**Jackson County Prevention Coalition:**

**Collecting Data that Represents the Community**

The Strategic Prevention Framework is a process to address health priorities in the way that will have the greatest impact on a community. Jackson County, population 19,848, received a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in 2011 to address underage and adult binge drinking. At the time, the Jackson County Prevention Coalition (JCPC) had been together for just a few years, but was ready for renewal.

The first step of the SPF is ASSESSMENT to determine why a priority is a concern specific to the county. JCPC formed a Local Epidemiology Workgroup (LEW) and started examining consequence data provided by the State Epidemiology Chair. JCPC LEW members include law enforcement and county attorney and courts personnel who felt information provided by the state did not accurately reflect what was happening locally.

Law enforcement shared anecdotal information that reflected a different picture. Workgroup members discussed discrepancies in data regarding suspended sentences due to plea bargaining, need for confidentiality when dealing with youth, and varied intervals between arrest and conviction. As a result, the county attorney worked with the clerk of court to track conviction numbers.

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| Jackson County Conviction Numbers |
| *CHARGE* | *FY12* | *FY13* | *FY14* |
| Public Intoxication | 62 | 42 | 36 |
| Possession of Alcohol Under Legal Age | NA | 42 | 33 |
| Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated | 49 | 82 | 57 |
| Operating a Boat While Intoxicated | 1 | 3 | 5 |

Collecting data this way might not happen in a larger community. However, collaborations between existing and new coalition members have been improved by working through the process of the SPF. Assessment is the first step, but as the coalition completed each phase of the cycle we learned that all steps … and all partners … are necessary in order to make a difference in the community.