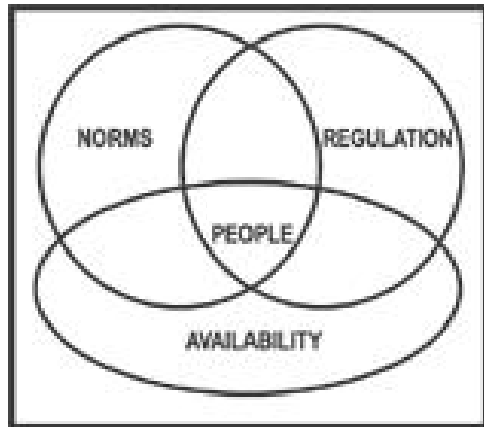


## What Can We Do As A Community?

To a great extent community environments determine whether and how much people abuse substances. Community environments consist of the social norms within the community, regulations and accessibility of a substance.



- ⇒ Community environments can exert powerful controls on substance abuse.
- ⇒ If a community makes it more difficult for young people to obtain illegal and addictive substances, youth substance abuse is reduced.
- ⇒ Advertising and promotions too often communicate to people that addictive substances and actions are expected, acceptable, and desirable.

## Get Involved!



**There are many different ways that you can get involved and help us to address substance abuse in Ionia County!**

- ⇒ **Awareness Level:** Increase value of prevention and treatment by making the community and its members aware of the effects of substance abuse and the work of the coalition.
- ⇒ **Participatory Level:** Being available to assist the coalition with your time and expertise when needed.
- ⇒ **Involvement Level:** Attend meetings and become involved in the day-to-day activities of the coalition.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Organizations Involved

- Amazing Miracles, LLC
- Community Representatives
- Comprehensive Recovery Services
- Ionia County Administrator's Office
- Ionia County Health Department
- Ionia County Office of the Sheriff
- Ionia County Jail
- Ionia County Intermediate School District
- Ionia County Friend of The Court
- Ionia County Commission on Aging
- Ionia County Juvenile Court
- Ionia County Community Mental Health
- Life Guidance Services
- Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission
- Northpoint Counseling
- Two Rivers Counseling & Consulting P.C.

*The Substance Abuse Coalition is partners with the Ionia County Child, Family, and Community Council (ICCFCC).*

# Ionia County Substance Abuse Coalition

## Mission Statement

To facilitate a continuum of substance abuse services in Ionia County.



## Vision Statement

All Ionia County Residents will be free of substance abuse and its effects.

# Ionia County Substance Abuse Coalition

The Ionia County Substance Abuse Coalition has developed a 5 year strategic plan. The goals that we have identified are:

## System Outcomes:

**Goal 1** - Collaboration and Coordination

**Goal 2** - Data Driven Decision-Making

**Goal 3** - Treatment

## Behavioral Outcomes:

**Goal 4** - Alcohol

**Goal 5** - Tobacco

**Goal 6** - Methamphetamine

**Goal 7** - Special High Risk Populations



## What is Substance Abuse?

Substance abuse is the problematic use of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs or the intentional misuse of legal drugs. It is a chronic disease of the brain. Substance abuse is an addiction; both preventable and treatable. Addiction is characterized by compulsive drug seeking that results from the brain's prolonged exposure to specific chemicals. The process of becoming addicted is multifaceted related to a multitude of confounding factors including the particular substance as well as characteristics of the abuser. Personality, culture, family and peer influences, as well as existing psychiatric disorders and genetics can have a predisposing influence on whom is more likely to become addicted.

*Institute for HealthCare Research and Policy—Georgetown University*

Substance Abuse is seen as the primary cause of many problems within Ionia County. Our partnership with Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission (MSSAC), the creation of a local Substance Abuse Coalition and enlisting substance abuse stakeholders were significant steps in helping Ionia county begin its journey to address this problem.

## Our Approach Is To:

- ⇒ Focus on families,
- ⇒ Establish a collaborative, coordinated effort among all stakeholders to address substance abuse,
- ⇒ Increase community awareness,
- ⇒ Provide effective prevention and intervention services,
- ⇒ Increase resources and funding.



“Research has long shown that the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs is the single most serious health problem in the United States, straining the health care system, burdening the economy, and contributing to the health problems and deaths of millions of Americans every year. Today, substance abuse causes more deaths, illnesses, and disabilities than any other preventable health condition . . . Research also shows that only a quarter of individuals who abuse alcohol and illicit drugs get treatment.”

*Ericson, Nels; Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One*

## Ionia County Statistics

- ⇒ Over 50% of Ionia County residents report drinking and driving. 25% report driving after having 5 or more drinks in one setting!

*2006 Ionia County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey*

- ⇒ 23% of 6th graders, 39% of 8th graders, 63% of 10th graders and 76% of 12th graders said that they have use alcohol at least once in their life.

*2006 Prevention Need Assessment, Ionia County Schools*

- ⇒ 13% of high school seniors in Ionia County have used marijuana in the last 30 days.

*2006 Prevention Need Assessment, Ionia County Schools*

- ⇒ Ionia County residents smoke at a higher percentage than the state ( 25% vs. 22% ).

*Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey & Local Health Department Estimates; 2005*

- ⇒ 14% of all deaths in Ionia County are directly linked to tobacco use.

*MDCH, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Smoking Attributable Morbidity, Mortality & Economic Costs (SAMMEC), 2005*

“For the United States...the methamphetamine / amphetamine admission rate increased by 420% between 1992 and 2002. Once thought of as a metropolitan drug problem, methamphetamine, or “meth,” has now become a major drug problem in rural America and is the fastest-growing drug threat in the Nation.”

*Charles Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W.*

*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration U.S. Department of Health and Human Service*