



2022

**Virginia Office for
Substance Abuse Prevention**

Annual Report

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority

Chief Executive Officer
Travis G. Hill



Chair
Maria J. K. Everett

Vice Chair
Beth G. Hungate-Noland

Board of Directors
William D. Euille
Gregory F. Holland
Mark E. Rubin

December 1, 2022

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

The Virginia Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (VOSAP) Collaborative is pleased to provide this report in accordance with §4.1-103.02, *Code of Virginia*. Consistent with its statutory responsibilities, VOSAP provides leadership, opportunities, and an environment to further strengthen Virginia's youth substance prevention infrastructure to ensure that prevention efforts are more unified, collaborative and evidence based.

This report highlights national and state youth substance use data and details the prevention efforts and initiatives VOSAP member agencies and statewide partners have implemented during fiscal year 2022.

VOSAP looks forward to providing continued leadership and coordination of Virginia's substance abuse prevention efforts. Thank you for your support and please contact us if you would like additional information about VOSAP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria J.K. Everett".

Maria J.K. Everett, Chair
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority



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Executive Information

The Commonwealth of Virginia



Governor Glenn Youngkin

Secretariats represented in the VOSAP Collaborative

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Sheriff Robert "Bob" Mosier

Secretary of Education

Aimee Rogstad Guidera

Secretary of Health and Human Resources

John Littel

Secretary of Transportation

Sheppard Miller, III

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority Leadership and Board

Chief Executive Officer

Travis G. Hill



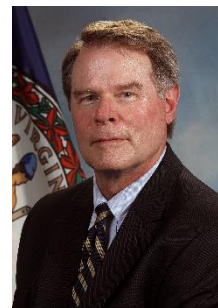
Maria J. K. Everett, Chair



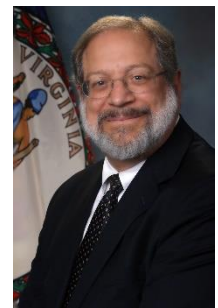
Beth G. Hungate-Noland, Vice Chair



William D. Euille



Gregory F. Holland



Mark E. Rubin

Executive Summary

The Virginia Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (VOSAP), operating as the VOSAP Collaborative, is pleased to report on substance abuse prevention efforts in the Commonwealth of Virginia. VOSAP member agencies represent four secretariats including: Education, Health and Human Resources, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Transportation. External to state government, VOSAP partners with community coalitions and other organizations that promote health, safety and wellness within the Commonwealth.

The VOSAP Collaborative promotes and supports data-driven prevention planning, evidence-based prevention programming, capacity development and formal data-driven evaluation. During VOSAP Collaborative meetings, representatives from 12 agencies and organizations reported on individual and joint projects related to prevention and identified ways to further support their shared mission to promote health and safety in the Commonwealth. In 2022, particular attention was paid to the legalization of recreational marijuana use and to the continued adjustment of prevention strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statutory Authority

Pursuant to HB 1291 and SB 678 of 2012 (Chapter 835 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly), enacted through § 4.1-103.02 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Governor's reorganization of executive branch of state government states:

“The responsibility for the administration of a substance abuse prevention program transfers from the Governor to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. The bill gives the ABC Board the duty to (i) coordinate substance abuse prevention activities of agencies of the Commonwealth in such program, (ii) review substance abuse prevention program expenditures by agencies of the Commonwealth, and (iii) determine the direction and appropriateness of such expenditures. The Board is to cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies, private and public agencies, interested organizations, and individuals in order to prevent substance abuse within the Commonwealth. The Board must report annually by December 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the substance abuse prevention activities of the Commonwealth. [Enactments 103-104; HJ 49 #37]”

VOSAP Collaborative Mission

The mission of VOSAP is to support positive youth development by providing strategic statewide leadership, fostering collaboration and the sharing of resources at all levels, and providing tools and training to practice evidence-based prevention to reduce the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse and its consequences.

VOSAP Collaborative Goals

In addition to being responsive to ad hoc requests, the VOSAP Collaborative works to fulfill the following goals:

- VOSAP will be a working group where individual agency information, successes and challenges pertaining to prevention activities are openly shared and coordinated to eliminate redundancies.
- VOSAP will support the collection and analysis of state epidemiological data to support prevention planning, funding, and programming.
- VOSAP will promote use of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework.
- The VOSAP Collaborative will use agency websites and social media to provide prevention information and highlight prevention work.

VOSAP/GOSAP Archive

VOSAP's predecessor organization was the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) and the associated GOSAP Collaborative. Members of the Collaborative voted to change the name of the organization to VOSAP in 2013. The Collaborative operates under a Memorandum of Agreement signed by all participating agency directors.

During fiscal year 2021, in compliance with Virginia ABC's records retention policies, the GOSAP records previously maintained in the archives of the Library of Virginia were destroyed.

VOSAP Collaborative Members

VOSAP has been a part of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) since 2012. The Virginia ABC Youth Education and Prevention Coordinator serves as the coordinator for the VOSAP Collaborative, among other statewide initiatives. Collaborative meetings are held quarterly. The collaborative is comprised of the following organizations:



Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC)

*Wyatt Anderson, Youth Education and Prevention Coordinator
VOSAP Facilitator*



Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

*Nicole Gore, Behavioral Health Wellness Director
Jennifer Farinholt, Behavioral Health Wellness Consultant*



Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

*Betsy Bell, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Coordinator
Greg Hopkins, Juvenile Justice Program Coordinator*



Department of Education (DOE)

*Vanessa Wigand, Coordinator of K-12 Health, Family Life, Physical and Driver Education
Maribel Saimre, Director of the Office of Student Services*



Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

*Art Mayer, LCSW, CSOTP, Clinical Treatment Program Supervisor,
Division of Residential Services*



Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Elizabeth Zaunick, MSW, Overdose Data to Action Grant Coordinator



Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

*Kimberly Burt, Virginia Highway Safety Office, Programs Deputy Director
Angelisa Jennings, Virginia Highway Safety Office, Data Deputy Director*



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Department of Social Services (DSS)

Stephen Wade, MUP, Healthy Equity Project Manager



Virginia State Police (VSP)

Mary King, YOVASO Program Manager



Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)

Henry H. Harper III, Conference and Networking Manager



Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Staff Sergeant Wayne B. Graves, Drug Demand Reduction-Civil Operation Specialist

Cari Kelso, Counterdrug Coordinator



Office of the Secretary of Health & Human Resources

Catie Finely, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Resources



Community Coalitions of Virginia
Preventing Substance Abuse Across the State

Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA)

Jill Russett, Coalition Coordinator



Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Virginia

Cristi Cousins, State Programs Specialist

Youth Substance Use Data

The Strategic Prevention Framework

VOSAP Collaborative member agencies subscribe to the **Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)** (Figure 1) created by **SAMHSA** to guide their substance use prevention initiatives. The framework allows prevention professionals to better understand both the behavioral and environmental health issues related to substance misuse, but it can also be applied to many other public health issues that may affect a community. There are five steps to the SPF: assessment, capacity, planning, implementation and evaluation. Sustainability and cultural competence are two concepts that are interwoven throughout each step. The SPF is successful due to its emphasis on data-driven decisions and a team-based approach to prevention. The framework is represented in a circular format because prevention work is not linear; a team may return to a step in the process or perform two steps at once depending on the nature and evolution of the public health problem.

Data collection and the evaluation of available, current data is within the assessment step of the SPF. Assessment involves gathering an understanding of community prevention needs, as well as data and research that can help you identify and prioritize a health problem. During this step, prevention professionals collect information that can tell them about the nature of the problem, risk and protective factors that influence the problem and the amount of community capacity available to address the problem, including the community's readiness for change and its available resources.

VOSAP member agencies routinely reference and report on the following national and state data to inform prevention professionals of potential gaps and needs for substance use prevention services and to support the implementation of prevention initiatives.

Monitoring the Future Survey

Monitoring the Future (MTF) is a longitudinal study of the behaviors, attitudes and values of American secondary school students, college students, and young adults. Each year, a total of approximately 50,000 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students are surveyed. In addition, annual follow-up questionnaires are mailed to a sample of each graduating class for several years after their initial participation.

Figure 1. The Strategic Prevention Framework



The MTF study has been funded by a series of investigator-initiated research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a part of the National Institutes of Health. MTF is conducted at the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Since the project's conception in 1975, it has studied changes in the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of young people in the United States. In recent years, the U.S. has experienced tremendous changes in public opinion regarding diverse issues, such as government and politics, alcohol and other drug use, gender roles and protection of the environment. This study focuses on youth because of their significant influence on today's social changes and, most importantly, because youth in a very literal sense will constitute our future society.

The results of the study inform policymakers at all levels of government to monitor progress toward national health goals. Study results are also used to monitor trends in substance use among adolescents and young adults, as they are routinely used in the White House Strategy on Drug Abuse.

MTF 2021 data revealed a small downward trend in lifetime alcohol use (Figure 2), lifetime vaping nicotine (Figure 3), and lifetime illicit drug use (Figure 4) among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders relative to 2019 and 2020 data. The University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research reported that this decline may be due to many disruptions that youth have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the ability to get drugs from peers and use drugs outside of parental supervision.

Figure 2. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime alcohol use

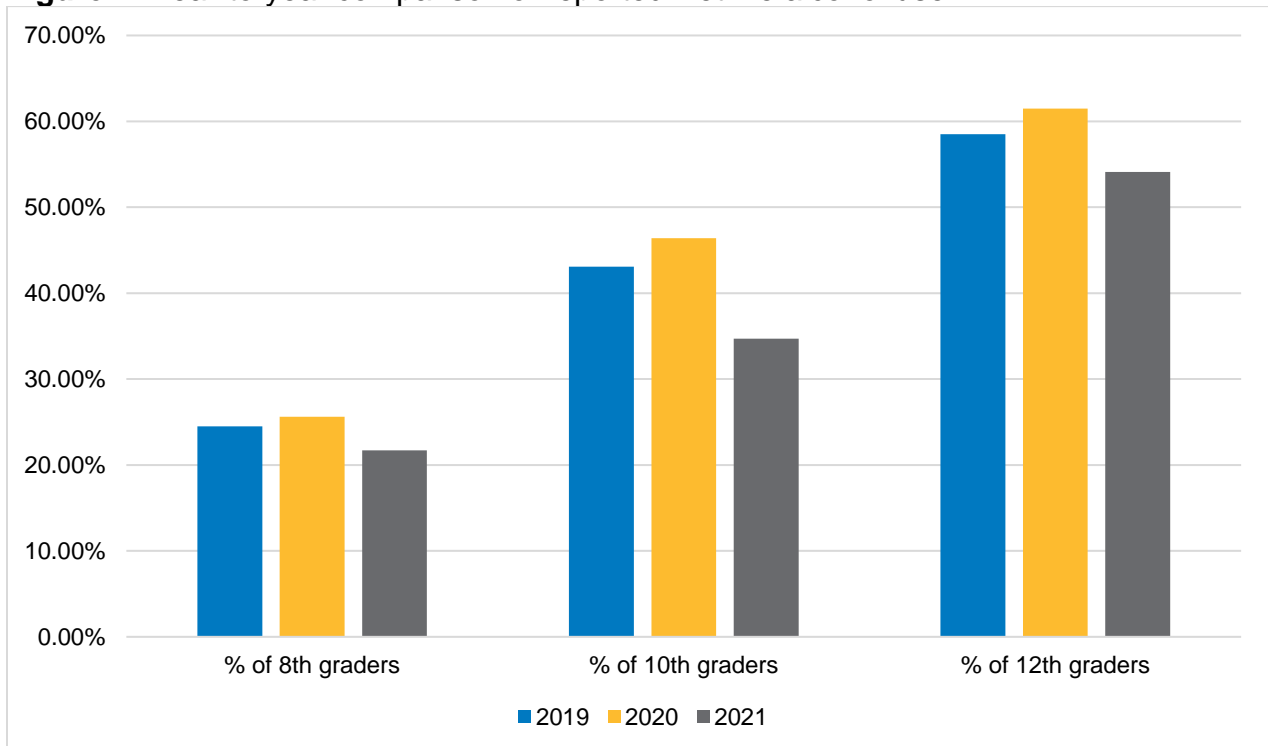


Figure 3. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime vaping nicotine

