

South Mountain Community College Alcohol and Other Drug Programs (AOD) Biennial Review for the years 2022 – 2023

Contents

Background Information	2
Program Inventory.....	3
Policy Inventory	4
Steps in Conducting a Policy Inventory:	4
Measuring Enforcement Consistency and Program Effectiveness:	5
Description of the AOD program elements	5
Individual and Environmental Strategies:	5
Specific AOD Program Activities:	7
Measuring Program Effectiveness:.....	7
Use of Strategic Objectives and Tactics Focused on Environmental Change:	8
AOD Activities available to all students	8
Alcohol-Free Campus Facilities	8
Nonalcoholic Beverages Promoted at Events	9
Counseling Services	9
Mental Well-Being Center Proposal	10
Fitness and Wellness Initiatives	10
Academic Integration of Critical Thinking in Math and Science	10
Summary of AOD program strengths and weaknesses	11
Program Strengths	11
Program Weaknesses	12
Conclusion.....	12
Procedures for distributing annual AOD notification to students and employees	13
Policies distributed to students and employees	13
Alcohol and Drug Use Data	14
Summary	14

Recommendation for revising AOD programs	14
Expand Data Collection and Assessment Tools	14
Increase Evidence-Based Prevention Strategies	14
Strengthen Campus and Community Collaboration	15
Improve Program Outreach and Engagement.....	15
Develop a Comprehensive Mental Well-Being Center	15
Address High-Risk Alcohol and Drug Use.....	15
Strengthen Enforcement and Policy Awareness	15
Create a Program Evaluation Framework	16
Conclusion:.....	16
References	16

Background Information

The Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) require institutions of higher education (IHE) to certify that they have adopted and implemented programs aimed at preventing the abuse of alcohol and the use or distribution of illicit drugs by both students and employees.

South Mountain Community College (SMCC), as a part of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), recognizes its responsibility under this law to maintain a drug- and alcohol-free campus environment.

In compliance with these regulations, SMCC is required to annually distribute the following information to all students and employees:

- **Standards of conduct** prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees;
- **A description of legal sanctions** under local, state, and federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol;
- **Information on drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs** available to students and employees;
- **A statement of institutional sanctions**, including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution for violations of the institution's standards of conduct.

Furthermore, the law mandates that SMCC conducts a biennial review of its Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) program. This review serves two primary purposes:

1. To assess the effectiveness of the program and implement necessary changes.

2. To ensure that sanctions for violations are enforced consistently.

The biennial review also includes an analysis of:

- The number of drug- and alcohol-related violations and fatalities occurring on campus or during institutional activities, as reported to campus officials.
- The number and types of sanctions imposed on students and employees for such violations or fatalities.

This comprehensive review process is undertaken by SMCC in adherence to the DFSCA regulations and underscores our commitment to providing a safe and healthy campus environment for all members of the college community.

The intent of this document is to:

1. Meet the legal requirement of conducting a biennial review.
2. Review and summarize the programs and activities related to alcohol and drug prevention during the 2022 and 2023 academic years.

The last biennial alcohol and other drug review was conducted in August 2021 covering the academic years 2020 and 2021

Program Inventory

South Mountain Community College acknowledges its legal obligation to conduct this biennial review and has authorized an administrative evaluation to ensure compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Despite multiple changes in leadership during the development of this 2022-2024 report, a collaborative effort was undertaken, engaging key stakeholders who contributed to its compilation.

The following individuals participated in this review process:

- **Lucero Curiel**, Student Life and Leadership
- **Dr. Thomas Edward Rojo Aubrey**, Counseling and Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
- **Todd Eastin**, Athletics
- **Devi Strong Davis**, Exercise Science/Health Programs, Faculty
- **Bonifacio Gonzalez**, College Police
- **Donicio Jensen Bobadilla**, College Facilities
- **Jacqueline Levy**, MSE (Mathematics, Science, and Engineering)
- **Arnold Torres**, Recruitment and Outreach
- **Karla Kovalin**, Veterans Services

SMCC strictly adheres to the Abuse-Free Environment, AR 2.4.7, which aligns with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989. SMCC complies with all federal, state, and District laws restricting drug and alcohol use on campus. The following Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Administrative Regulations address an abuse-free environment and the use of alcoholic beverages:

- [2.4 College Environment | District](#)
- [4.13 Alcoholic Beverages - Usage Regulation | District.](#)

