



FAITH (IN) POWER

History of Faith Movements in improving Social/Health Outcomes

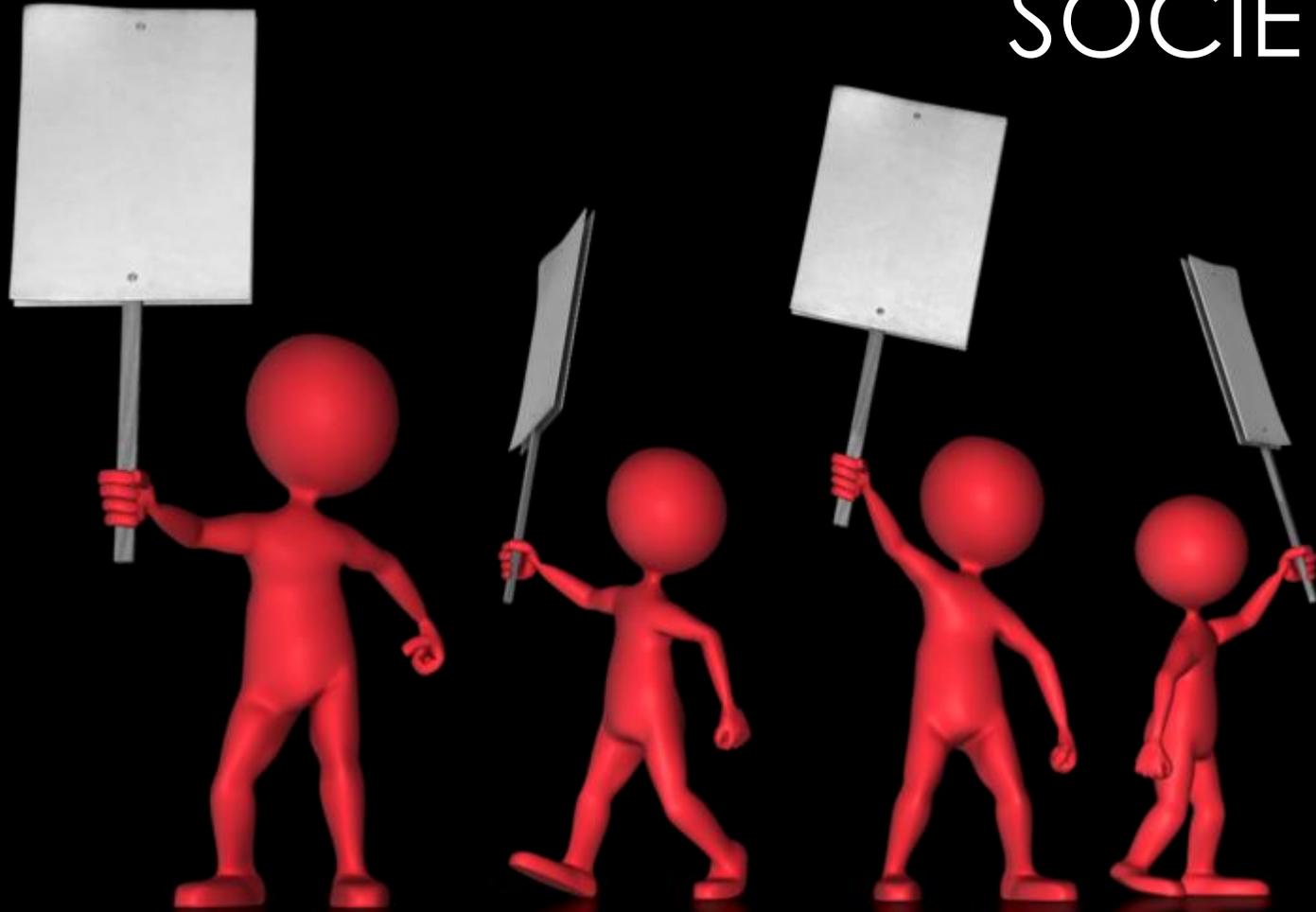
A CONNECTION WITH THE HUMAN SUFFERING



HISTORY OF LEADING THE WAY



A LONG LEGACY OF REVERSING SOCIETAL ILLS



FAITH-BASED WAS THERE WHEN . . .



