



**2024**

**Virginia Office for  
Substance Abuse Prevention**

**Annual Report**

December 1, 2024

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 2024.

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 "Timothy D. Hugo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Timothy D. Hugo, Chair  
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority

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# Executive Information

## The Commonwealth of Virginia



*Governor Glenn Youngkin*

## Secretariats represented in VOSAP

*Terrance C. "Terry" Cole, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security*  
*Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education*  
*John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources\**  
*Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources\*\**

## Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority Board and Leadership



*Timothy D. Hugo,  
Chair*



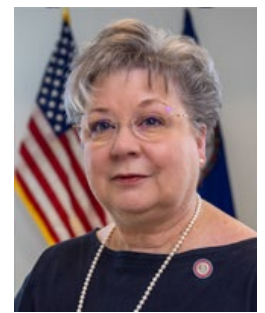
*L. Mark  
Stepanian,  
Vice Chair*



*William D. Euille*



*Gregory F.  
Holland*



*Lisa Jennings*

*Dale F. Farino, Chief Executive Officer*

*\*Secretary resigned from position July 2024.*

*\*\*Secretary assumed position July 2024.*

# 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 13 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. While a range of prevention efforts were discussed in 2024, particular attention was paid to the state of recreational cannabis use and the law, in addition to the ongoing opioid epidemic.

## 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:



**Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC)**  
*Wyatt Anderson, Youth Education and Prevention Coordinator*  
*VOSAP Facilitator*



**Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA)**  
*Brianna Bonat, MPH, Health Policy and Data Manager*  
*Hanna Jones, Data and Research Analyst*



**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)**  
*Colleen Hughes, Office of Behavioral Health Director*  
*Nicole Gore, Former Office of Behavioral Health Director*  
*Jennifer Farinholt, Behavioral Health Wellness Consultant*  
*Marfel Barnet, Block Grant Data Manager*



**Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)**  
*Greg Hopkins, Juvenile Justice Program Coordinator*  
*Betsy Bell, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Coordinator*



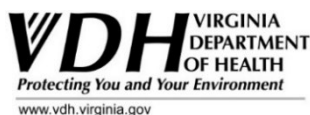
**Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**  
*Art Mayer, LCSW, CSOTP, Clinical Treatment Program Supervisor,*  
*Division of Re-entry, Education and Intervention*



**Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)**  
*Katharine Beachboard, Virginia Highway Safety Office, Impaired Driving Program Manager*



**Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)**  
*Robin Shepherd, Driver Education Specialist*  
*Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist*



**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**  
*Elizabeth Zaunick, Overdose Data to Action Grant Coordinator*  
*Lisa Wooten, Injury and Violence Prevention Program Supervisor*  
*Jean Hoyt, Health Systems Coordinator*



**Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)**  
*Stephen Wade MUP; Health Equity Project Manager*



**Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)**  
*Michael Parsons, MSW, Director of Programs*



**Virginia National Guard (VNG)**  
*Staff Sergeant Wayne B. Graves, Drug Demand Reduction-Civil Operation Specialist*  
*Cari Kelso, Counterdrug Coordinator*



**Virginia State Police (VSP)**  
*Mary King, Youth of VA Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) Program Manager*



**Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA)**  
*Travis Fellows, Coalition Coordinator*  
*Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, Finance Director*



**Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Virginia**  
*Cristi Cousins, State Programs Specialist*



# The Strategic Prevention Framework

VOSAP Collaborative member agencies subscribe to the **Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)** (Figure 1) created by **SAMHSA** to guide its 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.

**Figure 1.** The Strategic Prevention Framework



## Youth Substance Use Data

### National Data

**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 eighth, 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.

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.

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.

When tracking all drug use trends in adolescents over the last half century, researchers can confidently say that there has been a widespread decline in youth substance use. When illicit drug use emerged as an adolescent epidemic in the 1960s, prevention work led to a broad decrease in prevalence rates over time, with short spike during the 1990s termed the "1990s drug relapse." Since this time, youth drug use has continued to decline, with most rates sitting at or near all-time lows.

The MTF data discussed below highlights general trends, as well as lifetime prevalence of the most commonly used substances by secondary students (i.e. alcohol, vaped nicotine and cannabis) as well as illicit drugs from 2019-23. The 2020 survey data collection was completed before March 15 when the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in national social distancing policies. Thus, results from these years provide a snapshot of how the pandemic affected adolescent substance use and its changes as pre-pandemic policies were put back into place. For a more detailed discussion of survey national trends and key findings in youth drug use across all substances, please see Monitoring the Future's 2024 monograph, [National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1976-2023: Secondary School Students](#).

In the past five years, there was a decrease in most youth substance use during the COVID-19 pandemic, purportedly due to increased parental supervision and disrupted youth social networks. While some substance use showed a return to higher rates the following year in 2022, the overall trend of decreasing rates has continued for most into 2023.

Data in 2023 shows a downward trend in lifetime alcohol use relative to 2022 ([Figure 2](#)). This trend was found to be statistically significant for 10th and 12th graders, but not eighth graders. The decrease is notable, as 2022 data was interpreted as a partial return to higher 2020 levels, before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the social networks of many youths.

Lifetime vaped nicotine ([Figure 3](#)) among eighth, 10th, and 12th graders all showed decreases relative to 2022. This was found to be statistically significant only in 12th graders relative to 2022. This is welcome news considering the increases in all grades from 2017, when many vaping products became widely available, up until to 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

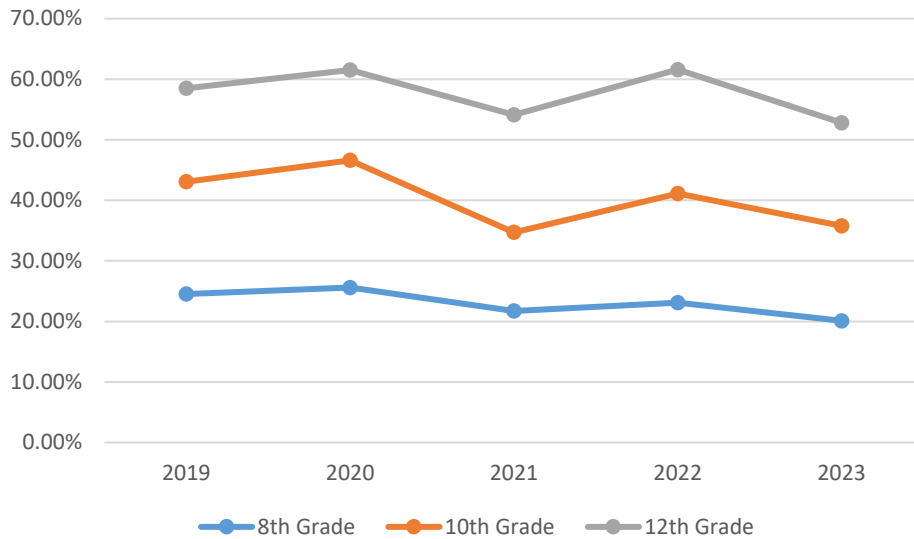
Lifetime marijuana use showed decreases among eighth and 12th graders by roughly two percentage points, with a small uptick in eighth grade use by 0.5%. However, these changes did not reflect a significant change relative to 2022. ([Figure 4](#)). This is encouraging in light of the newer and quickly-changing landscape of hemp-derived products

Finally, lifetime use of any illicit substance other than marijuana decreased across all grades. These differences were not significant relative to 2022 ([Figure 5](#)). This is an important category to consider as it relates to the likelihood of youth encountering fentanyl in illicit pills or powders.

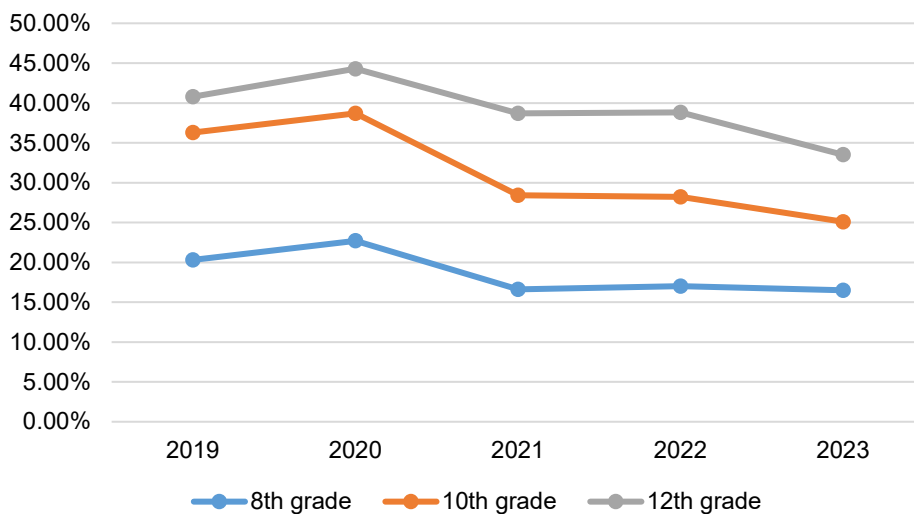
While youth are far less likely than adults to use the illicit pills and powders with the greatest risk of containing fentanyl, the deadliness of the drug has caused a spike in deaths lower, though parallel to,

adult populations. A 2022 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report states that from 2019-21, overdose deaths among those 10-19 years old increased by 109%. Of these overdoses, 84% involved substances containing illicitly manufactured fentanyl. While there is not a neat way to assess accidental youth encounters with fentanyl in self-reported data, state data in the following section can better assess the scope of the problem in Virginia.

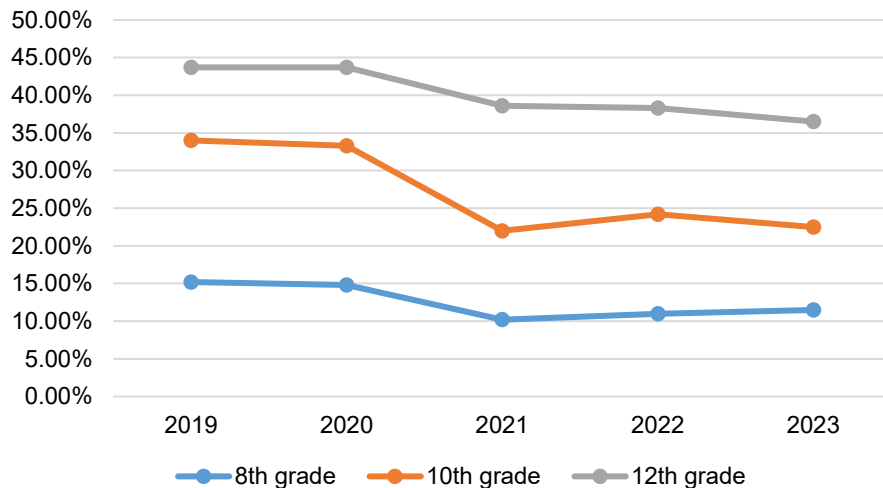
**Figure 2.** Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime alcohol use.



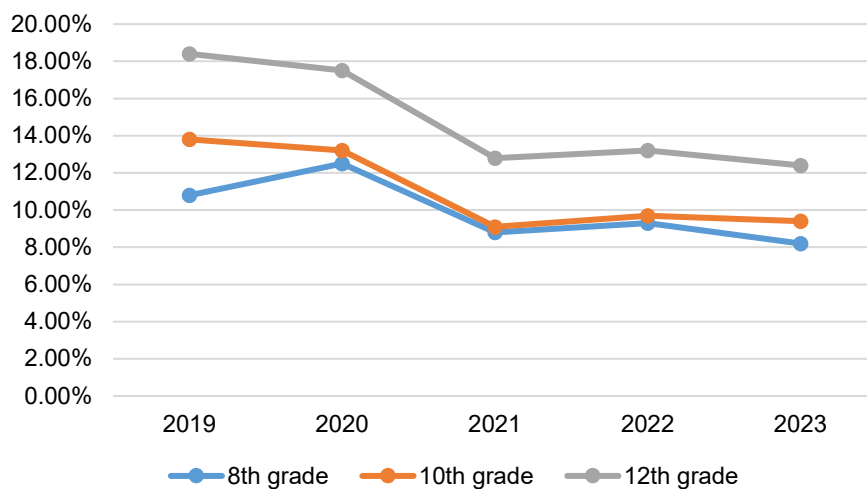
**Figure 3.** Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime vaping nicotine.



**Figure 4.** Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime use of any marijuana.



**Figure 5.** Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime use of any illicit drug (other than marijuana).



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;
- Alcohol and other drug use;
- Tobacco use;
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
- Inadequate physical activity.