SMCC promotes alcohol-free events and activities throughout the campus through social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), campus posters, emails, information tables, and classroom announcements. These activities include:

- Welcome Week
- Student Life and Leadership-sponsored activities
- Recognized constituency groups (MEN, Women Rising, MEChA, Native American Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Black Student Union)
- Graduation
- Student Success Fair
- Thematic months and forums
- Wellness events
- Visits to regional colleges and universities
- Community performing arts events

Policy Inventory

Steps in Conducting a Policy Inventory:

1. **Identification and Listing of Policies:**
All policies related to Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) prevention and enforcement should be identified and compiled into a comprehensive list. This could include policies on alcohol use, drug use, tobacco, substance misuse, and any associated sanctions or guidelines for student conduct.
2. **Articulation of Policies:**
After identifying relevant policies, they should be clearly articulated. This involves describing the policy's purpose, the expected behavior from students and employees, and the consequences of violating the policy.
3. **Judging Policy Effectiveness:**
Once listed and articulated, policies should be evaluated for their effectiveness. This involves considering the following factors:
 - **Consistency in Enforcement:** Institutions can measure how consistently policies are applied across different incidents and individuals. This involves looking at how many cases were reported, how sanctions were applied, and whether there was fair and equitable treatment across all groups. Institutions of higher education (IHE)s can review disciplinary data to ensure enforcement is aligned with policy guidelines.
 - **Awareness and Understanding:** Surveys and assessments can gauge whether students and employees are aware of the policies and understand their implications. If awareness is low, policy effectiveness might be limited.

- **Behavioral Outcomes:** Data collected on student behaviors, such as the frequency of alcohol- and drug-related incidents or violations, can provide insight into the effectiveness of the policy in reducing negative behaviors.
4. **Using Collected Information:**
Many IHEs already collect useful information that can be repurposed to meet the requirements for judging policy effectiveness. Examples include:
- **Incident Reports:** These provide data on violations of the AOD policies, helping to track patterns and areas of concern.
 - **Sanction Tracking:** Monitoring sanctions given for policy violations helps measure the consistency of enforcement and the impact of penalties.
 - **Student Surveys:** Responses from surveys can assess student knowledge of AOD policies and their perceptions of enforcement.
 - **Program Participation:** Attendance and engagement in AOD prevention programs can be tracked to measure student involvement in prevention efforts and whether increased participation correlates with reduced violations.

Measuring Enforcement Consistency and Program Effectiveness:

- **Measuring Enforcement Consistency:**
Consistency in policy enforcement can be measured through a review of case management systems, where data is analyzed to determine whether sanctions for violations are applied uniformly across similar incidents. This process ensures that policies are not only present but are being implemented fairly and effectively.
- **Measuring Policy and Program Effectiveness:**
To measure the overall effectiveness of policies and programs, IHEs can set specific goals (e.g., reducing alcohol-related incidents by 10%) and track progress through data collection and analysis. Surveys, focus groups, and evaluations of program outcomes can provide insight into how well the policies are meeting their objectives, such as decreasing substance misuse or increasing awareness.

By implementing these measures, IHEs can ensure that their AOD policies are in place and actively contribute to a safer, healthier campus environment.

Description of the AOD program elements

The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) program at SMCC incorporates various elements designed to prevent substance misuse, promote well-being, and align with program goals and outcomes. These elements are implemented across both individual and environmental strategies and are intended to create a comprehensive and effective prevention approach.

Individual and Environmental Strategies:

Prevention efforts focus on both individual behaviors and broader environmental factors. The five environmental strategies outlined in the program provide a framework for creating a healthy campus environment by addressing the social, legal, economic, and physical settings that influence decision-making around alcohol and drug use.

Five Environmental Strategies:

1. **Social Environment:**

- **Task Force Initiatives:** SMCC has created a campus task force that collaborates with student life, counseling services, and local law enforcement to assess and address student behavior related to AOD use. This initiative focuses on creating a supportive environment where students are encouraged to engage in substance-free activities and responsible decision-making.
- **Campus-Wide Messaging:** Regular communication, including emails and posters, promotes awareness of AOD policies and the availability of resources. These messages aim to shape student norms around responsible behavior and promote a culture of accountability.