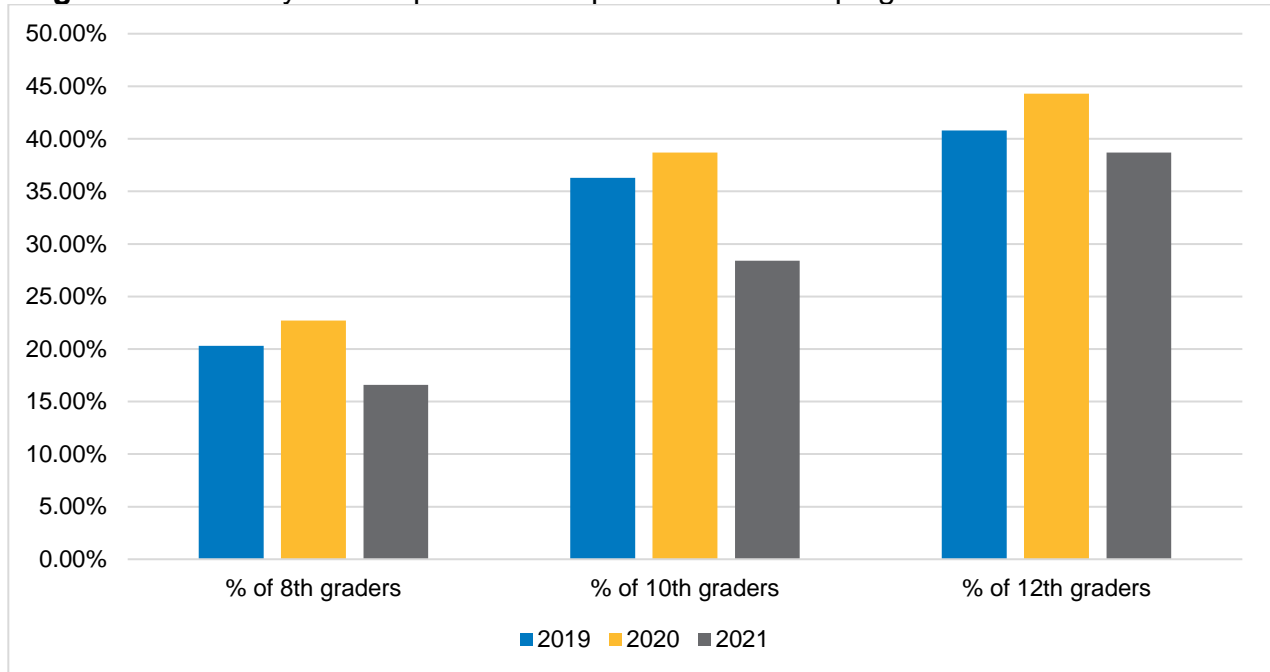
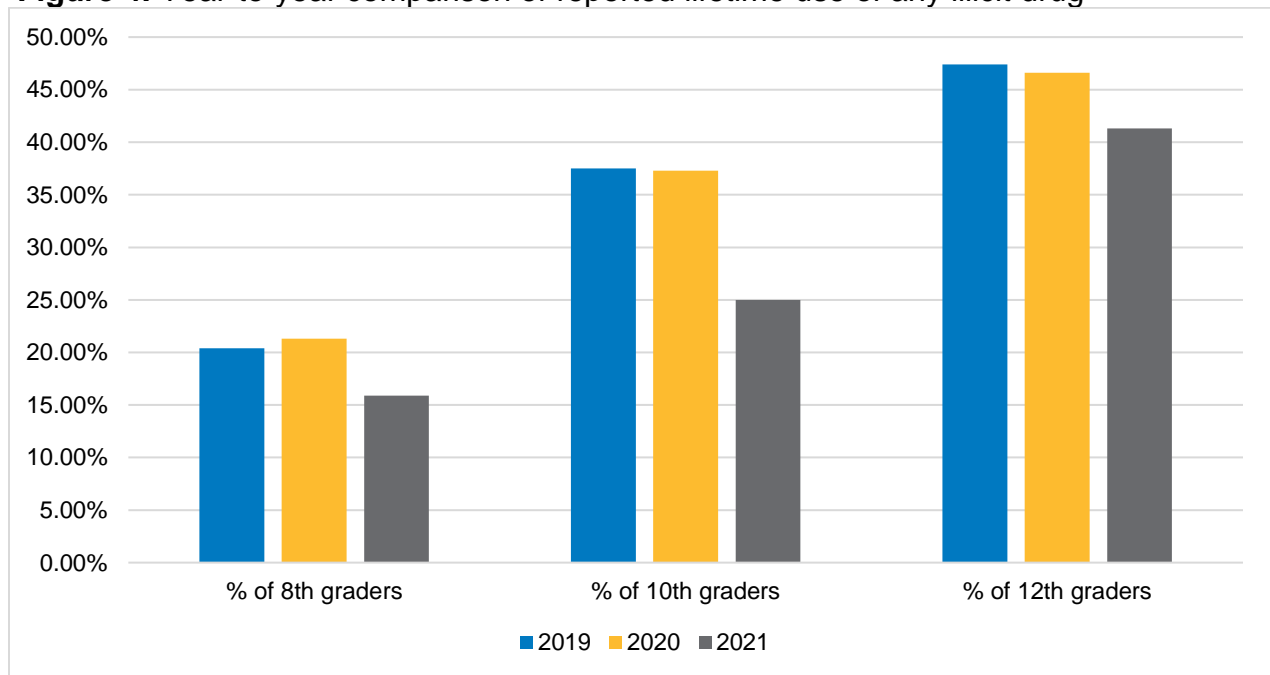


Figure 4. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime use of any illicit drug



Virginia Youth Survey

The **Virginia Youth Survey** (VYS) bi-annually gathers information about the health risk behaviors of middle and high school students. The survey is implemented by VDH and VFHY with the support of the DOE for dissemination of the questionnaire within schools. Information collected through the VYS is submitted for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and is comparable with other states. Middle school students are asked about 60 questions while high school students are asked about 90 questions along with additional questions related to VFHY's peer crowd research.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The **Youth Risk Behavior Survey** (YRBS) was developed in 1990 by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. These behaviors, often established during childhood and early adolescence, include:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence;
- Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection;
- Alcohol and other drug use;
- Tobacco use;
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
- Inadequate physical activity.

Since 1991, the YRBS has collected data from more than 3.8 million high school students in over 1,700 surveys.

The YRBS includes national, state, territorial, tribal government, and local school-based surveys of representative samples of 6th through 12th grade students. These surveys are conducted every two years, usually during the spring semester. Due to extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 survey was postponed to the fall semester and data are not yet publicly available. The national survey, conducted by the CDC, provides data representative of 6th through 12th grade students in public and private schools. The state, territorial, tribal government and local surveys conducted by departments of health and education, provide data representative of mostly public middle and high school students within each jurisdiction.

There is a gap in consistency of data collection between the middle school and high school student samples. Between the two categories, there are minimal data points that overlap among middle and high school student drug use and behavior. The data points reported for middle school (**Figure 5**) cannot be directly compared with the data points reported for high school (**Figure 6**); however, the points do relate to one another and can provide theoretical insight rather than quantitative data.

Figure 5 is a year-to-year comparison of 2017 and 2019 middle school drug use and behaviors related to alcohol, electronic vaping products and marijuana. Current electronic vapor use and reports of drinking alcohol for the first time before age 11 continue to rise among middle schoolers. Straying from this upward use trend however, there is a slight decrease in the number of middle schoolers who reported trying marijuana for the first time before age 11.

Similar to middle school drug use, **Figure 6** reveals an upward trend of current electronic vapor product use among high schoolers. Additionally, the number of high schoolers currently drinking alcohol and currently using marijuana also increased from 2017 to 2019.

Figure 5. Year-to year-comparison of reported current drug use and behaviors among middle schoolers

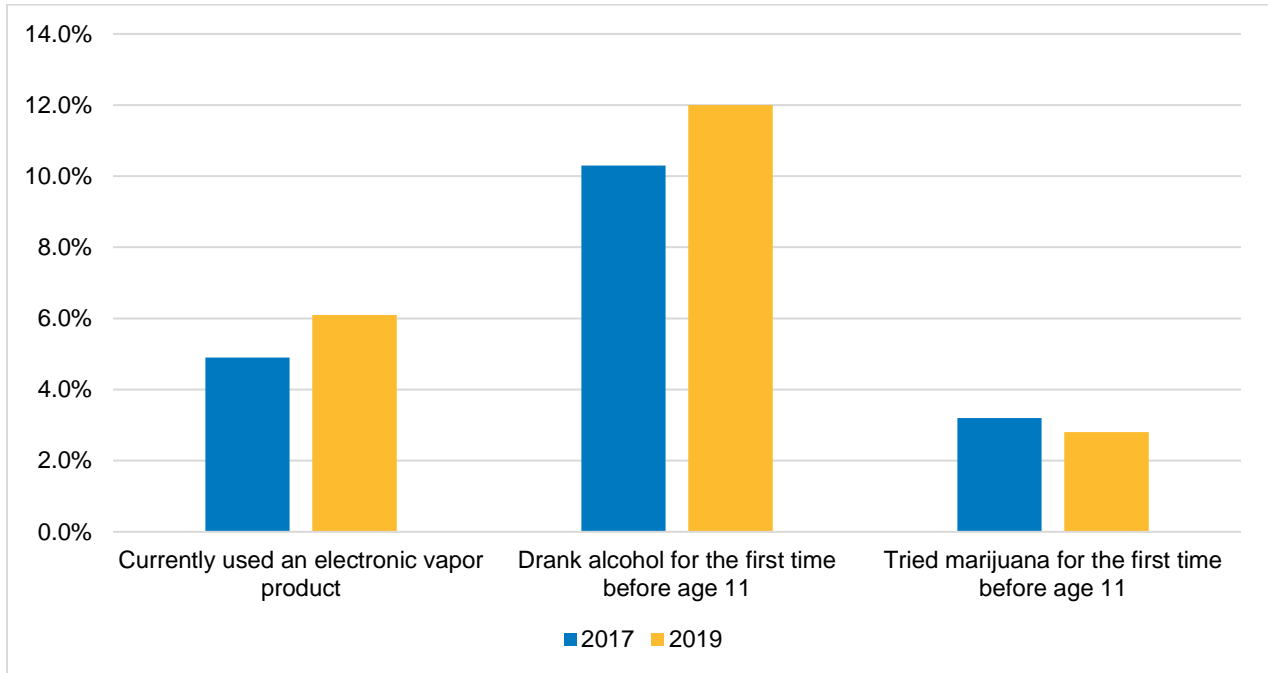
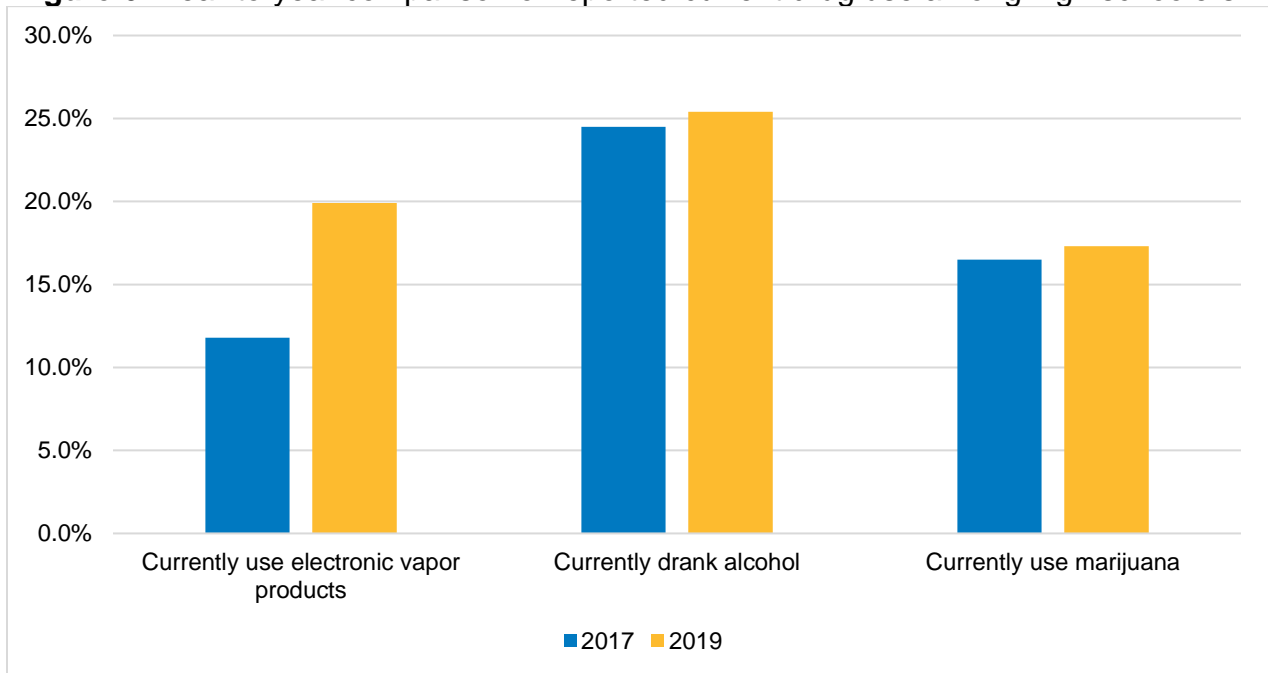