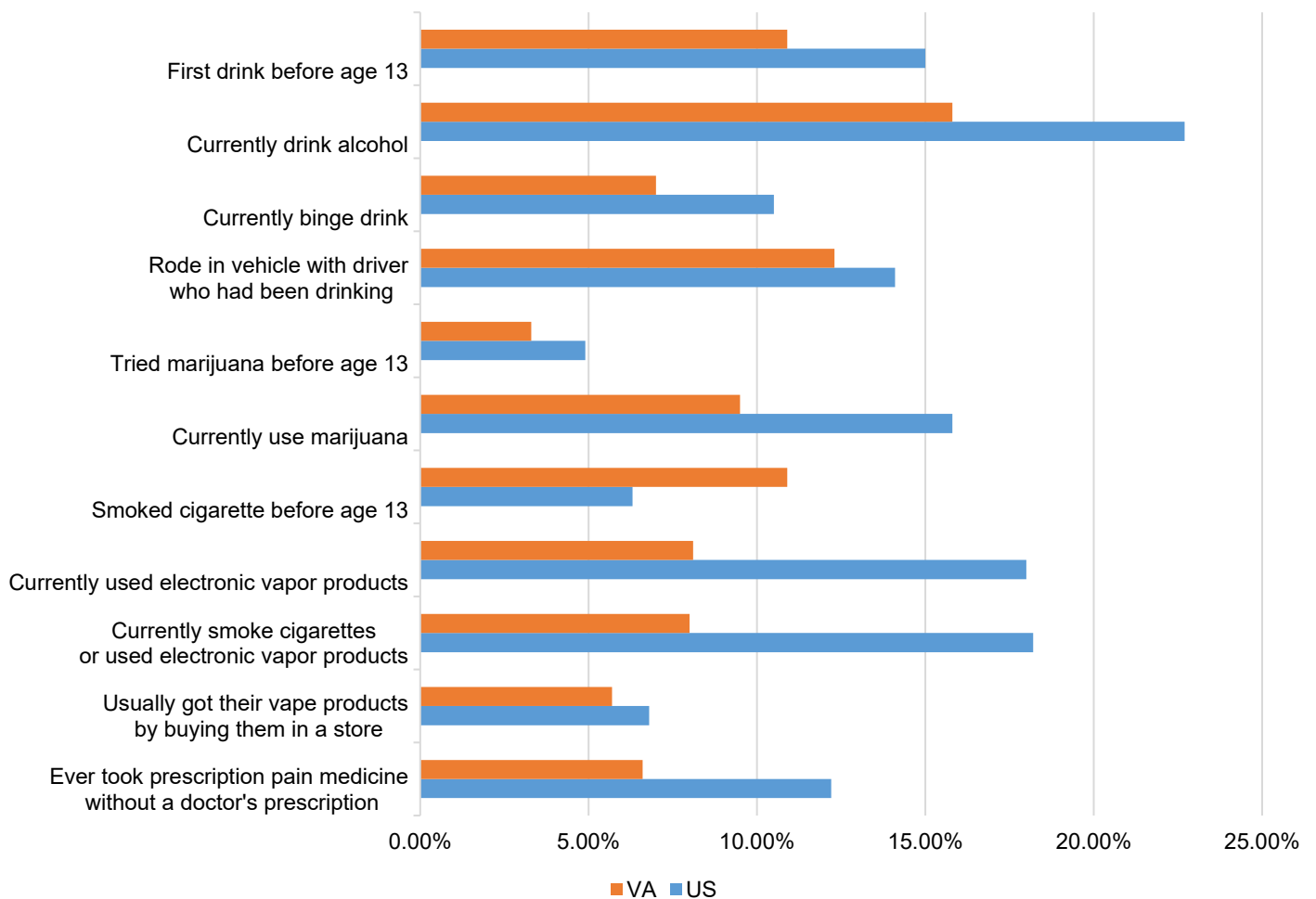
The YRBS includes national, state, territorial, tribal government and local school-based surveys of representative samples of sixth through 12th grade students. These surveys are conducted every two years, usually during the spring semester. The national survey, compiled by the CDC, provides data

representative of sixth 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.

The **Virginia Youth Survey (VYS)** is the commonwealth’s contribution to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and measures the health risk behaviors of Virginia middle and high school students. The survey is implemented by VDH and VFHY with the support of the VDOE for dissemination of the questionnaire within schools. 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.

There are marked differences in the consistency and questions asked to middle school and high school student samples. Between the two categories, few data points overlap across middle and high school student drug use questions to compare directly. A national data set for 2023 is not yet public, though a summary report containing some substance use questions can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/yrbs/dstr/index.html>. Below, **Figure 6** shows how Virginia 2023 high school data relates to national averages from 2021, where there are corresponding questions.

**Figure 6:** Virginia State and National Rates of Substance Use Behaviors (High School)



# Virginia Data

The following data discussed below summarizes notable youth substance use trends from 2013-23 for Virginia middle and high school students. Please note that “current” use of a substance indicates use on at least one day during the last thirty days before the survey was taken by students. For more detailed information and full data, please see the middle and high school survey reports located at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/virginia-youth-survey/data-tables/>.

## Alcohol Use

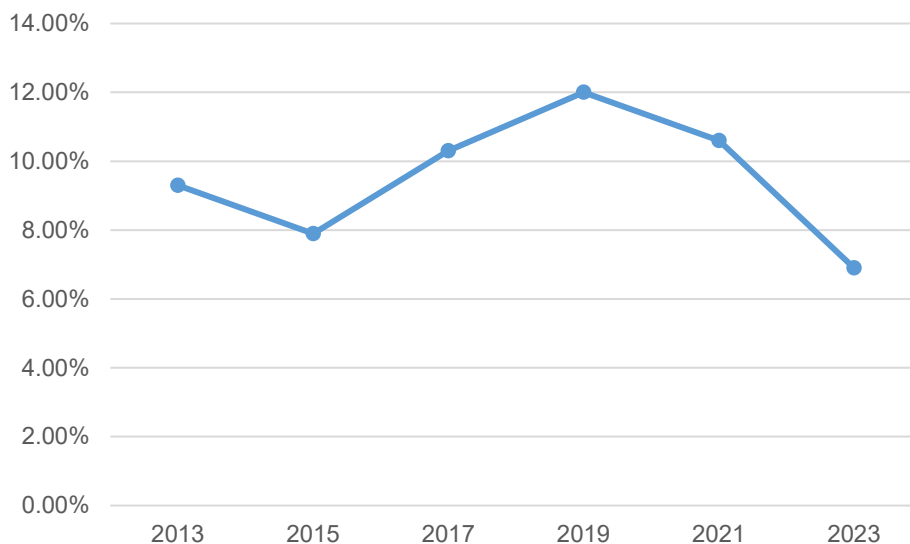
For middle school students (**Figure 7**), the percentage of those who first drank alcohol before age 11 decreased in 2023 relative to 2021 and 2019. When only considering the change from 2021, this was not a significant decrease. This represents the lowest level recorded since the question was first asked in 2013.

For high school students (**Figure 8**), questions directly assessing alcohol use are at their lowest levels ever as well. There was a significant decrease in those reporting to have had a drink before age 13 across the last 10 years, with the 2023 figure at 10.9%. Like the middle school students, the rate in 2023 did not significantly differ when only compared to 2021.

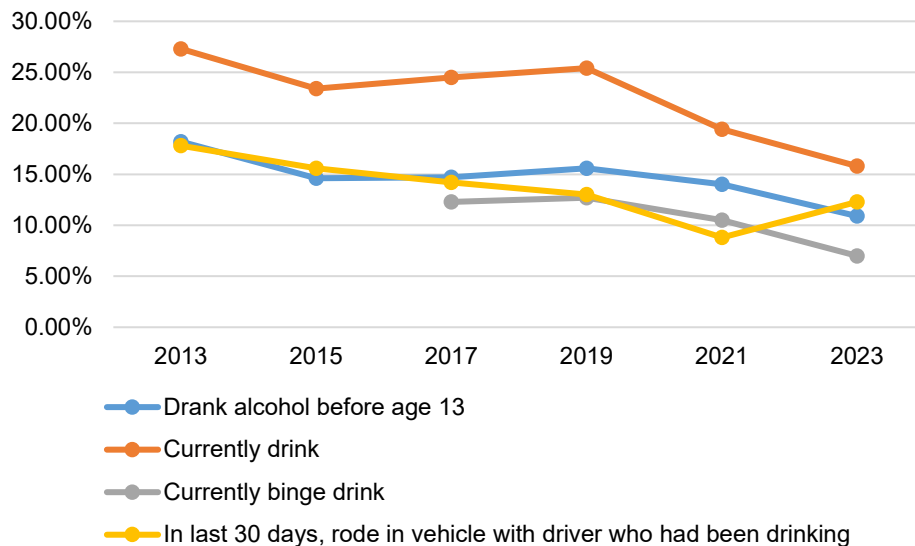
High school students showed similar declines in measures of current drinking and current binge drinking (i.e., consuming four or more drinks in a row for females, or five or more for males). These reductions were found to be significant over the last five and 10 years, respectively, but not when compared only to 2021 data. Data on current high school binge drinking was not collected prior to 2017.

The rate of high school students riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking (within the last 30 days) decreased significantly when viewed over the last 10 years. It should be noted that while there was an increase by 3.5% since 2021, this uptick was not found to be statistically significant.

**Figure 7:** Year-to-year comparison middle school student lifetime alcohol use.



**Figure 8:** Year-to-year comparison of Virginia high school student alcohol use behaviors



### Tobacco Use

For middle school students (**Figure 9**), the percentage of those who currently smoke cigarettes (i.e., with the last 30 days) was at the lowest level recorded, at 0.4%. This represents a significant reduction from 2021 rates, as well as when viewed over the last decade.

Data for those who currently smoke cigarettes or electronic vapor products largely mirrors this trend. The 2023 rates sit at their lowest level ever of 3.7%, a significant decrease when viewed from 2015-23. Though there was a modest bump in 2019, this can be viewed as being driven by use of electronic vapor products rather than cigarettes (see below).

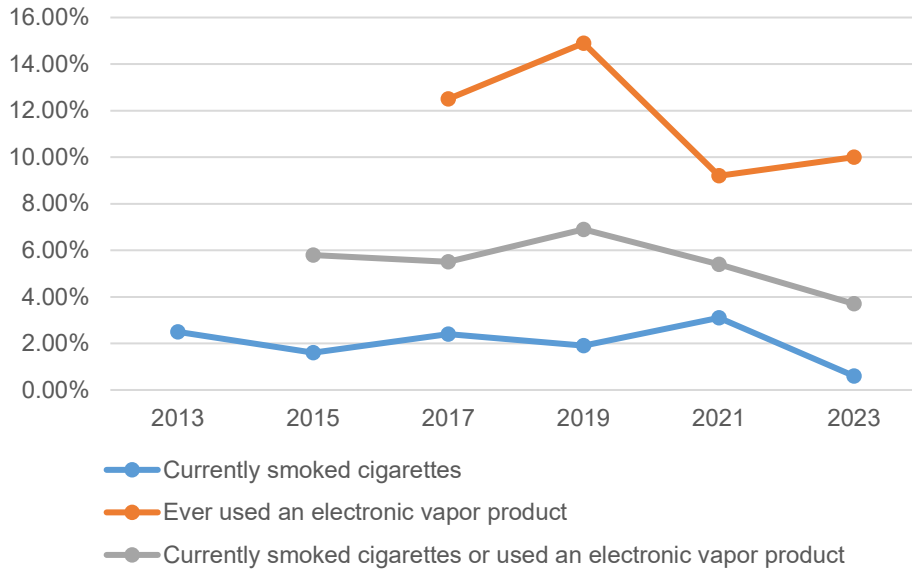
Students who ever used an electronic vapor product increased by 0.8% relative to 2021, to 10% of students. However, this was not found to be a meaningful uptick. When the range of data from 2017-23 was considered, there were significant decreases over that timeframe, representing effective prevention efforts since vaping products rose to prominence and peaked in 2019 in 14.9%.

For high school students, tobacco use sits at its lowest levels ever (**Figure 10**). Data showed significant decreases in both those who currently smoke cigarettes or use electronic vapor products, and when vaping product use is considered alone. These decreases were found to be significant relative to 2021 and when viewed over the last eight years, as long as these questions have been asked.

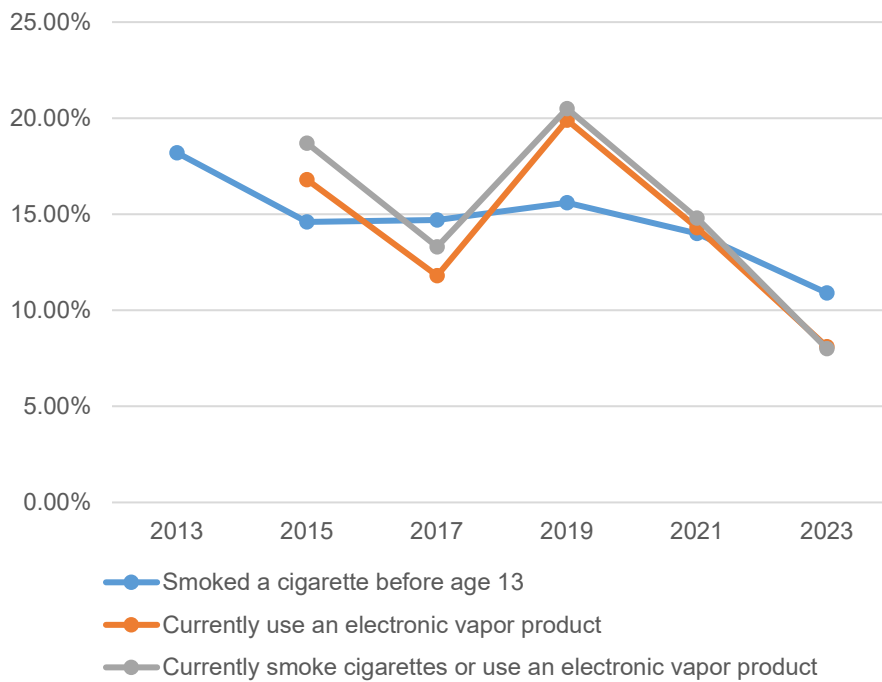
Students reporting to have smoked a cigarette before age 13 continued to decrease, though the 2023 rate of 10.9% was not found to be a significant change from 2021. Like above, when all data is taken together, this did represent a notable decrease over time, and thus is reason to celebrate.

However, newer data on how high school students are acquiring their vape products is potentially concerning if left unchecked. 5.7% of students who currently vape reporting purchasing these themselves from stores, up from 3.4% in 2021 (**Figure 11**). While this is not enough of a jump to indicate a significant change, it is worth monitoring closely as it relates to enforcement efforts.

