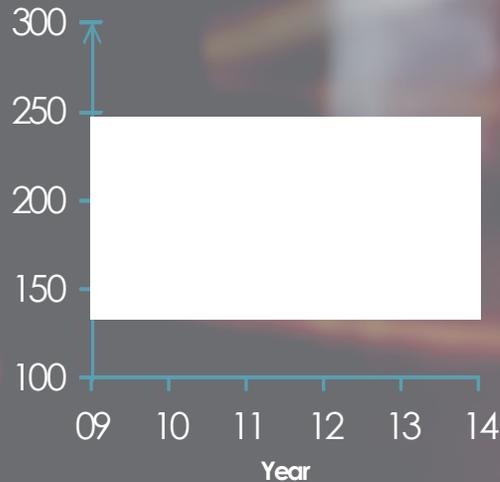
Lbs of Prescription Drugs Collected: 112



The HCO has addressed the epidemic of opioid overdose by performing outreach and educating community members with information regarding the causes of addiction. In addition, this outreach has also focused on harm reduction. Naloxone distribution, education regarding proper prescribing practices, and giving our partners the tools and knowledge to fight back have all been effective in not only talking about overdose, but also addiction and mental health.

The HCO has addressed the epidemic of opioid overdose by performing outreach and educating community members with information regarding the causes of addiction. In addition, this outreach has also focused on harm reduction. Naloxone distribution, education regarding proper prescribing

## Overdose Deaths in R.I.



\*2014 Statistics Estimated

Since the rise in overdoses, the Healthy Communities Office has taken a leading role in educating and protecting our community from the violence and crime caused by addiction. This has included performing outreach, working towards equipping Providence Police officers with Naloxone and training them on overdose issues; participating in state-wide and local workgroups around overdose prevention; and installing a permanent drug take back bin in the Public Safety Complex. We have also reached out to members of the medical community in the city to ask them to help with education of their patients, and also to encourage use of the state's prescription monitoring program.



The primary goal of the Drug Free Communities Mentoring grant is to assist newly forming substance abuse prevention coalitions in becoming eligible to apply for DFC funding on their own.

In September 2013, we received one of 19 new DFC Mentoring Grants nationwide from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in partnership with the Central Falls Prevention Coalition (CFPC), which is coordinated by Progreso Latino. Our \$75,000 grant runs through September of 2014

Providence staff have used our expertise in helping the CFPC to revise its bylaws and strengthen

## Central Falls Mentoring Partnership



member participation, conducting training and leadership development opportunities, and assisting in the collection of data about substance abuse problems in Central Falls.

We are working to strengthen CFPC's organizational structure; increase CFPC's leadership and community readiness to address youth substance use problems in Central Falls; and assist the CFPC in working through a strategic planning process that will result in a comprehensive community Action Plan. The grant is also funding participation by CFPC members in CADCA's National Coalition Academy.

# Section 3

# Providence VetCorps

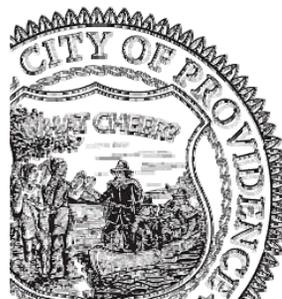


Beginning in late January 2013, the Healthy Communities Office joined VetCorps, a national program developed by the National Guard Bureau's Prevention Treatment and Outreach Program, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

VetCorps is focused on preventing and reducing substance abuse among Veterans and military families by connecting them to supportive services and civic engagement opportunities. The Providence VetCorps Project has a special emphasis on serving the needs of National Guard and Reserve Veterans and Military Families. Providence VetCorps is able to connect individual veterans as well as members of veteran organizations in Providence with whatever resources they may need.



The City of Providence is the only city or town in Rhode Island with a full time staff member dedicated to assisting veterans and military families. The Healthy Communities Office is in a unique position to connect the veteran community to the public and mental health fields.



## Providence VetCorps

*building hope and resiliency among veteran and military families*

# Mayor Angel Taveras' 2nd Annual Veteran Summer BBQ August 24th, 2013, Roger Williams Park Casino



VetCorps and the Mayor's Office held the 2nd Annual Veteran Summer BBQ at Roger Williams Park Casino. The Event hosted more than 125 veterans and military family members. In an effort to show our appreciation for their service to our country, the event was free of charge and focused solely on providing a fun, family-oriented outing.



# Volunteering Veterans Awards Breakfast

Eighty veterans and military family members attended a breakfast on November 2, 2013 to honor veterans and military family members who serve their community through volunteerism. A. Kathryn Power, the northeast regional administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, served as keynote speaker.

The honorees exemplified how the veteran community responds to the needs of its fellow veterans and



military families. Those receiving the Veteran Civic Engagement Award were: Anthony DeQuattro President/Chairman of Operation Stand Down Rhode Island; Joshua Bell, AmeriCorps Volunteer for the Diocese of Providence and Military Historian; Richard Chauvin, Vet Center Volunteer; Lysie McIlhinney, Middletown Prevention Coalition Volunteer and Military Spouse; and Chad McFarlane, President of the CCRI Student Veterans Organization.

This event put the spotlight on

**“The women and men who have represented – and defended – this nation in theatres all over the globe have taught us the true measure of honor and service.”**



the important sacrifices that our Rhode Island Veterans have given– and continue to give– to make our communities stronger. The individuals we honored stepped up to volunteer, lead, and proudly serve their fellow veterans and military family members.

# SECOND ANNUAL MAYORS' MILITARY, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES JOB FAIR



The Second Annual Military, Veterans, and Families' Job Fair was held on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014.

Four workshops were organized by Providence CADCA VetCorps for the event.

Legal steps, credit counseling, résumé building, and interviewing skills were all offered for free to attending veterans and military

family members and taught by experts in their respective fields. Legal help and credit counseling, as two of the most common issues that veterans face, were particularly popular and well-received by attendees. In all, over 150 Veterans participated in the event.

The employers participating have identified that veterans have qualities like an accelerated

learning curve, leadership, teamwork, diversity, efficiency under

pressure, respect for procedures, and integrity. These aforementioned qualities are vital to success in the workplace and are a reason that Providence VetCorps continues to advocate for veteran employment in The City of Providence.

**9.6%**  
Unemployment  
rate for Rhode  
Island Veterans



# The VetCycle Project

The VetCycle Project is a new initiative in 2014 with a goal of creating a community that will empower veterans by providing opportunities to boost fitness and develop new skills while supporting an affordable and environmentally-sustainable method of transportation. Participants will be introduced to a network of other veterans who share an interest in cycling and learning to build bicycles. A special emphasis is placed on engaging formerly homeless and disabled veterans.

## The VetCycle Bike Drive

Two VetCycle Bike Drives were held in April and June 2014 to gather the necessary parts for Build a Bike classes and create a buzz about the VetCycle Program. Each bike drive also provided an opportunity for those donating their bicycles to interact with some of the Veterans who have been the driving force behind the VetCycle Program. Between the two events, over 75 bicycles were donated from around Rhode Island for The VetCycle Project.



## The VetCycle Build-A-Bike Classes

Stage two of the VetCycle Program is teaching veterans and military families how to build and maintain their bike. Free 3-week Build-A-Bike Courses will meet twice a week beginning in July 2014. Taught by Recycle-a-Bike's expert instructors, veterans will refurbish a bike donated at one of The VetCycle Bike Drives. Class members will learn the mechanical and safety skills necessary to maintain their free bicycle for a lifetime of use.



## The VetCycle Club

The VetCycle Project has brought together a group of veterans who share an interest in advocating for health, wellness, and mobility in the Providence veteran community. This group will continue the VetCycle Project in FY2015 and will encourage many more veterans to join their ranks. The VetCycle Club will plan rides, gather donations, and bridge the gap between the cycling and veterans communities.

## Healthy Communities Office Staff

Peter Asen, MS, APS—Director (pasen@providenceri.com 401.421.7740 x753)

Raisa Burgos—Prevention Coordinator (rburgos@providenceri.com, x236)

Ellen Cynar, MS, MPH—Program Manager (ecynar@providenceri.com x733)

Kara Greenaway—VetCorps Coordinator (kgreenaway@providenceri.com x389)

Obed Papp, APS—Drug Free Communities Coordinator (opapp@providenceri.com x505)

Azade Perin, MPA, GWS—Fiscal /Outreach Coordinator (aperin@providenceri.com x490)

## Past Staff—2013-14

Chris Creech, APS—Prevention Specialist

Natalie Posever—Summer Meals Design Consultant

## 2013-2014 Interns

Sophie Duncan

Liz Garcia

Lee-Sien Kao

Adele Levine

Meaghan Pierannunzi, MPH



2013-2014 Healthy Communities Office Annual Report