

# Community Readiness Assessment: Is It An Issue?



Jordan Sholtis, Ethan Newman, JoAnn Martin

## Problem / Question

Is Sedalia ready to address substance abuse in adolescents?

## Objectives

- To reduce substance use in adolescents
- To encourage healthy behaviors in adolescents with the support of parents
- To gauge the communities readiness to address the issue of substance use

## Project Overview

### Assessment

- According to Missouri Student Survey in 2014, 30% of students said marijuana was easy to get and 12% said they used the drug.
- Parents and youth organizations reported that alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana were the three main substances abused by the adolescents. (Adolescent Health Coalition)

### Project

- The coalition conducted a community readiness assessment to measure attitudes, knowledge, resources, and efforts of the community members and leaders to address substance use.
- Due to time constraints and the design of assessment, the coalition decided to concentrate on marijuana
- The target population was adolescents (age 10-19), parents, and the Sedalia community.

## Variables

- 6 Key Respondents: Law Enforcement, Medical Personnel, High School Staff, Religious Leader, Elected Official, and Community Volunteer
- 9 Stages of Readiness: No Awareness, Denial/Resistance, Vague Awareness, Preplanning, Preparation, Initiation Stabilization, Expansion, Community Ownership
- 5 Dimensions: Community Knowledge of Efforts, Leadership, Resources, Community Climate, Community Knowledge of Issue

## Methods

The coalition used the Tri-Ethnic Center Community Readiness Handbook to conduct the study.

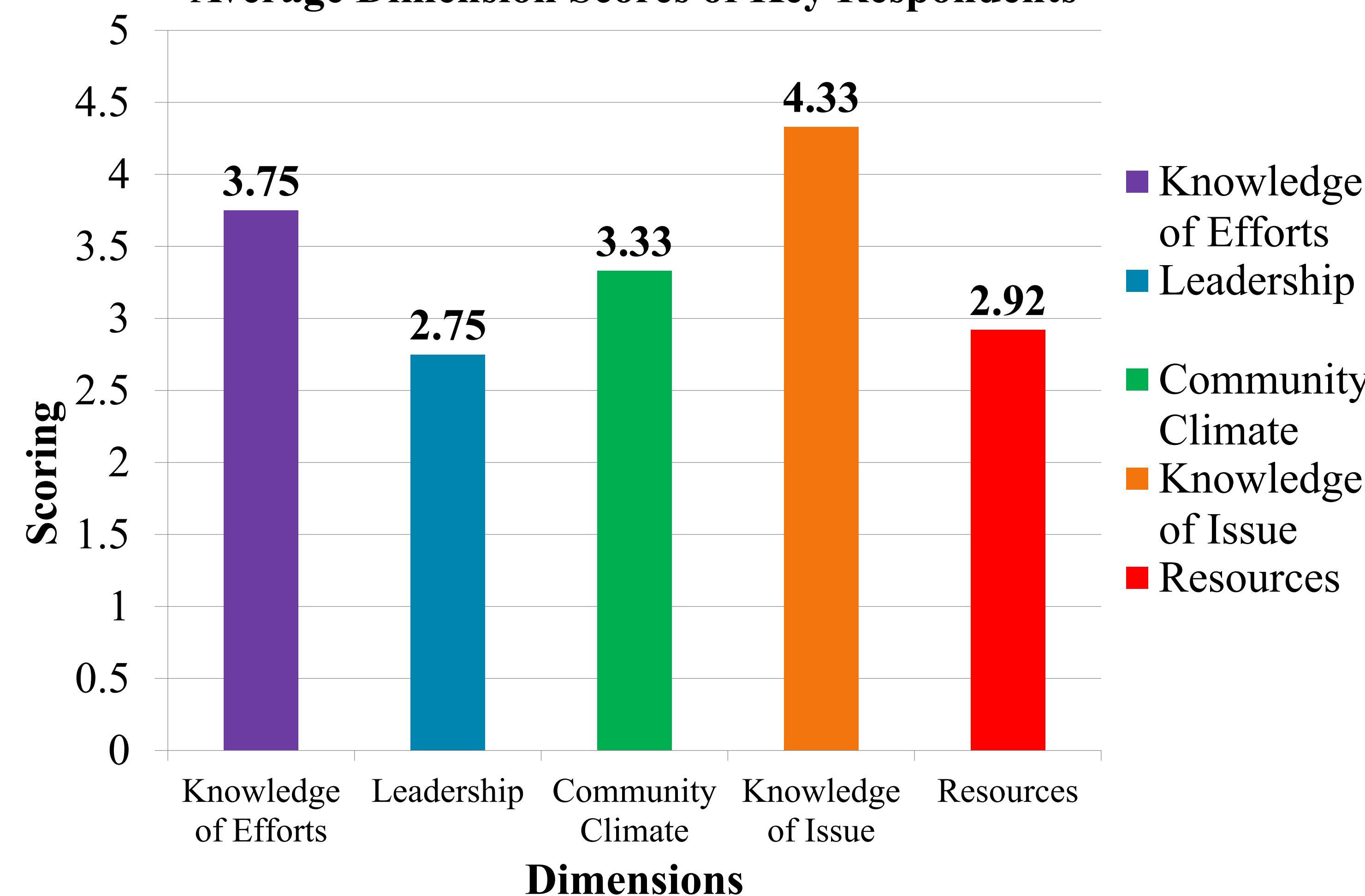
- Identify and clearly define issue
- Identify and clearly define and delineate your community
- Prepare your interview questions
- Choose key respondents
- Conduct and transcribe your interviews
  - The interviews were led by two people from May to July 2016
- Score your interviews
- Calculate your average dimension scores

## Results

Dimension Scores of Key Respondents

Dimensions	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
Knowledge of Efforts	4	4	4	3.5	4	3
Leadership	3	3	3.5	3	2	2
Community Climate	4	3	3	3.5	3.5	3
Knowledge of Issue	5	4.5	4	3.5	4	5
Resources	3	3.5	3	2	3	3

Average Dimension Scores of Key Respondents



## Conclusion

- The results show that the community is between a three and a four on the nine stages of readiness. This means that the community is at vague awareness or preplanning stage.
- Even though the community assessment was on marijuana specifically, the researchers found that all of the resources and efforts are towards substance abuse in general.
- A possible limitation is the key respondents were selected by the Adolescent Health Coalition, so there could be selection bias and they may not represent the entire community.



## Next Steps

- Organize a health summit to promote understanding and advocacy for substance abuse prevention
- Adapt health class curriculum in schools
- Develop and post flyers, handouts, and billboards in the community
- Create a parent and adolescent peer group to address substance abuse

## Works Cited

- Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research. (2014) Community Readiness for Community Change, Tri-Ethnic Center Community Readiness Handbook. (2) Fort Collins, CO
- Stanley, L.R., Kelly, K.J. and Edwards, R.W. ( 2011 ), Community Readiness for Community Change, FlashStone Research and Consulting, LLC, Fort Collins, CO
- Missouri Student Survey. (2014) <http://dmh.mo.gov/ada/countylinks/mss/e324.pdf>
- Adolescent Health Coalition <https://pettiscountyhealthcenter.com/adolescent-health/>