Massachusetts Municipal Association
Annual Meeting
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Substance Abuse Prevention

- Prevent what
  - Alcohol
  - Other drug abuse
  - Prescription drug abuse
  - Inhalants
- Applies to whom
  - Youth
  - Everyone

- Difficult issue to understand
  - Fire Prevention
  - Smoking
Policy Change?
Policy Change

- Types of substance abuse prevention
  - Individual focused
  - Family focused
  - School focused
  - Community/population focused
Policy Change

- Population focused – Policy Change
  - Most effective for the most people
  - Cost effective
  - Doable
- Policy change – about limiting access
Policy Change

- Examples of Policy Change
  - Enforcement – current laws/regulations
    - Compliance checks
    - Road blocks
    - Social host liability
    - Server training
    - Store hours and locations
    - Number of retail outlets - density
Policy Change

- Policy change – new laws/regulations
  - Price
  - Advertising
  - Banning drugs
  - # of retail outlets
  - Location of outlets
  - Hours that outlets are open
  - Requirement of drug education materials
  - Limitations on quantities of drugs purchased
Policy Change

- Policy change – strategies for now
  - Alcohol/Drug education materials
    - Storage
    - Disposal
    - Local sites to dispose of drugs
    - Limitations on quantities purchased
Next Steps

Make it easy to do the right thing.
Understanding Addiction

- Continued involvement with a substance despite the negative consequences associated with it.
- Pleasure, enjoyment or relief from actual or perceived ailments would have been originally sought.
- Over a period of time, involvement with the substance or activity is needed to feel normal.
The End

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