MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DRUG & ALCOHOL PREVENTION

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC PLAN

As prescribed by Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs:
The needs assessment and strategic planning process is designed to profile population needs, resources and readiness to address needs and gaps. The process involves the collection and analysis of data to define problems within a geographic area. Assessing resources includes identifying service gaps, assessing cultural competence, and identifying the existing prevention infrastructure in the county. It also involves assessing readiness and leadership to implement programs, strategies, policies and practices. Long term and intermediate goals are set and a plan created to address and evaluate progress towards meeting the goals.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?
Completing this data driven county-wide needs assessment has provided us with a greater understanding of the substances being used/misused, as well as the related social, economic, health and other negative consequences.

WHY ARE THE PROBLEMS OCCurring?
Data driven discussion has allowed us to identify the specific risk factors most impacting substance misuse within our county.

WHY ARE PROBLEMS OCCurring HERE?
Additionally, we have engaged key stakeholders in data driven discussion to determine the specific contributing factors that are influencing these behaviors in our county.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?
We have identified specific programs, strategies, policies, and practices to influence the identified behaviors and risk factors, created measurable goals around those behaviors and risk factors as well as a plan to evaluate our progress towards our goals.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

DATA DRIVEN

Engaging in a strategic community conversation process has allowed us to identify specific, localized contributing factors that connect with our Risk/Protective Factors. The primary data source used is the PA Youth Survey (PAYS).
**CURRENT PROBLEM AREAS**

**DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS**

**PERCEIVED RISK OF DRUG USE**

**TARGETED AREAS AND ASSOCIATED RISK/CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

**PARENTAL ATTITUDES FAVORABLE TOWARDS DRUG USE**

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**PROBLEM AREA 1**
**YOUTH ALCOHOL USE**
We are seeing higher than the state rates of 30 day alcohol use by 8th, 10th, 12th graders which contributes to high juvenile liquor arrests, youth DUI arrests and DUI crashes increasing over time.

**PROBLEM AREA 2**
**YOUTH MARIJUANA USE**
We are seeing higher than the state average of 30 day marijuana use by 10th and 12th graders contributing to juvenile drug arrests.

**PROBLEM AREA 3**
**YOUTH VAPING**
We are concerned about 30 day vaping by 10th and 12th graders which is higher than the state average.

**DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS**

**PERCEIVED RISK OF**

**DRUG USE**

**Targeted Areas and Associated Risk/Contributing Factors**

**PARENTAL ATTITUDES FAVORABLE TOWARDS DRUG USE**

**ATTITUDES FAVORABLE TOWARDS DRUG USE**

**ALCOHOL**

**LONG TERM GOALS:**
Decrease youth past 30 day alcohol use by 10-15% by 2029.
Decrease Youth DUI Crashes by 10% from 5.3% to 4.77% by 2029.

**INTERMEDIATE GOALS:**
Increase the number of youth reporting clear family rules about alcohol and drug use by 10% from 87.5% to 96.25% by 2023.

**MARIJUANA**

**LONG TERM GOALS:**
Decrease youth past 30 day marijuana use by 10% by 2029.

**INTERMEDIATE GOALS:**
Decrease the number of youth willing to try marijuana before 21 years old by 10% from 16.4% to 14.76% by 2023.

**VAPING**

**LONG TERM GOALS:**
Decrease youth past 30 day use of vaping by 15% by 2029.

**INTERMEDIATE GOALS:**
Decrease nicotine used by students indicating electronic vaping product use by 15% from 21.3% to 26.86% by 2023.

**ACTION PLAN**

**SUPPORT & PROGRAMMING**

**CLASSROOM EDUCATION**

**PARENT EDUCATION**

**AWAWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

**COMMUNITY MOBILIZING**