SLAVERY

- What was the impact of the faith communities?



WHEN THERE WAS HOMELESSNESS

- What was the impact of the faith communities?



WHEN THERE WAS INJUSTICE



- What was the impact of the faith communities?

COMMUNITY CRIME & VIOLENCE



POVERTY

- What was the impact of the faith communities?



ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE

- What was the impact of the faith communities?



OPIOIDS



INTRODUCTION

Substance abuse is a significant challenge within the faith community.

- For leaders
- For all congregational members

Faith-based organizations have a long history of dealing with a wide range of substance abuse issues:

- Treatment
- Aftercare support
- Prevention

MUCH OF WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG USE IS CONVEYED THROUGH WHAT THE FAITH COMMUNITY SAYS OR DOES NOT SAY ABOUT IT.



THE PREVENTION FIELD HAS FORGED LINKS WITH THE FAITH COMMUNITY BECAUSE IT RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY AS DETERRENTS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE.



Involvement of faith organizations in substance abuse prevention is important because...

1. Faith groups exist in nearly every community throughout the country.
2. The presence of faith groups lends credibility.
3. Faith groups touch people of all ages, economic levels, and ethnicities, and mobilize them.
4. They provide a sense of community and responsibility.
5. Members look to and respect the opinions and guidance of their faith leaders.

Involvement of faith organizations in substance abuse prevention is important because...(cont'd)

6. Clergy and laity recognize substance abuse as an important issue among family members in their congregation.
7. There is support from congregational members.
8. They provide opportunities to work with families who might otherwise not be involved in prevention.
9. Religion & Spirituality are key protective factors in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and in maintaining recovery.

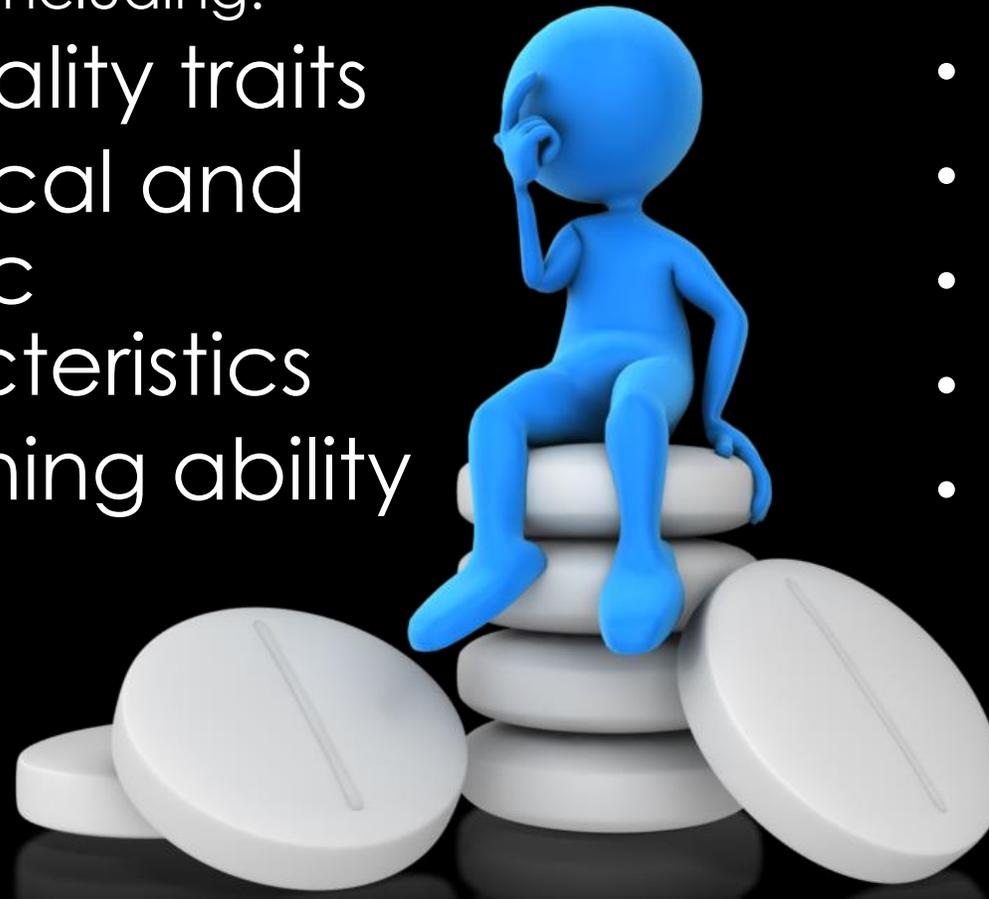
SUBSTANCE USE RESULTS FROM AN INTERCONNECTED SET OF:

1. Personal factors including:

- Personality traits
- Biological and genetic characteristics
- Reasoning ability

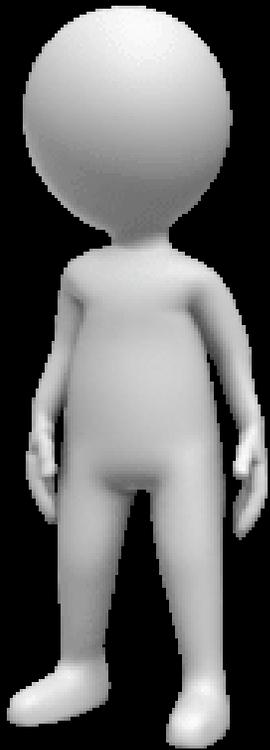
2. Social influences including:

- Public policy
- Family
- Friends
- Availability
- Religious beliefs and traditions
- Social norms



THE DISEASE OF ADDICTION

- NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) defines addiction as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. It is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain; they change its structure and how it works. These brain changes can be long lasting and can lead to many harmful, often self-destructive, behaviors.



<https://youtu.be/WhQjQyKGefk>

CONSIDERATIONS OF FAITH

Single Approach

- The expected impact of any single prevention program is likely to be limited and difficult to isolate.