Figure 6. Year-to-year comparison of reported current drug use among high schoolers



Youth Substance Use Prevention Efforts

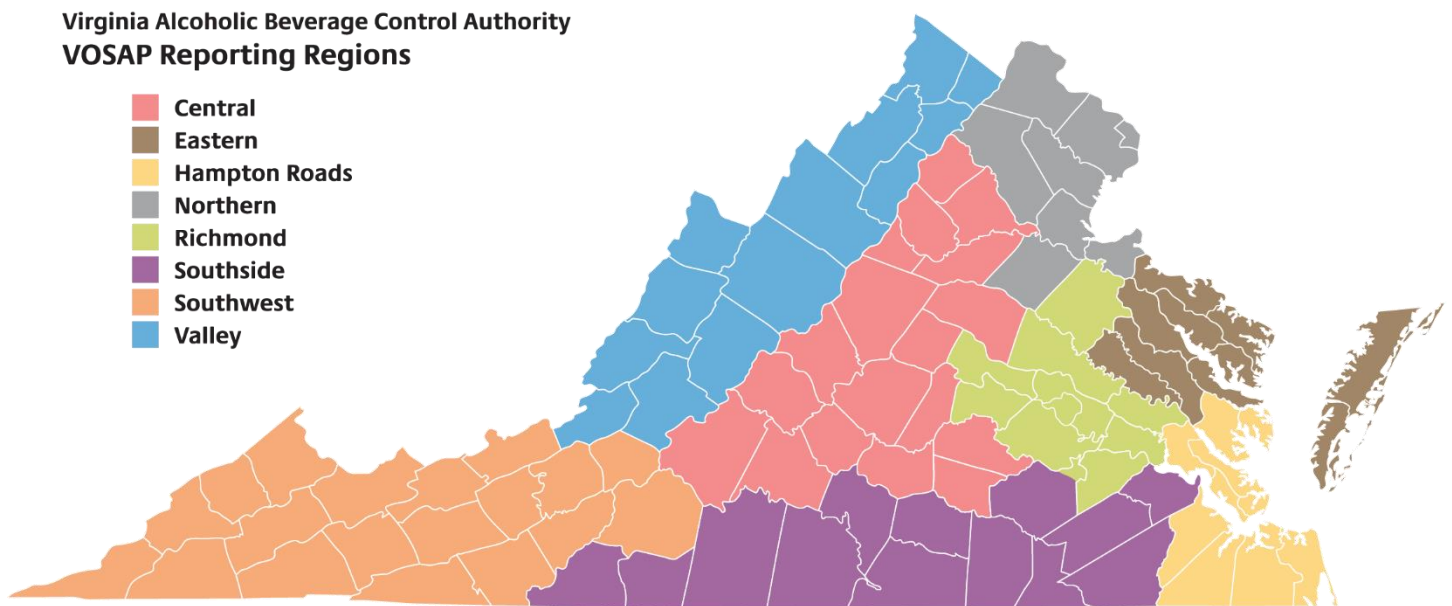
VOSAP is tasked with collecting and reporting substance use prevention activity data from agencies of the Commonwealth. The following section summarizes the youth substance use prevention efforts of member agencies in the following areas: spending, reach, activities and initiatives, gaps in youth substance use prevention efforts, and unmet substance use prevention needs. To depict a comprehensive view of youth substance use prevention efforts across the Commonwealth, youth substance use prevention data collected from VOSAP member agencies is detailed below in statewide regions as well as by individual organization.

Statewide Regions

To depict youth substance use prevention efforts across state agencies and organizations, eight regions were established to capture data and information from VOSAP Collaborative members. The eight regions have been utilized to report funding and reach of substance use prevention efforts in Virginia.

The regions listed below were developed based on a review of the various reporting regions of state agencies and organizations. The data and information provided in the following section has been reported as accurately as possible within the defined regions.

The following graphic provides a visual of the eight reporting regions.



Cities and counties that comprise each of the eight regions:

Central: Albemarle, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlottesville, Culpeper, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Lynchburg, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Prince Edward, Rappahannock

Eastern: Accomack, Essex, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond County, Westmoreland

Hampton Roads: Chesapeake, Gloucester, Hampton, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, York

Northern: Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Fauquier, Fredericksburg, King George, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford

Richmond: Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George, Richmond City

Southside: Brunswick, Charlotte, Danville, Dinwiddie, Emporia, Franklin City, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Martinsville, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Southampton, Surry, Sussex

Southwest: Bland, Bristol, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin County, Galax, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Norton, Pulaski, Radford, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, Wythe

Valley: Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Buena Vista, Clarke, Covington, Craig, Frederick, Harrisonburg, Highland, Lexington, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Salem, Shenandoah, Staunton, Warren, Waynesboro, Winchester

Spending

During fiscal year 2022, \$9,349,098 was spent throughout the Commonwealth on youth substance use prevention efforts.

Table 1 provides specific organization spending totals for youth substance use prevention efforts and **Figure 7** depicts graphically this total youth spending by organization for comparison. **Table 2** provides each organization's total expenses for general substance use prevention efforts. The largest budget allocations to statewide prevention efforts were from DBHDS and VDH, respectively. Organization prevention budgets are funded through federal budget allocations, federal grants, general fund allocations, organization revenue and state grants. Each VOSAP member organization's funding for substance use prevention efforts is detailed below.

Table 3 and **Figure 8** show the total amount of funding spent in each region on youth substance use prevention initiatives. The data reveals statewide organizations spent the largest amount of funding on prevention initiatives in the Richmond Region and the least amount in the Eastern Region. **Table 7** provides this information collectively with regional reach. This table provides valuable information for future prevention planning and provides focal points for future spending and efforts.

Table 1. Total expenses of youth substance use prevention efforts by organization

Organization	Expenses
Community Coalitions of Virginia	\$49,000
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$59,787
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	Unable to report*
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$355,055
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1,075,640
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles	Unable to report*
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	\$5,244,634
Virginia National Guard	Did not report
Virginia State Police	\$165,000
Virginia Department of Health	\$2,400,000
Virginia Department of Education	Unable to report*
Virginia Department of Social Services	Unable to report*

*Provides funding which was not collected in terms of youth substance use prevention.

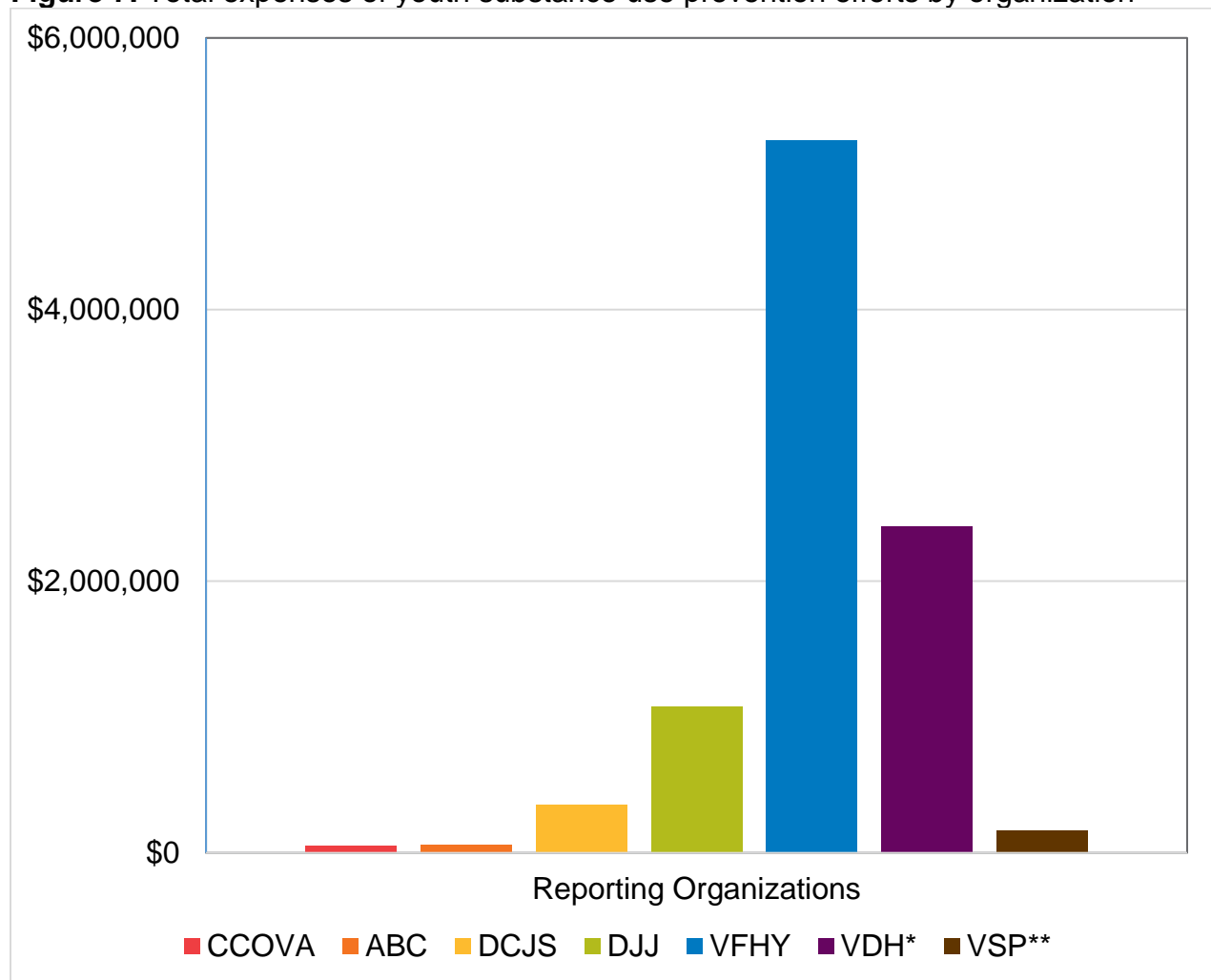
Table 2. Total expenses for general substance use prevention efforts by organization

Organization	Expenses
Community Coalitions of Virginia	\$49,000
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$121,916
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	\$21,861,286
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$317,619
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1,075,640
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles	\$250,000
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	\$5,244,634
Virginia National Guard	Did not report
Virginia State Police	\$165,000
Virginia Department of Health	\$6,711,172
Virginia Department of Education	Did not report
Virginia Department of Social Services	Did not report

Table 3. Total expenses of youth substance use prevention efforts by region

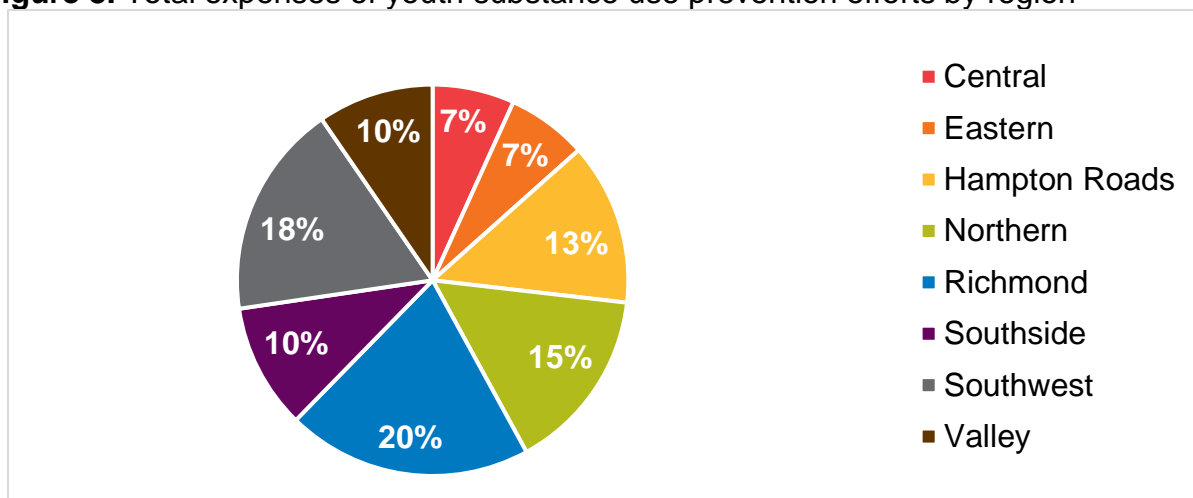
Region	Expenses
Central	\$470,893
Eastern	\$461,159
Hampton Roads	\$932,293
Northern	\$1,056,620
Richmond	\$1,409,787
Southside	\$719,495
Southwest	\$1,231,914
Valley	\$666,937

Figure 7. Total expenses of youth substance use prevention efforts by organization



* This figure includes VDH expenses; however, VDH expenses are unable to be reported regionally due to statewide efforts.
 **Virginia State Police substance use prevention efforts are funded through a grant provided by Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Figure 8. Total expenses of youth substance use prevention efforts by region



Community Coalitions of Virginia

CCoVA has 501(c)3 status and is funded by membership fees, donations, and occasional training and conference fees. During fiscal year 2022, CCoVA received State Opioid Response (SOR) funding from DBHDS totaling \$49,000.