**Figure 9:** Year-to-year comparison of Virginia middle school student tobacco use behaviors.

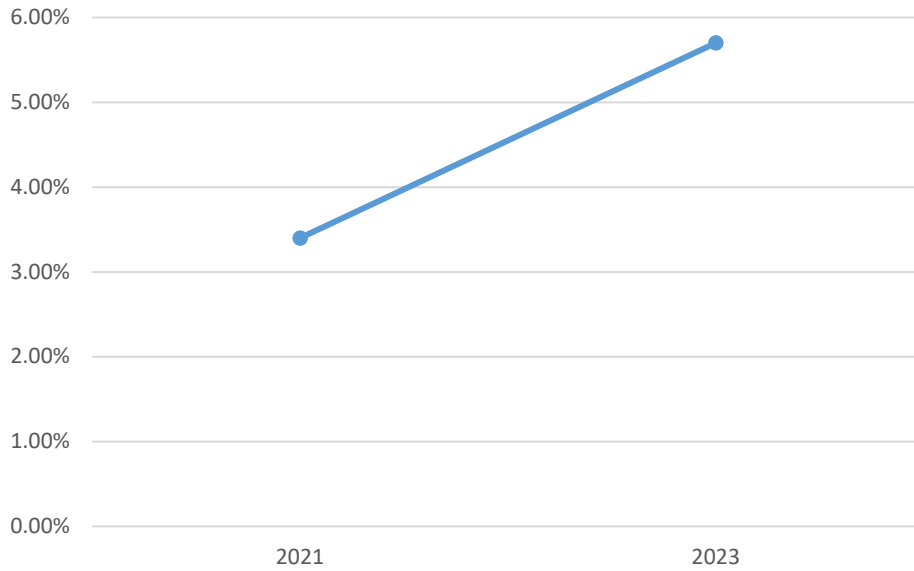


**Figure 10:** Year-to-year comparison of high school student tobacco use behaviors.





**Figure 11:** High school students who usually got their electronic vapor products by buying them in a store, of those who currently vape.

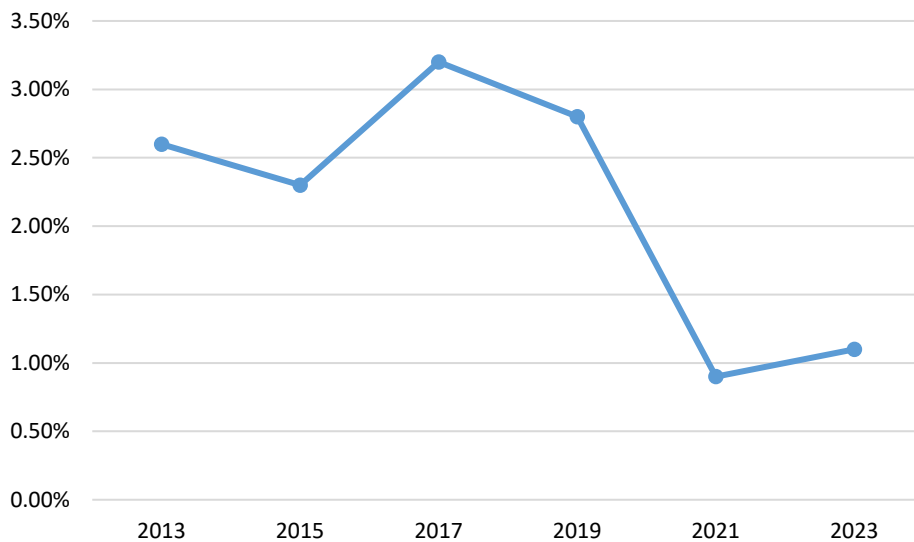


### Marijuana Use

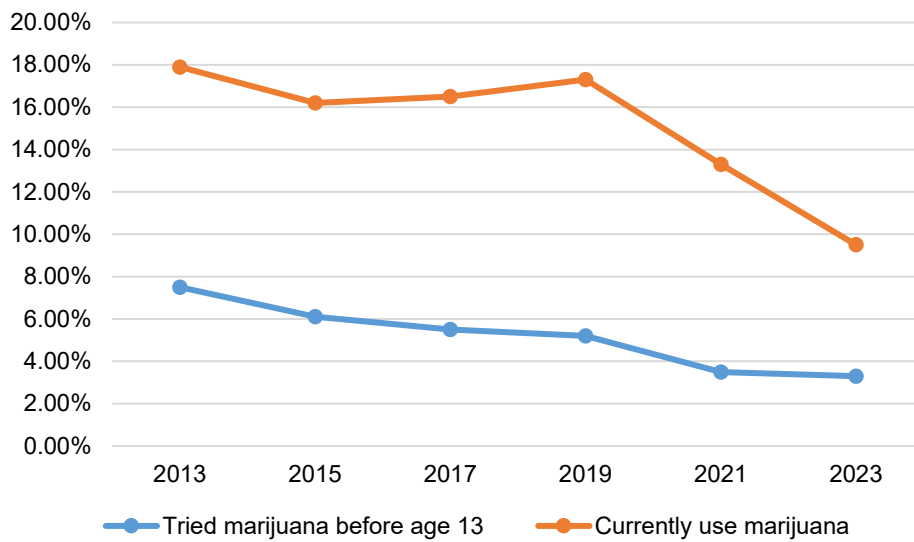
While middle school students trying marijuana before age 11 (Figure 12) has decreased over time, it is up slightly from 2021, at 1.1%. The reduction from just over 3% in 2017, while welcome, was not found to be statistically significant.

High school student marijuana use (Figure 13) also shows steady improvement. Only 3.3% of students tried marijuana before age 13. While this modest change from 2021 was not significant, the overall trend down from 7.5% in 2013 has been a significant decrease.

**Figure 12:** Year-to-year comparison of middle school students who tried marijuana before age 11.



**Figure 13:** Year-to-year comparison of high school student marijuana use.



### Other Drug Use

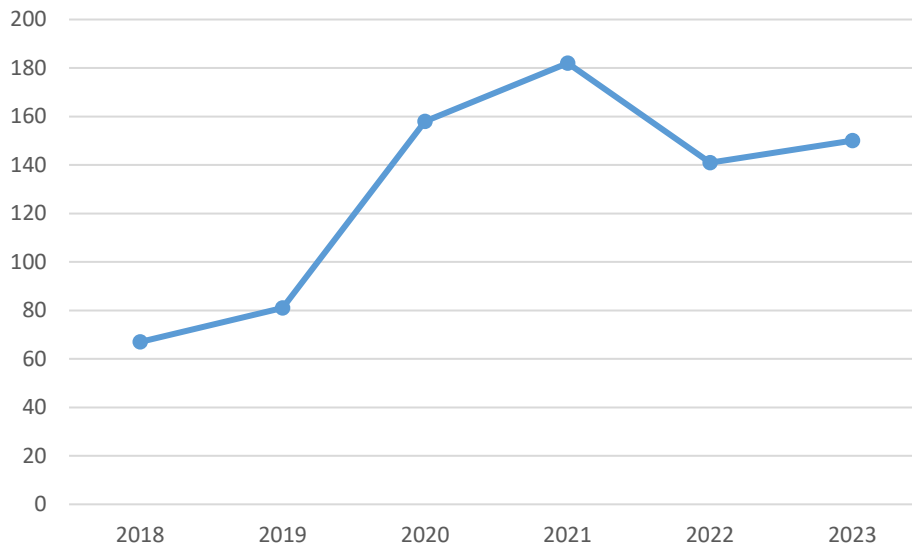
While students are not asked about all categories of drugs in the Virginia Youth Survey, there is some 2023 data pertaining to the abuse of prescription drugs. While questions of this sort have been asked in prior use, the question has been framed differently (e.g., current vs. lifetime prevalence) and cannot be compared directly across years.

For middle schoolers in 2023, 7.6% reported ever having taken a prescription pain medication without a doctor's prescription, or differently than how a doctor instructed. For high school students, 6.6% reported having taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription one or more times in their life.

This data is notable not only because we want to track it to reduce rates, but because it may lead to insights for gauging the extent to which youth may encounter fentanyl. While fentanyl found in illicitly manufactured pills would not have been prescribed by a doctor, it is not uncommon for youth to be unaware of the source of drugs they receive.

The following insights can be supplemented by [VDH data on overdose deaths](#). Virginia rates of drug overdose deaths peaked in 2021 and were followed by a 5% decrease in 2022. This trend is largely paralleled 15-to-24-year-olds who overdosed from fentanyl or other synthetic opioids ([Figure 14](#)). Though 2023 data in this age group shows a modest uptick in deaths from 2022, few conclusions can be drawn based on the small total number. As localities and organizations continue to implement [Opioid Abatement](#) funds on effective treatment and prevention, there is reason for optimism.

**Figure 14:** Year-by-year comparison of emergency department visit overdose deaths, ages 15-24.



## Youth Substance Use Prevention Efforts

### Prevention Activities Overview

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, activities and initiatives, gaps in youth substance use prevention efforts and unmet substance use prevention needs.

While all VOSAP Collaborative agencies contribute to preventing youth substance use, not all work explicitly on youth substance use prevention programs. Many VOSAP members conduct activities better characterized as caregiver or community support, influencing a multitude of risk and protective factors predicting youth substance use.

To provide a more comprehensive view of the interconnected nature of youth substance use prevention efforts, three focus areas were established in fiscal year 2023 to better organize the activities of VOSAP Collaborative members. For ease of reference, the framework below outlines which VOSAP Collaborative members offer activities and initiatives in each of the three identified focus areas elaborated below. **Table 1** summarizes the same information visually. Organizations not included in a particular focus area may collect data or have otherwise reported a cross-cutting approach in support, and these instances are indicated in each written entry, where applicable.

#### Youth Access and Drug Education

Encompasses initiatives and activities to reduce risk factors of drug availability, association with substance-using peers and the promotion of protective individual factors related to drug education and refusal skills more directly.

- Virginia ABC (ABC)
- Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA)
- Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA)
- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
- Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Virginia
- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)
- Virginia National Guard (VNG)
- Virginia State Police (VSP)

### **Caregiver Support**

Encompasses programming to support parents and caregivers directly by increasing protective factors of family engagement, family support and parental monitoring.

- Virginia ABC (ABC)
- Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA)
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Virginia
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)
- Virginia National Guard (VNG)
- Virginia State Police (VSP)

### **Community Support**

Encompasses programming to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for a broader community audience, including but not limited to other areas like school connectedness and mental health challenges.

- Virginia ABC (ABC)
- Virginia Cannabis Control Authority (CCA)
- Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA)
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
- Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)
- Virginia State Police (VSP)
- Virginia National Guard (VNG)
- Virginia State Police (VSP)

**Table 1.** Summary of activities and initiatives of VOSAP Members across focus areas.

VOSAP Member	Youth Access and Drug Education	Caregiver Support	Community Support
ABC	X	X	X
CCA	X	X	X
CCoVA	X		X
DBHDS	X	X	X
DCJS			X
DJJ	X		X
DMV	X		
MADD	X	X	
VDOE	X	X	X
VDH		X	X
VDSS	X		X
VFHY	X	X	X
VNG	X	X	X
VSP	X	X	X

## Spending Overview

During fiscal year 2024, \$13,226,285 was spent throughout Virginia on youth substance use prevention efforts, with \$35,980,552 spent on substance use prevention more generally, both rounded to the nearest dollar. **Table 2** and **Table 3** respectively provide specific organization spending totals for substance use prevention efforts.

Organization prevention budgets are funded through federal budget allocations, federal grants, general fund allocations, organization revenue and state grants. While all VOSAP member organizations deal with youth substance use prevention in some capacity, not all have budget items that exclusively identify this purpose. For more detail on the budget categories that contributed to estimated prevention expenses, see each organization’s description below.

**Table 2.** Expenses for youth substance use prevention efforts by organization.

Organization	Expenses
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	\$7,159,000 <sup>A</sup>
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles	\$2,782,073 <sup>BC</sup>
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1,881,757
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$793,940
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$231,650
Virginia State Police	\$225,865
Virginia Department of Education	\$152,000 <sup>D</sup>
Virginia Department of Health	Did not report
Virginia National Guard	Did not report
Community Coalitions of Virginia	Unable to report <sup>EF</sup>
Virginia Department of Social Services	Unable to report <sup>E</sup>
Virginia Cannabis Control Authority	Unable to report <sup>F</sup>
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	Unable to report <sup>F</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Does not include grant awarded to Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

<sup>B</sup> Does not include grant awarded to Virginia State Police

<sup>C</sup> Follows federal fiscal year, Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.

<sup>D</sup> Involved other prevention initiatives to improve school climate

<sup>E</sup> Unable to separate prevention from treatment efforts

<sup>F</sup> Unable to separate youth prevention from overall prevention efforts

**Table 3.** Expenses for overall substance use prevention efforts by organization.

Organization	Expenses
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	\$21,531,593
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	\$7,159,000 <sup>A</sup>
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles	\$2,782,073 <sup>BC</sup>
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1,881,757
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$793,940
Community Coalitions of Virginia	\$649,483
Virginia Cannabis Control Authority	\$502,441
Virginia State Police	\$296,615
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$231,650
Virginia Department of Education	\$152,000 <sup>D</sup>
Virginia Department of Health	Did not report
Virginia National Guard	Did not report
Virginia Department of Social Services	Unable to report <sup>E</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Does not include grant awarded to Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

<sup>B</sup> Does not include grant awarded to Virginia State Police

<sup>C</sup> Follows federal fiscal year, Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.