2. **Legal Environment:**

- **Policy Enforcement:** The AOD program works closely with campus security to ensure that policies regarding the prohibition of alcohol and drugs are consistently enforced. Violations of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) are met with sanctions that are communicated clearly to students and staff.
- **Clear Sanction Guidelines:** Policies are articulated in student handbooks and other materials, providing transparency around the consequences for violations, ranging from educational sanctions to suspension.

3. **Economic Environment:**

- **Nonalcoholic Beverage Promotion:** SMCC promotes nonalcoholic beverages at all campus events, ensuring that students have access to and are encouraged to consume beverages that align with the college's alcohol-free policy.
- **Partnerships with Vendors:** The institution maintains relationships with beverage providers such as Aquafina, Coca-Cola, and Gatorade to promote and provide affordable nonalcoholic drinks on campus.

4. **Physical Environment:**

- **Designated Alcohol-Free Spaces:** The campus has several alcohol- and drug-free zones, including the Student Union, Cafeteria (Cougar Café), Computer Commons, Learning Resources Center, and South Mountain Community Library. These spaces are promoted as safe environments for students to relax, study, and engage in campus life without the presence of substances.
- **Fitness and Wellness Facilities:** The fitness center is open for recreational use, providing students with opportunities to engage in healthy physical activities, which can help deter substance misuse and promote well-being.

5. **Community Environment:**

- **Campus and Community Coalition:** SMCC actively partners with local organizations and treatment centers to provide resources and referrals for students needing assistance with substance misuse. This collaboration allows the college to extend its support network and connect students with detox, inpatient, outpatient, and intensive outpatient (IOP) services.
- **Mindfulness and Well-Being Initiatives:** SMCC offers on-campus mental health support and counseling services, as well as free mindfulness courses through the Canvas platform. Additionally in the spring of 2023 the BHS program had a wellness expo/fair with a guest speaker who addressed substance abuse. Moreover, courses like BHS 155 and CPD 180 focus on mental and physical well-being, supporting students in developing resilience and coping mechanisms to prevent substance misuse.

Specific AOD Program Activities:

Prevention program elements at South Mountain Community College (SMCC) are designed to align with the institution's goals of reducing substance misuse and promoting student well-being. These activities include:

- **Educational Workshops and Seminars:** These sessions provide students with essential information on the risks associated with alcohol and drug use, along with strategies for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The goal is to empower students with knowledge about substance misuse, its effects, and prevention methods.
- **First-Year Experience (FYE) Curriculum:** This curriculum is designed for all incoming students and introduces them to various aspects of the college experience, including how to resist alcohol and substance misuse. The program aims to educate students on building a healthy academic and social foundation.
- **Behavioral Science Curriculum:** The development of a specialized curriculum for behavioral science students includes enhanced resilience and well-being skills. This equips students with the tools to resist substance misuse, promoting long-term mental and physical health.
- **Common Finals and Data Analysis in STEM:** Faculty in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology use common finals to assess student performance and apply data analysis to improve teaching methods. While not directly tied to AOD prevention, these academic success strategies foster a culture of achievement, indirectly reducing the likelihood of substance misuse by engaging students in their studies.
- **Campus-Wide Wellness Push:** SMCC's fitness center and recreational activities, such as pickleball, promote physical activity, which is proven to improve mental health. Encouraging students to participate in these activities helps reduce the likelihood of engaging in alcohol and drug misuse by fostering healthy habits and social connections.

These elements work collectively to support SMCC's efforts in creating an environment that prioritizes student health, wellness, and success.

Measuring Program Effectiveness:

South Mountain Community College (SMCC) evaluates the effectiveness of its Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention program elements using the following methods:

- **Student Surveys:** These surveys gauge students' awareness and understanding of AOD policies, as well as the impact of prevention activities on student behavior. Feedback from these surveys helps measure whether the program is meeting its educational goals and reducing risky behaviors.
- **Tracking AOD Incidents:** SMCC monitors data on alcohol and drug violations to assess trends and determine whether prevention efforts are leading to a reduction in the number of incidents over time. This allows for the identification of areas that may need additional focus or improvement.
- **Sanction Follow-Up:** Consistency in enforcing AOD policies is measured by tracking sanctions applied to students who violate AOD policies. This ensures accountability and provides data on whether disciplinary actions are applied uniformly following institutional policies.
- **Student Attendance at AOD Prevention Activities:** Monitoring attendance at educational workshops, wellness activities, and other prevention events helps assess

student engagement. High participation rates are often an indicator of program success, while lower attendance may highlight the need for adjustments in outreach or programming.