Virginia ABC

Virginia ABC funds substance use prevention efforts through organizational revenue. As seen in **Table 1**, Virginia ABC spent \$59,787 on youth substance use prevention efforts; however, an additional \$62,129 was spent on alcohol education and prevention efforts, not specific to youth substance use prevention, totaling \$121,916. Virginia ABC's education and prevention programs and resources target audiences through the lifespan to include: youth, parents, college students, adults 21 and older, older adults, licensees and health care professionals.

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

As seen in **Table 2**, DBHDS provides the greatest amount of funding for substance use prevention efforts. DBHDS is funded through federal budget allocation and the following federal grants: SAMHSA Substance Abuse Block Grant (\$7,620,793), SAMHSA Substance Abuse Block Grant CAA Supplemental One-Time Funding (\$8,263,600) and SAMHSA State Opioid Response Grant (\$5,976,893). In fiscal year 2022, DBHDS spent \$21,861,286 on substance use prevention activities. DBHDS was unable to provide an estimate of youth substance prevention because their systems do not track youth and adult prevention spending separately. DBHDS reporting regions could not be accurately converted to VOSAP reporting regions.

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

DCJS provided Title II Funding Opportunities to several localities to develop or implement juvenile justice prevention activities. As seen in **Table 1**, DCJS provided \$355,055 in Title II funding to support programs that offered substance abuse prevention activities.

Virginia Department of Health

VDH reported spending or providing \$6,711,172 during fiscal year 2022 on substance use prevention activities and 35 percent (\$2,400,000) focused on youth substance abuse prevention. Funding is received through State Opioid Response grants and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding streams: Overdose Data to Action and Integrated HIV Surveillance and Prevention Cooperative Agreement.

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

During fiscal year 2022, DJJ reported spending \$1,075,640 on substance use treatment programs across the DJJ Community and Residential divisions. DJJ also manages **Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act** (VJCCCA) administered through a formula grant to all 133 cities and counties in Virginia. Localities use budgeted funds to support substance abuse education and treatment programs. Localities develop biennial plans to use VJCCCA funds that are consistent with the needs of their communities. Code changes (effective July 2019) allow localities to incorporate prevention services into future plans.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles highway safety offices administers federal transportation safety grant funding to various organizations that engage in youth substance abuse prevention activities. DMV received grant funding from the Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP). In fiscal year 2022, \$250,000 was spent or provided for substance abuse prevention.

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

VFHY receives no taxpayer funds and is solely funded by a share of Virginia’s annual payments from the nation’s major tobacco manufacturers through the **Master Settlement Agreement (MSA)**.

Virginia State Police

VSP prevention efforts are funded by a Federal Highway Safety Grant through the DMV Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) grant program.

Unreported State Agencies

Virginia Department of Education, Virginia National Guard, and Virginia Department of Social Services did not report finances related to substance use prevention activities.

Reach

Reach of substance use prevention efforts is defined as the estimated number of individuals reached through prevention efforts, including, but not limited to: programming and training, resources, educational information and media campaigns through engagements, reach, and impressions.

VOSAP Collaborative substance use prevention initiatives reached a total of 9,482,561 individuals in fiscal year 2022. Virginia Department of Health reached the greatest number of individuals through its efforts, reaching 8,001,024 individuals. Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth presented the second largest reach, with 1,190,450 individuals. **Figure 9** and **Table 4** break down the total reach by organization while **Figure 10** and **Table 5** break down total reach by region.

Figure 9. Total reach of youth substance use prevention efforts by organization

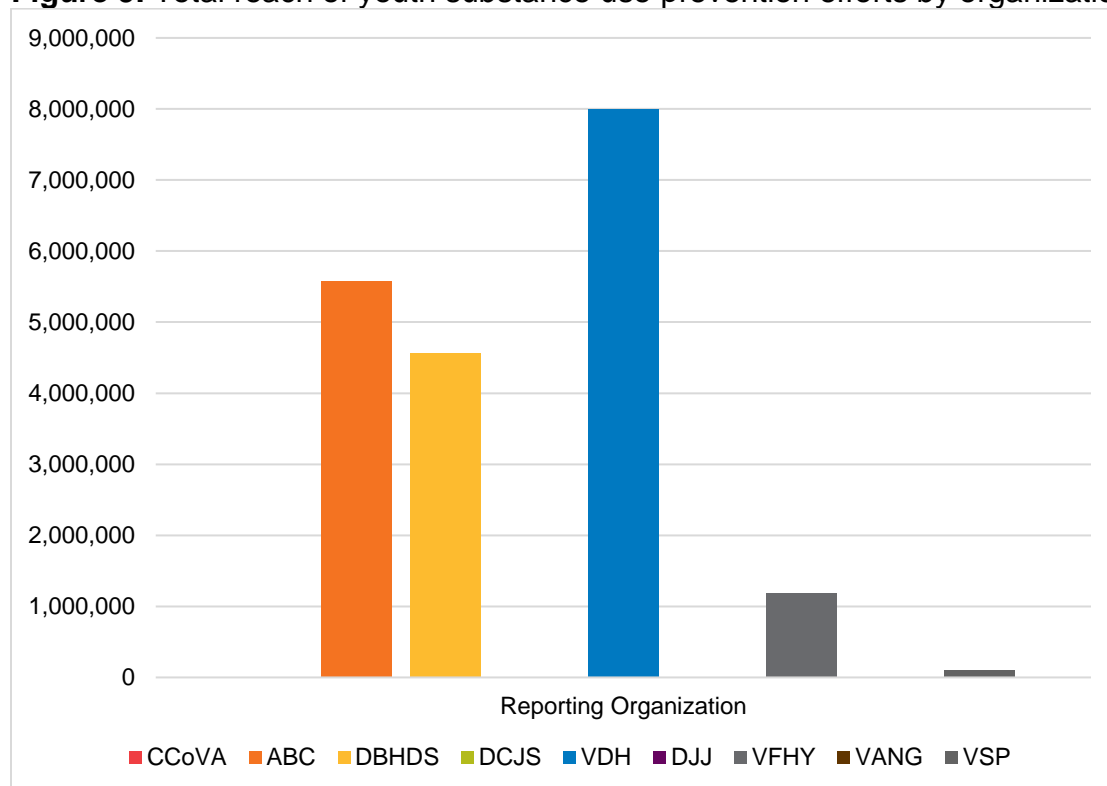


Table 4. Total reach of youth substance use prevention efforts by organization

Organization	Reach
Community Coalitions of Virginia	6,000
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	225,717
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	4,571,352
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	186
Virginia Department of Health	8,001,024
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	508
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	1,190,450
Virginia State Police	100,000
Virginia National Guard	14
Department of Motor Vehicles	Did not report a numerical estimate
Virginia Department of Education	Did not report a numerical estimate
Virginia Department of Social Services	Did not report a numerical estimate

Regional reach of youth substance use prevention efforts varies greatly across the Commonwealth. The Northern region carries 27 percent of the total reach of the all VOSAP member organization activities. **Figure 10** and **Table 5** provide a visualization of the differences between the eight VOSAP reporting regions. This reveals an unintentional gap in communication regarding focused efforts among VOSAP member organizations.

Figure 10. Total reach of youth substance use prevention efforts by region

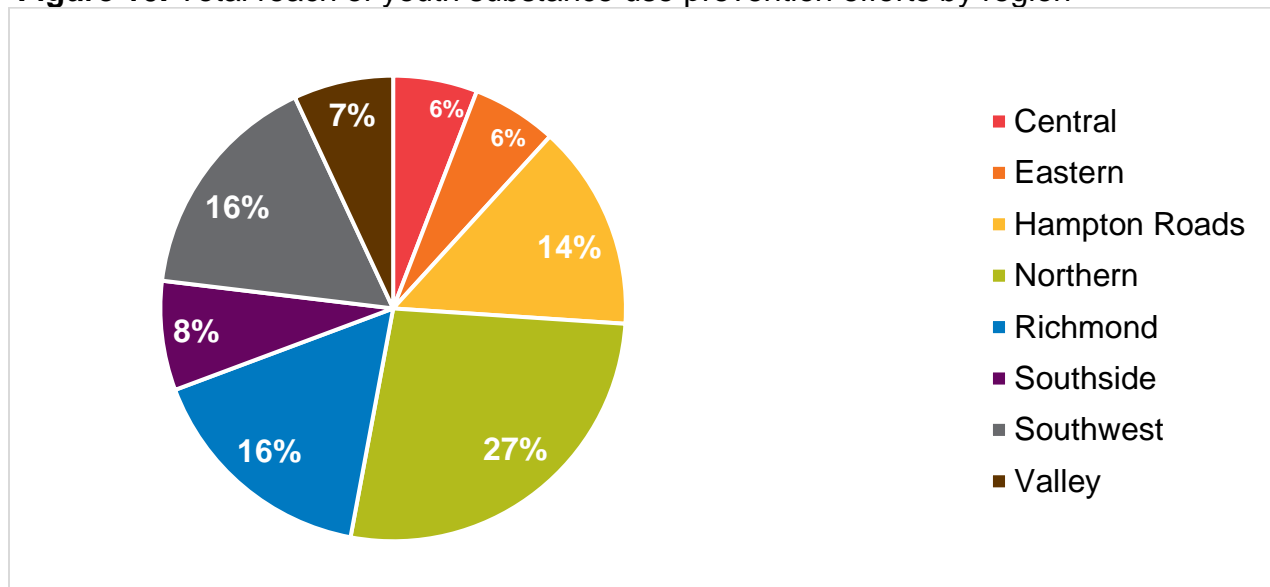


Table 5. Total reach of youth substance use prevention efforts by region

Region	Reach*
Central	86,775
Eastern	87,606
Hampton Roads	211,703
Northern	398,405
Richmond	242,728
Southside	112,540
Southwest	239,522
Valley	102,766

*Table 5 does not include reach from VDH as their reach was not collected by VOSAP reporting regions.

Unreported State Agencies

The Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and Virginia Department of Social Services did not report numerical estimates of reach for programming in the specific regions.

Activities and Initiatives

Leading organizations in youth substance use prevention implement programming that is evidence-based and supported by documented research of the effectiveness. Prevention activities and strategies implemented by VOSAP Collaborative members and their partners are detailed below.

Community Coalitions of Virginia

CCoVA is a statewide group of coalitions representing large and small, rural and urban communities, working collaboratively to prevent and reduce substance abuse and related risk factors in Virginia communities that are measurable and improve quality of life.

In fiscal year 2022, CCoVA provided experts in the field on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) prevention, and used speakers and prevention coalition spotlights.

Virginia ABC

The mission of Virginia ABC Education and Prevention is to eliminate underage and high-risk drinking by building the capacity for communities to educate individuals and prevent alcohol misuse. This is implemented through programming and resources offered for all age groups and community organizations. The following programs and resources were implemented throughout the Commonwealth during fiscal year 2022 to address youth substance use prevention.

- **Miss Virginia School Tour** – Virginia ABC provides a grant to the Miss Virginia Organization, in which Miss Virginia visits elementary schools spreading a message of health, wellness and prevention to students and teachers. At each visit, students receive a copy of Virginia ABC's elementary activity workbook. The Miss Virginia School Tour messaging aligns with the Virginia Standards of Learning of Advocacy and Health Promotion, Essential Health Concepts and Healthy Decisions. During fiscal year 2022 the Miss Virginia School Tour provided three methods for participation: pre-recorded, virtual live, and in-person (following federal, state and local social

distancing guidelines). Through the Miss Virginia School Tour, students: demonstrate knowledge of how to identify what is safe and healthy for their bodies; learn what positive choices are and how to make them and how to say “no” when something is not healthy for their bodies; learn what it means to be a leader in their community and among their friends; be able to identify who is a trusted adult and understand the role they play in their lives.

