DECREASING DISRUPTION IN OFF-CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

A 2022 SPRING SEMESTER PUBLIC POLICY CAPSTONE PROJECT

THE PROBLEM

Neighborhoods near college campuses combine short-term student residents with long-term residents

Lack of consistency in enforcement can lead to increased incidents, repeat offenders, and potential bias.

Loud parties and noise disturbances associated with students living off-campus can damage relationships between students and long-term residents and lead to safety issues

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATION:
The Campus and Community Coalition (CCC) seeks to improve relationships between students living in off-campus neighborhoods and the long-term residents who reside within these communities.

RESEARCH PROCESS

• An initial literature review of relevant published research was conducted to establish context
• Focused interviews were conducted with 5 communities
• Each community we interviewed had programs in place focused on improving community relations and holding partygoers accountable.
• Results were coded into 12 categories and common strategies were identified.
• Interview data was analyzed and results compiled

INTERVIEW FINDINGS

BOSTON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
UMASS - AMHERST
ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY
GEORGETOWN

Proactive Approach
• 3 out of 6 communities have a proactive plan in place to prevent disruptions from occurring

Night Time Programs
• Residents can contact a night-watch team instead of getting police involved for disruptions

Trust Building
• For programs to be effective, the community organization needs to be trusted by the community and students

Accountability
• Consistency in enforcement of policy and reporting when necessary helps programs significantly

Educational Campaign
• Educating students on resources they have and roles and responsibilities

Student Involvement
• Including students in the conversation provides a new perspective and can make students more receptive to policy

Role of Policing
• Most organizations use police intervention as a last resort, as it can make students and community feel threatened

Partnerships
• Creating partnerships between community organizations, town, university, and student body, makes programs more effective

CONTINUED FOCUS ON COMMUNITY BUILDING
• Educating students about responsibilities as neighbors
• Informing all residents of resources available to them
• Off-campus neighborhood community events

CHAPEL HILL ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (CHAP)
• Paid employees dedicated to CCC
• Night watch program to be first response to parties, before police
• Building trust and visibility with students by providing other positive interactions

DATA RECORDING AND RECORD KEEPING
• Individuals dedicated to keeping track of program successes, helps to secure funding in the future
• Monitoring repeat offenders to keep track of when further action should be taken

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL