

Publicized Sobriety Checkpoints to Reduce Alcohol-Related Driving Fatalities in Powell, Wyoming

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Purpose

To decrease the number of alcohol-impaired drivers on Powell streets through a form of high visibility enforcement

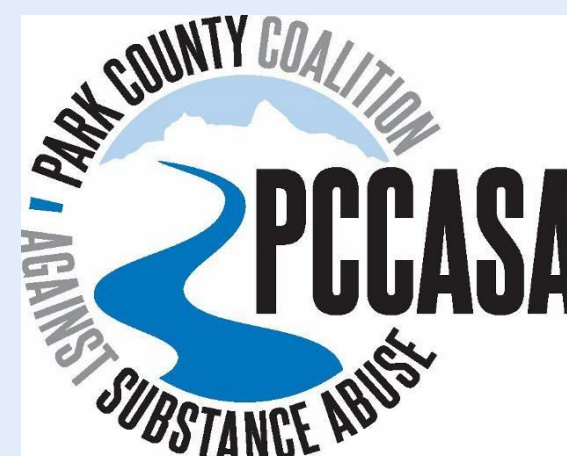


Background

- Powell is a rural, agricultural town of <6,500 located in Park County
- Park County has the 3rd highest rate of alcohol-related driving deaths among all 23 Wyoming counties

Methods

- Demographic analysis indicated that Park County had high rates of alcohol-related driving fatalities
- Conversations with community members, public health professionals, college counselors, and law enforcement confirmed that alcohol abuse is a local concern
- A literature review identified strategies to reduce alcohol abuse and alcohol-related driving incidents



Results

- A literature review and recommendations tailored to community needs were shared with local partners
- Potential benefits of sobriety checkpoints were acknowledged but concerns about legal hurdles were raised



Discussion

- Publicized sobriety checkpoints are effective and can be feasible in a rural setting to reduce alcohol-impaired driving
- Under the current interpretation of Wyoming law, sobriety checkpoints are not authorized
- If sufficient community support was garnered, state law could be modified to include an exception for sobriety checkpoints