- **BOLT** - Being Outstanding Leaders Together Against Drugs and Alcohol (BOLT) offers free online trainings and resources to increase the capacity of middle school prevention professionals as they work to reduce youth substance use among their students. BOLT materials align with the Virginia Department of Education ATOD Standards of Learning (SOLs) and support middle school prevention activities including in-classroom curriculum instruction and participation in substance use awareness weeks.

Through BOLT students: demonstrate knowledge of the effects of alcohol and other drugs on the body and brain, as well as identify substance use consequences; understand the importance of peer leadership and positive decision making; recognize youth substance use influences; and the key concepts of social providing and peer pressure.

BOLT materials can be incorporated into both in-person and distance learning lesson plans.

- **YADAPP** - The Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) is a peer-led program for high school students to address underage substance use at the high school level. Typically, the annual YADAPP program kicks-off with a weeklong conference where students and adults are trained in substance use prevention best practices to develop a strategic plan to address a youth substance use issue in their community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, YADAPP was restructured to allow Teams of four student Participants and a dedicated Adult Sponsor to participate virtually via leadership and substance use prevention training session where they learned to develop strategic prevention plans addressing underage drug and alcohol use in their schools and communities. Teams received coaching from YADAPP Youth Staff to make modifications to their strategic plans to ensure they followed the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) prevention strategies. After the plans were finalized, Teams implemented their plans in their schools and communities utilizing leadership and prevention skills learned during the training modules. YADAPP focuses on providing Participants, Adult Sponsors and Youth Staff curriculum on leadership, drug and alcohol prevention, and strategic planning. Through YADAPP, program participants: broaden their knowledge of substance use prevention and work as a team to create a high school substance use prevention plan for their school; learn leadership skills needed to address common issues among youth; and network and build supportive relationships with others from across Virginia.
- **Project Sticker Shock** - Project Sticker Shock aims to prevent underage youth from obtaining alcohol from adults 21 or older or using a fake ID to purchase alcohol by raising community awareness about Virginia laws. During an event, participants place stickers and window clings that warn about the legal consequences for providing alcohol to underage youth and using a fake ID to purchase alcohol on cases and coolers of alcohol at local retailers. This program encourages partnership between community organizations, youth, retail establishments, law enforcement, media and other community members. Adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing guidelines, Virginia ABC partnered with community organizations to launch Project Sticker Shock in a virtual manner. The authority also partnered with on-premise alcohol retailers to place stickers on takeout containers. Additionally, Virginia ABC uses Project Sticker Shock materials to label

Virginia ABC products being delivered to customers with social providing prevention messaging.

- **Power of Parents** - Virginia ABC partnered with MADD Virginia to bring the Power of Parents program, free of charge, to parents and communities in Virginia. The Power of Parents handbooks and training will improve how parents and teens relate to each other and can help guide middle and high schoolers in positive decision making. The Power of Parents handbooks and trainings are adapted from Dr. Robert Turrisi's research at Pennsylvania State University with the goal of empowering parents to have effective conversations with their children about drinking. Handbooks are available online for downloading or ordering. Training is offered online or in-person for groups.
- **Publications** - Virginia ABC Education and Prevention provides the public with free publications for all ages. Publications are age-appropriate for all groups. The publications for elementary, middle and high school students and parents have been recorded in this report.
- **Alcohol Education and Prevention Grants** - Alcohol Education and Prevention Grants provide funding to organizations that are working to prevent underage and high-risk drinking. Grant applicants must address one or more priorities including: underage drinking prevention, social providing/social hosting prevention, or high-risk drinking prevention. The online training course will provide applicants with a structure to assess the needs of the community, identify their unique local issues, and explore what prevention best practices may work best for the selected objectives and audiences. Grantees are encouraged to build partnerships and embrace collaboration to achieve a meaningful, measurable, and long-lasting impact. During fiscal year 2022, grant partners faced many barriers in implementing their approved prevention efforts. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated modifications to adapt to virtual efforts and initiatives.

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

DBHDS Office of Behavioral Health Wellness (OBHW) utilizes SAMHSA's **Strategic Prevention Framework** (SPF) evidenced-based planning model for program development. This includes state and community data, building community and staff capacity, using a logic model for planning, implementing evidenced-based programs, practices and strategies, evaluation, cultural relevance, and sustaining positive outcomes. DBHDS OBHW has identified alcohol, tobacco, opioids, and cannabis/marijuana use prevention as top state priorities which the **Community Services Boards** (CSBs) and their local coalitions address with the resources provided to them from OBHW.

As a first step for addressing cannabis/marijuana, all CSBs will complete Community Readiness Assessments by September 30, 2022. (Note: SAMHSA's SOR II Grant allows for addressing stimulants in addition to opioids.) CSBs also have the flexibility to address local issues identified in their data.

Additionally, all CSBs include Over the Counter (OTC) medication in their efforts due to it being identified as easily accessible by youth for misuse. DBHDS OBHW has embraced addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a risk factor for substance misuse and abuse as identified in the research. As a result, we believe that ACEs, childhood trauma, is a predictor for substance misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

DBHDS and DBHDS funded partners provided the following prevention resources.

- 24/7 Dads
- ACEs Training
- Active Parenting
- AI's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST)
- Brochures / Rack Cards
- Community Events
- Community Mobilization
- Community Presentations / Town Halls
- Compliance Checks Counter Tools
- Counter Tools
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Drug Deactivation Packets
- Drug Take Backs
- Everyday Parenting
- Kognito At-Risk for High School Educators
- Family Check-Up
- Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones
- Hidden in Plain Sight
- Lock and Talk
- Life Skills Training (Botvin)
- Lock and Talk Media Campaign
- Adult & Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Merchant Education (Alcohol)
- Merchant Education (Tobacco)
- More Than Sad
- Multi-Agency Collaboration / Coalition
- Naloxone Distribution
- Naloxone Trainings
- Other Prevention Education
- Parenting Wisely
- Permanent Drug Dropboxes
- Prescriber, Pharmacy, Emergency Department and Patient Education
- Prescription Drug Lock Boxes
- Proper Disposal with Targeted Groups
- Public Policy
- Rx Bag Stickers
- Safe TALK
- Second Step
- Signs of Suicide (SOS)
- Smart Pill Bottles
- Social Marketing Campaign
- Social Norms Campaign
- Strengthening Families Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)
- Talk Saves Lives
- Targeted Media Messaging
- Teen Intervene
- Too Good for Drugs
- QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention
- Understanding Dad
- Youth Leadership Program

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

The DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) provided virtual programming for K-12 personnel and law enforcement with **Rams in Recovery at VCU**. These programs focus on on vaping, THC use, opioid use, and general misuse of prescription drugs. Additionally, DCJS collaborates with DBHDS on programming specific to opioid use and prevention.

Virginia Department of Education

While there is no specific state funding allocated to the Virginia Department of Education to address substance abuse prevention and intervention efforts in Virginia schools, several efforts took place in the 2021-2022 year.

Pursuant to **House Bill 1532** (2018), the Code of Virginia was amended to include § 22.1-207 directing the Board of Education to develop curriculum guidelines for health instruction on the safe use of and risks of abuse of prescription drugs with approval from the State Board of Health. On April 27, 2021, then-Commissioner M. Norman Oliver approved the proposed Curriculum Guidelines for Instruction on the Safe Use of and Risks of Abuse of Prescription Drugs on behalf of the State Board of Health. The Board of Education adopted the Curriculum Guidelines for Instruction on the Safe Use of and Risks of Abuse of Prescription Drugs on June 17, 2021. The proposed guidelines recognize the central role of the teacher and parents and focus on preventative school-based instruction for prescription drug abuse prevention. They provide actionable recommendations for optimizing health literacy, empowering teachers, encouraging collaborative supports and implementing evidence-based culturally responsive instructional resources aligned with the Health Education **Standards of Learning** and the EVERFI curriculum adopted by the Virginia Beach School Board. In addition, a

compendium of meaningful instructional materials and resources on the safe use of and risk of abuse of prescription drugs are housed on **Health Smart Virginia** (<https://healthsmartva.org/>).

In October 2021, in recognition of Substance Use Prevention Month, the Office of Student Services released a **Call to Action: Substance Abuse Prevention Document** to provide school-based mental health professionals with the resources and tools they need to prevent substance abuse in their schools and divisions. The document was shared with over 5,000 professionals through the GovDelivery email subscription management system.

Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports

The Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) offers continued training and technical assistance to school divisions to integrate and align evidence-based practices in a cohesive manner to address Tier 1 substance use prevention activities. In 2021 VTSS offered training on systems to develop and maintain trauma sensitive classrooms to create a support system within schools for students and families experiencing trauma. This is particularly helpful for students and their families as universal trauma sensitive approaches have been identified as a key area to address the impacts of substance use in the K-12 environment. Through this work VTSS has identified several key partners to collaboratively approach the work of substance use and prevention. On multiple occasions VTSS coaches presented materials related to trauma sensitive approaches in statewide and local training events. Overall, VTSS continues to provide training and technical assistance in alignment with mental wellness in areas such as trauma and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). VTSS is currently developing a series of aligned training modules with substance use content experts and experts in Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) who will introduce evidence-based substance use activities at the universal, targeted, and individual levels of intervention. This work will continue to grow and expand in support of school divisions across the Commonwealth in the 2022-2023 school year.

School Health Services

School Health Services focused on mental health and the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to school health staff, students and the greater school community. Factors related to the pandemic such as social isolation, stress, disruption of school and lack of access to drug treatment or emergency care heightened the potential for substance abuse and applied to both students and school staff. School health staff participated in workshops on strategies to address job stress, COVID fatigue and return to school including an information session with **VA Employee Assistance Program**. This support was well received by school health staff.

Additionally, the Summer Institute for School Nursing (SISN) culminated a series of workshop sessions on trauma sensitive care when assessing students in the school clinic. The reported increase of alcohol and substance abuse during the pandemic prompted the need for the development of an evaluation tool for licensed school health staff to use when assessing students seen in the clinic and suspected of potential substance abuse. This document, currently in development, will be followed by a statewide training later this year. In addition, resources such as “Getting Candid: Framing the conversation around youth substance abuse for tobacco and vaping” and “Parents against vaping and e-cigarettes” are readily available to school health staff. The VDOE collaborated with the VDH and DBHDS to link the ordering process for free Naloxone through VDH Central Pharmacy to the training provided by DBHDS for schools. Once the website revision is completed it will allow schools to access a link to training resources and order needed medication with one simple click.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

When adolescents strengthen their social-emotional skills, their risk of substance abuse

decreases. As a result of 2020 legislation, the VDOE developed SEL standards that Virginia school divisions may use to guide their SEL programming efforts. The Virginia SEL Guidance Standards were disseminated to Virginia public schools in July 2021.

The VDOE has created multiple resources to build educator awareness of social emotional learning and how it can be integrated into Virginia schools. The document, *A Shared Commitment: Building Foundational Support for Systemic Social Emotional Learning in Virginia*, offers insights into the shared responsibilities that all educators have in schoolwide SEL integration and the ways that SEL promotes inclusion. Additional resources to assist school divisions in the implementation of the SEL Guidance Standards are available in the [SEL Resource Library](#).

School Counseling

Individuals seeking initial licensure or renewal of licensure with an endorsement as a school counselor are required to complete training in the recognition of mental health disorders and behavioral distress including substance use (section 22.1-298.1 of the Code of Virginia). To assist counselors in meeting this requirement a series of recorded webinars and corresponding knowledge assessment were designed to increase school counselors' awareness and capacity to support students struggling with substance use.

Virginia Department of Health

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) remains focused on combating the addiction emergency in partnership with local, regional, state and federal agencies across the lifespan. VDH's primary goals and objectives for addiction response include:

- Prevent injury and death from addiction:
 - Implement provider-level strategies (prescription monitoring, education on safe prescribing practices)
 - Increase access to naloxone
 - Establish process to address needs of infants born to mothers with addiction
 - Increase education of the public and populations at risk
- Prevent and reduce infectious disease relating to addiction:
 - Increase education of the public and populations at risk
 - Promote identification of disease status (hepatitis/STD/HIV testing)
 - Conduct disease surveillance
 - Promote treatment as prevention (linkage to care, access to medications)
 - Implement Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR) programs
- Prevent and reduce the disease of addiction:
 - Support development of regional and community coalitions
 - Increase access to treatment via provider trainings on addiction disease management
 - Advocate for and assure access to treatment for substance abuse
 - Support expansion of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
 - Collaborate to assure and implement successful policy strategies
- Use data to monitor and evaluate the addiction epidemic:
 - Collect, analyze, and share data and information to inform evidence-based and data-driven decision making

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJJ) does not typically provide prevention services but rather provides intervention to youth for whom petitions have been filed. The agency provides and contracts with mental health / substance abuse treatment providers to conduct substance abuse treatment services to youth under community supervision and in direct care status who are assessed as needing substance abuse treatment. Youth in direct care status receive those services in a variety of settings including Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC), Community Placement Programs at local detention facilities and contracted residential treatment centers.