These tools collectively help SMCC ensure the effectiveness of its AOD prevention efforts and inform future program improvements.

Use of Strategic Objectives and Tactics Focused on Environmental Change:

SMCC has adopted strategic objectives that aim to reduce the overall availability of alcohol and drugs on campus, reduce the perceived acceptability of substance use, and promote positive behavioral norms. By implementing these environmental strategies and regularly reviewing their effectiveness, SMCC seeks to create a campus culture that supports healthy living and discourages substance misuse.

These program elements, when combined with ongoing evaluation and data collection, form the backbone of SMCC's AOD prevention efforts and help ensure that the campus remains a safe, substance-free environment conducive to student success

AOD Activities available to all students

At SMCC, numerous Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention activities are available to students, aligning with the overarching goal of reducing substance misuse on campus. These activities serve to promote healthy behaviors, encourage academic success, and foster an alcohol-free environment conducive to learning and well-being.

1. **Prevention Program Goals:** SMCC seeks to address substance misuse, particularly alcohol and drug use, through structured prevention efforts. The program's goals are to:
 - Reduce heavy episodic alcohol use and its negative consequences.
 - Increase positive behaviors related to health and academic performance.
 - Foster an environment where students feel safe, supported, and informed about the risks of substance use.
2. These goals are measured through program outcomes that track both the reduction in negative behaviors (such as alcohol-related incidents) and the increase in positive behaviors (such as participation in alcohol-free events). The prevention specialists work to create a comprehensive approach to alcohol prevention, drawing on resources such as the journal article, "A Typology for Campus-Based Alcohol Prevention: Moving Toward Environmental Management Strategies."

Alcohol-Free Campus Facilities

SMCC enforces a strict alcohol- and drug-free policy across all campus facilities in accordance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. The following campus spaces provide environments where students can engage in alcohol-free activities and build community:

- **Student Union**
- **Cafeteria (Cougar Café)**
- **Computer Commons**
- **Learning Resources Center**
- **Gym/Athletics**
- **South Mountain Community Library** (in partnership with the City of Phoenix)

These facilities support student engagement and encourage a healthy, substance-free lifestyle by providing spaces for relaxation, study, and participation in forums and campus events. Athletics at the beginning of each semester holds orientations that reinforce positive behavior

Nonalcoholic Beverages Promoted at Events

All SMCC campus events are alcohol-free, with an emphasis on promoting nonalcoholic beverages. The college partners with well-known beverage companies like Aquafina, Coca-Cola, Gatorade, and Pepsi to ensure that nonalcoholic options are available for purchase at sporting events and other campus gatherings. These efforts ensure that campus events foster an inclusive, healthy environment for all attendees.

Counseling Services

SMCC offers a comprehensive range of counseling services to support students facing substance use issues and mental health challenges. These services include:

- **Detox Treatment Referrals:** Connecting students with community resources for detoxification services.
- **Inpatient Treatment:** Referring students to facilities for extended, residential treatment for substance use.
- **Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP):** Offering referrals for structured treatment programs that allow students to receive care while maintaining daily routines.
- **Partial Hospitalization (PH) / Day Treatment:** Providing access to treatment services that offer intensive therapy and care without requiring overnight stays.
- **Outpatient Services:** Referrals to local providers for ongoing therapy and support.

In addition to connecting students with external community resources, as of July 1, 2024, SMCC now offers **on-campus clinical services** provided by a licensed mental health professional. This addition allows students to access immediate assistance for substance misuse or mental health concerns without having to leave campus.

To further promote mental well-being, SMCC provides free **Canvas mindfulness courses** for both students and employees. Additionally, the college offers courses like **BHS 155** and **CPD 180**, which focus on mental and physical well-being, equipping students with the tools to manage stress and maintain a balanced, healthy lifestyle.

Mental Well-Being Center Proposal

A proposal for the creation of a **Mental Well-Being Center** is underway, with funding secured to begin its development. The center will offer neuro-biofeedback services and other mental health resources, although space for the center is still being arranged. This initiative aims to integrate mental health support on campus further and enhance student resilience and well-being.

Fitness and Wellness Initiatives

SMCC promotes physical health and social connection as part of its broader wellness strategy, recognizing their positive effects on mental well-being. The **fitness center** is available Monday through Thursday during specific hours, and the campus hosts **Pickleball open play** sessions on Tuesday mornings in September. Although these initiatives don't specifically address substance misuse, they contribute to the overall health and well-being of students by promoting physical activity, social interaction, and exposure to natural environments.

Academic Integration of Critical Thinking in Math and Science

Both the Math and Science faculty at SMCC emphasize the development of critical thinking skills through experiential learning and peer collaboration. In courses like Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Geology, students engage in problem-based learning, modeling, and case studies. Faculty also assess student learning outcomes using:

- **Peer-reviewed articles:** Students analyze academic research as part of their curriculum.
- **Laboratory experiments:** Students participate in hands-on lab activities that deepen their understanding of course concepts.
- **Field trips and internships:** Indirect measures of learning outcomes are assessed through real-world experiences outside the classroom.

These efforts help students develop a practical understanding of their academic material and are aligned with the overall goal of increasing student success and performance.

Summary of AOD program strengths and weaknesses

In alignment with SMCC's vision to "educate minds, transform lives, touch hearts, and build community," the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) program strives to support student success and well-being. Below is a summary of the program's strengths and areas for improvement, which reflect the college's commitment to building a healthy, substance-free environment.

Program Strengths

- **Comprehensive Campus and Community Coalition:**
SMCC's collaboration with local organizations, treatment centers, and community resources enhances the reach and effectiveness of the AOD program. This coalition empowers students to access a broad spectrum of recovery support services, including detox, inpatient, and outpatient treatment programs, ensuring care for students struggling with substance misuse.
- **Clear Policies and Consistent Enforcement:**
SMCC maintains clearly articulated AOD policies, which are regularly communicated and consistently enforced. Annual notifications and frequent campus-wide updates ensure that students and employees understand the institution's policies, helping to cultivate an accountable and informed campus community.
- **Prevention-Oriented Campus Spaces:**
Alcohol-free spaces, such as the Student Union, Cougar Café, and Computer Commons, provide safe and supportive environments for students to engage academically and socially. These spaces contribute to the creation of a substance-free campus culture, fostering community and connection without the presence of alcohol.
- **Nonalcoholic Beverage Promotion:**
SMCC promotes nonalcoholic beverages at all campus events and in vending machines, reinforcing a culture of healthy living. This initiative aligns with the college's goal to create a supportive environment that discourages alcohol use and promotes positive choices.
- **Strong Mental Health and Well-Being Initiatives:**
SMCC offers a variety of mental health resources, including on-campus counseling, mindfulness courses, and well-being-related academic offerings such as BHS 155 and CPD 180. These initiatives equip students with the emotional tools and coping mechanisms needed to resist substance misuse, aligning with the college's holistic approach to student support.
- **Active Learning and Critical Thinking in STEM:**
Faculty in STEM disciplines use active learning strategies, such as problem-based learning and peer study groups, to engage students. These efforts contribute to student academic success, creating a positive, achievement-focused environment that indirectly discourages substance misuse.
- **Fitness and Wellness Programs:**
SMCC's fitness programs, including open-play pickleball sessions and access to the fitness center, encourage students to prioritize physical health, which is linked to improved mental health and a reduced likelihood of engaging in substance misuse. These initiatives touch hearts and promote holistic wellness on campus.

Program Weaknesses

- **Limited Data on Scope of AOD Issues:**
A major challenge for the program is the absence of comprehensive data regarding the extent of alcohol and drug use on campus. This lack of data limits the college's ability to tailor interventions and fully understand the AOD issues affecting its community.
- **Need for Increased Leadership and Advocacy:**
While the AOD program benefits from community partnerships, stronger leadership from campus administration could further enhance prevention efforts. More visible advocacy for AOD initiatives would help build momentum and mobilize campus-wide support.
- **Budget Constraints:**
Financial limitations pose a challenge for expanding the AOD program's services and activities. With increased funding, the program could implement additional prevention initiatives, expand outreach efforts, and offer more comprehensive student training.
- **Lack of Dedicated Space for Mental Well-Being Center:**
Although the college has proposed the creation of a Mental Well-Being Center equipped with neuro-biofeedback tools and wellness resources, the absence of a physical space for this center has delayed its implementation. This limits the program's capacity to provide comprehensive mental health services on campus.
- **Inconsistent Student Engagement:**
Despite the availability of wellness programs, mindfulness courses, and counseling services, some students remain disengaged. A more targeted approach is needed to raise awareness and increase participation in the college's AOD prevention and well-being initiatives.
- **Need for Expanded Assessment and Evaluation:**
While some aspects of the program, such as data analysis in STEM fields, support academic achievement, the AOD program as a whole lacks comprehensive evaluation mechanisms. To ensure continuous improvement, SMCC must enhance its methods for assessing program effectiveness and tracking AOD-related incidents.