<sup>D</sup> Involved other prevention initiatives to improve school climate

<sup>E</sup> Unable to separate prevention from treatment efforts

## VOSAP Collaborative Member Spending and Activities

### Virginia ABC

The mission of Virginia ABC is to strengthen the commonwealth through public safety, education, and revenue from the responsible regulation and sale of alcoholic beverages. The Community Health & Engagement (CH&E) Division specifically supports these aims directly by providing data, research, evidence-based programming, strategic resources and genuine partnership in order to ensure Virginians are able to make informed choices. Education and Prevention coordinators for all ages (i.e., K-12 and parents, adults, licensees), supported by a Capacity Building Specialist and Data, Research & Evaluation Specialist, manage programs and resources to prevent youth alcohol use, social providing/hosting, and high-risk drinking.

Virginia ABC funds substance use prevention efforts through organizational revenue, spending \$163,117 on youth substance use prevention efforts; however, an additional \$68,533 was spent on alcohol education and prevention efforts, not specific to youth, totaling \$231,650. Virginia ABC’s alcohol education and prevention programs and resources target audiences throughout the lifespan

including: youth, parents, college students, adults 21 and older, older adults, licensees and health care professionals.

Programs and resources were implemented throughout the commonwealth during fiscal year 2024 to address youth substance use prevention are explained below.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

**Underage Buyer Program.** The Underage Buyer (UB) program is an ongoing effort by Virginia ABC to visit alcohol and tobacco retailers throughout the commonwealth to verify compliance with the state age requirements—21 for tobacco and alcohol sales. Special agents, who are sworn officers from Virginia ABC’s Bureau of Law Enforcement, accompany underage operatives during attempts to purchase cigarettes or alcohol at grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants and other businesses, including Virginia ABC stores. The purpose of the UB program is not to trick businesses. In fact, it is the hope of Virginia ABC that 100% of the businesses comply with state law by not selling to the underage buyer. Virginia ABC special agents throughout the state complete nearly 400 alcohol and tobacco compliance checks every month.

In data available from fiscal year 2023, Virginia ABC stores demonstrated a 100% compliance rate for in-store purchases, while licensees had compliance rates of 86%. Additionally, compliance checks for alcohol delivery were 96% and 56% for Virginia ABC stores and licensees, respectively.

**Publications.** Virginia ABC CH&E provides the public with free and age-appropriate publications. The publications for elementary, middle and high school students are listed below, with parent publications recorded in the Caregiver Support focus area. College, adult, older adult, licensee and health care professionals publications are included listed in the Community Support area.

In fiscal year 2024, the following prevention publications were distributed for K-12 audiences:

- 20,740 Elementary Publications
- 10,061 Middle School Publications
- 1,749 High School Publications

**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 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (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; and 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 virtual learning lesson plans.

In fiscal year 2024, 44 individuals completed BOLT online training for middle school professionals.

**Miss Virginia School Tour.** Virginia ABC provides a grant to the Miss Virginia Opportunity (formerly Miss Virginia Organization), which funds the tour program. 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 2024, the Miss Virginia School Tour provided two methods for participation: virtual and in-person. 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; and learn to identify who is a trusted adult and understand the role they play in their lives.

In fiscal year 2024, the Miss Virginia School Tour visited 64 elementary schools across 44 districts, reaching 18,105 elementary school students across the state.

**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. The annual YADAPP program kicks off with a weeklong conference each summer 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.

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.

After two years of virtual conferences held in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, YADAPP returned to an in-person event at Longwood University, where 19 teams of four students and one adult sponsor 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. Virginia ABC provided five mini grants of \$250 each as seed money for teams submitting exemplary prevention plans. Additionally, Virginia ABC provided The Wheeler Award (\$500) to one team, in support their continued work on a prevention plan that was accomplished from the previous year.

At the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year, YADAPP teams’ prevention plans reached a total of 6,528 individuals in their schools and communities.

**Project Sticker Shock.** Project Sticker Shock aims to raise community awareness about Virginia laws to prevent underage youth from obtaining alcohol from adults 21 or older or using a fake ID to purchase alcohol. 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 among community organizations, youth, retail establishments, law enforcement, media and other community members. Additionally, Virginia ABC uses Project Sticker Shock materials to label social providing prevention messaging on Virginia ABC products being delivered to customers.

In 2024, across seven Project Sticker Shock events, 3,218 stickers were used at retail locations to raise awareness, with at least of 68 youth and 16 adults participating in these events. Additionally,



45,328 retail delivery customers were reached with Project Sticker Shock materials.

### **Caregiver Support**

**Power of Parents.** Virginia ABC partners 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 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.

In fiscal year 2024, 6,640 Power of Parents handbooks were distributed, with 49 individuals completing training.

**Publications.** As indicated earlier, Virginia ABC CH&E provides the public with free publications for all ages, including parents. Parent publications provide important alcohol facts and best practices for talking to children about alcohol. In fiscal year 2024, 1,294 parent publications were distributed across the state.

### **Community Support**

**Alcohol Education and Prevention Grants.** Alcohol Education and Prevention Grants provide funding of up to \$10,000 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. Grantees are encouraged to build partnerships and embrace collaboration to achieve a meaningful, measurable and long-lasting impact.

In fiscal year 2023, Virginia ABC provided four Alcohol Education and Prevention grants for a total of \$27,885 in grant funding. Of the four grantees, two specifically engaged in youth alcohol prevention activities and reached 1,034,821 individuals across the state.

**HEADS UP.** The Higher Education Alcohol and Drug Strategic Unified Prevention (HEADS UP) program provides free online trainings, resources and materials to increase knowledge of substance misuse and high-risk drinking among college faculty/staff, students and their parents, and to build the capacity of student leaders to hold substance misuse education or awareness events. HEADS UP informs and equips these individuals to effectively promote healthy decision-making and advocate for substance misuse education and prevention programming on college campuses.

In fiscal year 2024, 1,158 individuals completed HEADS UP online training, and 6,840 materials were distributed to support college alcohol misuse prevention programming events.

**Publications.** As indicated previously, Virginia ABC CH&E provides the public with free publications for all ages, with each emphasizing alcohol facts alongside relevant issues for the respective audience. College, adult, and older adult publications serve a larger audience addressing topics like binge drinking and bystander intervention, responsible party hosting and medicine interactions, respectively.

Virginia ABC also offers health care professionals publications with tips on how to effectively screen patients, communicate responsible drinking habits and elicit self-motivation to make healthier choices.

Additionally, responsibility guides for licensees support licensees in maintaining a safe and regulated business. These publications discuss the facts of alcohol education and prevention alongside Virginia ABC's laws and regulations.

In fiscal year 2024, the following publications were distributed:

- 1,446 college publications
- 661 adult publications
- 1,146 older adult publications
- 389 responsibility guides for licensees
- 237 health care professionals publications

**VHESUAC** is a state committee established by the Code of Virginia that aims to further education, prevention, intervention and recovery efforts about substance use on college and university campuses across the commonwealth. VHESUAC is staffed by Virginia ABC and partners with college and university staff to fill resource gaps in current campus efforts. VHESUAC resources and efforts are guided by a five-year strategic plan that was created by campus professionals. In fiscal year 2024, VHESUAC recognized five campuses in the first year of the Campus Recognition Program, which publicly recognizes college and university campuses that are implementing initiatives mentioned in the **VHESUAC Strategic Plan**.

### **Virginia Cannabis Control Authority**

The Virginia Cannabis Control Authority promotes public safety, advances public health, and protects communities in the commonwealth through effective medical cannabis oversight and balanced and inclusive cannabis regulation, policy, and education. The organization receives funding from the General Fund. To support its mission, CCA addresses all ages of the commonwealth through public outreach initiatives and education and prevention resources.

The Virginia CCA spent a total of \$465,738 on public health and safety prevention efforts in fiscal year 2024. The Authority spent funding on their safe driving campaign aimed at communicating the safety and legal risks of driving under the influence of cannabis, as well as \$36,703 on printed education materials.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education, Caregiver Support**

The Virginia CCA has published several new educational resources in the form of fact sheets in fiscal year 2024, including "Talking about cannabis: a parent toolkit" and "Talking about cannabis (for teens): a youth prevention toolkit." These public health resources provide information about the prevention of cannabis use and its negative effects and consequences among youth and young adults. These toolkits have been downloaded a total of 170 times online.

### **Community Support**

The Virginia CCA safe driving campaign provides public safety messaging throughout the commonwealth and plans to reissue its safe driving survey in fiscal year 2025. The safe driving survey will provide the public's perception, habits, and knowledge of driving while under the influence of cannabis, informing future public health and safety messaging for the CCA's ongoing safe driving campaign.

- Safe driving radio ads began in September 2023 and have aired in a total of 23,234 spots with 52,154,000 estimated impressions. Safe driving TV ads for the campaign began in October 2023

and have aired in a total of 577 spots with 48,870,000 estimated impressions. Radio and TV ads spots aired, and impressions are up to date as of April 2024.

- The safe driving campaign's digital ads began in February 2024. These digital ads have had 18,674,821 impressions with a total of 146,049 clicks since May 2024.
  - The Virginia CCA safe driving campaign, across all media, have a reach/impression number of 119,698,821.
- The Virginia CCA has also created partner toolkits for stakeholders to promote responsible and safe driving. The four toolkits available for download are for government prevention and driving safety organizations, cannabis business and advocacy organizations, colleges and universities, and Spanish speakers. These partner toolkits have been downloaded a total of 358 times online.

Additionally, the Virginia CCA has participated in 23 educational events, conferences, and presentations in fiscal year 2024, with a total of 736 attendees. The CCA's educational resources, including factsheets and toolkits, have been distributed 4,920 times as physical copies and downloaded 6,400 times online.

### **Community Coalitions of Virginia**

Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA) is a statewide group of coalitions representing large and small, rural and urban communities across the state. CCoVA works collaboratively to prevent and reduce substance use and related risk factors in Virginia communities in ways that are measurable and that improve well-being of individuals and communities. While CCoVA does not directly provide prevention activities, we enable collaboration and work to address gaps in knowledge and resources whenever possible. In fiscal year 2024, CCoVA provided presentations from experts in the substance use prevention and recovery realm and made these connections available to member organizations. Additionally, CCoVA provided bill tracking during the 2024 General Assembly session to keep members informed of potential legislative changes.

CCoVA is a 501(c)3 organization that generally receives funding from two sources: State Opioid Response (SOR) funding paid through DBHDS and organizational funds (membership dues, donations, and registration fees for our annual conference). In fiscal year 2024 CCoVA also received one-time pass-through Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grants from VDH which were awarded to member coalitions.

CCoVA had expenditures totaling \$721,432 in fiscal year 2024. Of this total, \$649,483 was in the form of the pass-through OD2A pass-through grants. These grants went to substance use prevention activities across the state, some of which was focused on youth audiences.

The remaining \$71,949 went to administrative expenses, staff pay, and the cost of holding the annual conference. These activities support member organizations, most of which perform youth substance use prevention activities as part of their missions. None of this funding went directly to prevention or treatment activities.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

CCoVA was excited to be able to hire an Education Coordinator in the second half of this fiscal year. This new position has allowed CCoVA to create educational content to be shared with our members who can then use it in their own social media, newsletters, etc.

### **Community Support**

Monthly meetings with coalitions across the state were held virtually on Zoom on the first Monday of each month with, on average, 45-50 members in attendance at each meeting. The Coalition Coordinator tracked bills during the General Assembly session and kept members informed on pending legislation. Various members provided educational documents to be shared with legislators across the state. A newsletter was distributed to the membership each week throughout the year detailing relevant news, as well as grant and training opportunities. This information was also shared via social media.

CCoVA was excited to partner with VDH in administering the Overdose Data to Action grants to coalitions across Virginia. These additional funds allowed the coalitions to expand their reach within their local communities. This included hosting educational events targeted at youth and parents, as well as events for the general public. While CCoVA did not receive specific data related to these initiatives, member organizations reported that the initiatives were received positively by their communities, and they expressed a desire to participate in future opportunities of this nature. These grants were overseen by the CCoVA Finance Director who reported an overwhelmingly positive response to this opportunity.

### **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services**

DBHDS' mission is to support individuals by promoting recovery, self-determination, and wellness in all aspects of life. As such, it uses a proactive and supportive approach to address the underlying factors contributing to youth substance use while also empowering individuals to make healthy choices in their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. This includes promoting activities and environments that reduce the likelihood of youth turning to substances as a coping mechanism.

DBHDS is primarily funded through the SAMHSA Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Block Grant (SUPTR). Additional funding sources for fiscal year 2024 include SAMHSA State Opioid Response Grant III (SOR) and SAMHSA American Rescue Plan Award (ARPA).

As seen in **Table 3**, DBHDS provides the greatest amount of funding for overall substance use prevention efforts. Of this total, \$21,531,593 is exclusive to prevention spending, where the majority of those funds are passed along (under contractual agreements) to the Prevention staff at the 40 Community Services Boards (CSBs). CSB Prevention, or Behavioral Health Wellness, teams utilize this funding to implement an array of strategies to prevent substance misuse/substance use disorder. These were unable to be separated between youth and adult prevention spending. Additionally, \$31,756,292 from the federal SUPTR Block Grant was used for treatment services.

Additionally, DBHDS collects data on the distribution of their substance use prevention resources to each CSB in the state, grouped among five DBHDS regions. In fiscal year 2024, 52,376,327 prevention resources were distributed to CSBs across the state, with 6,205,128 resources specifically targeted to youth.

DBHDS and DBHDS-funded partners provide the following evidence-based prevention resources, grouped below based on the VOSAP Report focus areas

#### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

- Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices
- Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones
- Life Skills Training (Botkin)
- Second Step
- SOS Signs of Suicide
- Too Good for Drugs
- Teen Intervene
- Youth Leadership Program

## Caregiver Support

- 24/7 Dads
- Family Check-Up
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)
- Strengthening Families
- Understanding Dad

## Community Support

- ACEs Training
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training
- Counter Tools (Merchant Education)
- Drug Deactivation Packets & Smart Pill Bottles (Distribution)
- Drug Take Backs
- Lock and Talk - Social Marketing, Community Presentations and Resource Distribution
- Mental Health First Aid- Youth & Adult
- Permanent Drug Drop boxes
- Prescription Bag Stickers
- Project Sticker Shock\*
- QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention
- REVIVE Trainings
- safeTALK Training
- Supply Reduction – Resource Distribution
- Talk Saves Lives Training

*\*Virginia ABC program*

## Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

DCJS is responsible for planning and carrying out programs and initiatives to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Virginia receives federal funds from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (**OJJDP**) under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act Title II Formula Grants Program.