Some private provider agencies utilize Seven Challenges, an evidence-based treatment modality. Seven Challenges is a comprehensive service that incorporates a combination of counseling and skill-building activities to address substance use, co-occurring problems, and life skills deficits. A Youth Assessment & Screening Instrument (YASI) and companion narrative social history report is completed for all youth on community-based supervision (probation and parole). The YASI, which is a comprehensive tool that assesses for risk, needs and strengths/protective factors, includes screening questions on alcohol and drug use. Court service unit staff can also make referrals for substance abuse evaluations and substance abuse treatment services.

All committed youth undergo a comprehensive psychological evaluation, which includes detailed background history and information regarding previous mental health treatment, family dynamics, interpersonal functioning, academic functioning and history of criminal / delinquent behavior. Recommendations regarding treatment in the areas of mental health treatment (including psychiatric services), substance abuse treatment needs, aggression replacement training and other treatment recommendations - as applicable, are made at this time.

In part of the evaluative process, youth receive a drug and alcohol assessment, which utilizes the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory-A2 (SASSI-A2), or if 18 years or older, the SASSI-4. The SASSI-A2 helps to identify individuals who have a low or high probability of having a substance use disorder. The SASSI-A2 is designed to help service providers determine if an adolescent needs further assessment and possible treatment for a substance use disorder. Further, any substance abuse history is documented on the Intake Medical History Form, which questions frequency of use, age of first use and last use for a variety of drugs and alcohol including: cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, designer, and prescription drugs.

Residents in direct care also receive the YASI at the Court Services Unit (CSU) prior to commitment to help evaluate risk, needs, and protective factors to help develop case plans for juveniles. This tool includes a battery of questions on substance use and history. The YASI is updated quarterly at the facilities to enhance re-entry goals in collaboration with CSU staff and community partners.

Based on the battery of evaluations, assessments and screens that includes the psychological evaluation, YASI and SASSI, staff determine the best track for youth treatment: Track I: Cannabis Youth Treatment 12 (MET CBT - CYT 12) – Residents who meet the DSM-V-TR criteria for Substance Use Disorder will be deemed as in need of Track I services. Track II: Cannabis Youth Treatment 5 (MT CBT - CYT 5) – JCC Residents who have experimented with substances, but do not meet the DSM-V-TR criteria for Substance Use Disorder, will be deemed as in need of Track II services. Youth in direct care at non-JCC placements also receive substance abuse treatment according to Track I and Track II, but specific treatment delivery may vary by provider.

JCC residents assigned to participate in substance treatment are encouraged to collaborate

with their treatment team and/or QMHP about their individualized treatment plan. It should be noted that treatment plans may vary from basic completion of MET CBT - CYT5 or MET CBT - CYT12, to the addition of specific treatment objectives within a specialized therapy group (typically referred to as an ITP group), where residents with co-occurring disorders address individualized clinical issues. Clinical areas an ITP may address include:

1. Skill building to address: alcohol and drug refusal techniques; decision making/problem solving; relapse prevention; coping with alcohol and drug cravings; peer relations / peer pressure; etc.
2. Recognizing medical/physical effects, social consequences, and other various impacts of drug and alcohol abuse
3. Understanding the process and science of addiction
4. Therapies to address a co-occurring disorder
5. Recognizing basic defenses and how they relate to substance abuse
6. Understanding the effects of chemical dependency on the family
7. Examining how cognitive distortions (thinking errors) affect substance abuse and/or poor decision making
8. Examining how communicable diseases can be related to substance abuse and high-risk behaviors
9. Understanding cultural and gender issues and how they may relate to chemical dependency and recovery
10. Demonstrating coping skills related to relapse prevention
11. Understanding how trauma relates to substance abuse

The Behavioral Service Unit (BSU) was awarded a grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) programming aimed at youth substance use prevention. VFHY awarded \$50,000 for three years for a total of \$150,000. The residents will participate in two programs within the timespan of the grant. CATCH My Breath is focused on vaping and e-cigarettes. The peer-reviewed, evidence-based program was developed by The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health. INDEPTH (Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco, and Health) is an intervention program that focuses on tobacco use, nicotine dependence, and establishing healthy alternatives. It is a signature program of the American Lung Association. Not on Tobacco (NOT) is an additional 10-week voluntary cessation program that will be offered to residents following the INDEPTH program. NOT relies on interactive learning strategies based on Social Cognitive Theory.

CATCH My Breath is slated to begin in July 2022, and a pilot cohort of BSU therapists have completed training with VFHY and received accreditation to teach the course. Through CATCH My Breath, the BSU expects to reach 150 to 288 residents at the Bon Air JCC and across the state in Community Placement Programs for a total of 5,760 total teaching hours for the program. Residents will participate in four sessions, once a week. The lessons include videos, peer-led activities, and a poster-making project.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles highway safety office administers federal transportation safety grant funding to various organizations that engage in youth substance abuse prevention activities.

The Virginia Department of Education has grant funding to publicize the Choose Your Vibe

campaign, which is focused on teens and college-age students and promotes healthy lifestyles, including choosing not to use alcohol and drugs.

Federal transportation safety grant funds are also administered to Youth of Virginia Speak Out, or YOVASO, for a variety of educational programs focused on teens that promote healthy lifestyle decisions, including avoiding impairment while driving.

Virginia Department of Social Services

VDSS promotes and connects local departments of social services with community events aimed toward substance use prevention.

SPEAKOUT (Strong Positive Educated Advocates Keen On Understanding the Truth) is an advisory group for youth in foster care and foster care alumni (an adult previously in foster care) who are interested in using their voice to help change and improve the foster care system. DSS recognizes the importance of hearing the voice of the youth to make a difference in the way youth are served in the foster care system. SPEAKOUT is responsible for providing feedback directly to VDSS, legislators, other state agencies, LDSS directors, the Board for Social Services, and others.

There are services available under **Family First** practices Multi-systemic Therapy, which is a community-based, family-driven treatment for antisocial/delinquent behavior in youth. It focuses on “empowering” caregivers (parents) to solve current and future problems. The MST client is the entire ecology of the youth - family, peers, school, neighborhood. It is highly structured clinical supervision and quality assurance processes.

In addition, the Virginia Community Action Agency funds a statewide membership association for Virginia’s 31 non-profit private and public community action agencies called the Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP). VACAP’s mission is to build the capacity and competencies of Virginia’s community action agencies to achieve their mission of creating economic opportunities and facilitating mobility from poverty for Virginians. VACAP is committed to a future in which all of Virginia’s community action agencies are high impact and people and places across Virginia are thriving. A Community Action Agency (CAA) is a local organization with the mission of reducing poverty through programs and services that are targeted to the specific needs of the community. CAAs exist in almost every county and city in the United States. Most agencies are private nonprofits, and some agencies are units of local county or city governments. CAAs are designated by the governor and locally controlled. They are governed by a tripartite board that represents the low-income community, local elected officials, and private and public community stakeholders. CAAs receive funding and authority from the federal Community Services Block Grant. One example of a CAA that works on substance use is the **Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency, Inc.** They are working to enhance availability of community-based programs to help those affected by substance abuse, to include family members of substance users.

Internally, the VDSS hosts monthly Recovery Ally training sessions developed in collaboration with VCU Rams in Recovery and the SpiritWorks Foundation. This training explores how recovery is a long-term process with unique implications for success; confronts myths and stigma regarding addiction and recovery; considers appropriate and person-centered recovery language; develops listening skills to support people in need; dives into resources for people in recovery.

A companion website to the Recovery Ally training with additional resources exists called the “Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Ally Training Hub.” The Hub provides Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) staff, partners, and the public with information to build knowledge around SUD,

help better connect families to resources, increase SUD prevention activities, strengthen community collaboration and promote recovery. The videos and additional resources support a community of prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction and enable staff to activate strategies and solutions and encourage advocacy.

In association with a consultant contracted by the federal government, a Parent Mentor pilot program is in development. It is called “Expanding Evidence on Recovery and Reunification Interventions for Families” (R3). This project is a chance to build critical evidence on promising interventions that use recovery coaches to improve outcomes for families involved with the child welfare system due to parental SUD. R3 was first developed by Morrison Child and Family Services in Portland, Or., and the study is authorized under the 2018 SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. It will empower and motivate parents to sustain recovery and access critical services to improve child welfare and recovery outcomes at any stage of child welfare system involvement. The parent mentors will have lived experience with child welfare involvement and SUD recovery and offer peer recovery coaching.

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

VFHY funds community partners with the following evidence-based programs through a grant process, to reduce and prevent youth tobacco use throughout the Commonwealth each year:

- All Stars
- Al’s Pals
- Botvin LifeSkills Training
- CATCH My Breath
- INDEPTH
- Not on Tobacco
- Project Action
- Project Alert
- Project Success
- Project TNT
- Stanford University Tobacco Prevention Toolkit
- Strengthening Families Program
- Too Good For Drugs

VFHY also funds and implements the following prevention marketing initiatives statewide:

- Behind the Haze
- Down and Dirty
- Unfazed

Virginia National Guard

The Virginia National Guard provides requesting Community Based Organizations (CBOs) with resources and personnel support in developing and implementing community initiatives. Our personnel in the Drug Demand and Reduction Outreach (DDRO) program are trained in the SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) and help CBOs tailor this strategy to their specific coalition needs. This framework is a dynamic, data-driven process that practitioners can use to understand and more effectively address the substance abuse and related mental health problems facing communities.

The Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) continues to be an integral part of the Commonwealth’s efforts to reduce the availability and demand for illegal drugs by supporting law enforcement agencies with investigative case analysis, aviation support and by integrating U.S. Army and Air Guardsmen in community substance abuse prevention coalitions.

Virginia State Police

VSP receives a DMV VAHSO grant to implement the Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) program. The mission of YOVASO is to engage, educate, and empower

youth to influence a safe driving culture through leadership development and innovative outreach programs. YOVASO fulfills its mission by working with high schools, middle schools, and youth groups to establish youth-led advocacy programs throughout the Commonwealth.

The following prevention strategies are implemented through YOVASO:

- Peer-To-Peer traffic safety service learning clubs in middle and high schools and Community youth groups in Virginia, with a focus on zero tolerance/impaired driving prevention. This year there were 70 active clubs during reporting period in all regions of Virginia.
- Peer-To-Peer traffic safety campaigns provided for schools and communities, with focus on zero tolerance/impaired driving prevention. Three campaigns provided during the reporting period with a focus on zero tolerance/impaired driving prevention: Halloween Safety Campaign, Holiday (Christmas-New Years) Safety Campaign, Arrive Alive Campaign (focus on prom, graduation, and warm weather high-risk period). Sixty schools participated. Campaigns reached 85,000 students plus over 100,000 on social media.
- Interactive programming to provide students with real-life, hands-on experiences on the dangers of risking driving behaviors, including impaired driving. Programs include: Scan-Ed Physics of a Crash and the Distracted and Impaired Driving Simulators. Statewide 83 programs were offered, reaching 13,000 youth.
- Leadership Development Training to prepare students to be advocates for youth traffic safety by educating them about crash risks and building leadership skills. A total of 150 new students were trained during the reporting period.
- Summer Leadership Retreat – An advanced, four-day, three-night training opportunity for students, the retreat prepares students to develop an action plan for the upcoming school year to address traffic safety problems in their schools and communities, including impaired driving. The 2022 Summer Leadership Series was held virtually due to COVID. A total of 180 registered to participate, including 137 students and 43 teacher/SRO advisors. 94 Virginia schools and youth groups attended.
- Youth Advisory Council - Provides an opportunity for students to work at the statewide level to address their leading health risk, motor vehicle crashes. Fifteen students worked on the advisory council during the reporting period.
- Safe driving messaging, including zero tolerance messaging, on social, digital, and traditional media.

