

*The Stay Safe Youth Coalition
is a unified and committed group of young people, passionate and motivated about
creating positive changes within the community through
Action, Education, and Leadership.*

About the Stay Safe Youth Coalition (SSYC)

Young leaders recruited from Oceana, Terra Nova, Westmoor, and Jefferson High Schools formed SSYC to create change and mobilize around issues regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs (ATOD) in the Daly City and Pacifica community. Prior to its inception in March 2005, students from the Stay Safe groups of Asian American Recovery Services (AARS) partnered up with the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) and surveyed 1000 teens in the Jefferson Union High School District (JUHSD) about what leads teens to use drugs and alcohol, how they get them, and where most of the influences to use drugs and alcohol come from. Since then SSYC and its youth led movement unified its efforts to create projects that have lasting and positive effects in our community.

Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) Campaign

SSYC is committed to reducing tobacco use among all Teens, especially focusing on preventing youth access to tobacco. Currently, SSYC is working to adopt a policy, which would require all tobacco merchants to purchase a license in order to sell tobacco products in Daly City. A tobacco retail license would entail enforcement of tobacco laws, especially those that prevent youth access to tobacco products. SSYC collected data about the problem in their local community by implementing public opinion surveys and youth tobacco purchase surveys. In collaboration with YLI, members of SSYC are being trained so that they have the skills and knowledge to lead, design, and implement this policy project.

Other Projects:

Conceived from the startling results of a youth access survey the group implemented throughout the JUHSD in 2004-2005, youth members hosted the "The SSYC Truth" press conference to disclose the *sick truth* about teen access to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Findings that were released included the fact that stores were only carding *consistently 25% of the time*. This successful event united the Mayors of Daly City and Pacifica, Trustees of the Jefferson Union High School District, and other prominent figures of the community to support SSYC in educating the community about the "sick truth". SSYC has also worked on a number of other projects including "The Smoke Free Movies Campaign", a global effort to get tobacco smoking out of Hollywood movies. In addition the group has been videotaping all of their projects in hopes to making educational films for young people and the community at large.

SSYC is a project of Asian American Recovery Services, Inc. in partnership with the Youth Leadership Institute, West Ed, and the Jefferson Union High School District. Funding is made possible by the San Mateo County Alcohol and Other Drug Services.