



2025

**Virginia Office for
Substance Abuse Prevention**

Annual Report



December 1, 2025

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 2025.

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 cursive script that reads "Timothy D. Hugo".

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

Marcus Anderson, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education

Janet Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority Board and Leadership



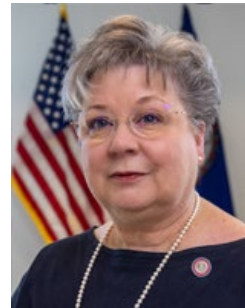
*Tim Hugo,
Chair*



*L. Mark
Stepanian,
Vice Chair*



*Gregory F.
Holland*



Lisa N. Jennings



Jack Kerrigan

Dale F. Farino, Chief Executive Officer

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: 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 2025, particular attention was paid to the state of recreational cannabis use in the absence of a retail market, the ongoing opioid epidemic and improving visibility and awareness of the varied and overlapping prevention programs and resources available in Virginia.

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, Director of Public Health and Engagement
Hanna Jones, Data and Research Analyst



Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
Colleen Hughes, Director of Office of Behavioral Health Wellness
Jennifer Farinholt, Behavioral Health Wellness Consultant
Marfel Barnet, 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 Programs Supervisor,
Division of Re-entry, Education and Intervention



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



Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
Nennaya Shields, Opioid Abatement Grant Manager
Robin Shepherd, Driver Education Specialist
Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist
Jennifer Vedder, Health and Family Life Education Specialist



Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Lauren Yerkes, Injury and Violence Prevention Senior Epidemiologist
Lisa Wooten, Injury and Violence Prevention Program Supervisor



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)
Lt. Kevin Botkin, VSP Bureau of Field Operations
Mary King, Youth of VA Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) Program Manager
Kendall Lythgoe, YOVASO Education and Interactive Program Coordinator



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.

Figure 1. The Strategic Prevention Framework



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.

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 a 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 (i.e., any use during one's life) of the most commonly used substances by secondary students (i.e. alcohol, nicotine and cannabis) as well as illicit drugs from 2020-24. 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.

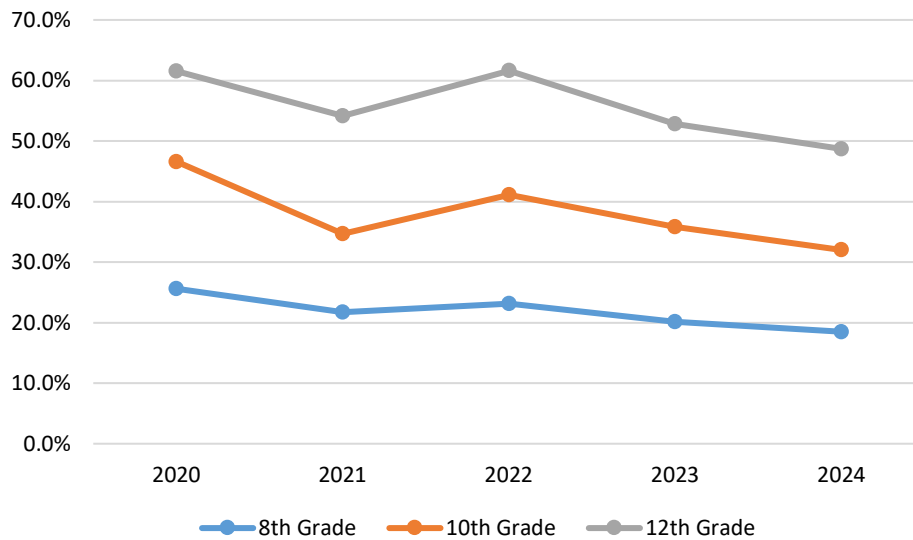
In the past five years, there was a decrease in most youth substance use during the COVID-19 pandemic, purportedly due to increased parental supervision and disrupted youth social networks. While some substance use showed a return to higher rates the following year in 2022, the overall trend of decreasing rates continued through 2024.

Alcohol Use

Data in 2024 shows a downward trend in lifetime alcohol use relative to 2023 (**Figure 2**). This was found to be statistically significant for 10th and 12th graders, but not eighth graders. The continued decrease from 2023 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.

These youth trends are consistent with Gallup's Consumption Habits Survey indicating that **American adults are drinking at historic lows**.

Figure 2. Year-to-year comparison of lifetime prevalence of alcohol.



Nicotine Use

Once the most prevalent form of nicotine use, lifetime cigarette prevalence continued to decline to its lowest recorded levels for all grades (Figure 3).

At the same time, lifetime vaped nicotine (Figure 4) among eighth, 10th and 12th graders all showed decreases relative to 2023. This was not found to be statistically significant for each grade. However, this decrease was offset by increases in lifetime use of nicotine pouches. First tracked by MTF in 2023, rates of lifetime nicotine pouch use significantly increased among 10th and 12th graders, but not eighth graders (Figure 5). Taken together, these trends amounted to no total change in nontobacco nicotine use. For a more detailed analysis of youth e-cigarette and nicotine pouch use interact see Han et al.'s (2025) paper, [Nicotine Pouch and E-Cigarette Use and Co-Use Among US Youths in 2023 and 2024](#).

An important consideration for trends in nicotine use is the changing legal landscape of these products. As youth e-cigarette use peaked in 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began restricting primarily flavored, disposable e-cigarettes. However, data from the [2024 Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey](#) reveals that while rates are decreasing among youth using e-cigarettes, flavored and disposable products remain popular. Additionally, [FDA guidance has been issued to nicotine pouch manufacturers](#) urging child-resistant packaging in response to reported increases in accidental ingestion from national poison control centers.

Figure 3. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime prevalence of cigarettes.

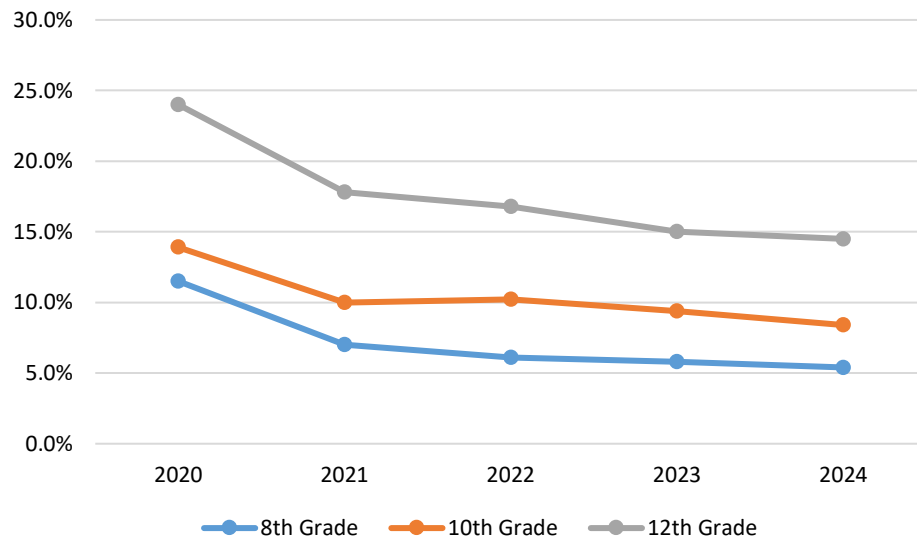


Figure 4. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime prevalence of vaped nicotine.

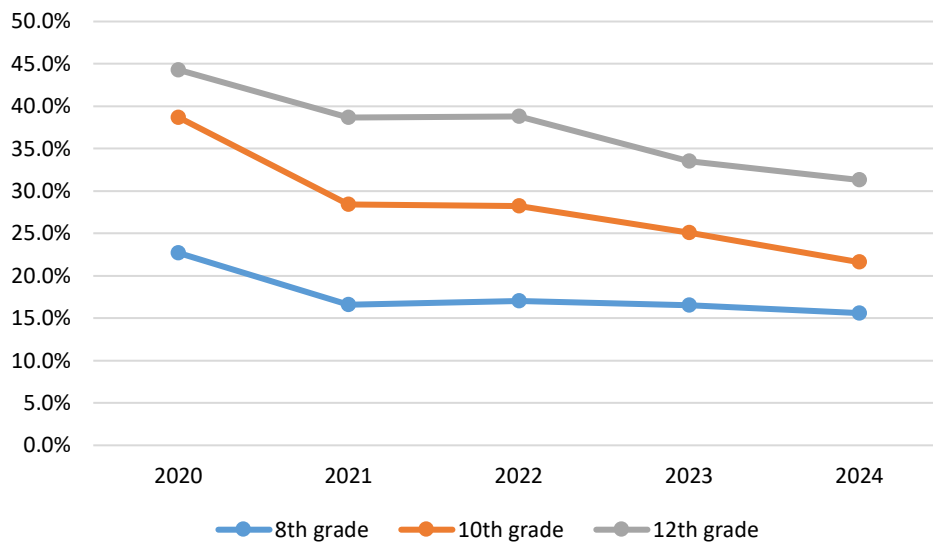
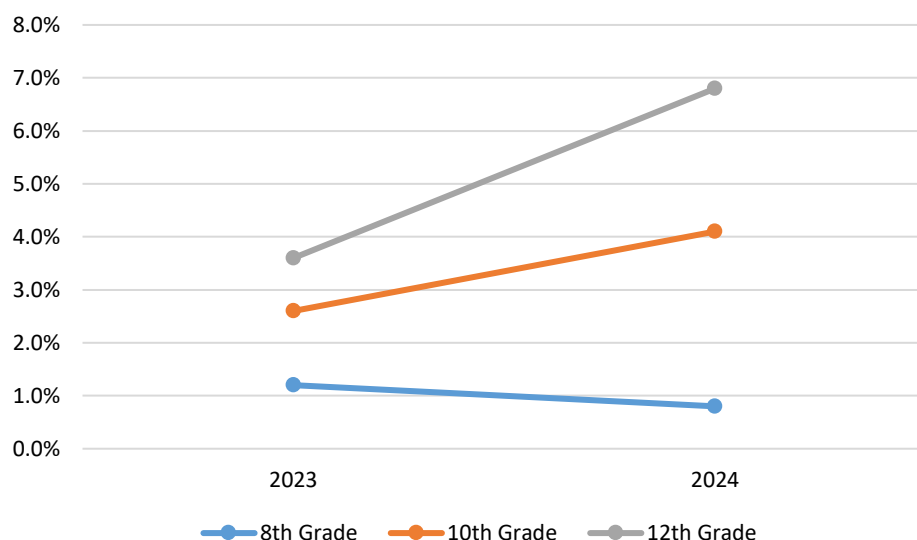


