

## **Synergy Through Partnerships**

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### **Type of Activity**

This was a collaborative partnership between the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the University of South Carolina, Prevention Research Center.

### **Description of Project, Its Development, and Outcomes**

This was a collaborative partnership centered on expertise, funding, and the accomplishment of specific tasks between two partners. The goals of the partnership are to improve an understanding of collaborative opportunities; identify points for successful partnerships; and to highlight specific partnerships from South Carolina. This opportunity was developed between the partners who both realized that synergy could be created through a partnership by maximizing each partner's strengths, with benefits being gained through a strong collaboration. This partnership has yielded numerous outcomes and successes, with two of the biggest being, avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring the best use of resources. The partners also share funding and staff to enhance the value of products and activities.

### **Successes, Difficulties, and "The Unexpected"**

This partnership has also allowed more concentration on specific tasks; opened up lines for frequent communication and built trust/respect. The difficulties come about when meetings have to be rescheduled due to emergencies. We also dealt with an "unexpected" programmatic change from CDC. The CVH Branch at CDC changed its focus from primary to secondary prevention and environmental policy change. This was handled by the partner through communication, on going joint participation in other projects and a mutual understanding of each organization's mission.

### **Benefits to the Agency and the Community Served by the Agency**

The best benefit to the agency and the community served by this partnership is the enhancement of the mission of each partner and health of the community.