Gaps in Youth Substance Use Prevention Efforts

Based on data in **Figure 8** and **Table 5**, a majority of funding (20 percent or \$1,409,787) for youth substance use prevention efforts was spent in the Richmond region, while the Eastern region received the least amount of funding (seven percent or \$461,159). This is a change from fiscal year 2021, where the Southside region received the least amount of funding.

Based on the 2020 census population data located on the **Virginia Social Indicator Dashboard** and the fiscal year reach, seen in **Table 6**, the lowest reach occurred in the Central region (86,775) and Eastern region (87,606). Interestingly, despite receiving the least amount of funding, the Eastern region (\$461,159) showed the largest percentage of the population reached by prevention efforts (62.59%). The Central region showed the lowest percentage of the population reached (12.48%).

Table 6. An overview of regional population and prevention effort reach and financials

Region	2020 Population	FY22 Reach	% of Population Reached	Spent in FY22	Spent per person in FY22
Central	695,056	86,775	12.48%	\$470,893	\$5.43
Eastern	139,913	87,606	62.61%	\$461,159	\$5.26
Hampton Roads	1,702,855	211,703	12.43%	\$932,293	\$4.40
Northern	2,968,373	398,405	13.42%	\$1,056,620	\$2.65
Richmond	1,257,119	242,728	19.31%	\$1,409,787	\$5.81
Southside	372,316	112,540	30.23%	\$719,495	\$6.39
Southwest	808,516	239,522	29.62%	\$1,231,914	\$5.14
Valley	628,962	102,766	16.34%	\$666,937	\$6.49

Data found in **Table 6** reveals gaps in the percent of population reach across the eight established regions. In the Eastern region, 62.95 percent of the population was reached through the prevention efforts of VOSAP Collaborative member agency initiatives. The Southside and Southwest regions reached about half of this figure, at 30.22 percent and 29.60 percent, respectively. Remaining regions received far lower reach.

Inconsistent statewide implementation of and communication regarding youth substance use prevention initiatives leads to the inconsistency of population reached and funding spent within each region. Additionally, each organization collects, and reports youth substance use prevention efforts and measures in a different way. Some organizations report youth prevention efforts in age groups up to 18 years of age, while others report youth prevention efforts in age groups up to 22 years of age. The reporting format also varies per organization; some initiatives implemented by VOSAP member agencies are implemented and reported on statewide and data is not broken down into regions.

A standardized, unified method of data collection and reporting would benefit the Commonwealth as it relates to youth substance use prevention. This is key in effectively integrating and streamlining prevention efforts and providing a unified front on youth substance use prevention.

Unmet Substance Use Prevention Needs

One of the greatest unmet needs for youth substance use prevention is developing messages that relates and reaches the diverse audiences of the Commonwealth.

The following organizations identified unmet substance use prevention needs which have been described below.

Community Coalitions of Virginia

CCoVA identifies consistent statewide data as a significant challenge to implementing its mission.

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Workforce development and enhancement is a critical need in addressing youth substance use prevention because the workforce is retiring and/or moving on to other more financially feasible professions. Efforts need to be made to heighten the appeal of prevention with viable incomes

and more parity and priority as with treatment efforts. Additionally, more funding is needed for underage cannabis prevention.

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

It has been very difficult to find relevant and engaging subject matter experts to present and facilitate workshops on substance misuse and abuse. Our sessions are always full, so the need is there, but presenters are hard to find.

Virginia Department of Education

It has been identified that teachers require additional resources and professional development opportunities to address youth substance use prevention and education.

Virginia Department of Health

VDH notes that secure, ongoing funding is needed for disproportionately affected communities.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

DMV notes a lack of organizations with ideas on youth substance abuse and drugged and drunk driving prevention applying for federal transportation safety grants.

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) is funded through the Master Settlement agreement and our funds are primarily to be used for tobacco and nicotine prevention for Virginia youth and young adults. We have recently been tasked with adding other substance use prevention to our initiatives but without additional funding. More funds provided by the General Assembly would be very helpful for VFHY to successfully implement additional programming.

Virginia National Guard

The Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force is currently rebuilding its program to provide support to coalitions. Of 22 requests, 13 community-based organizations were supported. The state legalization of recreational marijuana use has hindered efforts to mitigate and educate about its harmful effects.

Virginia State Police

VSP has seen increased participation by school systems across the state in peer-to-peer youth substance abuse prevention programs.

VOSAP Collaborative Meeting Summaries

Meeting notes from all fiscal year 2022 VOSAP Collaborative meetings in order from July 2021 to June 2022 are detailed below. Full copies of meeting minutes can be found on the [Commonwealth Calendar](#).

August 19, 2021, Discussion Topics

- Meeting Program: Review of VOSAP 2022 Annual Report data and submissions
- Governor Northam's Opioid and Addiction Initiatives: The Prevention Workgroup has been inactive due to prioritization of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Organization Updates:

- **DBHDS** worked with Virginia ABC to submit the STOP Act Report as it relates to alcohol prevention across the Commonwealth. Approximately 16 million dollars has been received in grant funding through the American Rescue Act and Consolidated Appropriation Grant. Most of this funding will go directly to the Community Service Boards and priorities have been established to address adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

DBHDS reported that it continues to add resources to support the infrastructure of community coalitions across Virginia. One of the biggest gaps for community coalitions is that they do not have sustained capacity with a staff person.

Resources have also been allocated to marijuana prevention and gambling prevention.

- **DCJS** reported that the Center for School and Campus Safety received a grant to support the statewide roll out of the “Handle with Care” program to support students who are exposed to trauma. This notifies schools to provide trauma support (without specific details) for the students as they need it. Ten localities are currently fully participating and six more are working to fully implement in the next few months. DCJS has a goal to have 12 localities fully participating by March 2022.

DCJS is also working with “Safe and Sound Schools” for new mental health and prevention education modules for schools. Training modules will cover 16 topics focusing on addiction prevention and trauma-informed schools.

- **DOE** reported that they have drafted the Health Framework related to the Health Education standards of learning (SOLs). One strand of the framework is focused on substance abuse and misuse prevention. This strand of the framework is currently being reviewed by the Central Virginia Overdose Working Group. If any organizations are interested in reviewing the Health Framework draft, please contact **Dr. Dani Almarode**.

DOE continues to cultivate resources to add to the **Health Smart Virginia** site. If you have any resources you would like to link to, please contact **Vanessa Wigand**.

- **DJJ** is currently looking to implement a smoking cessation program that is 10 sessions with prevention pieces integrated in the sessions. Additionally, DJJ is hoping to implement a vaping/e-cigarette use prevention program. DJJ Residential Services is currently working to navigate the mandatory vaccination requirements (or regular COVID testing) of state employees and how this may impact staffing resources.
- **VDH** partnered with American Society of Addiction Medicine to hold four medically assisted treatment (MAT) waiver trainings. Trainings are held for prescribers to receive their waiver to provide MAT to patients. Attendance was lower than previous years, which is believed to be due to the change of prescribing laws, however, there has been an increase of medical doctors connected with practices.
- **DSS** has published a new training and technical assistance website, **www.recoveryallyvdss.com**, in partnership with **VCU Rams in Recovery** to support students and families who are dealing with substance misuse. DSS’s goal is to help support and unite families dealing with substance use disorders (SUD). Additionally, DSS is

working to engage peer recovery specialists to support those in recovery. DSS is partnering with DBHDS and Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) for funding for future projects.

- **VSP** held their annual Youth of Virginia Speak Out Against Traffic Safety (**YOVASO**) summer leadership series, which includes six weeks of training for high school students to be advocates for safe driving. Students learned how to be safer in a vehicle and advocacy techniques to implement in their local communities. Speaker Bobby Petrocelli addressed the consequences of impaired driving and making healthy choices.

VSP's peer-to-peer programming is up and running to train student leaders, school resource officers and other school staff, as well as hosting action planning sessions, to help schools plan activities related to safe driving and impaired driving prevention for the upcoming school year.

The fall campaign, *Drive for Change; Buckle Up and Slow Down*, will be held October 1 – October 31. There will be a focus around Halloween to encourage students to drive safely, make good choices and to not consume alcohol and other drugs.

Additionally, the VSP driving under the influence (DUI) and distracted driving simulator is available for in-person events for community and school groups.

- **VFHY**, with the support of DBHDS, has continued to host **behavioral health trainings**, many focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Trainings will continue in August and September.

If you would like to be added to the email list for trainings, please contact **Glencora Gudger**.

VFHY is in the beginning stages of planning a marijuana legalization webinar series. The series will begin with a session focusing on defining recreational use and identifying what is and is not legal. There will also be a session on the history of the legalization of marijuana use; how it began in other states and how it has impacted other states. The trainings will also focus on the impact of marijuana legalization on youth and the impact marijuana use has on the youth brain. Additional training will focus on counter marketing and its importance in preventing youth marijuana use as well as the issue of marijuana use and legalization as it pertains to racial equity.

VFHY has been asked to implement counter marketing related to marijuana use similarly to their current obesity and tobacco use prevention programs.

- **CCoVA** implemented a membership survey to lead the organization's strategic planning. This feedback will provide information to support building the capacity of coalitions across Virginia.

CCoVA meets on the first Monday of each month; however, due to a holiday, the next meeting will be on September 13, 2021.

- The **DEA Diversion Control Division** – Washington Division Office covers Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia substance misuse prevention. DEA continues to host lunch

and learn sessions for health care professionals on topics such as the handling and prescribing of controlled substances. The next session is on August 31 and is free and available to anyone interested in substance misuse prevention. DEA has announced the first veterinary medicine web conference in partnership with the Virginia Veterinarian Medicine Board and the Virginia Veterinarian Medicine Association to be held on September 14, 2021.

October 23, 2021 is the next **Drug Take Back event**. The Commonwealth of Virginia continues to be a strong participant of the Drug Take Back event with local organizations and coalitions.

If any organizations are interested in the training sessions, materials, speakers, or support from the DEA related to controlled substances, please contact **Anect Rivas-Mattei**.

- **Virginia ABC** reported that they will continue to offer the Miss Virginia School Tour as a free opportunity for elementary schools. The program will be offered in three environments: live in-person, live virtually, and virtually pre-recorded. The program learning objectives and messaging are derivative of the DOE SOLs related to substance use prevention for grades kindergarten through fifth.

Alcohol Education and Prevention grantees have begun to receive funding for their fiscal year 2022 prevention initiatives. Strategies include adjustments to the COVID-19 pandemic learned through fiscal year 2021 and through coaching by Virginia ABC.

Abby Pendleton is leaving the role of Youth Education and Prevention Coordinator and VOSAP Facilitator as of August 24, 2021. In the interim please contact **Education@VirginiaABC.com**.

November 18, 2021, Discussion Topics

- Meeting Program: Review of the 2020 SWOT analysis
 - It was requested that members share instances of collaboration within the VOSAP group. No VOSAP collaborations were identified, and a future goal will be to identify ways in which members and their agencies can work together on programs and goals.
- Organization Updates:
 - **DCJS** reported that data from the school climate survey is being used to inform substance abuse prevention programming. Dates are set for several trainings around the state and virtually. Trainings can be found on the DCJS website under the trainings tab. A new program on vaping and marijuana use is going to be launched soon. DCJS is also looking for a presenter to speak on adolescent substance abuse and mental health. Additionally, there is a new initiative with six localities working on gang and gun violence prevention.
 - **DOE** is building a library of remote professional development for school personnel to enhance school mental health services. Professional development trainings can be found at this website: <https://vastudentservices-clc.org/learning-center/>. The primary focus of the trainings is on mental health, but there are other mental health-related trainings, as

well. Social emotional learning standards were established July 1. DOE has received grants to help add social emotional learning to classrooms and has issued several RFPs to award schools with funds to help support social-emotional health. DOE is also working on an education plan that goes with the legalization of marijuana, laying out how to request funding, what resources are available, and what DOE can provide to students and parents. DOE is also finishing up applying for a grant where health and physical education teachers across the state can access resources and lesson plans regarding the nine different strands that are covered in the education standards. They have provided curriculum frameworks for health and P.E. teachers to aid them in teaching these nine strands. Teaching strands can be found on this website: <https://healthsmartva.org/>.