Figure 5. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime prevalence of nicotine pouches.

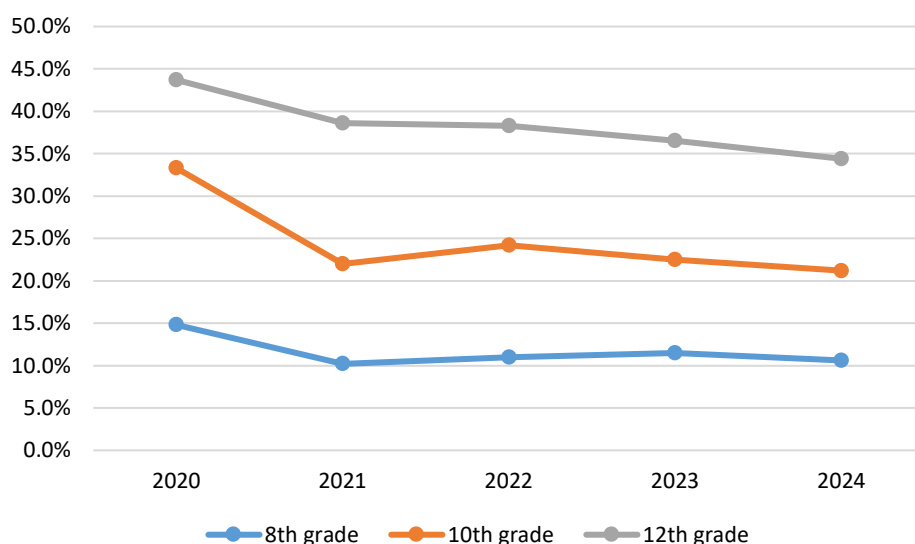


Marijuana Use

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 2023. (**Figure 6**).

This is welcome news, considering the ever-changing landscape of marijuana and hemp-derived products. While marijuana is only legal for recreational use in roughly half of states, the 2018 Farm Bill was written in such a way that products falling below a 0.3% threshold of delta-9 THC, while still containing psychoactive cannabinoids (e.g., delta-9, delta-10) remain unregulated at the national level. Notably, while recreational marijuana is legal in Virginia, as of 2025, recreational sales are not. For more information see [Cannabis Laws Overview — Virginia Cannabis Control Authority](#).

Figure 6. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime prevalence of marijuana.



Other Drug Use

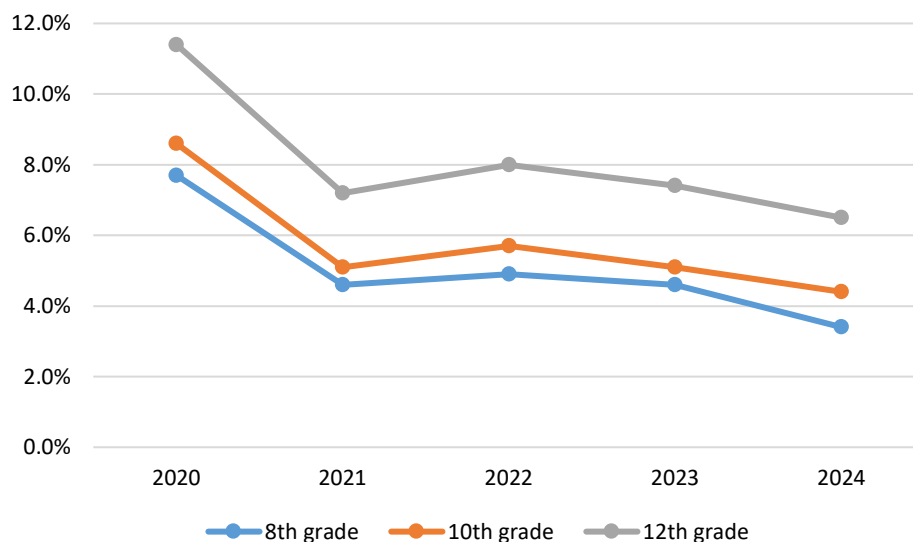
Finally, lifetime use of any illicit substance other than marijuana decreased across all grades. These differences were not significant relative to 2022 (Figure 7). This is an important category to consider as it relates to the likelihood of youth encountering fentanyl or related synthetic opioids in 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 these substances, their deadliness has caused a spike in overdoses, while far lower than rates in the larger population.

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.

Greater context can, on all national opioid deaths, be gained from the CDC's page on **Understanding the Opioid Overdose Epidemic**. There, the opioid epidemic is explained as occurring in three waves, starting with prescription opioid deaths in 1990s, followed by heroin overdose deaths in the 2010s and synthetic opioid overdose deaths in 2013, spiking the rate of deaths most drastically. While the overdose death rate remains shockingly high, there has been a 4% dip in that rate from 2023 to 2024.

Figure 7. Year-to-year comparison of reported lifetime prevalence of any illicit drug (other than marijuana).



Comparing National Data and Virginia Data

The most straightforward way to compare Virginia to national data on youth substance use is through the bi-annual **Youth Risk Behavior Survey** (YRBS), to which Virginia contributes through the **Virginia Youth Survey** (VYS).

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The 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.

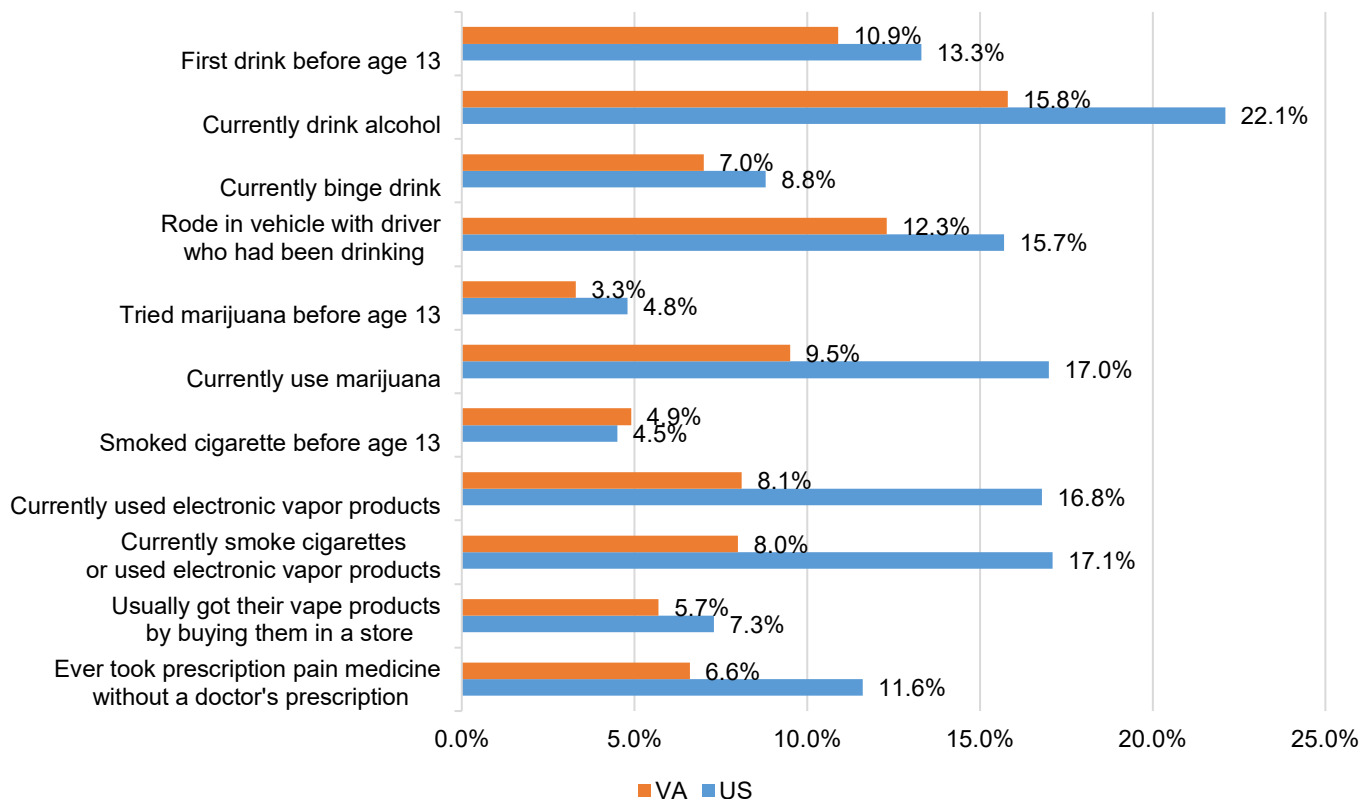
The YRBS includes national, state, territorial, tribal government and local school-based surveys of representative samples of sixth through 12th grade students. These surveys are conducted every two years, usually during the spring semester. The national survey, compiled by the CDC, provides data representative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

The 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 in an effort to be age appropriate. Below, Figure 9 shows how Virginia 2023 high school data relates to national averages from 2023, where there are corresponding questions.

Figure 9: Virginia State and National Rates of Substance Use Behaviors (High School)



Virginia Data

The following summary goes into greater depth on notable youth substance use trends found in VYS from 2013-23 for middle and high school students, supplemented by other sources where applicable. Please note that “current” use of a substance indicates use on at least one day during the last 30 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 10**), 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 11**), 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 of 3.5% since 2021, this uptick was not found to be statistically significant.

Figure 10: Year-to-year comparison middle school student lifetime alcohol use.

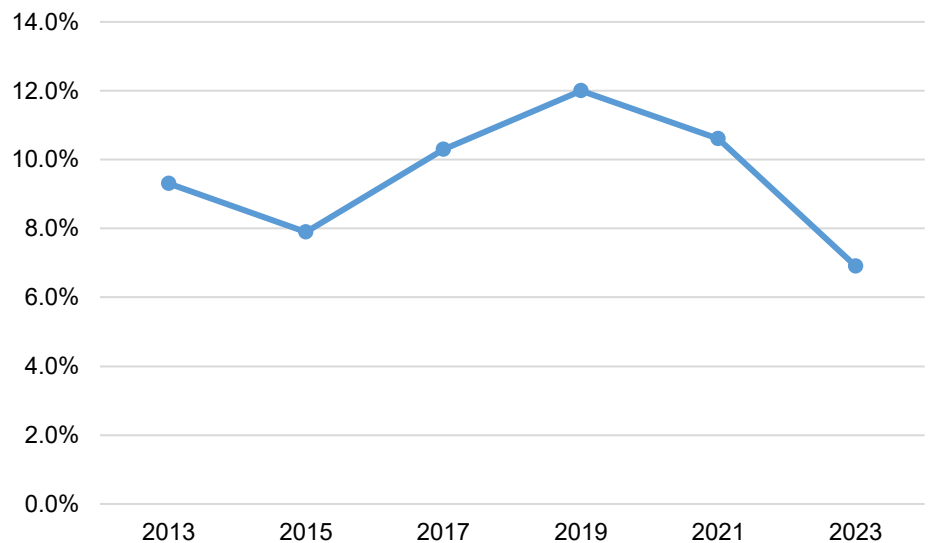
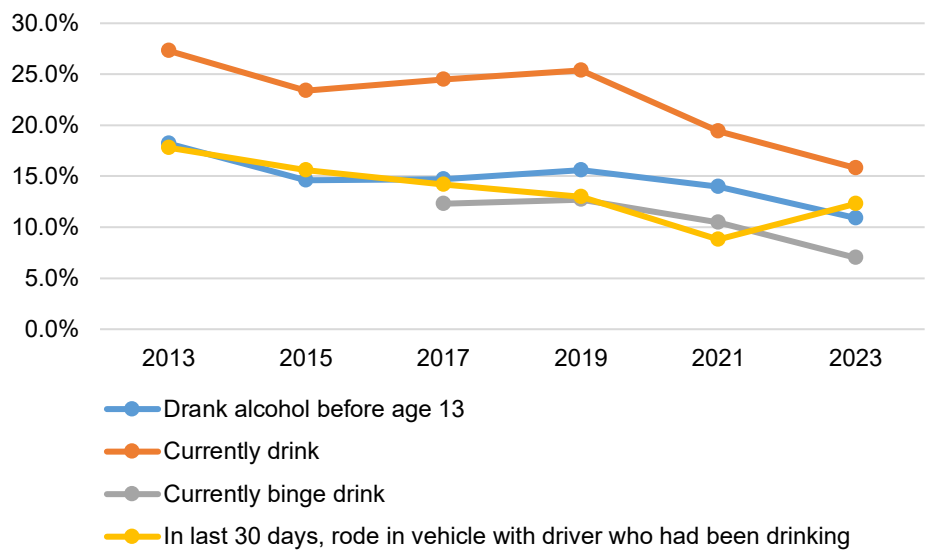


Figure 11: Year-to-year comparison of Virginia high school student alcohol use behaviors



Nicotine Use

For nicotine use behaviors in middle school students (**Figure 12**), 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.

Electronic vapor product use also sits at its lowest level of 3.7%. This represents a significant decrease when viewed from 2015-23.

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 2017-2023 was considered, there were significant decreases over that timeframe, representing effective prevention efforts since vaping products rose to prominence and prevalence peaked in 2019 at 14.9%.

For high school students, nicotine use sits at its lowest levels ever (**Figure 13**). 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, which is 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 represented a notable decrease over time.

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 14**). While this is not enough of a jump to indicate a significant change, it is worth monitoring closely as it relates to enforcement efforts.

While Virginia youth data specific to nicotine pouch use is not directly assessed, it is already a topic of concern. Like national poison control centers, Virginia's poison control centers have seen increases in calls related to the accidental ingestion of nicotine pouches. The 2025 Virginia Youth Survey will be the first to directly ask youth about nicotine pouches so we can better track and respond to this problematic trend.

Figure 12: Year-to-year comparison of Virginia middle school student nicotine use behaviors.

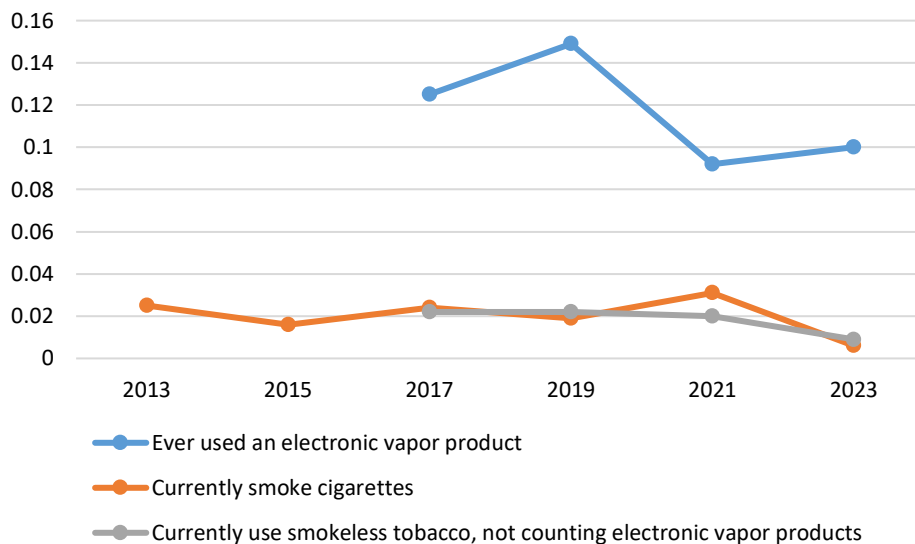


Figure 13: Year-to-year comparison of high school student nicotine use behaviors.

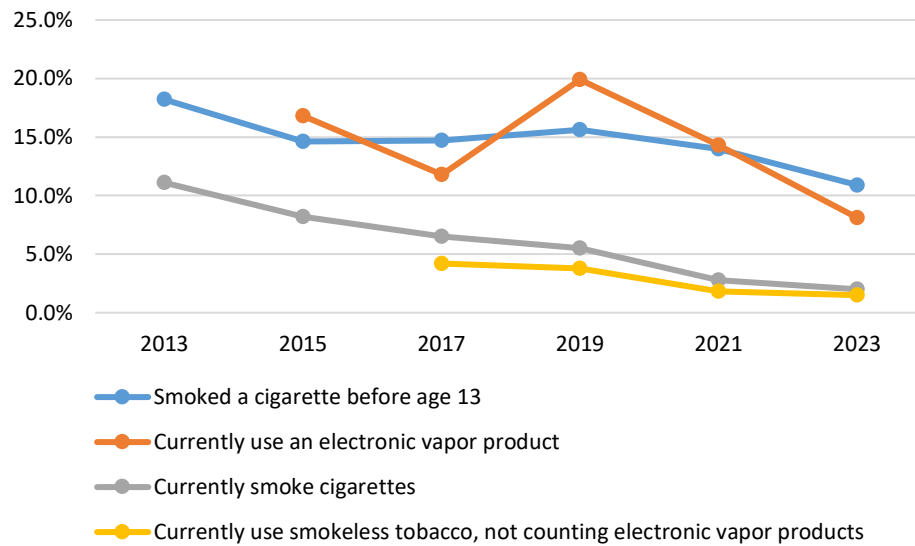
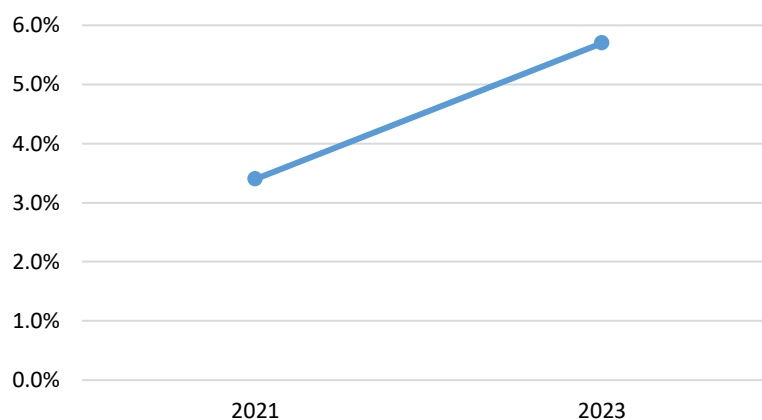


Figure 14: High school students who usually got their electronic vapor products by buying them in a store, of those who currently vape.



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.

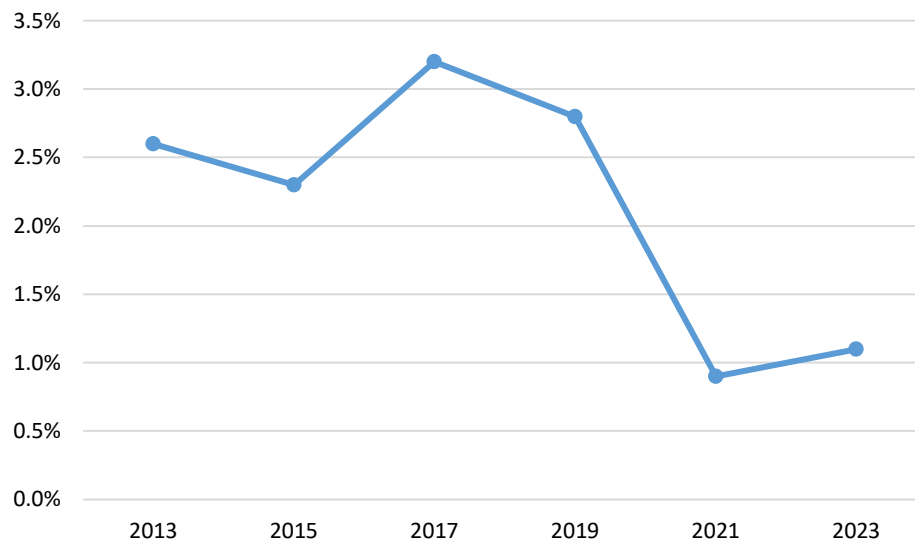
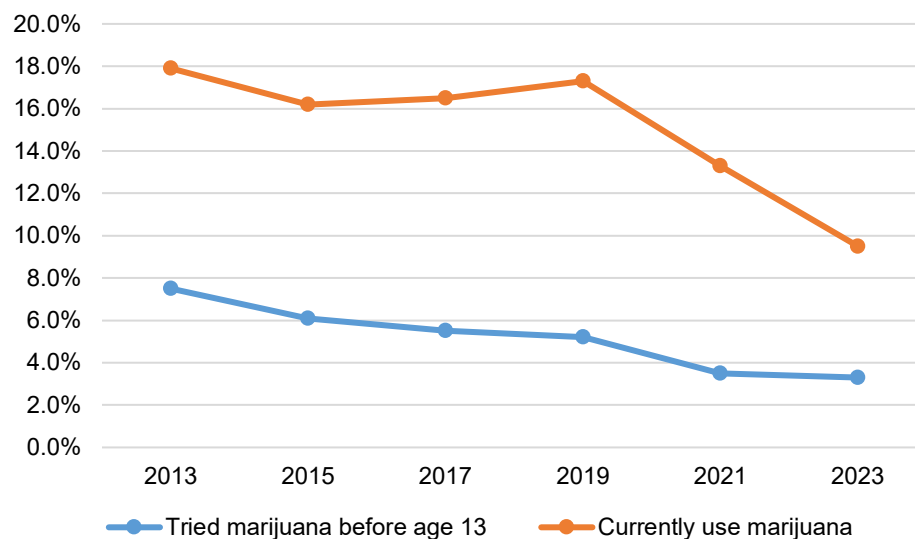


Figure 13: Year-to-year comparison of high school student marijuana use.



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 and synthetic opioids. 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.

Additional insights can be supplemented by visualizations of **VDH data on overdose deaths**, using most recent final data in 2023 as of August 2025. Virginia rates of all drug overdose deaths peaked in 2021, with 2,059 deaths and declined by 4% in 2023. Fentanyl and synthetic opioids represented 80% of all overdose deaths. By contrast, in 2023, overdose deaths of 15-to-24 year olds made up less than 8% of all overdose deaths. Fentanyl and synthetic opioids contributed to 85% of deaths within this age group. As localities and organizations continue to implement **Opioid Abatement** funds on effective treatment and prevention in response to the opioid crisis, there is reason for future optimism as 2024 data is finalized.

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 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)
- Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Virginia
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
- 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)
- Virginia 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
DBHDS	X	X	X
DCJS			X
DJJ	X	X	X
DMV	X		
MADD	X	X	
VDOE	X	X	X
VDH	X	X	X
VDSS		X	X
VFHY	X		X
VNG	X	X	X
VSP	X	X	X

Spending Overview

During fiscal year 2025, \$14,440,827 was spent throughout Virginia on youth substance use prevention efforts, with \$30,617,121 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	\$8,906,000
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	\$2,472,729
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles	\$1,408,590 ^{AB}
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$793,940
Virginia State Police	\$337,400
Virginia Department of Education	\$300,000
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$222,168
Virginia Department of Health	Did not report
Virginia National Guard	Did not report
Community Coalitions of Virginia	Unable to report ^{CD}
Virginia Department of Social Services	Unable to report ^C
Virginia Cannabis Control Authority	Unable to report ^D
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	Unable to report ^D

^A Follows federal fiscal year, Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.

^B Does not include grant awarded to Virginia State Police

^C Unable to separate prevention from treatment efforts

^D 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	\$14,746,963 ^A
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	\$8,906,000
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice	\$2,472,729
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles	\$2,440,957 ^{BC}
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$793,940
Virginia State Police	\$337,400
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$328,615
Virginia Department of Education	\$300,000
Virginia Cannabis Control Authority	\$155,585
Community Coalitions of Virginia	\$134,932
Virginia Department of Health	Did not report
Virginia National Guard	Did not report
Virginia Department of Social Services	Unable to report ^D

^A Does not include grant awarded to Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

^B Does not include grant awarded to Virginia State Police

^C Follows federal fiscal year, Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.

^D 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 \$172,168 on youth substance use prevention efforts. In fiscal year 2025, Virginia ABC received a \$50,000 grant from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) spent on a media campaign targeting parents and caregivers. An additional \$106,447 was spent on alcohol education and prevention efforts, not specific to youth, totaling \$278,615. 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 during fiscal year 2025 to address youth substance use prevention are explained in greater depth 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 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 2024, Virginia ABC stores demonstrated a 97% compliance rate for in-store purchases, while licensees showed compliance rates of 87%. The compliance rate for alcohol delivery was 90%.

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 2025, the following prevention publications were distributed for K-12 audiences:

- 20,356 Elementary Publications
- 1,914 Middle School Publications
- 2,427 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 2025, 127 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 2025, 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 2025, the Miss Virginia School Tour visited 65 elementary schools across 39 districts, reaching 16,139 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.

In July 2024, the YADAPP kickoff conference was held at Christopher Newport University, where 18 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 of their continued work on a prevention plan that was accomplished from the previous year.

At the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, YADAPP teams’ prevention plans reached a total of 6,536 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 fiscal year 2025, across five Project Sticker Shock events, 3,390 stickers were used at retail locations to raise awareness, with at least 86 youth and 31 adults participating in these events. Additionally, 54,796 retail delivery customers were reached with Project Sticker Shock materials.

Caregiver Support

Health Communication Campaign. Virginia ABC utilized SAMHSA’s “Talk. They Hear You” videos

to promote parents and caregivers having important conversations with children about alcohol and other substances. The project objectives for this campaign included increase caregivers' awareness of prevalence and risk of underage drinking and substance use, equip caregivers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to prevent underage drinking and substance use, as well as increase caregivers' actions to prevent underage drinking and substance use.

The campaign videos ran from May 5 – June 23, delivering a total of 8.3 million impressions across broadcast and cable TV, social media ads and the Virginia ABC Facebook page.

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 training 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 2025, 5,159 Power of Parents handbooks were distributed, with 150 individuals receiving 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 2025, 2,146 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 2025, Virginia ABC provided four Alcohol Education and Prevention grants for a total of \$45,290 in grant funding. Of the five grantees, two specifically engaged in youth alcohol prevention activities and reached 569,411 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 2025, 3,064 individuals completed HEADS UP online training, and 9,450 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 2025, the following publications were distributed:

- 1,987 college publications
- 1,605 adult publications
- 203 older adult publications
- 897 responsibility guides for licensees
- 168 health care professionals publications

VHESUAC. The Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee 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 2025, VHESUAC recognized three campuses in the second 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

As an independent, political subdivision, the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority's (Virginia CCA) mission is to promote public safety, advance public health, and protect communities in the Commonwealth through effective medical cannabis oversight and balanced and inclusive cannabis regulation, policy, and education. We address substance misuse prevention throughout the Commonwealth through education, outreach, and the development of initiatives and resources.

The Virginia CCA spent a total of \$155,585 on substance use prevention efforts in fiscal year 2025. These included a range of educational resources, events, conferences, and presentations summarized below.

Youth Access and Drug Education

Educational Resources for Teens. For a teen audience, our "Talking about cannabis (for teens): a youth prevention toolkit" received a total of 118 downloads.

Caregiver Support

Educational Resources for Parents. Analogous to the above toolkit for teens, "Talking about cannabis (for parents): a parent toolkit" received 85 downloads.

Community Support

Educational Resources for Young Adults. The Virginia CCA published a new toolkit for adults ages 18 to 25 years old, “Talking about cannabis (for young adults): a responsible use and prevention toolkit,” which received 81 downloads.

Outreach Events. The Virginia CCA participated in 21 educational events, conferences, and presentations in fiscal year 2025, reaching a total of 1,183 attendees. During these educational outreach initiatives, 3,257 printed educational resources were distributed to stakeholders. The Virginia CCA completed 30 resource orders, totaling 27,841 printed educational resources, through a new online educational resources order form. In total, the Virginia CCA distributed 31,098 physical copies of educational resources, with 6,962 resource downloads.

Safe Driving Campaign. Concluding in September 2024, the Virginia CCA’s safe driving campaign provided public safety messaging throughout the Commonwealth. In FY25, safe driving radio ads aired in 7,746 spots, with 16,466,800 estimated impressions, and safe driving TV ads aired in 1,574 spots, with 27,718,000 estimated impressions. In FY25, the safe driving campaign’s digital ads had 10,868,099 estimated impressions, with a total of 115,549 clicks.

Across all media, the campaign had a reach of 30,106,699 impressions. The CCA re-issued its safe driving survey in FY25 to inform future safe driving campaign.

The Virginia CCA’s safe driving partner toolkits are available online to promote responsible and safe driving. The four toolkits are tailored to government prevention and driving safety organizations, cannabis business and advocacy organizations, colleges and universities, and Spanish-speaking audiences. In FY25, the safe driving partner toolkits had a total of 129 downloads.

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 address youth substance use, many of our member organizations do.

CCoVA is a 501(c)3 organization that typically 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 2025, we lost our funding that was provided through DBHDS by way of the ARPA funds. While DBHDS was able to find additional funding to provide reimbursement for the expenses, the gap in funding resulted in our cancellation of the October 2025 Annual Conference. Normally we would use this opportunity to provide education for our member organizations, as well as promotion of the successful initiatives of our members.

CCoVA spent \$134,932 on prevention efforts in fiscal year 2025 which went to administrative expenses, staff pay, and the cost of holding the October 2024 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.

Community Support

Monthly meetings with coalitions across the state were held virtually on Zoom on the first Monday of each month. The coalition coordinator regularly tracks bills during the General Assembly session to keep members and stakeholders informed of 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.

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.

As seen in **Table 3**, DBHDS provides the greatest amount of funding for overall substance use prevention efforts, spending \$15,646,963. 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, \$32,644,861 was used to fund treatment efforts.

DBHDS is funded through the SAMHSA Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Block Grant (SUPTR) and the SAMHSA State Opioid Response Grant IV (SOR). Some additional funding from the General Fund covers tobacco retailer compliance checks and prevention efforts surrounding Adverse Child Experiences (ACEs)

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 2025, 49,506,378 prevention resources were distributed to CSBs across the state, with 6,023,805 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 (Botvin)
- Second Step
- SOS Signs of Suicide
- Too Good for Drugs
- Teen Intervene
- Youth Leadership Programs

Caregiver Support

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

Community Support

- ACEs Training
- Permanent Drug Drop boxes
- Prescription Bag Stickers

- 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
- 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 criminal justice system's functioning and effectiveness. 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 and juvenile justice system improvement efforts.

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

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

- Alexandria City: \$159,760
- Chesapeake Public Schools: \$250,000
- Hampton/Newport News CSB: \$112,160
- Henrico Mental Health: \$139,192
- Henrico County: \$27,210
- King William County: \$151,305
- Winchester City (Timbrook Achievement Center): \$119,766
- Richmond County: \$77,049
- Danville City: \$170,000
- Western Tidewater CSB: \$185,486
- Roanoke City: \$78,394
- 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 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, the mission of VDOE is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed in life.

VDOE was awarded a grant from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) to implement evidence-based substance use prevention programming to schools that prevent and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids through the **Opioid Abatement Education Plan** (OAEP).

The OAEP is solely funded by the OAA and 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.

The grant award totals \$520,250 for activities to be implemented across two performance periods: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30, 2024-2025, and the same dates for 2025-2026. In fiscal year 2025, approximately \$300,000 was spent.

Youth Access and Drug Education, Caregiver Support, Community Support

Health Education. Developmentally appropriate scaffolded substance use prevention standards are an integral component of the **Virginia 2020 Health Education Standards of Learning** (SOL). The learning outcomes for substance use and misuse should be addressed in the context of a comprehensive health curriculum that encourages the development of personal and social skills and

values, and provides sequence, progression, continuity and links to other health issues that impact students' lives. The Health Education substance abuse prevention standards form a core component of the health curriculum and focus on equipping students with information about drugs, the ability to resist peer pressure to use drugs, and the life skills necessary to enable them to deal with different situations without turning to drugs.

Botvin LifeSkills Training. Local school divisions may elect to participate in Botvin Lifeskills Training (LST). Botvin LST is a research-validated substance abuse prevention program proven to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors. This comprehensive program provides adolescents and young teens with the skills needed to successfully handle challenging situations. As part of the OAEP, and in partnership with the Virginia Tech (VT) Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), the VDOE supported the training of K-12 high-quality curriculum. These instructors include Health and Physical Education teachers, core curriculum teachers, school-based mental health professionals, and school resource officers who deliver the program directly to students. Currently active in 19 school divisions, the Opioid Abatement Education Plan continues to expand across the Commonwealth with a goal of training 200 new educators to deliver Botvin LST each year.

Fentanyl Education and Awareness. The 2024 General Assembly **HB1473** required the VDOE and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to develop a fentanyl education and awareness informational one-sheet and make this resource available to each school board for distribution to all Grade 9-12 students within the first two weeks of the 2024-2025 school year. The **Fentanyl Awareness informational one-sheet** was created through that partnership and serves 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.

In accordance with *Code of Virginia § 22.1-206.01* the VDOE and VDH has created a repository of **instructional resources** to inform the development of programs of instruction for grades 9-12 on recognizing the signs of opioid overdose and the use of opioid antagonists (naloxone, Narcan) to reverse potentially life-threatening overdoses.

School Health Services. **VDOE School Health Services** has developed professional development opportunities for school health staff, focusing on mental health, substance abuse awareness, immunization compliance, chronic illness management, legislation impacting school health, emergency preparedness, and school health data management.

Professional development opportunities include:

- **School Health Nurse Professional Development Opportunities** - multiple virtual professional development opportunities were provided to cover a variety of topics.
- **School Health Required Training** - topics reflect state and federal required training.

Partners in the training and professional development activities included the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS); the American Academy of Pediatrics,

Virginia Chapter; 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).

The VDOE collaborated with the VDH and the DBHDS to assist schools in procuring opioid antagonists and gaining access to **REVIVE!** training provided by DBHDS for their staff.

Other goals near completion by the VDOE in collaboration with VDH's school health team are a front-facing school health data dashboard (including opioid antagonist administration for school year 2025-2026) and collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics-VA Chapter to develop educational asynchronous training modules on the **School Nurse's Mental Health Toolkit**.

School Counseling. Code of Virginia § 22.1-272.2 provides that the model memorandum of understanding developed by the Department of Education for partnerships with community mental health services providers or school-based telehealth providers shall include procedures allowing for students to receive counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth.

2025 General Assembly. Multiple bills were passed in the 2025 General Assembly that support substance abuse and prevention efforts in Virginia schools. VDOE will focus on working with stakeholders in meeting these legislated mandates.

- **SB768** requires the Department of Education to survey each local education agency (LEA) in the Commonwealth to determine i) how public schools governed by such LEA currently grant access to local departments of social services and community services boards and other community-based providers of mental and behavioral health services and; ii) what school-based mental and behavioral health services are made available by such LEA. The bill requires the department to utilize the results of and feedback from the survey to inform the continued development and improvement of guidelines for school professionals to support students and families by connecting them with community resources that provide mental and behavioral health services.
- **HB2774** requires public school principals and heads of private schools in the Commonwealth to report certain information to the parents of enrolled students within 24 hours of a confirmed or suspected school-connected student overdose, as defined in the bill.
- **SB1377** directs the DOE in collaboration with the DBHDS, to develop and implement a plan to incentivize and facilitate participation in the Commonwealth Mental Health First Aid Program, established pursuant to applicable law, by public school staff and students.
- **HB2055** and **HB2679**, build directly on VDOE's current Suicide Prevention Guidelines and the Department of Criminal Justice's Threat Assessment and Management in Virginia Public School Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines, equipping parents and caregivers with approved resources to partner with school staff in a shared goal of ensuring student safety.

Since June 2024, the OAEP has reached over 30,000 K-12 students in 19 school divisions across the Commonwealth and trained over 300 educators to deliver Botvin LST with fidelity. Teachers have reported increased student participation and interest in the curriculum, highlighting its relevance and impact. Schools have also observed a growing awareness among students about healthy coping mechanisms and the importance of peer support in making positive life choices.

All K-12 Virginia public school students (1,261,387 students) are instructed on the 2020 Health Standards of Learning, which includes explicit instruction on substance use, awareness, and prevention. The content is vertically aligned to allow for cognitively appropriate instruction as students progress through their public school journey.

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.

Substance use prevention and treatment activities are primarily funded through General Fund appropriations with additional appropriations illustrated within Special Funds, when approved. These amounts are approved and appropriated based on priorities of the Virginia General Assembly and associated committees.

The approved fiscal year 2025 state budget appropriated approximately \$1,626,575 to the General Fund, for mental health and substance abuse prevention and evaluation initiatives for the Department of Juvenile Justice. 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. An additional four years of prevention/intervention funding was provided by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY), which is ending at the close of fiscal year 2025. In total, residential services were awarded \$177,225 since this programming began in 2022.

In fiscal year 2025, DJJ spent approximately \$2,472,729 on youth substance use prevention activities. Additionally, \$2,094,265 was used for youth substance use treatment.

Prevention of risk factors vs. treatment may be interwoven based on the individual's particular needs. All committed youth at DJJ who are assigned to Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (BAJCC), or a Community Placement Program (CPP) at a regional Juvenile Detention Center, undergo an evaluative process, 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 needs, aggression replacement training, and other treatment recommendations are made at this time.

In fiscal year 2025, 162 (93.6%) of the 173 residents admitted to direct care were assigned a substance use treatment need. Youth can be assigned to Track I or Track II to reflect their individual needs. Track I is for juveniles meeting DSM-5-TR criteria for substance use disorder. Track II is for juveniles who have experimented with substances but do not meet the DSM-5-TR criteria for substance use disorder. Of the 173 youth admitted, 79.2% were assigned a Track I treatment need, and 14.5% were assigned a Track II treatment need. These youth may have received treatment at JCC or at other direct care placements.

In 2025, 592 youth (plus 441 prevention youth) received VJCCCA funding for substance use services including education and treatment. Final fiscal year numbers have not been finalized as of this report. Additionally, many youth in contact with DJJ receive various services across the state through a

Regional Services Coordination model, including youth on probation, on parole, and in direct care. Data for fiscal year 2025 is not available.

Youth Access and Drug Education

Smoking Cessation and Fentanyl Prevention. DJJ provided residential prevention/intervention programming below on the topics of nicotine and fentanyl, as a part of the VFHY grant first awarded in 2022. Since then, 169 total residents have completed programming:

- CATCH My Breath, a vaping and e-cigarette prevention program.
 - 78 residents completed.
- 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.
 - 28 residents completed.
- 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.
 - 33 residents completed.
- 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.
 - 30 residents completed.

Seven Challenges. DJJ launched initial JCC clinical staff training for Seven Challenges, a comprehensive counseling program for youth and young adults that incorporates work on drug problems. Seven Challenges is a health decision-making model that guides youth through the process of weighing the benefits versus the harm of their drug use, and other behavior. Seven Challenges will transition to become JCC's primary substance use treatment program in FY2026.

Local Plans Funding to localities through the Virginia Juvenile Community Control Crime Act (VJCCA) contributes to substance use assessments, evaluations, education, and treatment. When substance use treatment is needed, then clinical services are utilized.

- During fiscal year 2025, 32 local plan utilized substance use services.
- At least seven localities utilized funding to conduct substance use assessments and evaluations to determine the level of service needed.
- Three localities used funding for substance use prevention services. These prevention services are for youth who are presenting substance use behaviors, where services aim to further prevent juvenile justice involvement. The majority of youth participating are referred by the school system and this prevention service is used in conjunction with disciplinary actions.
- Educational Programs
 - 3rd Millennium Classrooms and Court Solutions Online Evidence-Based Programs.
 - Alcohol Wise
 - Under the Influence
 - Nicotine 101
 - THC 101
 - Other Drugs
 - Vaping
 - BOTVIN LifeSkills
 - VISION

- Seven Challenges
- Virginia Rules
- Substance Abuse Group Program
- Substance Use Group Education-SAGE
- ARISE Life Skills

Caregiver Support, Community Support

Regional Service Coordination (RSC) Model. In 2025, DJJ transitioned from two contracted service coordination agencies to one agency to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the model. The RSC agency subcontracts with direct service providers to deliver an array of services for DJJ youth. Services through the RSC model are delivered to youth and families in the community and for some youth during commitment/direct care.

Substance use evaluations, mental health evaluations, psychological evaluations, and psychosexual evaluations were administered by 50 providers to assess youth needs, which may include substance use, and provide recommendations.

Thirty providers delivered substance use interventions, including the following:

- Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) (individual, family, and group, evidence-based)
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BFST) (evidence-based)
- Family therapy for substance use
- Family Centered Treatment (FCT) (evidence-based)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT) (evidence-based)
- Group therapy for substance use
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST) (evidence-based)
- Relapse prevention for substance use
- Seven Challenges (evidence-based)
- Seven Challenges Brief (evidence-based)
- Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment (SAIOP) (evidence-based)
- Therapy for substance use
- Transitional living programs

Additional services available through the RSC model that may also impact substance use include:

- 3rd Millennium Classrooms Curriculum
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Anger management
- Clinical groups
- Community Stabilization (crisis intervention)
- Comprehensive relapse prevention which addresses substance use and youth with sexualized behaviors
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Family therapy
- Intensive Care Coordination (ICC; evidence-based)
- Intensive in-home services
- Life skills
- Mentoring

- Outpatient therapy
- Reentry case management
- Substance use case management
- Therapeutic group homes
- Transitional Living Programs (TLPs)
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) (evidence-based)

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle (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 in this report refer to DMV's federal fiscal year 2024.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles spent or provided \$1,650,235 for youth substance abuse prevention projects managed by various organizations (see activities and initiatives). Additionally, \$2,682,602 was spent on prevention activities more generally and \$377,630 was spent on substance use treatment. 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:

- Mothers Against Drunk Driving – MADD – educates students about alcohol prevention.
- DRIVE SMART Virginia – educates students and the community about alcohol prevention through schools and local community events.
- Virginia Commonwealth University – Project IMPACT – educates students about the dangers of driving under the influence of substances.
- 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

Caregiver Support, 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 with 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. VFHY funds youth substance use prevention grants, state-wide substance use prevention marketing campaigns, youth substance use prevention research, and the Champions for Youth Summit.

VFHY is primarily funded by a small share of Virginia's annual payments from the nation's major tobacco manufacturers through the **Master Settlement Agreement** (MSA). In the last several years, VFHY has received additional non-MSA funding as part of the state budget and through competitive grants. These include funding from the ENDS Settlement Fund for VFHY's work in youth vaping prevention, Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation (COAR) funds for VFHY's work in supporting the First Lady's *It Only Takes One* fentanyl awareness campaign, and General Fund dollars for VFHY's work in youth cannabis prevention. Since 2023, VFHY has received funding from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority's (VOAA) competitive state grant funding process. VFHY has also received a small amount of federal pass-through funding from partners like the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for youth tobacco and substance prevention use work.

In FY 2025, VFHY invested a total of \$8,906,000 in youth substance use prevention efforts, including \$3,146,000 in programmatic grants, \$900,000 in prevention research, and \$4,860,000 in prevention marketing.

Youth Access and Drug Education, Community Support

VFHY funds 65 youth-serving organizations like schools, community services 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 2025, around 40,000 youth successfully completed evidence-based substance use prevention programming. The following evidence-based programs were provided:

- AI's Pals
- All Stars
- Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST)
- CATCH My Breath
- Positive Action
- Rise Above
- Strengthening Families (6-11)
- Strengthening Families (10-14)
- Too Good for Drugs
- You and Me, Together Vape-Free

VFHY also developed and makes available the following lessons free of charge to any classroom across the state: www.vfhy.org/prevention-lessons.

- Danger of Fentanyl Lesson (High School)
- Danger of Fentanyl Lesson (Middle School)
- Nicotine Products Prevention Module (6th -12th grades)
- Nicotine Products Prevention Lessons (K-5th grades)

In 2024, VFHY hosted its second Champions for Youth Summit, where over 400 prevention professionals came together – united by their desire to empower youth to make healthy choices.

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.

In fiscal year 2025

- Approximately 40,000 youth successfully completed an evidence-based youth tobacco use prevention or cessation program funded by VFHY.
- Approximately 24,000 youth successfully completed VFHY's Nicotine Products Prevention Lesson or Dangers of Fentanyl Lesson.
- Through performance tracking of campaign messaging, VFHY can report reaching at least 1 million unique youth (13-17) and young adults (18-24) of an overall audience of 1.3 million with a frequency of four to six times per unique individual.

Virginia State Police

The Department of State Police is a law enforcement agency dedicated to preserving law and order, and enforcing criminal, traffic, and regulatory laws. The Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) Program operates under the Bureau of Field Operations and is responsible for developing and delivering educational programs that focus on advancing youth traffic safety and the prevention of motor vehicle crashes among young drivers ages 15-19. YOVASO's mission is to empower Virginia's youth to lead peer-to-peer driver and passenger safety programs that engage fellow students and community partners with the goal to save young lives. YOVASO's peer-to-peer programs are designed to change knowledge and beliefs, modify attitudes, teach new skills and garner buy-in and support for Virginia's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Law, and 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, educational projects, and social media messaging and contests.

YOVASO spent a total of \$241,655.00 in alcohol prevention funding during fiscal year 2025, 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.

- FY24 Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) Peer-to-Peer Program – Alcohol
 - Awarded \$313,086.00
 - Spent \$126,835.00 for period July 1, 2024 – Sept. 30, 2024
- FY25: Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) Peer-to-Peer Program – Alcohol
 - Awarded \$354,324.00
 - Spent \$114,810.00 to date for period Oct. 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Additionally, there was a \$70,750 grant from State Farm and over \$18,000 in community donations. 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. YOVASO and VSP now have nine distracted/impaired driving simulators to promote safe driving at school and community events.

\$9,500.00 in donations to support school-sanctioned, alcohol and drug-free after-prom parties and awarded \$7,000.00 in grants (seven schools received a \$1,000 grant) to schools that applied and qualified for the grants.

Youth Access and Drug Education

YOVASO implemented the following programming:

Peer-to-Peer and School/Youth Group Programming. Provided educational programming, peer leadership training, and peer-to-peer educational initiatives for 159 schools and youth groups in the Commonwealth during fiscal year 2025, with a potential reach of 157,973 based on 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 seven high schools in Virginia in spring 2025 to help fund school-sanctioned drug and alcohol free after prom parties for students on prom night. The total spending was \$7,000.00. Schools receiving grants reported zero serious injury or fatal crashes on prom night.

Arrive Alive Educational Campaign. Sponsored a spring semester 2025 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 44,000 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 WDBJ-TV to encourage teens to drive safely and celebrate without alcohol and drugs. The ad was placed on streaming TV in high teen fatality locations across Virginia from mid-March to mid-May 2025 and also placed as an ad on Facebook. The ad received 933,540 total impressions and 98.75% of viewers on streaming TV watched 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 102 schools/community events reaching close to 8,500 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 2024 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. The winning jingle was produced by WDBJ and placed on streaming radio platforms such as Spotify and Pandora. The jingle had 68,837 impressions on streaming radio with 76.12% listening to the jingle in its entirety and received 456,364 impressions on WDBJ. YOVASO also shared all the submitted jingles across social media throughout the holidays. The tunes received 7,837 on Facebook. School clubs also marched in local parades with the “Jingle Your

Way to a Safe Holiday” banner and floats decorated with safety messages.

Drive for Change Educational Campaign. Sponsored a fall semester education campaign called “Drive for Change” for schools and youth groups that ran Sept. 16 – Nov. 15, 2024. 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. Seventy-two schools and youth groups participated, reaching over 70,600 youth. Seat belt use at participating schools increased an average of 6.12% from pre-campaign to post-campaign.

Drive For Change Safe Driving Ad. In partnership with WFXR TV, YOVASO produced and ran a Drive for Change teen safe driving ad on social media platforms in fall 2024 (Oct. 1 – Nov. 30). Ads focused on speed, distracted driving, seat belts and driving alcohol and drug free. The ads received 584,369 total impressions on social media and WSLS ran 15-second and 30-second spots 484 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 in July 2024. The conference had 170 attendees representing 60 high schools in the Commonwealth. Various workshops and hands on activities regarding the dangers of drug and alcohol use while driving were provided, including a presentation by the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority, Drive Smart station with pedal carts and DUI goggles, VSP stations on crash reconstruction and what to do when you get pulled over, and impaired driving crash stats and laws. Ninety-one percent of students gave the retreat an excellent or above average rating and 98% said the retreat was educational and provided them with new information on safe and responsible driving and passenger safety.

B.R.A.K.E.S. Proactive Teen Driving School. Provided a four-hour defensive driving school for licensed teen drivers in Virginia in partnership with B.R.A.K.E.S. Fifty-two students completed driver component of the program with hands-on training in off-road recovery, panic stop, car recovery and control, crash avoidance/slalom, and distracted driving prevention. Forty-five students completed passenger component of the program. Over 80% of students rated the overall experience as excellent or above average and 90% of students agreed the experience taught them new driving skills to help them be safer on the roads

Summer Safe Driving Ads. In partnership with WFXR, YOVASO produced and ran safe driving ads on social media platforms in summer 2024 (June through mid-September) to reach young drivers during the high-risk summer vacation period. The ads received 402,834 impressions on Facebook and 3,328 impressions on Instagram. WFXR also ran the PSAs 795 times on its WFXR and WWCW stations.

Statewide Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Trained and worked with 22 students from 18 high schools 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 passenger safety, 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 140 high and middle school students across the Commonwealth representing 58 schools and youth groups to be advocates for safe driving and traffic safety in their schools and communities. 115 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 sudden **loss of health-related funding at the national level** affected several organizations, which place an increased burden on local community efforts tackling substance use prevention and related behavioral health outcomes. To support communities, future VOSAP efforts to provide resources and guidance on estimating and communicating the return on investment for prevention initiatives would be a boon for organizations and prevention groups around the state.

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, resulting in meaningful comparisons from year to year. More clarifications will continue to be developed to serve this goal as VOSAP members report data each year.

Another area for improvement is better documenting the varied programs, toolkits, resources and events for youth substance use prevention in a central location for prevention professionals and community members. While each VOSAP member organization is best equipped to connect Virginians with its own opportunities, a central reference organizing these and communicating the important basics for understanding best practices in prevention would be most useful for members of the public. In the coming year VOSAP collaborative will create and fine-tune resources in support of this goal.

Focuses for Fiscal Year 2026 and Unmet Needs

The following organizations identified focuses for fiscal year 2026 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 2026 is to build on the success of 2025's PSA campaign and reach even more Virginians with a message of youth alcohol and high-risk drinking prevention.

Virginia Cannabis Control Authority

In fiscal year 2026, the CCA will continue to improve public understanding of cannabis through current, evidence-based, and practical information. This involves providing expert advice to and collaborating with state and local partners regarding cannabis legislation, policy, law enforcement,

and public health initiatives. A specific focus is to administer a patient-oriented medical cannabis program that prioritizes safety, security, and controlled accessibility.

Community Coalitions of Virginia

In fiscal year 2025, CCoVA lost funding that was provided through DBHDS by way of the ARPA funds. While DBHDS was able to find additional funding to provide reimbursement, the gap in funding resulted in the cancellation of the 2025 Annual Summit. Normally the summit is an opportunity to provide education to our member organizations, as well as promotion of the successful initiatives of CCoVA members.

In place of the Annual Summit this year, a series of webinars will be hosted to help provide training to members. CCoVA does not provide direct prevention efforts, but members continue to target opioid, cannabis, tobacco, and other substance use by youth.

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Workforce capacity issues and limited resources, coupled with the loss of the ARPA funding has resulted in a shift in OBHW's strategic plan for 2025-2030. A recent needs assessment process mapped out a variety of risk and protective factors that are linked through established evidence to a range of behavioral health outcome areas (**Figure 14**). The new strategic plan takes an upstream approach and focuses on addressing the following risk and protective factors across these areas.

Figure 14. DBHDS OBHW 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Behavioral Health Outcome Shared Risk and Protective Factor Mapping

Shared Risk and Protective Factor Mapping									
	General Impact on Substance Use Outcomes	A Alcohol	C Cannabis	G Gambling	M Mental Health & Suicide	O Opioids	S Stimulants	T Tobacco	V Vaping
Parent & Family Management	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Ease of Access		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Healthy Coping Skills, Emotional Regulation and Resilience	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Perceptions of Risk		x	x	x		x	x	x	
Social Isolation	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Social Supports	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Strong Community Partnerships & Coalitions	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Trusted Adults, Peers, and Mentors	x	x	x		x	x		x	x

Evidence-informed prevention frameworks were used to inform the why, what, and how of the work, ensuring it is grounded in proven methods. Resiliency Theory drives the selection of risk and protective factors, as well as corresponding strategies, leading to the prioritization of interventions that are strengths-based and trauma-informed.

The Socio-Ecological Model is leveraged to organize efforts and ensure that prevention permeates all levels of the communities being served. The plan organizes the identified risk and protective factors into four key domains that, 1) build individual attitudes, behaviors, and skills that support well-being and resiliency, 2) foster strong and healthy relationships, 3) create connected communities, and 4) ensure the environment allows communities to thrive and engage in healthy behaviors.

Addressing shared risk and protective factors in a strategic, systematic way will have greater impact on more problem behaviors. Ideally this will help the CSB workforce and resource shortage.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, school systems, public safety organizations, faith organizations, and local government officials and departments have reached out to CSB Prevention programs for assistance in educating both the public and their staff about how to promote positive mental health and prevent, recognize, and respond to behavioral health concerns. Changing laws related to cocktails-to-go, cannabis and access to gambling have also contributed to an increased need for behavioral health prevention. The loss of the ARPA funding will impact staff capacity and the implementation of many strategies with many CSBs losing both staff and funding. Without this funding, CSB Prevention programs will not be able to sustain the current level of strategy implementation or their support of coalition strategies which jeopardizes the progress these programs have been able to achieve related to substance use, mental health, gambling and other behavioral topics.