The Title II grant program provides funding to support state and local efforts to plan, establish, operate, coordinate, and evaluate policies and projects, directly or through grants and contracts with public and private agencies for the development of more effective education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment, and rehabilitation programs around juvenile delinquency, as well as juvenile justice system improvement efforts.

Virginia's Title II funds are used for maintaining compliance with core requirements of the JJDP Act, reducing disproportionality in the juvenile justice system, serving system-involved youth in their home communities, and increasing and strengthening family engagement and community involvement for youth by improving the availability of evidence-based programs.

DCJS Title II funding opportunities provide support to state and local governments for planning, implementation, or enhancement of evidence-based programs and for system change initiatives that support the uplifting of youth development and improvement of the juvenile justice system. DCJS provided a total of \$793,940 in funding to the following local programs that implemented substance use prevention activities.

- Henrico County: \$27,210
- Danville City \$170,000
- Virginia Department of Health \$85,000
- Western Tidewater CSB: \$185,000
- Hampton/Newport News CSB \$112,160

- Henrico Mental Health \$139,192
- Warren County: \$75,378

The DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) provided virtual programming for K-12 personnel and law enforcement. These programs cover on a variety of topics but largely pertain to preventing youth drug use in the context of **Mental Health and Trauma Support** training. Relevant trainings are highlighted below under the Community Support focus area.

In support of their virtual programming, DCJS collects various data related to program participation and training requests.

### **Community Support**

- Handle With Care and Trauma-Informed Communication Training\*
- Mental Health First Aid Training\*
- Mental Health Topics for Pathways for Prevention of Violence Training
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Training
- Recognizing and Supporting Youth with Anxiety and Depression Training
- Trauma Informed/Sensitive Training

*\*Nationally recognized as evidence-based.*

Additionally, DCJS facilitates the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions each year, administered to middle and high school students in alternating years. The survey measures student and teacher/staff perceptions of school rules and discipline, teacher-student relationships, student engagement in school, and the extent of bullying and teasing at school. The survey is a component of the annual school safety audit which school divisions are required to submit to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), according to **§ 22.1-279.8.B** of the *Code of Virginia*.

### **Virginia Department of Education**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is the administrative agency for the commonwealth's public schools. In partnership with Virginia's 131 school divisions, VDOE works to support and improve teaching and learning, sets high expectations for all students, and promotes student safety, wellbeing, and health.

While there is no state funding allocated to the Virginia Department of Education to specifically address substance abuse prevention and intervention, many efforts took place in the 2023-24 year, outlined below.

Notably, the VDOE Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness did spend \$152,000 on broader prevention efforts using federal funds from Part B (Special Education) and Title IV on training for school administrators and school-based mental health professionals. These included on school-wide and targeted activities to improve school climate, address student mental health challenges, promote bullying prevention, suicide prevention and substance use prevention.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

**Health Education.** Developmentally appropriate, scaffolded substance use prevention Standards of Learning (SOL) are an integral component of the health curriculum framework. Students learn about substance use and addiction beginning in kindergarten. In elementary school, students may

participate in evidence-based lessons using **HealthSmartVA**, with a focus on using medicine appropriately and identifying adults for guidance. In middle school these lessons deal with addiction, substance use consequences and identifying the types of support available. In high school, the lessons focus on developing a set of personal standards to resist the use of alcohol and other drugs.

**Fentanyl Education and Awareness.** Pursuant to **HB1473**, the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Health worked collaboratively to develop a fentanyl education and awareness informational one-sheeter and make this resource available to each school board for distribution to all grade 9-12 students within the first two weeks of the 2024-25 school year. This information will be given to students in grades 9-12 and will serve to promote awareness of:

- the dangers of fentanyl use;
- how to identify and avoid fentanyl;
- overdose prevention and preparedness;
- how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a fentanyl overdose; and
- resources for students who may need help or may know someone who needs help with a substance use disorder.

**Botvin LifeSkills Curriculum.** The Virginia Tech (VT) Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) provided training to middle and high school Health and Physical Education teachers to implement **Botvin's LifeSkills** curriculum. This prevention education program has been extensively tested and proven effective at reducing violence, tobacco, alcohol, opioid, and illicit drug use by as much as 80%. Long-term follow-up studies also show that it produces prevention effects that are durable and long-lasting.

**School Health Services.** VDOE School Health Services cultivated numerous professional development opportunities for school health staff that focused on mental health, substance abuse awareness, immunization compliance and vaping. These activities took place virtually or in-person and focused on mental health content related to students and school staff. Partners in the training and professional development activities included the Virginia Department of Health (VDH); the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS); the American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia Affiliate; George Mason University, Concussion Initiative Project; Department of Criminal Justice, Center for School and Campus Safety; Children's Hospital of Richmond; and the University of Virginia (UVA). Monthly virtual meetings are recorded and posted for school nurses and provide a platform for additional shorter presentations on substance abuse content, suicide prevention, tobacco cessation, and the dangers associated with vaping.

The VDOE also collaborated with VDH and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (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.

**The Summer Institute for School Nurses (SISN)** is an annual conference led by VDOE, VDH, and school nurse leaders from across the state that provides current evidence-based strategies to support student wellness and improve the quality of delivered health services. This year's theme was *Ignite the Spark: Fuel Your Passion, Achieve Your Potential* and offered comprehensive mental health training to school nurses. The Institute also included training presented by the REACH Institute and the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL).** Driven by 2020 legislation, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) developed the Virginia Guidance SEL Standards for all public students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade in the commonwealth. Local school boards may choose to adopt all, or portions of, the Virginia SEL Guidance Standards as part of their own local policies, and/or use them as guidance as they implement SEL programming based on the needs of their community. There are five core social emotional learning competencies that address broad and interrelated areas of competence. Effective implementation integrates SEL throughout the school's academic curricula and culture, across the broader contexts of schoolwide practices and policies, and through ongoing collaboration with families and community organizations. The research on the impact of social emotional learning demonstrates that SEL programming has a positive impact on academic performance, school attendance, disciplinary outcomes, and mental wellness. SEL lays the groundwork to create a safe and positive learning environment for students and adults, which allows for relationship building, collaboration, cultural competency, and critical decision-making. In other words, SEL helps students be college and career ready. Research-based SEL programs prevent substance abuse through the promotion of both personal and social skills (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019). Additional information can be located on [VDOE's Social Emotional Learning webpage](#).

**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 with substance use issues. The Substance Use Prevention section includes three webinars: Overview of Substance Use Disorders, Understanding Substance Use Disorders, and Responding to Substance Use Disorders.

**Opioid Abatement Education Program (OAEP) Grant.** The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) was awarded a grant from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) to implement evidence-based substance use prevention programming to schools that prevents and reduces opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids through the Opioid Abatement Education Plan (OAEP). *The Opioid Abatement Education Plan (OAEP)* is a statewide effort by VDOE to spearhead innovative, cross-sector efforts to address opioid misuse by educating students, parents, school employees, and student-athletes about the dangers of drug use and how to prevent opioid misuse and addiction. The plan also includes amplifying cross-community connections between schools and larger coalition efforts to holistically address substance use in communities.

### **Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice**

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)'s mission is to protect the public by preparing court-involved and committed youth to be successful citizens. To accomplish this mission, DJJ uses an integrated approach to juvenile justice, bringing together current research and best practices to target delinquent behavior; meet the needs of youth, victims, and communities, and manage activities and resources in a responsible and proactive manner. This includes providing youth with a variety of services and programs that build skills and competencies, such as substance use prevention and treatment to enable youth to become productive members of the community during and upon release from DJJ's supervision.

In fiscal year 2024, DJJ appropriated approximately \$1,631,992 primarily for substance use prevention and treatment activities through General Fund appropriations. Furthermore, the Virginia



Department of Juvenile Justice provides Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) funding to localities to assist with crime control and substance abuse prevention and treatment activities. Total expenditures related to VJCCCA substance abuse prevention and treatment activities were approximately \$455,389. Additionally, the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth provided a grant award of \$139,000 related to smoking cessation. Fiscal year 2024 total expenditures related to substance use prevention and treatment activities through the General Fund were approximately \$1,401,412. Total fiscal year 2024 expenses related to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth grant award were approximately \$24,956.

Due to the at-risk status of court-involved and committed youth, services offered take a comprehensive approach including substance use prevention, but leaning heavily on treatment, as indicated below.

The scope of substance use prevention and treatment includes all committed youth at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) who are assigned to Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (BAJCC), or a Community Placement Program (CPP) at a regional juvenile detention center. These 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 (including psychiatric services), substance abuse, aggression replacement training, and other treatment recommendations as applicable, are made at this time.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

**Smoking Cessation Programs.** DJJ provided residential prevention programming below on the topics of nicotine and fentanyl.

- INDEPTH, Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco and Health, is an interactive program that teaches students about nicotine dependence, establishing healthy alternatives, and overcoming the addiction.
- VFHY's Nicotine Products Prevention Module is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of nicotine products, the addictive qualities of nicotine, and the toxic chemicals found in nicotine products.
- VFHY's Dangers of Fentanyl Module is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of the dangers of fentanyl, the addictive qualities of fentanyl, and the signs of and appropriate response to an opioid overdose.

At the time of this report:

- Approximately 15 residents have participated in INDEPTH
- 33 residents have participated in the Nicotine Products Prevention Module
- 30 residents have participated in the Dangers of Fentanyl Module.
- These programs and modules are still currently being taught and will occur during FY25.

**Education and Prevention Courses.** DJJ also offered evidence-based education and prevention courses available through 3rd Millennium Classrooms, including:

- Nicotine 101
- Other Drugs
- THC 101
- Under the Influence

## **Youth Access and Drug Education, Caregiver Support, Community Support**

**Regional Service Coordination (RSC) Model.** During fiscal year 2024, VJCCA provided funding to 37 localities for substance use services including substance use assessments, evaluations, education, and evidence-based treatment addressing youth access and drug education alongside caregiver support and community support. Twenty-three providers delivered substance use interventions to youth. Those listed below most directly relate to Youth Access and Drug Education:

- Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) (individual, family, and group, evidence-based)
- Seven Challenges (individual and group, evidence-based)
- Seven Challenges Brief (individual, evidence-based)
- Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment (SAIOP)
- Individual therapy for substance use
- Family therapy for substance use
- Group therapy for substance use
- Relapse prevention for substance use
- Comprehensive relapse prevention which addresses substance use and youth with sexualized behaviors
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT) (family, evidence-based)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST) (family, evidence-based)
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy (family, evidence-based)

## **Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

DMV's mission is to safeguard lives and secure identities, serving the motoring public and support industry partners.

The DMV Highway Safety Office (HSO) supports this mission by reducing crashes, injuries, fatalities, and associated costs by identifying transportation safety issues. DMV HSO provides federal funds to subgrantees that manage youth programs addressing alcohol and/or drug prevention using intervention communications and outreach efforts. All federal funds provided are for a fiscal year that runs from Oct. 1-Sept. 30. Thus, data available at the time of this report refer to DMV's federal fiscal year 2023.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles spent or provided \$2,782,073 for eight youth substance abuse prevention projects managed by various organizations (see activities and initiatives). These were funded using NHTSA federal funding categories of FAST Act 405d or BIL 154 transfer funds.

## **Youth Access and Drug Education**

Projects funded by federal funds distributed and monitored by DMV HSO included:

- Virginia Commonwealth University – Project IMPACT – educates students about the dangers of driving under the influence of substances.
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving – MADD – educates students about alcohol prevention.
- Students Against Destructive Decisions – SADD, INC. – creates peer-to-peer chapters to discuss substance prevention to students and provide resources.
- Substance Abuse Free Environment, INC. - provides educational materials, presents at high schools about substance abuse and conducts a survey about impaired driving among the youth.
- Washington Regional Alcohol Program – WRAP – conducts youth outreach programs in the Greater Washington area about impaired driving.
- Virginia Department of State Police – Youth of Virginia Speak Out – peer-to-peer education program that focuses on zero tolerance law and substance prevention.

- Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety – Choose Your Vibe – Arrive Alive! – educates students about zero tolerance law and preventing substance use.

### Virginia Department of Social Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is one of the largest state agencies in the commonwealth. VDSS oversees and partners with more than 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) as well as faith-based and non-profit organizations to ensure people and especially families receive the assistance they need to thrive.

VDSS' mission is to decrease in scale and severity the substance use epidemic, especially the opioid epidemic, across the commonwealth. While VDSS does not collect spending in terms of substance use prevention, youth prevention and prevention more generally are addressed through screening and referral services at a large scale. Kinship navigation also plays a major role in youth substance use prevention. By providing youth with supportive and well-supported environments, the likelihood that they will go on to develop a substance use disorder decreases, a possibility made more likely by their parents or guardians dealing with substance use disorders of their own. To combat substance use across the commonwealth, VDSS has erected six pillars of action in tandem with their Theory of Change, listed below:

- Prevent substance use - Prevent substance exposure and use and the resulting harmful effects when a substance use disorder exists within a family.
  - Support priority populations and best practices
  - Deliver evidence-based services
- Build knowledge and awareness around substance use - Ensure VDSS workforce has basic knowledge on addiction, its impact on Virginia families, and recommended approaches to eliminating the effects of SUD.
  - Provide workforce training
  - Promote resources and best practices
- Quality assessment and screening - Implement evidence-based substance use disorder screening throughout all VDSS programs that touch children and families.
  - Implement evidence-based screening tool
  - Monitor screening and assessment usage
- Connect families to services - Link families affected by addiction to high-quality, affordable services.
  - Provide treatment referrals to substance using individuals
  - Increase interagency partnerships
- Community collaboration - Support and promote community coalitions to improve community responses to addiction.
  - Build the capacity of existing coalitions and develop new organizations
- Promote Recovery - Work to alleviate challenges that face those in recovery and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorder.
  - Develop a wide range of recovery support services
  - Support the well-being of recovering families

### Community Support

Each department at VDSS employs some form of substance use prevention or reduction programming or policy, elaborated below.