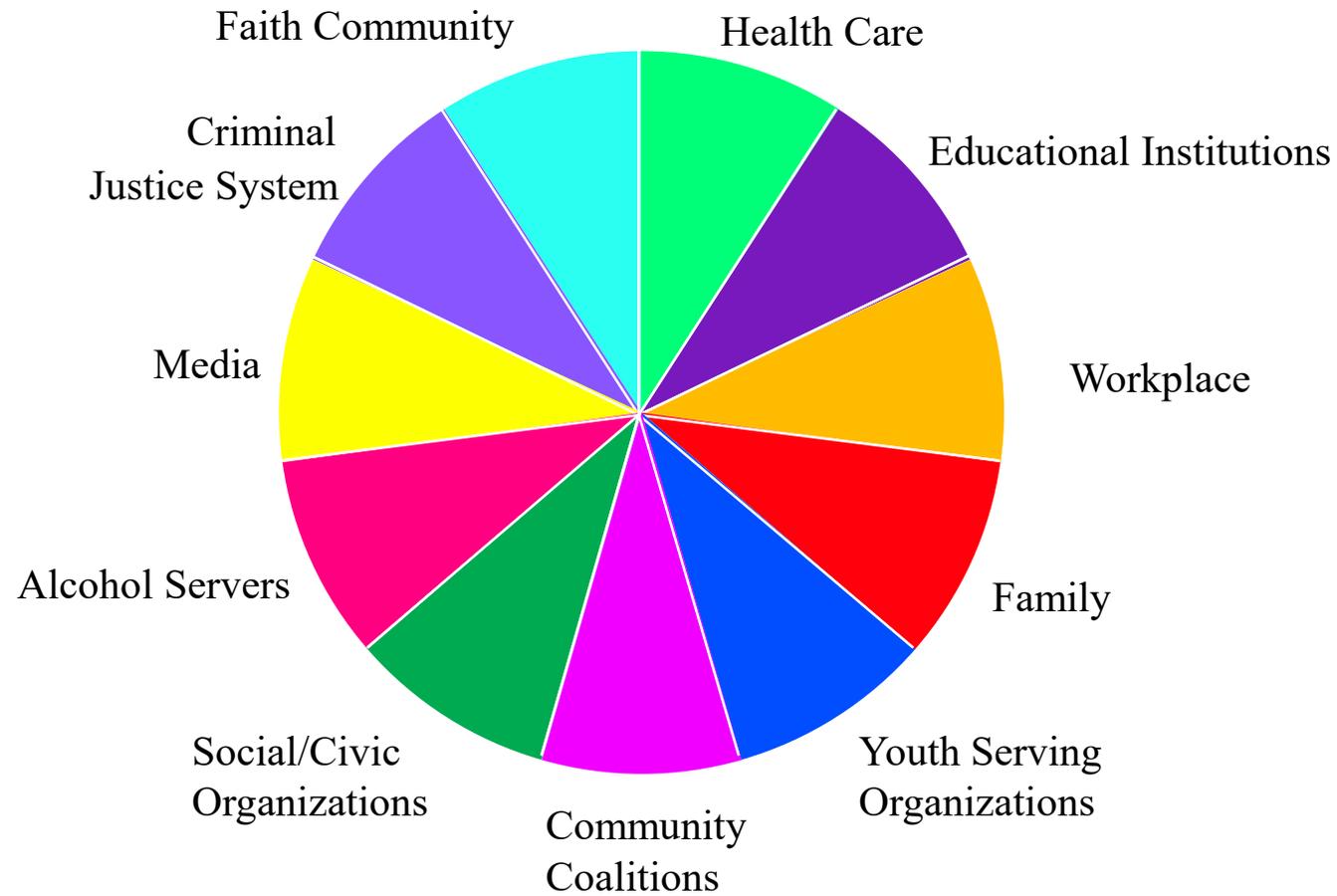


Broad community approach

- Meaningful dialogue and an understanding of the role of faith, spirituality, and the importance of faith-based programs.
- Consideration of the medical research on faith, spirituality, religion, and health.
- Generate better outcomes.



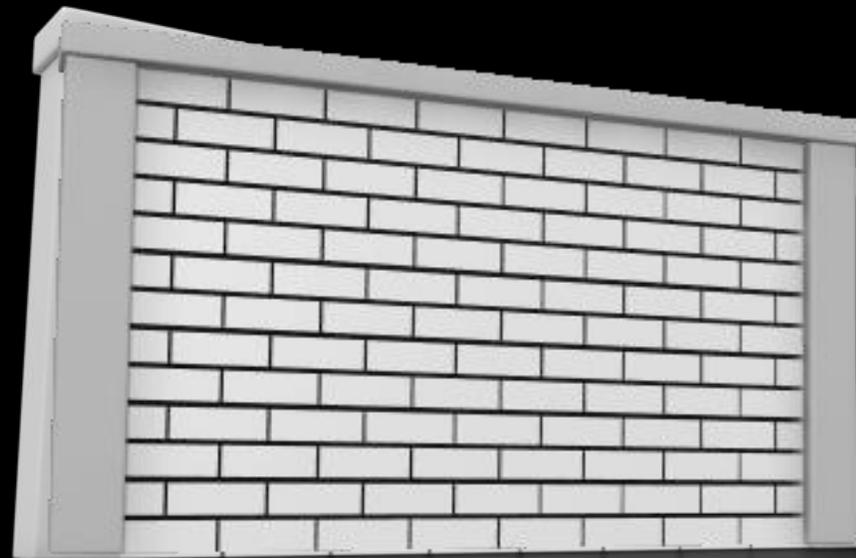
The Larger Community



MEDIEVAL TIMES



SO WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS
BETWEEN THESE SECTORS?



THE FAITH COMMUNITY CAN:

- Provide assistance to congregational members and staff troubled by substance abuse problems
- Help members develop personal guidelines for substance use and nonuse
- Develop a framework for integrating prevention and recovery within the congregation
- Help members understand the spiritual dimension of substance abuse problems and prevention
- Work with other community organizations to design and implement community-based prevention efforts

QUESTIONS

