



URI Substance Abuse Prevention

Significant Improvements

&

Evidence of Program Effectiveness



An Unwanted Legacy...

- 1993 & 1994 –Princeton Review named URI the #1 party school in America
- Findings from the Harvard University College Alcohol Survey clearly indicated that alcohol abuse was affecting our student's health, safety, and educational attainment.



“A University in Recovery”

- In 1995, under the leadership of President Robert Carothers, we began our first steps into recovery.
- 1st Step was to ban the serving of alcohol at ALL University social functions.
- We did not ban the private use of alcohol by students of legal drinking age;



Policy Changes

- Strict “3 Strikes & You’re Out” Policy
- A dramatic decrease in major violations:
 - Binge drinking rates dropped by 13% between 1993- 1997, and slow decline continues
 - Major problems decreased by more than 50% in three years following the policy change
 - 97% of URI students are aware of the substance abuse policies as opposed to the 76% nationally.



Other Changes to Policy

- Grain alcohol and common source containers (punch, kegs) were prohibited.
- Tough policies involve:
 - Fines, education, parental notification
 - Suspension from the university after 3 violations
 - Low recidivism rate; only 10% have a second alcohol or drug violation
 - Student IDs changed to include DOBs to deter use of false IDs.



Recent Policy Changes

- Last semester, changes were made to increase the jurisdiction of the University to include student's behavior off campus as well as on.
- Example: Repeat offenses, threat to themselves or someone else.
- Jurisdiction changes went into effect this past January.



Just moving the problem...

- Belief that stricter policies have pushed the problems off campus and into the community.
- The University has not ignored this issue.
- Time and Energy
- Goal: Create the same expectation and compliance off campus as on campus.



What sets URI apart from other universities?

- Presidential Leadership
- Broad Alliances
- Attention to First Year Students
- New Research and Interventions



Broad Alliances in Prevention

- Students and parents informed during orientation, and parental notification
- Parents receive notification of alcohol and drug violations in neighboring towns.
- Narragansett- URI Coalition
- Greek Advisory Committee
- A-Team



3 Tier Approach

- Individual Strategies
- Population-Based Strategies
- Environmental Strategies



Cutting Edge research

- Since 1990 the University has received nearly \$8 Million in funding for research and program administration related to collegiate alcohol abuse from the following agencies:
 - US Dept. of Education
 - National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health
 - National Collegiate Athletic Association
 - Alcohol Beverage Medical Research.



Common Ground

- RhodeMap to Safety campaign
- Cooperating Taverns Agreement
- Rhody Rides
- Workshop Development:
 - Designated Driver
 - Social Host Liability



Some final thoughts...

- This is a problem that isn't going to go away.
- To paraphrase President Carothers:
- “No matter how much time, money, or effort we put into prevention, it's a drop in the bucket compared to what the alcohol industry spends to attract young people. This is a job that will never be done.”