**Community and Volunteer Services (CVS)** contains the majority of substance use prevention initiatives. This includes jumpstarting Parent Mentor Program (PMP), in which parents with lived

experience help other parents struggling with substance use. CVS interfaces with the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) to procure funds for programs like Kinship Navigation that combat and especially prevent substance use within families.

**Benefits.** Of the many benefits programs offered by VDSS, medical assistance is most relevant to substance use, and it provides access to substance use services to individuals ranging from children and youth to seniors.

**Family Services.** Within the Division of Family Services, VDSS has the Parent Advisory Council, which is a council that includes parents with lived experience with child welfare involvement and oftentimes substance use. The goal is to include parents with lived experience in crafting programs and policies in the child welfare space, especially as they relate to circumstances when substance use is a factor within families.

Specific actions taken in VDSS to prevent substance use and combat substance use are listed below.

**Substance Use Training.** Built the VDSS Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery Ally Hub in partnership with VCU Rams in Recovery. The Hub is an online library of resources and trainings to address substance use from an individual to a community and ultimately state level. We are currently in the process of adding Invitation to Change (ITC) training to our list of training offerings.

**Kinship Navigation.** Secured Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) funding for Kinship Navigation to assist families affected by substance use. Funding is particularly important to provide youth a supportive and well-resourced environment to prevent substance use.

**Policy to Support Families.** VDSS is the state administrator of The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First). Family First is one of the most significant changes to federal child welfare funding in almost 40 years. Family First allows for federal funds to be used for **evidence-based** and **trauma-informed** services. Children who are at risk of entering foster care, as well as their families, will now have the ability to access these federal funds to support these services, through their local departments of social services, to keep their families intact and prevent removal through foster care. Federally funded prevention services include Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Services Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Services, and In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs

**Improving Culture of Substance Use Prevention,** Accelerated culture shift around substance use at VDSS and LDSS (staff training, offices supportive of recovery work). Example training topics include the role of trauma in addiction, the stigma of addiction, REVIVE!/naloxone training, MAT and available treatments, and evidence-based screening and treatment.

**Drug Screening.** Drafting drug screening recommendations that reflect the importance of understanding drug screening results as one of many tools. These screening recommendations especially took drug screening into account as it relates to child welfare assessments.

**Lived Experience Workgroup.** Established a Lived Experience (LEx) workgroup that aims to incorporate the perspectives of people with lived experience with substance use into the design of programs and policies that seek to address substance use, among other issues.

**SPEAKOUT.** VDSS organizes Strong Positive Educated Advocates Keen on Understanding the Truth (SPEAKOUT). SPEAKOUT is a diverse group of youth and alumni from Virginia's foster care system

advocating for change by giving input on foster care regulations, policy, guidance, and practice concerns, while also building advocacy and leadership skills. Substance use is deeply implicated in these critical conversations and these youth are making a big difference in a space that is personal to them.

### Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) empowers Virginia's youth to make healthy choices by reducing and preventing youth tobacco and nicotine use, substance use, and childhood obesity. In addition to their collaboration on the Virginia Youth Survey with VDH and VDOE, VFHY funds youth substance use prevention grants, state-wide substance use prevention marketing campaigns, and youth substance use prevention research.

VFHY is funded by a share of Virginia's annual payments from the nation's major tobacco manufacturers through the **Master Settlement Agreement** (MSA). VFHY spent at least \$7,159,000 on youth substance use prevention activities in fiscal year 2024, including \$3,500,000 for statewide substance use prevention marketing campaigns, \$759,000 for prevention research, and \$2,900,000 for youth substance use prevention grants.

VFHY funds youth-serving organizations like schools, community service boards and community nonprofits to provide evidence-based substance use prevention programming to young people across the commonwealth. These programs inform students about the dangers of drugs, teach drug refusal skills and empower youth to make healthy decisions. In fiscal year 2024, around 40,000 youth successfully completed evidence-based substance use prevention programming.

### Youth Access and Drug Education

The following evidence-based programs were provided:

- All Stars
- Al's Pals
- Botvin LifeSkills Training
- Catch My Breath
- Healthy Alternatives for Little Ones (HALO)
- INDEPTH
- Not on Tobacco
- Project Action
- Project Success
- Project Toward No Tobacco Use (TNT)
- Stanford University Tobacco Prevention Toolkit
- Strengthening Families
- Too Good for Drugs

In fiscal year 2024, VFHY developed the Danger of Fentanyl Module, an evidence-informed lesson to educate high school students about the evolving dangers of fentanyl. The module (lesson, implementation guide, and pre and post survey) is being provided free of charge to any classroom in the commonwealth and is available for download at [www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons](http://www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons). So far, it has been downloaded over 250 times.

VFHY also developed and makes available the Nicotine Products Prevention Module to educate students about the evolving dangers of new and emerging nicotine products. More information can be found at [www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons](http://www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons). At least 17,000 receive this lesson each year. VFHY also developed and implements the followings substance use prevention marketing campaigns statewide: Behind the Haze: This campaign delivers educational messaging about the harmful chemicals found in vapor, the health consequences of vaping, and their link to nicotine addiction.

Unfazed: This campaign uses straightforward, relevant facts and an empathetic tone to empower teens to avoid using marijuana and cannabis products.

Deadly Dose: This campaign gives young people the information they need to know about the dangers of fentanyl-laced drugs to stay safe and save lives.

### **Virginia National Guard**

The Virginia National Guard provides requesting Community Based Organizations (CBOs) with resources and personnel support in developing and implementing community initiatives outlined below. 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.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

- Youth drug education and refusal skills
- CHILL Programming

### **Caregiver Support**

- Family history of substance use
- Parental attitudes towards substance use
- Parental monitoring
- Parental substance use

### **Community Support**

- School connectedness
- Academic achievement
- Childhood sexual abuse\*

*\*Nationally recognized as an evidence-based program.*

### **Virginia State Police**

VSP's mission is to engage, educate, and empower youth to influence a safe driving culture through leadership development and innovative outreach programs. To address the young driver problem and their involvement in alcohol-related crashes in Virginia, the Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) program engages youth in peer-to-peer education designed to change knowledge and beliefs, modify attitudes, teach new skills and garner buy-in and support for Virginia's Zero Tolerance and impaired driving laws.

By giving teens guided responsibility for addressing their risks, they are better able to influence a safe driving culture in their schools and communities and increase teen acceptance for Zero Tolerance and other traffic laws. YOVASO uses evidenced-based, service-learning principles for its peer-to-peer traffic safety programs and engages youth through interactive experiences, virtual learning lessons,

and social media messaging and contests.

YOVASO spent a total of \$225,866. during fiscal year 2024, through the following federal Highway Safety Grants awarded via the DMV Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) grant program. Note that DMV follows the federal fiscal year from Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.

- FY23 Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) Peer-to-Peer Program – Alcohol
  - Awarded \$276,882
  - Spent \$66,288 for July 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2023
- FY24: Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) Peer-to-Peer Program – Alcohol
  - Awarded \$313,086
  - Spent \$159,577 for Oct. 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Additionally, YOVASO received grant funding from State Farm in the amount of \$70,750. These funds were used to purchase a new Distracted/Impaired Driving Simulator, maintenance and equipment repairs on five other simulators, and funding for educational programs and materials.

Considering only educational resources and programs, student leadership training, and the YOVASO Summer Leadership Retreat, approximately \$205,000 was spent on youth substance use prevention.

### **Youth Access and Drug Education**

YOVASO implemented the following programming:

**Peer-to-Peer and School/Youth Group Programming.** Provided educational programming, leadership training, and peer-to-peer initiatives for 140 schools and youth groups in the commonwealth during fiscal year 2024, with a potential reach of 141,246 student enrollment. Participating schools provided peer-to-peer club activities, educational programming, interactive safe driving experiences, contests and competitions, personal story speakers, and a variety of in-school and social media messaging.

**Drug and Alcohol-Free After-Prom Grants.** Provided \$1,000 grants to eight high schools in Virginia in spring 2024 to help fund school-sanctioned drug and alcohol free after prom parties for students on prom night. The total spending was \$8,000.00. Schools receiving grants reported zero serious injury or fatal crashes on prom night.

**Arrive Alive Educational Campaign.** Sponsored a spring semester 2024 educational campaign, called “Arrive Alive,” for schools and youth groups. The campaign focused on reducing crash risks among drivers during the high-risk spring/summer months, with an emphasis on prom and graduation celebratory periods when drug and alcohol use typically increase. Sixty-eight schools and youth groups participated through peer led activities and programs, reaching over 50,000 youth.

**Prom/Graduation Safe Driving Ads.** Produced and placed Prom/Graduation Safe Driving ads for live streaming on TV and electronic devices in conjunction with WSLs TV to encourage teens to drive safely and celebrate without alcohol and drugs. Ad streamed in high teen fatality locations across Virginia in April and May 2024. The ad received 61,219 impressions, with 86.57% of viewers watching the ad in its entirety.

**Distracted/Impaired Driving Simulator.** VSP troopers and YOVASO provided the Distracted/Impaired Driving Simulators and ScanEd: Physics of a Crash programs to 129 schools/community events reaching close to 22,000 students with a real-life experience on the

dangers of distracted and impaired driving. The most recent post-simulator event surveys show that 94% of student respondents agree that driving under the influence is very dangerous and 100% of the teachers rated the program's impact on their students as 'excellent' or 'very good.'

**Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday Contest.** Sponsored a Christmas/New Year's holiday school and social media campaign in December 2023 called, "Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday." Students developed a short song or tune reminding their peers to buckle up, slow down, and celebrate the holidays without using drugs and alcohol. YOVASO selected the top tunes submitted by students for placement on social media platforms and the public voted on the top three winners in the high school and middle school divisions. All submitted tunes were shared across social media throughout the holidays. The tunes received 15,000 impressions on Twitter, reached 59,141 teens on Facebook and 1,735 teens on Instagram during the month of December. School clubs also marched in local parades with the "Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday" banner and floats decorated with safety messages.

**Driver for Change Educational Campaign.** Sponsored a fall semester education campaign called "Drive for Change" for schools and youth groups that ran Sept. 15 – Nov. 30, 2023. The peer-to-peer campaign focused on encouraging teens to buckle up and slow down and emphasized Zero Tolerance and the dangers of impaired driving. Sixty schools and youth groups participated, reaching over 25,000 youth. Seat belt use at participating schools increased an average of 3.87% from pre-campaign to post-campaign.

**Drive For Change Safe Driving Ads.** Produced and ran two Drive for Change safe driving ads on social media platforms in fall 2023 (September through November) in conjunction with WFXR TV. Ads focused on speed, distracted driving, seat belts and driving alcohol and drug free. The ads received 2.2 million impressions on social media and WSLS ran the spot 139 times on its WFXR and WWCW stations.

**Summer Leadership Retreat.** Provided a four-day, three-night peer leadership development conference for high school students and club sponsors in the commonwealth. The conference had 150 attendees representing 58 high schools in the commonwealth. Various workshops and hands on activities regarding the dangers of drug and alcohol use while driving were provided, including: the Driver Alcohol Detection System (DADSS) technology for vehicles, VSP station using marijuana and DUI goggles to demonstrate the dangers of driving high, and a Drive Smart station using pedal carts and DUI goggles. Ninety-one percent of students gave the retreat an excellent or above average rating and 94% said the retreat met the goal of educating them about risk factors in a crash and how to reduce those risks.

**Summer Safe Driving Ads.** Produced and ran four Summer Safe Driving ads on social media platforms in Summer 2023 (June through August) in conjunction with WFXR TV to reach young drivers during the high-risk summer vacation period. The ads received 4,241,624 impressions on Instagram. WFXR also ran the PSAs 753 times on its WFXR and WWCW stations.

**Statewide Youth Advisory Council (YAC).** Trained and worked with 20 students from across the commonwealth to serve as statewide leaders for safe teen driving and passenger safety. The students helped plan the Summer Leadership Retreat and educational campaigns, developed messaging for social media and campaign materials; filmed PSAs on safe driving and youth violence prevention, served as youth leaders/mentors for the Summer Retreat, and promoted young driver and passenger safety in their schools and communities.

**Peer Leadership Training.** Trained over 150 high and middle school students across the



commonwealth to be advocates for safe driving and traffic safety in their schools and communities. Over 100 schools completed peer-led programs during the fiscal year.

## Gaps in Overall Youth Substance Use Prevention Efforts

VOSAP members' efforts, considered together with national and state youth substance use trends reveal gaps.

A lack of funding exclusive to youth prevention in many organizations led to difficulty in precisely reporting spending on youth prevention efforts. In these cases, youth substance use prevention activities are embedded within initiatives that might target caregivers or other community members more generally, while addressing risk and protective factors important for preventing youth substance use (e.g., parental support, mental health and trauma support). Likewise, organizations collect and report on youth substance use prevention efforts and measures in different ways. For example, some report youth prevention efforts in age groups up to 18 years old, while others report youth prevention efforts in age groups up to 22 years old. The VOSAP Collaborative sought to address these gaps by documenting these exceptions where they occur, such that a consistency across the group may emerge, and meaningful comparisons can be drawn year to year. More clarifications will continue to be developed to serve this goal as VOSAP members report data each year.