These strengths and weaknesses provide a roadmap for refining SMCC's AOD program, aligning with the college's vision to create a supportive, educated, and well-rounded community that thrives both academically and personally.

It is helpful to identify the program strengths that assist in achieving goals and reaching outcomes. Program strengths may be infrastructure support such as presidential leadership, a reasonable budget for the intended efforts, and a campus and community coalition, among others. Program weaknesses are areas that have created challenges for prevention efforts or barriers to progress, such as a lack of data about the scope of the problem, a lack of allies, or a lack of leadership.

Conclusion

While SMCC's AOD program is supported by strong community partnerships, clear policies, and a commitment to student well-being, several areas require attention. These include improving data collection, strengthening leadership, securing additional funding, and ensuring dedicated spaces for mental well-being initiatives. Addressing these weaknesses will enhance the program's ability to meet its goals and foster a healthier campus environment.

Procedures for distributing annual AOD notification to students and employees

Part 86 requires that the institution distribute its annual notification in writing to faculty, staff, and students. When describing the ways an IHE has distributed its annual notification to students and employees, those completing the biennial review should list not only the methods used but also any special considerations that were addressed to ensure that all faculty, staff, and students received policy information annually.

In compliance with Part 86 of the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, Maricopa Community Colleges ensures that the annual Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) notification is distributed to all students, faculty, and staff in writing. The notification is sent via email and includes the MCCC CD Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs information, outlining the policies, resources, and prevention efforts related to substance use.

Each year, the notification is sent out during the Fall semester to ensure all faculty, staff, and students receive the policy information before the academic year begins. The dates of the distribution over the past few years are as follows:

- **September 13, 2024**
- **September 26, 2023**
- **August 29, 2022**

To ensure broad accessibility and that the notification reaches all individuals, the following considerations are addressed:

- **Email Distribution:** The notification is sent to the official college email accounts of all enrolled students and employed faculty and staff, ensuring direct access.
- **Timing:** The notification is strategically sent early in the Fall semester to coincide with the start of classes and the onboarding of new employees.
- **Monitoring and Tracking:** The institution keeps records of the notification dates to ensure compliance and that all recipients receive the necessary information.

This process ensures that the entire college community is informed about the institution's AOD policies and prevention resources annually.

Policies distributed to students and employees

[Abuse-Free Environment 2.4.7](#)

[MCCC CD Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs Annual Notification](#)

As required by the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), Maricopa Community Colleges distributes its annual Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs Annual Notification to all students and employees via email each Fall semester. The notifications for the past three years were sent on the following dates:

- September 13, 2024
- September 26, 2023
- August 29, 2022

These notifications include comprehensive information regarding alcohol and drug policies, prevention programs, and available resources for students and staff.

Alcohol and Drug Use Data

The following statistics provide insights into alcohol and drug use on campus, compiled from reports generated by Campus Police for reporting years 2022 and 2023 there was one drug arrest in 2023 and zero incidents reported as noted below:

- **Total incidents reported involving alcohol:** 0
- **Total incidents reported involving drugs:** 0
- **Number of disciplinary actions taken related to alcohol violations:**0
- **Number of disciplinary actions taken related to drug violations:**0
- **Percentage of students reporting alcohol use:** 0
- **Percentage of students reporting drug use:** 0

Note: For specific statistics, please consult with College Police for the most current and accurate data. This information will be utilized to inform ongoing prevention strategies and assess the effectiveness of current policies. Data retrieved from the 2024 South Mountain Community College, Annual Security Report (Clery Report)

Summary

Including these statistics in the biennial review will not only fulfill compliance requirements but also provide a clearer understanding of the AOD landscape on campus, enabling informed decision-making for future prevention efforts.

Recommendation for revising AOD programs

In reviewing SMCC Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) prevention programs, several recommendations can be made to improve program effectiveness and address gaps. These revisions should involve collaboration with key campus stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, and community partners, to ensure comprehensive coverage and support.

