

# COWLITZ COUNTY

2005 - 2006

## Community Mobilization Contact

Brian McCrady, Coordinator  
Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition  
Phone: (360) 577-3041  
[bmccrady@cwco.org](mailto:bmccrady@cwco.org)

## Overview

The Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition mobilizes Cowlitz County to be healthy and safe by assisting communities in assessing their needs and determining strategies to meet those needs in the areas of substance abuse and violence. This local approach includes prioritizing risk factors; designing strategies in all four domains—community, family, school, and individual/peer; and employing evidence-based programming, where applicable.

## Community Partners/Service Providers

- City of Longview
- Cowlitz County Human Services
- Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office
- Cowlitz Meth Action Team
- Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Youth Commission
- Drug Abuse Prevention Center
- Faith-based organizations
- Longview Drug-Free Communities
- Individuals in recovery
- School districts—all six
- Service clubs
- WSU Extension/4-H—Cowlitz County
- Office of the Attorney General

## Program Outcomes

- ◆ Seventy percent of the parents and 50 percent of the youth in the **Strengthening Families 10 - 14 Program** in Woodland reported positive improvement in family harmony from pre- to post-evaluations.
- ◆ Seventy-five percent of parents in the **Strengthening Families 10 - 14 Program** in Longview reported positive improvement on rules about substance use, positive involvement, and family harmony.
- ◆ Eighty percent of the youth in the **Strengthening Families 10 - 14 Program** in Kelso reported improvement in family management.
- ◆ Eighty-three percent of the Wallace Elementary students in the **Teen Mentor Program** improved their self-concept and interaction with peers at school during the program.



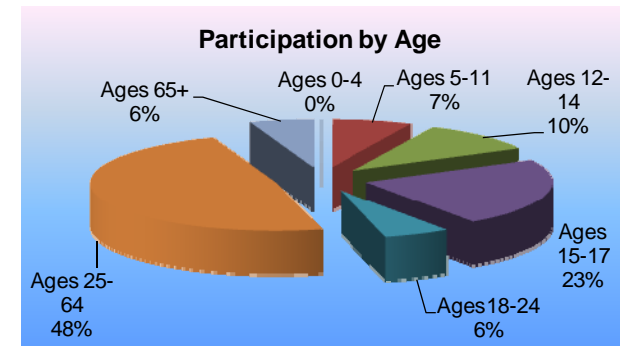
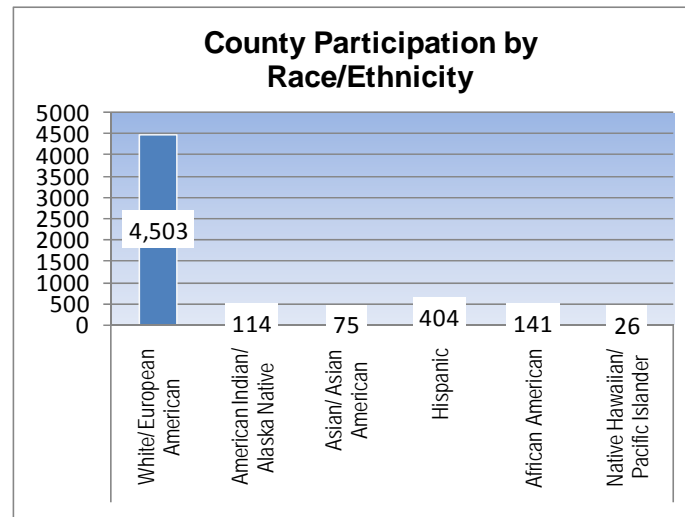
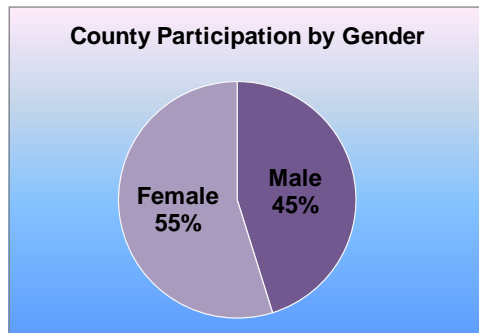
## Program Highlights

- ◆ A parent from the **Strengthening Families Program** commented: "This program helped me to understand what my kids are going through. I also learned more patience and to be consistent with setting limits." Another parent said, "I know how to listen better and to walk away from an angry situation."
- ◆ **The Teen Mentor Program** completed its fourth year, serving 85 matches and producing 1,750 direct-service hours with participation in five school districts. From a parent of a mentee (student being mentored): "He hasn't been this happy since he was in the school After Hours program. When we go shopping he looks for his mentor working at his other job. Thank you extremely for this program and for giving my son the opportunity to have the mentor he has. He admires and respects him and thinks of him as a big brother."

### Number of People Served

• Prevention Programs	4,859
• Large Community Events	3,887
<b>Prevention Program Sessions</b>	<b>1,299</b>
<b>Hours Spent in Community Organizing</b>	<b>2,451</b>
<b>Direct Service Hours</b>	<b>2,036</b>
<b>Leveraging</b>	
• In-Kind Support (value)	\$112,524
• Volunteer Hours	996

## Participant Demographics



## Program Information

### Program Name

- 🏆 Strengthening Families 10-14
- 👤 Teen Mentor Program
- 🏡 Communities That Care

### Risk/Protective Factors

- Family History; Family Conflict; Family Management Problems; Favorable Parental Attitudes
- Bonding (Opportunities, Skills, Recognition); Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards; Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior
- Community Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use

## Meth Action Team

The Cowlitz Meth Action Team (CMAT) organized and implemented multiple projects during the 2005-2006 year; two of which include the countywide Youth Drug and Alcohol Prevention Summit in Longview and the Western Regional Drug Endangered Child Conference in Tacoma. The 2006 Youth Summit presented educational information to 290 youth on the topics of healthy choices; decision making; and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues. The Regional Drug Endangered Child Conference provided information and training to 104 individuals from Western Washington counties. Public awareness and education continued to be a primary focus for CMAT, where 1,819 individuals received information through public presentations and 4,233 pieces of informational literature were distributed.