Another gap is tracking regional spending and reach of each organization's youth substance use prevention activities. Reporting formats vary per organization; some initiatives implemented by VOSAP member agencies are implemented and reported state-wide, and data is not broken down by locality or region. VOSAP Annual Reports prior to 2023 utilized eight reporting regions across the state, under which city/county spending and reach data could be captured. However, in practice, the number of organizations providing only statewide data or regional data that was not compatible with VOSAP reporting regions provided an incomplete picture, which made aggregate data less useful for comparison.

Continued development of a standardized, unified method of data collection and reporting will benefit the commonwealth as it relates to youth substance use prevention. Incorporating the Virginia Youth Survey, VDH emergency department visits data in combination with other sources from Virginia data dashboards to predict youth substance use could further organize reported activities of VOSAP members. This is key in effectively integrating and streamlining prevention efforts and providing a unified front on youth substance use prevention.

## Focuses for Fiscal Year 2025 and Unmet Needs

The following organizations identified focuses for fiscal year 2025 and any unmet substance use prevention needs, described below.

### Virginia ABC

Virginia ABC's Community Health & Engagement Division will continue its work to provide data, research, evidence-based programming, strategic resources and genuine partnership in order to ensure Virginians are able to make informed choices. One goal for fiscal year 2024 is to expand the YADAPP program to reach more schools across the state and to encourage more organizations serving youth to apply for evidence-based alcohol education and prevention programs.

## **Community Coalitions of Virginia**

Strategic goals for the upcoming fiscal year include a continued focus on recruitment, retention, and outreach. Additionally, many members have expressed a need for education on working with youth populations. We hope to bring in more speakers on this topic, both at monthly meetings and at the annual conference. Due to the variety of member organizations, we anticipate focusing on all relevant substances throughout the upcoming year.

## **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services**

**DBHDS' Strategic Plan** has nine goal areas: workforce recruitment and retention, workforce sustainability; prevention, early intervention and youth services, integrated settings, quality of service outcomes, same-day crisis care, services administration, facility systems modernization and statewide data exchange.

Of these, Goal 3 aligns with the work of VOSAP. To increase prevention, early intervention, and youth behavioral health services. Areas of focus under this goal include:

- Increasing Community Prevention and Response Capacity
- Decreasing Opioid-Related Deaths

Substances that will be areas of focus for youth prevention include: alcohol, tobacco/nicotine/vapes, cannabis, opioids, fentanyl, heroin, prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicine.

## **Virginia Department of Education**

VDOE seeks to encouraging partnership and collaboration among schools, families, communities, and other stakeholders to create a supportive environment for substance use prevention. One example is the partnership with the Opioid Abatement Authority. This partnership is increasing the number of students who receive skills-based opioid prevention programming that includes standards-based K-12 instruction, increased training for educators on opioid prevention, increasing effective school-community partnerships in opioid abatement efforts, the establishment of increased opportunities for students to develop healthy coping and problem-solving skills, and increasing awareness of the dangers of opioid abuse and ways to promote healthy lifestyles.

VDOE has hired an Opioid Abatement Program Manager who will be overseeing activities related to substance use prevention related to opioids.

## **Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice**

DJJ continues its mission of protecting the public by preparing court-involved youth to be successful citizens.

## **Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

DMV continues to support projects that reduce impaired driving fatalities in federal fiscal year 2024. The federal fiscal year is Oct. 1, 2023 - Sept. 30, 2024. DMV is currently in the process of approving projects for its federal fiscal year 2025.

Federal fiscal year 2024 projects (continuing into VOSAP's fiscal year 2025) funded by federal funds distributed and monitored by DMV Highway Safety Office:

- Virginia Commonwealth University – Project IMPACT – educates students about the dangers of driving under the influence of substances.
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving – MADD – educates students about alcohol prevention.

- Students Against Destructive Decisions – SADD, INC. – creates peer-to-peer chapters to discuss substance prevention to students and provide resources.
- Substance Abuse Free Environment, INC. - Provides educational materials, presents at high schools about substance abuse and conducts a survey about impaired driving among the youth.
- Washington Regional Alcohol Program – WRAP – Conducts youth outreach programs in the Greater Washington area about impaired driving.
- Virginia Department of State Police – Youth of Virginia Speak Out – Peer-to-peer education program that focuses on zero tolerance law and substance prevention.
- Norfolk State University – WNSB-FM and Spartan Athletics Public Information/Education.
- Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety – Choose Your Vibe – Arrive Alive! – educates students about zero tolerance law and preventing substance use.

### **Virginia Department of Social Services**

There are a number of programs that are currently under development, described below. It is projected that many or all will achieve an advanced stage in fiscal year 2025.

- Peer Recovery Services (PRS). VDSS is utilizing the power of PRS to assist individuals with substance use recovery. Peers are being embedded into faith-based organizations as well as parent organizations to assist individuals struggling with substance use in all walks of life.
- 211 Opioid Reduction Registry (ORR). A slate of organizations combating substance use and primarily opioid misuse added to the 211-hotline information and referral service. Opioid specific training for 211 staff. We aim to assist 15,000 inquirers and enroll 1,500 organizations to the registry in the first year.
- Parent Mentor Program (PMP). Supports parents struggling with substance use and child welfare involvement. Parent mentors have shared dual lived experience and help parent mentees navigate systems such as child welfare, criminal justice, and substance use and recovery. In terms of numbers, six parent mentors will serve three hundred families.

### **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth**

In fiscal year 2025, VFHY will support 65 organizations with youth substance use prevention funding. These organizations will implement evidence-based prevention programs and community projects to prevent and reduce youth tobacco, nicotine, and substance use in communities across the commonwealth.

VFHY will continue focusing on fentanyl prevention efforts, including launching a Spanish version of the Dangers of Fentanyl Module. VFHY will also continue to support its Deadly Dose campaign to keep young people safe from fentanyl.

After the success of VFHY’s first Champions for Youth Summit in April 2023, where 500 prevention professionals came together – united by their desire to empower youth to make healthy choices, the next Champions for Youth Summit will be held Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2024.

### **Virginia State Police**

The Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) program of Virginia State Police continues to engage, educate and empower youth the influence safe driving culture through leadership develop and innovative outreach programs.

To address problems associated with impaired driving and teen driver safety in Virginia and help reach the state's vision of Toward Zero Deaths, YOVASO will focus on strategic and effective peer-to-peer programs and interactive, educational programs that appeal to teens. Focused tasks will include

youth leadership development training, educational programming, hands-on/interactive activities, and outreach for youth at the high and middle school levels and through community youth groups and organizations.

Specific goals are to reduce crashes, deaths, and serious injuries among 15-to-20-year-olds in Virginia in alignment with current state HSP, with targeted focus on reducing fatalities among 15-to-20-year-old teen drivers and deaths among all teens (drivers, passengers, and pedestrians) in crashes. Other focuses address increasing awareness and understanding of risk factors that cause teen driver crashes and how to reduce those risks, as well as reducing alcohol-related crashes and fatal crashes among teen drivers through educational and awareness programs.

We hope to see a long-term impact of youth fully engaged at all levels (state, local, regional), positive social norms in schools/communities to be less accepting of risky driving behaviors, and sustained capacity for youth leadership to influence safe driving culture.

# Meeting Summaries

Meeting notes from all fiscal year 2024 VOSAP Collaborative meetings in order from July 2023 to June 2024 are detailed below. Full copies of meeting minutes can be found on the [Commonwealth Calendar](#).

## August 17, 2023 Discussion Topics

**Speaker:** Elle Poe – Virginia Department of Social Services gave a presentation on VDSS substance use initiatives. The slide deck is available alongside these minutes.

## VOSAP Updates

VOSAP Facilitator is compiling data from the Annual Report survey in a draft and following up with questions. Members can expect to receive a draft report by the end of the month.

## Virginia ABC News and Updates

The Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) Kickoff Conference was a success. At Longwood University, Virginia ABC hosted over 19 teams of students across the commonwealth and facilitating coaching them to developing prevention plans.

Sarah Davlin, Capacity Building Specialist, returns from parental leave later this month. Karanja Cook joined the Education and Prevention Team as Community Engagement Coordinator.

## CCA News and Updates

CCA is continuing to work on their Safe Driving Campaign, which launches Sept. 4.

## CCoVA News and Updates

CCoVA Statewide Summit will be held Oct. 23 in Roanoke. Registration and hotel booking is live and more information can be found at [www.communitycoalitionsofva.com](http://www.communitycoalitionsofva.com). The theme is “Do Your Part.”

## DCJS News and Updates

DCJS has contracted out the creation of new online learning modules.

Just had the School Safety and Training Forum with about 1100 attendees. Partnering with DBHDS to continuing education about fentanyl. Announced that the Strengthening Connections Conference will be Feb. 21-22 at the Crossings in Glen Allen. They would love to have state partners there to share resources and make connections. Hoping to have eight state-wide programs that target vaping by the end of the year.

## DJJ News and Updates

The Department of Juvenile Justice has continued with their grant-funded education for residents from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. In fiscal year 2023, 10 BSU Clinicians at Bon Air JCC were trained to implement CATCH My Breath, an anti-vaping program. Eight of our 10 units were able to participate in the programming. Two staff members from the Shenandoah Community Placement Program also received CATCH My Breath training and implementation materials. At BAJCC, approximately 78 residents participated in CATCH My Breath programming. Before CATCH, 69% of respondents said that they had tried an e-cigarette, even once. After CATCH, 70% of respondents did

not want to smoke e-cigarettes and 76% of respondents agreed that they learned something new about e-cigarettes from CATCH My Breath.

In fiscal year 2024, we will implement INDEPTH, an intervention program that focuses on tobacco use, nicotine dependence, establishing healthy alternatives, and making the changes to be free of all tobacco products. Any Residents who go through INDEPTH will be offered Not On Tobacco, a youth cessation program for those who wish to cut back or quit using tobacco altogether. We are also beginning a new initiative to explore and implement educational programs focused on opioids, specifically fentanyl.

### **DMV News and Updates**

On Sept. 1, 2023, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 are joining forces with law enforcement to promote a "No DUI Friday". This effort is in support of NHTSA's and Virginia's Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over high-visibility enforcement period that runs from Aug. 16 – Sept. 4, 2023.

Virginia DMV encourages you to share these additional resources for "No DUI Friday" with your community to help them make smart decisions before getting behind the wheel.

- [Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over | Traffic Safety Marketing](#)
- [National Mobilization | Traffic Safety Marketing](#)
- [Drive High - Get a DUI | Traffic Safety Marketing](#)
- [Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over \(motorcyclists\) | Traffic Safety Marketing](#)

### **VDOE News and Updates**

Recently hosted Physical Activity Institute and VDETS. Partnered with WHRO on hazing initiative targeted at K-12 youth and parents.

### **VFHY News and Updates**

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth is releasing its next three-year Youth Tobacco Use Prevention RFP on Aug. 28.

A total of up to \$8,742,000 is available over three years for grants statewide. There are two funding categories to choose from. Funding can be requested to implement evidence-based youth tobacco use prevention programs or to develop and implement new and innovative strategies to reduce tobacco-related youth health disparities.

If you think any organizations in your network might be interested in applying, please share this opportunity. The RFP will be available on our [website](#) on Aug. 28.

### **VSP News and Updates**

VSP had their YOVASO Conference in July. Registration has now opened for the Drive for Change campaign. It kicks off on Sept. 11 and runs through the end of November.

### **November 16, 2023 Discussion Topics**

**Speaker:** Julia Mogren – Virginia Department of Health gave a presentation on youth substance use trends. The slide deck is available alongside these minutes.

### **VOSAP Updates**

The fiscal year 2023 VOSAP Annual Report was approved by the Virginia ABC Board and submitted to the Legislative Information System.

VOSAP members discussed ways to further improve the reporting process, including refining focus areas, better definition of terms, a more standardized written reporting format and how to best incorporate the multitude of public data sources to inform the state of youth substance use and prevention needs in the commonwealth.

### **Virginia ABC News and Updates**

Virginia ABC CEO Travis Hill stepped down from his position.

Virginia ABC's Education & Prevention Division changed names to Community Health & Engagement.

In addition to the VOSAP Annual Report, Virginia ABC's Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee (VHESUAC) Annual Report was also submitted to the Legislative Information System.

Community Health & Engagement Division is accepting alcohol education and prevention grant applications from Jan. 1 - March 1, 2024. Grants of up to \$10,000 are offered to organizations working to prevent underage drinking, social providing/hosting and/or high-risk drinking. Visit <https://www.abc.virginia.gov/education/grants> for more information.

### **CCA News and Updates**

The Cannabis Control Authority launched TV and radio PSAs in the fall as part of its safe driving campaign. The Authority will soon have partnership toolkits filled with social media posts, web banners, flyers and posters for stakeholders to use to help spread educational messaging regarding the dangers of driving after cannabis use. The CCA also recently developed two toolkits to address youth cannabis prevention: one for parents and one for teen youth. Lastly, the CCA is happy to present on or discuss cannabis laws, public health and public safety if stakeholders are interested.

### **CCoVA News and Updates**

CCoVA is offering mentorship opportunities to community coalitions across the state. Guidelines are being developed and resources gathered to help support this project.

### **DBHDS News and Updates**

DBHDS' Office of Behavioral Health Wellness works in conjunction with the 40 Community Services Boards (particularly their prevention/wellness staff) statewide, and other partners.

Here are some highlights:

- In January we will launch another round of the Virginia Young Adult Survey, a comprehensive survey of 18-to-25-year-olds on a variety of subjects including substance use, mental health, and gambling. Results from the last administration are on the [Virginia Social Indicator Summary Dashboard](https://www.vasis.org/yas) at <https://www.vasis.org/yas>.
- **Lift Up Virginia** (<https://liftupvirginia.org/>) is a project/website/community with the tagline "It takes a village to raise resilience." We are excited to collaboratively grow this community providing training, resources, and insights on positive and adverse childhood experiences.