Expand Data Collection and Assessment Tools

- **Current Challenge:** There is a lack of comprehensive data on the prevalence and specific nature of alcohol and drug use among SMCC students.
- **Recommendation:** Implement regular campus-wide surveys to collect data on student alcohol and drug use behaviors, and track incidents related to AOD misuse. This will provide a clearer picture of the problem and allow for targeted prevention and intervention strategies. Additionally, utilize data from campus security reports and counseling services to analyze trends.

Increase Evidence-Based Prevention Strategies

- **Current Challenge:** While SMCC has a strong foundation of wellness and mental health resources, the integration of evidence-based practices specifically targeting alcohol and drug prevention can be expanded.

- **Recommendation:** Incorporate more evidence-based prevention strategies, such as peer-led interventions, social norming campaigns, and environmental strategies aimed at changing student perceptions of alcohol use. Collaborating with external organizations or consulting best practices from institutions with similar student populations may help.

Strengthen Campus and Community Collaboration

- **Current Challenge:** Although SMCC partners with local treatment centers and community organizations, there is room for expanding these partnerships to create a more cohesive AOD prevention network.
- **Recommendation:** Develop a formalized campus and community coalition that includes local law enforcement, nearby businesses (especially those selling alcohol), and public health organizations. This coalition can work to reduce underage drinking, binge drinking, and other drug use by addressing issues like sales to intoxicated or underage individuals, neighborhood disruptions, and related crimes.

Improve Program Outreach and Engagement

- **Current Challenge:** Inconsistent student participation in wellness programs, as well as a lack of awareness of AOD policies and support services.
- **Recommendation:** Implement more engaging outreach efforts, including digital campaigns via social media, targeted emails, and peer mentoring programs to inform students about AOD policies and support services. Offering incentives or integrating AOD education into orientation programs and popular student events could also help increase engagement.

Develop a Comprehensive Mental Well-Being Center

- **Current Challenge:** The proposal for a Mental Well-Being Center has been delayed due to the lack of available space.
- **Recommendation:** Secure a dedicated space for the Mental Well-Being Center, which could include neuro-biofeedback tools and other mental health resources to support students. This center could serve as a hub for both mental health and substance use prevention services, providing students with access to treatment options and educational programs in a welcoming, supportive environment.

Address High-Risk Alcohol and Drug Use

- **Current Challenge:** The program has not yet addressed specific high-risk behaviors, such as binge drinking or the use of prescription drugs.
- **Recommendation:** Focus prevention efforts on addressing high-risk behaviors through targeted educational programs and interventions. This could include awareness campaigns about the dangers of binge drinking, prescription drug misuse, and mixing alcohol with other substances. Collaborating with faculty to incorporate AOD education into health-related courses may also help students better understand these risks.

Strengthen Enforcement and Policy Awareness

- **Current Challenge:** Students and employees may not fully understand the implications of AOD policies or the consequences of noncompliance.
- **Recommendation:** Reinforce policy awareness by integrating discussions of AOD policies into mandatory campus-wide events, student handbooks, and faculty/staff training. Consider implementing an online module that all students and employees must complete to ensure they are informed of AOD policies and enforcement measures.

Create a Program Evaluation Framework

- **Current Challenge:** There is limited evaluation of AOD program effectiveness.
- **Recommendation:** Develop a framework to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of AOD programs and policies. This could involve tracking outcomes such as reduced rates of alcohol-related incidents, increased student participation in wellness programs, and improved student knowledge of AOD policies. Regular reviews should guide necessary adjustments to ensure the program's continued success.

Conclusion:

To address the AOD challenges at SMCC effectively, it is essential to expand data collection, employ evidence-based prevention strategies, and strengthen collaboration between campus and community partners. By addressing gaps in outreach, securing the proposed Mental Well-Being Center, and focusing on high-risk behaviors, SMCC can enhance its AOD program and create a healthier, safer campus environment.

References

U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). *Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act Regulations (EDGAR Part 86)*. Retrieved from [Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act Regulations](#).

U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). *Complying with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (EDGAR Part 86): A Guide for Universities and Colleges*. Retrieved from [Complying with Drug-Free Schools Regulations](#).

South Mountain Community College. (n.d.). *Annual Security Report*. Retrieved from [South Mountain Community College Annual Security Report](#).