

Maricopa County Justice-Involved Tobacco Cessation Project Overview of Year 1

Studies have shown that those involved with the justice system smoke at up to four times the rate of the general population, with smoking prevalence ranging from 70-80%. (Cropsey et al., 2010; Kauffman et al., 2010, Ritter et al., 2011) Inmates and parolees that use tobacco products are more likely to develop chronic health conditions that are expensive to manage and put undue strain on taxpayer-funded criminal justice and healthcare programs. Studies have shown that justice-involved tobacco users cost counties much more due to associated medical and psychiatric comorbidities and hospitalizations. (Wilper et al., 2009; Fisher et al., 1993; Florida State University, 2017).

As a tobacco-free facility, tobacco-using adults who are booked into Maricopa County jails are required to immediately stop using tobacco. However, national research has shown that 90-97% of detained adults who smoked prior to being incarcerated return to smoking within 6 months of release. Since tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and many of the most serious medical problems reported by inmates are smoking-related, addressing tobacco cessation among those involved in Maricopa County's justice system can positively impact the health of Maricopa County residents as well as the cost to Maricopa County and its community.

With support from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has contracted with the University of Colorado's Behavioral Health and Wellness Program (BHWP) to develop both a pilot project plan and a 5-year strategic plan to address tobacco use among adults in Maricopa County's justice system. Specifically, in the first year of this work, BHWP will do the following:

- Identify best practices in the areas of tobacco cessation that most appropriately can be applied within the Maricopa County justice system and support the justice-involved population.
- Assess the Maricopa County justice system to identify tobacco cessation intervention points within the system and within the larger community that serves this justice-involved population.
- Identify and prioritize opportunities to implement and support tobacco cessation efforts for the Maricopa County justice-involved population both in the justice system and upon community reentry.
- Develop a project plan to implement a tobacco cessation pilot that utilizes a holistic approach to address tobacco use among the justice-involved population. The plan will focus on the justice-involved population that has been identified as most likely to succeed based on the assessment of the justice system, on evidence-based practices, on work in other jurisdictions, and on available resources.

- Develop and present a 5-year strategic plan to address tobacco use among the justice-involved population that will include evaluation and sustainability components.

BHWP's experience working with other correctional systems to reduce tobacco use is expected to help Maricopa County leverage resources and most effectively and efficiently address this issue.