



Quartzsite Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
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# Quartzsite Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

## Quartzsite, AZ

### **Coalition History:**

In 2006, the State of Arizona determined underage drinking as the #1 substance abuse problem statewide. Federal monies under the Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grants (SPF-SIG) program were utilized to form community coalitions to locally address underage drinking consequences and identify what contributes to illegal use and access of alcohol. As a result, the Quartzsite Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (QSAPC) was formed in the summer of 2007. Through formalized training under the SPF-SIG program, QSAPC began its commitment to changing local norms that contribute to substance abuse and underage drinking by implementing environmental, public information, and social marketing prevention strategies. Additionally, collaboration with the Town of Quartzsite's Afterschool program allows for the use of evidence-based substance abuse prevention life skills curricula (Too Good for Drugs) among local youth, as well as a best practices youth leadership program (Sources of Strength) to develop and implement prevention-related campaigns and projects.

### **Mission:**

To prevent the misuse and abuse of drugs and alcohol in the Quartzsite community.

### **Vision:**

The Town of Quartzsite is a safe, substance abuse-free community.

### **Coalition Membership:**

QSAPC averages 10 attendees at monthly members, but welcomes all Quartzsite community members to attend – particularly encouraging representation from the 12 community sectors identified by the Drug Free Communities grant: youth, parents, business, media, school, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, religious/fraternal organizations, civic/volunteer groups, healthcare professionals, state/local/tribal governmental agencies, other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse.

### **Coalition Outcomes and Successes:**

QSAPC has brought underage drinking and medication abuse awareness to the Quartzsite community on a larger scale than had ever been present in prior years. In March of 2012, the QSAPC hosted a luncheon that increased coalition membership to include 9 of the 12 Drug Free Communities grant required sectors. The coalition continues to strive to recruit and maintain key stakeholders and community members, while teaming up with groups and organizations to promote substance abuse prevention messages and hold community events. QSAPC aims to collaborate with as many partners as possible; such as with the Town of Quartzsite to help with the promotion of the new community recreation building to increase community connectedness. Additionally, collaboration with the local Police Department established a permanent medication disposal location to reduce access to expired/unused medications. Thus far, 230 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter drugs have been collected. The local newspaper, The Desert Messenger, highlights coalition work, upcoming prevention events, and educational articles in each issue to compliment the substance abuse prevention efforts of QSAPC.



*Mock drunk driving accident event for local youth, sponsored by QSAPC in April, 2012.*

### **Coalition State and Federal Legislative Districts:**

State – 3

Federal – 7