- **VDH** is in the procurement process for scheduling four MAT waiver trainings in the spring for physicians who are prescribers of opiates. Three ECHO hubs (VCU, UVA and Carilion Clinic) that work with physicians treating opioid use disorders remain active. VDH is currently working to schedule planning sessions for convening state and local level stakeholders in developing a response protocol for clinic closures due to law enforcement action taken against opioid prescribers.
- **DJJ** continues to provide services while adapting to COVID-19 and staff shortages. DJJ has applied for grants to address vaping and tobacco prevention.
- **DMV** reported providing funding to Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (VAHPERD) for their Choose Your Vibe program that promotes healthy lifestyles among teens and youth. DMV also provides funding to Youth of Virginia Speak Out about Traffic Safety (YOVASO) for a variety of safe driving programs that target students. Lastly, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) has a new grant for the 2021-22 year.
- **DSS** is rolling out Recovery Ally training, with training dates available once a month. DSS has also finished substance use disorder (SUD) ally training that goes over several topics regarding SUD prevention. The website can be found here: <https://virginiasservice.virginia.gov/community-support/sud-ally-training-hub/>. DSS is working on a parent support pilot program that will support parents involved in child protective services. The Framework for Addiction Analysis and Community Transformation (FAACT) dashboard is available to provide local access to the data behind the work of SUD prevention.
- **Virginia ABC** hired Jenn Nixon as Virginia ABC's Youth Education and Prevention Coordinator. The Alcohol Education and Prevention grant program will be accepting applications starting January 1, 2022. The application will close March 1, 2022. Two white papers will soon be available on the Education and Prevention website: one regarding the Three Tier System and another on the Control State System.

February 17, 2022, Discussion Topics

- Meeting program: Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Efforts presentation
 - **Melanie Stokes** from Virginia DMV presented on Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Efforts currently being organized and implemented by DMV and the Virginia Highway

Safety Office. These efforts in DUI Task Forces, Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Instructor Training, the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program, and Advance Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training. Educational effort partners include non-profit organizations, law enforcement, and other government agencies and departments.

- Organization Updates:

- **DBHDS** has been focusing on addressing problem gambling. One of the biggest concerns is the age of those who are participating in online gambling. Treatment services report an increased number of individuals who are reaching out for treatment and assistance. DBHDS is also focusing a lot of efforts on cannabis education and prevention as legalization begins September 1. As part of their budget request, DBHDS is requesting a full-time position to focus on cannabis use.

Looking at opportunities to distribute ARPRA funds. DBHDS has been focusing on addressing problem gambling. One of the biggest concerns is the age of those who are participating in online gambling. DBHDS is planning to give CSBs power to do needs assessment for gambling prevention. Concerned about the young people who are participating in online gambling as requests for treatment and recovery services are escalating. DBHDS is also focusing a lot of efforts on cannabis education and prevention as legalization begins September 1. As part of their budget request, DBHDS is requesting a full-time position to focus on cannabis use. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) program has exploded with 300 trainers being trained, that in turn have trained 18,000 community members. Planning to provide school faculty trauma informed school training. Retail alcohol violations were 8.6% and recently jumped up 16.8%. This number increased because underage checks were not happening due to COVID.

- **DCJS** has a number of training initiatives going on, especially around trauma-informed training. They are also looking for a good substance abuse trainer especially around vaping and marijuana. Schools have been reaching out for information and training in that area.

The “Handle with Care” program is taking off in Virginia with Betsy Bell heading up state coordination. Eleven divisions participated, 16 more school divisions are signed to participate by next school year and 21 requests in process. DCJS focus on school mental health personal in substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, and trauma informed care. Schools are looking for trainings with DCJS creating a partnership with the VA PTA, providing lunch and learns, in-person trainings. Currently developing online modules for knowledge not credit, substance abuse and suicide prevention will be included, and the trainings will be geared towards school personnel and parents.

DCJS posted grant due March 11 Juvenile delinquency. For more information, contact Laurel Marks.

- **VDOE** posted health curriculum frameworks that it was tasked to create from standing legislation. Held two board meetings in February to hear public comments on proposed changes, comments were heard from PE teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and other stakeholders. Submitted legislation for the marijuana education plan and requested money to support implementation of substance abuse and misuse programming for this. VDOE also made a request for funding for implementation of Drivers Ed SOLs

framework changes due to feedback on implementation needs. DOE will be working to support teachers with this for training. The VDOE team is meeting to next week to address the comments from the public hearings.

March 17 VDOE will have the final proposed frameworks and SOLs for approval with plans for this to be implemented by the 2022-2023 school year.

- **VDH** is continuing with current work and focusing on running opioid case management Project ECHO at VCU, UVA, and Carilion. VDH is also working with Carilion Clinic on the ED Bridge to Treatment Project. This program provides those patients who arrive to the ED dope sick or in need of treatment program assistance in providing treatment initiation and linkage to ongoing treatment. VDH is working with DMAS on this project as well.

VDH is also working on new initiatives with comprehensive harm reduction sites to provide resources to patients like fentanyl test strips, adding in screening for intimate partner violence and suicide prevention, and linking those identified to be in need of these services to appropriate resources and treatment. VDH is hosting an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Master Train-the-Trainer training session. If anyone would like to join to become a master trainer, please reach out to Liz Zaunick.

- **DJJ** reports that Amy Floriano has become the new Director. DJJ was awarded the Juvenile Justice Healthy Grant from Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. This grant is from December 2021 to June 2024, using the funding to create prevention program on vaping. It consists of a two-part program: a four-session prevention piece, and a ten-session smoking cessation program which will be rolled out for youth.
- **DMV** reports no additional news beyond the presentation at the beginning of the meeting.
- **DSS** is working towards delivering a recovery ally training for all staff. Big push for the department to bring in recovery specialist and piloting a program of peer recovery specialists particularly who have lived the child welfare process. Working DBHDS to apply and rollout a statewide recovery core program to join Americorps (RecoveryCorps), currently there are small versions of this program, but DSS wants to expand throughout the state.
- **VFHY** is working on implementing statewide youth cannabis prevention campaign. Research step of the process is done, with the next step being production and development of the campaign, including developing the initial message package. The plan is to launch the campaign in April. Formative research that was conducted was the largest done on cannabis use from youth. Thirty percent of youth overall are in a household that a guardian or parent uses cannabis, and youth see that direct experience with cannabis as of little risk to them. VFHY feels that parent cannabis use is underreported as a difference of 15% of youth who reported vaping marijuana daily, did not report using marijuana as though they don't see them as the same thing. In 2019, 1 in 5 youth reported use of cannabis. Hope to have more recent numbers soon and will be interesting to compare the numbers with 2019's numbers.
- **CCoVA** focused on the legislative season, members working on reaching out to elective officials focusing on bills of concern which includes marijuana. CCoVA is working on getting

tools and resources out to coalition members regarding the potential cannabis legislation. Strategic planning begins in March.

- **MADD** is following legislation focused on impaired driving bills that are coming up in session. Thanks to the DMV, MADD now has a full-time social media and public relations specialist. Starting Power Talk 2022 initiative and have added a marijuana component which encourages parents to talk about marijuana and alcohol use. Running this program from start of April to end of May.
- **Virginia ABC** reports that the Education and Prevention Section is now officially the Education and Prevention Division and is preparing for divisional annual planning. The ABC Grant Program is currently accepting applications until March 1. If you are interested in additional information, reach out to Jenn Nixon or visit the education tab on the Virginia ABC website. Our annual Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) kick-off conference will be virtual this year. Dates are July 11 – 14, and registration opens on April 1.

May 19, 2022, Discussion Topics

- Meeting program: Handle with Care: Trauma Informed Communication System presentation
 - **Betsy Bell**, K-12 Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Coordinator for Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety at Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, gave a presentation entitled an overview of the Handle With Care program, which allows communities to support trauma-sensitive support to children in their district.
- Organization Updates:
 - **DCJS** scheduled substance use prevention sessions at the end of the summer for school staff as well as trauma-informed discipline and suicide prevention for schools and law enforcement. They are also focusing on the Handle with Care program as presented in the speaking session during this meeting. Virginia recently received the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) State Award for Excellence in coalition development.
 - **DOE** reports that the health curriculum framework was passed by the board and the upcoming 2022-2023 school year will be a year to get used to the framework update. They have had some school divisions reach out regarding the curriculum framework. Vanessa Wigand with DOE is focused on legislation that affects health, like gambling prevention being included in resources for teachers. That falls under addictive behaviors under the health framework.

DOE is also working to implement programming requirements from bills that were passed regarding cannabis, vaping, tick-borne illnesses and personal safety. Current recruiting speakers for their Health & Physical Activity Institute July 11-13 at James Madison University, if anyone is interested in possibly speaking on a health-related topic, please reach out to Dani Almarode at danielle.almarode@doe.virginia.gov.

- **VDH** continues to work on prevention targeting across the lifespan. VDH continues the ECHO series in partnership with UVA, VCU, and the Carilion Clinic. Completed Adverse

Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Master Train-the-Trainer in February targeting law enforcement professionals. VDH continues to work on a pilot program at comprehensive harm reduction sites that includes funding Community Navigator positions which will help with comprehensive screening and linking folks to services.

- **DJJ** reports that they are making progress on a grant from VFHY for prevention work. Vaping Program “Catch My Breath” and added a Grant Administrator, with some trainings and events coming up. They also have “In Depth”, a program about smoking prevention, and smoking cessation “Not On Tobacco” program as well.
- **DMV** now has 53 Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) police officers, up from 21 in August 2020, more than doubling the number of DREs after legalization of recreational cannabis use was one of the Virginia’s goals. Virginia State Police and DMV are collaborating on the current DRE course, which started this past May 16 and runs through Friday, May 27, with a week of certifications June 19 through 26 in Winston-Salem, N.C. This is a lot of time, effort and commitment for these 11 officers.
- **DSS** is still working on monthly Recovery Ally Training, this allows for private trainings as well if requested. Peer mentor program is being created R3, <https://virginiashelp.virginia.gov/community-support/sud-ally-training-hub/>, looking for funding sources. If anyone has a suggestion on a funding source, please reach out to Stephen Wade. Recovery Corps coming to Virginia, and they have a couple of positions available if anyone is interested, please visit this link: <https://www.minnesotarecoverycorps.org/virginia>. DMAS and DSS are offering a training series, first one is May 24 and will continue through the summer including covering topics such as Family and Substance Use Disorders and Alcohol and Cannabis Use Disorders.
- **VFHY** is offering the Empowered Series, a series of webinars and trainings that they are continuing through July, visit their website at: <https://www.vfhy.org/marketing/unfazed/>, <https://www.unfazedva.com/>, <https://www.vfhy.org/events/>. Launched their Unfazed marketing campaign to focus on cannabis use prevention to teens including commercials, marketing to 13 –17-year-old range. Prior to the launch of this campaign, they completed the largest cannabis use survey which shows that 71% ages 15-17 perceive that cannabis use twice a week proves no risk to their health, so VFHY is focusing on the health effects from cannabis use through the Unfazed program.
- **VANG** reports working with many state agencies and coalitions under drug prevention programs. Additionally, they are doing awareness work around human trafficking. Supporting officers for Law Enforcement Appreciation Week with Cookout with Cops, providing food to police departments around the area.
- **CCoVA**: Trying to reframe how we discuss marijuana and cannabis in an effort to make sure to use language that youth respond to and understand. Focusing on strategic planning, hired a consultant and identified four focus areas. If anyone would like to be a part of the CCoVA weekly newsletter to share information or to get information, please contact Jill at: infoccova@gmail.com
- **Virginia ABC News and Updates**: The Youth Education and Prevention Coordinator position is currently vacant and is open for applications on the Virginia ABC website. Our

annual Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) kick off conference will be virtual this year. Dates are July 11 – 14th and registration ends on June 1.

Final Summary

Through the review of information submitted for fiscal year 2022, \$9,349,098 was spent on youth substance use prevention efforts reaching an estimated number of 22,055,024 individuals throughout the Commonwealth. Reporting organizations shared information by region in a format pre-determined by VOSAP Collaborative members. Evaluation of this data shows there is not only inequity in the percentage of regional populations reached across the Commonwealth, but there is also inequity in per capita prevention spending.

Additionally, data on youth substance use behaviors, is limited. While the **Virginia Social Indicator Dashboard** reports substance use behaviors by locality and Community Service Board service areas, youth data is not specifically reported. This gap in data collection does not allow for a direct comparison of regional youth substance use behaviors and the need for youth substance use prevention initiatives in those regions. The **Virginia Youth Survey** does collect statewide youth substance use behaviors bi-annually.

In the coming year, the VOSAP Collaborative will consider ways to improve the reach and impact of programs across the Commonwealth, as well as methods to facilitate sharing data between member organizations.

VOSAP Collaborative Contact Information

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Future VOSAP Meeting Dates

VOSAP meets on a quarterly basis on the third Thursday of the first month of the quarter. Meetings are held virtually or at a collaborative organization's location. Upcoming meeting dates are:

- February 16, 2023
- May 18, 2023