- Activate Your Wellness is based on SAMHSA's Eight Dimensions of Wellness. Please see <https://www.virginiapreventionworks.org/activate/> and <https://www.youtube.com/@ActivateYourWellnessVA> for more information.
- To help build the capacity of community coalitions, DBHDS is working with CCoVA to launch a mentoring program.

We welcome questions and are seeking additional partners for these projects—and everything else we are working on!

### **DCJS News and Updates**

DCJS grant season is underway. **Three grant opportunities** are currently posted that are accepting applications.

### **DJJ News and Updates**

DJJ is in the last leg of a VFHY grant addressing vaping and e-cigarettes.

### **VDOE News and Updates**

VDOE is drafting Proposed Guidelines for Instruction on Problem Gambling And The Addictive Potential Thereof. This may go before the Board of Education for first review in December.

The Choose Your Vibe Arrive Alive Campaign is recruiting Educator Ambassadors.

VT Cooperative Extension is offering Botvin Life Skills Training for Educators.

### **VDSS News and Updates**

VDSS has two projects to highlight. First, an OAA grant to expand Kinship Navigator work. Kinship refers to the broader family unit. Second, work is being done to build more peer recovery networks among those with child welfare experience.

### **VFHY News and Updates**

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2024 will be the date of the next Champions for Youth Summit. This will be in Reston, Virginia. If you have speaker recommendations (on any topics touching youth drug use/prevention), please reach out.

VFHY is in the final stages of developing a lesson that address the dangers of fentanyl. It is designed for high school teachers to use as a convenient, self-contained lesson for their students. Looking at getting it out by January.

### **VSP News and Updates**

VSP's YOVASO program is in the middle of its Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday campaign which runs until mid-December. The Drive for Change campaign just wrapped up, and plans are being made for next year's summer youth leadership retreat.

### **February 15, 2024 Discussion Topics**

**Speaker:** Katharine Beachboard of DMV presented on DMV's ongoing Highway Safety Office projects. The slides from the presentation are attached with the minutes.

### **VOSAP Updates**



CCoVA has a General Assembly bill tracking document they use to keep track of the various proposed substance use prevention legislation in the General Assembly. Several agencies had questions about the current state of cannabis laws and what exactly would be allowed if a retail bill passed, as it would be important to consider for prevention.

Wyatt Anderson, the VOSAP Facilitator, gave an update on the format of how agencies should submit data for the annual report, along with clarifications on important terms and ideas for most relevant data in the report. See attached slides for more detail, which is summarized below.

The new format for collecting responses move away from a survey to a document to allow for VOSAP members explain their answers more easily. The draft of this document will be shared with VOSAP members prior to the upcoming May meeting.

Additionally, the VOSAP Facilitator clarified what should be considered as youth prevention spending, or prevention efforts, so that we can more consistently track these trends over time in the state. Plan is to rely on the definitions provided by Institute of Medicine Continuum of Care Framework. While it is still valuable to provide data on treatment/recovery efforts, it is important to track these separately from youth prevention efforts as the focus of the VOSAP report.

Reviewed how data has been typically featured in the report and discussed the national and state-level youth substance use data that should be included. These include data from Monitoring the Future, Virginia Youth Survey and others from state dashboards like youth drug and alcohol arrests, youth hospitalization data, and Young Adult Survey data. If others think of data we should include, please do not hesitate to suggest it.

### **Group Discussion**

VOSAP members gave feedback and asked clarifying questions surrounding those definitions and categories that should be considered in youth prevention spending and activities. It was agreed that the most important aspect of tracking these activities is that each organization is consistent with what categories are being considered.

It was also suggested that it might be a good idea to invite someone from the Opioid Abatement Authority to offer their perspective on youth substance use and data collection around the state.

### **Virginia ABC News and Updates**

Community Health & Engagement Division is accepting alcohol education and prevention grant applications from Jan. 1- March 1, 2024. Grants of up to \$10,000 are offered to organizations working to prevent underage drinking, social providing/hosting and/or high-risk drinking. Visit <https://www.abc.virginia.gov/education/grants> for more information.

### **CCA News and Updates**

The CCA's safe driving campaign continues with digital out of home ads, targeted social media messages, and video ads on streaming services and broadcast TV/radio. The Authority's partner toolkit is available on its website for stakeholders to use for free to help spread messaging on the dangers and consequences of cannabis use and driving. Each toolkit includes posters, flyers, web banners, and social media posts, available in both English and Spanish.

### **DBHDS News and Updates**

Nicole Gore is now the Assistant Commissioner for Community Behavioral Health. Colleen Hughes is the Interim Director of the Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness.

It is recommended that all VOSAP members sign up to get CCoVA newsletter if they do not already receive it. There will be a one-day conference April 30 in Norfolk with prevention and wellness teams from CSBs throughout the state.

### **DCJS News and Updates**

DJCS Strengthening Connections Prevention Conference is Feb. 21-22 at The Virginia Crossings in Glen Allen.

### **DJJ News and Updates**

DJJ is using VFHY's recently developed fentanyl lesson plans. Hoping to launch it in April. Trying to beef up MAT (Medication-Assisted Treatment) program as there are not a ton of programs for opioid-dependent youth.

### **VDOE News and Updates**

Legislation is a busy time of year at VDOE. Currently developing legislative action summaries about fentanyl, about naloxone, about hazing. Also interviewing and hiring for new positions.

The upcoming Health and Physical Activity Institute will take place at James Madison University July, 7-10.

### **VDSS News and Updates**

Working on getting peer recovery specialists into local/state offices and partnerships  
Doing more work to try and keep kids with families, or extended kin if that is a better option. Also working on outreach to faith-based organizations.

### **VFHY News and Updates**

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth is hosting our next **Champions for Youth Summit** from Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2024, in Reston, Virginia. The event will focus on cross-cutting issues that impact tobacco/nicotine, substance use, and obesity prevention among youth and young adults. The event is expected to draw around 550 attendees from across the country.

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth has just released its **Dangers of Fentanyl Module**, which includes an easy-to-administer lesson to educate high school students about the evolving dangers of fentanyl. The lesson was initially developed by practitioners from the Warren County Community Health Coalition. It has been revised by VFHY with support from researchers at Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University, and East Tennessee State University. It has been tested at five high school sites and with almost 200 high school students and is now available free of charge.

### **VSP News and Updates**

YOVASO is working on grant for DMV's Highway Safety Office. The Arrive Alive campaign launches March 4 about safe driving for graduation, prom, and other spring activities.

Registration is about to open for the YOVASO Summer Leadership retreat at James Madison University.

### **DMV News and Updates**

See attached slides for detailed summary of projects and updates.

### **MADD News and Updates**

MADD VA is working with Virginia ABC to market the Power of Parents program. Also contacting criminal justice academies to provide additional voices when talking about alcohol-related incidents.

## May 16, 2024 Discussion Topics

**Speaker:** Tony McDowell of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority gave an overview of their mission, structure and ongoing efforts to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the commonwealth. Presentation slides are attached alongside these minutes.

## VOSAP Updates

Wyatt Anderson, the VOSAP Facilitator, reviewed the document that will be used to capture responses from members for the Annual Report. As discussed previously, new format for collecting responses moves away from a survey to a document to allow for VOSAP members explain their answers more easily.

The VOSAP Facilitator went over working definitions for what should be considered as youth prevention spending, or prevention efforts, so that we can more consistently track these trends over time in the state. Plan is still to rely on the definitions provided by Institute of Medicine Continuum of Care Framework. While it is still valuable to provide data on treatment/recovery efforts, it is important to track these separately from youth prevention efforts as the focus of the VOSAP report. Also went over other edge cases that have come up in past years as well as statewide data to be featured in the report.

## Group Discussion

VOSAP members gave feedback and asked clarifying questions surrounding how to frame individual sections of the report, and whether all resources should be collected in a separate section.

It was reiterated that while more gray areas may appear, it is most important to note what assumptions were made so that we can be transparent and consistent in how data is tracked over time. That will allow the report to be most useful for those looking to make decisions. Reminded that we want the report to be as useful as possible as a snapshot of youth substance use in Virginia, along with a concise overview of approaches and resources to increase prevention.

It was decided that sharable resources should be hyperlinked or bolded in submissions, such that they can be later organized as themes emerge (specific substances, ways of participation, etc.). This would allow for a quicker turnaround to produce a draft, where a decision could then be made if a separate resources section is most useful.

It was discussed how we can bring more local groups to the table and make them aware of the abundance of resources and opportunities available from state organizations. VOSAP Facilitator reminded the group while improving the structure of the report with our data has been an ongoing project, members should feel free to suggest other projects or priorities as we prepare for next year.

## Virginia ABC News and Updates

Dale Farino was named CEO at the end of April.

The Community Health & Engagement Division is developing Public Health and Safety Community Dashboard. It can be used to help inform policy and prevention decisions. It is expected to go live this summer. Enrollment closes June 1 for our Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) Conference. The event is held July 22-26 at Christopher Newport University.

Solidified virtual, group training events as an additional option for the Power of Parents program we promote with MADD. Lots of opportunities exist to distribute handbooks and hold training events with youth end-of-year celebrations occurring.

### **CCA News and Updates**

Two new additional resources are being created to warn against cannabis use during pregnancy and proper medical cannabis storage. Additionally, new safe driving campaign ads are being created.

### **DBHDS News and Updates**

Young Adult Survey has been completed with almost 6,000 responses. Findings will be available this fall.

Lock and Talk online training to help CSB staff with suicide prevention and is available at <https://www.lockandtalk.org/projects/governors-challenge>.

Tobacco merchant education - free, online merchant education modules for clerks and managers will be available in July for all tobacco/nicotine retailers.

Mental Health First Aid - DBHDS is working with a number of school systems to provide Mental Health First Aid trainings to school personnel.

### **DCJS News and Updates**

Virginia School Safety Training Forum is July 30-31, in Hampton. Executive forum will be July 29 at the Hampton Convention center. Working on grant proposal for Sources of Strength grant to help to 400 Elementary schools. Additionally, 16 webinars on teen mental health will be offered from May 31 – Sept. 23.

### **DJJ News and Updates**

Rolled out several cohorts of prevention / educational programs at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center to committed youth. These programs are sponsored by VFHY. They are:

- In Depth (a four-session program on health and safety issues related to tobacco and nicotine products).
- Tobacco and Nicotine (a one session program on the dangers of tobacco and nicotine use)
- The Dangers of Fentanyl (a one session program on the dangers of fentanyl).

### **VDH News and Updates**

A directory is in galley form & the guide narrative is being edited. A comprehensive Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health Treatment Resource Guide will roll out in next few months.

### **VDOE News and Updates**

Currently working to get more schools Botvin Life Skills Training curriculum to use. Updated cannabis, alcohol, and opioid resources to the driver education curriculum. Community crash data is being analyzed and used to create targeted professional development to mitigate the causes of these crashes. Adapted Physical Education content. Additionally, an opioid abatement program manager was recently hired.

Teaching Academy will be June 24-27 at James Madison University.

VADETS Conference Sunday July 7 and Healthy Kids, Healthy Virginia – Health and Physical Activity Institute July 8-10 at JMU.

### **VFHY News and Updates**

Early registration is open for the second Champions of Youth Summit. The event is Sept. 30 – Oct. 2 in Reston, Virginia. Additionally, there has been great feedback for the newly developed Fentanyl Prevention Lesson available online. It is a PowerPoint lesson for grades 9-12, designed to be a powerful plug-and-play resource for teachers.

### **VSP News and Updates**

2024 YOVASO Summer Leadership Retreat is coming up, July 11-14 at James Madison University. Arrive Alive defensive driving campaign is occurring as prom and graduation events are happening in schools.

## **Final Summary**

Through the review of information submitted for fiscal year 2024, \$13,226,285 was spent on youth substance use prevention, with \$35,980,552 spent on substance use prevention more generally. To better capture the interconnected nature of youth prevention efforts, reporting organizations considered three focus areas when reporting spending and activities: Youth Access and Drug Education, Caregiver Support and Community Support. Evaluation of these data shows a wide berth of programs and resources to prevent youth substance in the state.

Easy-to-digest data on the scope of all Virginia youth substance use behaviors is limited. The **Virginia Youth Survey** is a valuable tool, though its necessarily broad focus across health behaviors sometimes leave an incomplete picture of rapidly changing trends and developments. In combination with national data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Monitoring the Future, the VOSAP Collaborative will continue to refine this report to produce a snapshot of the state of youth substance use.

Another gap involves the relative lack of direct comparisons between regional youth substance use behaviors and the need for youth substance use prevention initiatives in those areas. Moving forward, the VOSAP Collaborative will consider ways to collect our varied resources and programs as a more easily referenced repository based on useful categories (e.g., type of drug, region, audience). Additionally, VOSAP will continue to develop methods to facilitate sharing data between member organizations such that more direct comparisons can be made over time.

## **VOSAP Collaborative Contact Information**

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority  
Community Health & Engagement Division  
7450 Freight Way  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

**Email:** [Education@VirginiaABC.com](mailto:Education@VirginiaABC.com)

**Phone:** (804) 977-7440

**Website:** [www.abc.virginia.gov/education/programs/vosap](http://www.abc.virginia.gov/education/programs/vosap)

# VOSAP Meeting Dates

VOSAP meets on a quarterly basis on the third Thursday of the first month of the quarter. Meetings are held at Virginia ABC Headquarters. Meeting dates for fiscal year 2025 are:

- August 14, 2024
- November 21, 2024
- February 20, 2025
- May 15, 2025