Virginia Department of Education

The priority focus of VDOE in the upcoming fiscal year will be to continue the work on opioid and fentanyl awareness and prevention, with an additional focus on cannabis use. The expansion of Botvin in Virginia as a research-validated substance abuse prevention program will continue to be promoted as a way to target the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use, to include opioids, fentanyl, and cannabis and other risky behaviors. Instructional support will be provided by the Health Instructional specialist to those divisions that need support on how this program can be integrated into or augment existing division health curriculum.

The VDOE has also prioritized the development of videos focused on the understanding of the risks of opioid use and to promote multiprong support for students in terms of awareness and prevention of opioids and other substances. The videos are intended to be an additional resource to be used by schools to augment classroom instruction or to be used as part of a comprehensive counseling tool. A consultant has been hired to complete the work in the upcoming fiscal year.

The VDOE has selected a consultant to develop additional virtual instructional resources to support instruction on opioid and substance awareness and prevention. Division support on the use of the products will be conducted virtually and through conferences.

The VDOE efforts detailed above parallel and support:

- The First Lady of Virginia's "**It Only Takes One**" campaign by raising awareness about the dangers of counterfeit drugs, which often contain deadly amounts of fentanyl. The campaign encourages open conversations and education about opioid addiction, empowering individuals to protect themselves and their loved ones.
- The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program of the **Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Services** has accepted the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide (GCPS) among Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF) to prevent suicide among military service members, veterans, and their families.
- The **United States Drug Enforcement Administration's** efforts to help schools and communities develop strategies to address their local drug problem through **Operation Prevention** to support drug use prevention and education efforts in schools.

The work conducted through the Opioid Abatement Education Program (OAEP) Grant aligns with the Board of Education Priority 5: To advance safe and healthy schools. Other state and federal grants

that currently support the priority are indicated below. Although these grants support Board Priority 5, they do not directly fund or overlap with any of the work in the OAEP Grant.

- Administer distributions from the **Virginia Literary Fund** to improve physical school safety
- Prioritize and publicize the **School Construction Assistance Program** to ensure that all schools can make physical school improvements
- Provide opportunities for school divisions to develop division-wide plans for assessing and addressing threats to security and improving learning climates through the use of **Stronger Connections Grant funding**
- Provide guidance and oversight for statewide mental health strategies as well as support in implementing health school policy guidance

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

In FY26, Virginia DMV Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) will continue its strategic commitment to reducing youth substance use and impaired driving through support for evidence-based programming, cross-sector collaboration, and targeted grant funding. Our goals include expanding partnerships with nonprofits, state agencies, and institutions of higher education to enhance the quality and reach of prevention education.

VAHSO will continue to support local partners like YOVASO, VADETS, Chesterfield SAFE, Henrico Too Smart 2 Start, and Hanover Cares—organizations that provide impactful peer education, community events, and social media outreach tailored to youth audiences. These partnerships are critical to fostering community-level change and empowering young people to make safe, substance-free decisions behind the wheel.

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

In fiscal year 2026, the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) will support sixty-five 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 supporting its free educational lessons, including the Dangers of Fentanyl lessons and the Nicotine Products Prevention Lessons.

VFHY will also continue to support its signature campaigns—Behind the Haze, Unfazed, and Deadly Dose—which aim to protect youth from the dangers of nicotine, marijuana/cannabis, and fentanyl, respectively.

After the success of the second annual Champions for Youth Summit, VFHY is excited to promote next year's event, to be held May 4 – 6, 2026 in Reston, VA. More information can be found on the **VFHY website**.

Meeting Summaries

Meeting notes from all fiscal year 2025 VOSAP Collaborative meetings in order from July 2025 to June 2025 are detailed below. Full copies of meeting minutes can be found on the [Commonwealth Calendar](#).

August 15, 2024 Discussion Topics

Speaker: Nash Wiley of Virginians for Cannabis Safety gave an overview of their mission and ongoing efforts to educate the public about the dangers of selling cannabis products that do not meet consumer safety protections. Presentation slides are attached alongside these minutes.

2018 Federal Farm Act contained loopholes where some exploited ability to grow hemp to create psychoactive hemp-derived products. In 2021, VCS purchased and tested 66 products, in which 65 failed to disclose accurate serving size and/or THC amount. Many bore strong resemblances to candies appealing to youth. Bi-partisan legislation last year tightened regulation of sale of hemp-derived products containing intoxicating levels of THC. Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is doing much more to enforce these regulations. However, the scope of the problem demands greater support, as 82% of all businesses inspected were penalized. VCS looks to support continued enforcement, education and advocacy to improve this problem.

VOSAP Updates

VOSAP Annual Report is being put together. Expect to receive a draft in one week. Developing a resources section based on hyperlinked materials shared in submissions. Meetings will remain from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Exploring developing a master list of evidence-based prevention programs as a future based project and regular discussion of youth substance abuse data at set times as it is updated (e.g., Virginia Youth Survey, Young Adult Survey, Monitoring the Future, etc.).

Group Discussion

VFHY is happy to present on Virginia Youth Survey. Elle Merkle of VDH is on a team that has been working on a directory of evidence-based prevention programs available in the Henrico and Metro-Richmond area. Funded by a CDC grant.

Virginia ABC News and Updates

The high school prevention conference, Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) was successful. Had 18 Teams and 100 attendees from across the state. Gave six awards to Teams for exemplary prevention plans.

Currently promoting other school-based programs as the 2024-2025 year starts off. This includes Miss Virginia School Tour (elementary), Being Outstanding Leaders Together (BOLT; middle school) and Power of Parents (middle, high school). Also working on making our Alcohol Education and Prevention grants more approachable for schools to apply for and receive evidence-based alcohol prevention curriculum.

Virginia ABC Enforcement held numerous National Night Out events across the state, utilizing our prevention education materials.

CCA News and Updates

Website now contains a Young Adult Toolkit. The Medical Patient Survey closed, and analysis of data

is happening. Results expected to be available in October. Safe driving survey will go out again at the end of August.

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. The theme is “Do Your Part.”

DCJS News and Updates

Funding for gun violence efforts through Operation Ceasefire. These usually include substance abuse treatment and prevention components. DCJS Office for Safer Communities supporting various plans with substance abuse and prevention elements in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond and Roanoke. Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice meets Sept. 17 in Tuckahoe to discuss three-year plan.

VDH News and Updates

Updated Opioid Data Dashboards and currently updating and updating emergency department visits data. Cannabis Emergency Room visits have declined. A report on tobacco ratings for Virginia colleges was released. VDH workgroup is using a REDCap form for cannabis products.

VDOE News and Updates

In partnership with VDH, produced a fentanyl one sheeter. All high school students are required to receive this within the first two weeks of school. Working on teaching on how to administer Naloxone.

VDSS News and Updates

Received funding from Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) and working on Kinship Navigator programs. Extremely important for improving continuity of care for youth who have been separated from parents and the process of can be difficult to navigate for kinship caregivers. Also working on improving the 2-1-1 hotline with more information on various resources like basic needs, physical and mental health, disability support, volunteering, etc. Additional Spanish language support coming.

VFHY News and Updates

Previous fentanyl prevention module that was developed for high school is being adapted making a middle school version that can be utilized. Virginia Youth Survey showed that use in all major drug categories is decreasing in Virginia. Hosting the 2nd Champions for Youth Summit in Reston Sept. 30 – Oct. 2.

VSP News and Updates

Youth of Virginia Speak Out hosted annual conference in July and getting ready for fall Drive for Change school campaigns to encourage slow driving and buckling up. Gathering youth advisory council to take on leadership positions and help planning in 2024-2025.

VNG News and Updates

Counterdrug Demand Outreach Specialists aim to support Community Coalitions prevention efforts across the state. Added a new team member to support the Tidewater region. Will be presenting at the Community Coalitions of Virginia Summit and is working on big youth outreach event for Red Ribbon Week in October in the Metro Richmond area.

November 21, 2024 Discussion Topics

Speaker: Julia Mogren of Virginia Department of Health gave a presentation on Virginia Youth Substance Use trends using Virginia Youth Survey, hospital discharge data and death certificate data.

VOSAP Updates

FY24 Annual Report was approved and is posted on the VOSAP website and Legislative Information System.

Wyatt is planning on creating a document with some similarities to the **College (Alcohol Intervention Matrix) AIM** but for a more general audience. First steps include drafting an outline by topic questions.

- What reduces youth substance use?
- What can I do for my school/community?
- What programs and resources exist?

Group Discussion

Discussed the sort of evergreen materials that might be useful for the group to provide and homed in on the appropriate audience for this above resource.

Virginia ABC News and Updates

Alcohol Education & Prevention Grant opens on Jan. 1. Awards can be made of up to \$10,000 to organizations addressing underage drinking prevention, social providing/hosting prevention or high-risk drinking prevention.

Hosted a Power of Parents training at Virginia ABC Headquarters for interested employees. The Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) 2025 Kickoff Conference will be July 14-18, 2025 at Christopher Newport University.

CCA News and Updates

CCA website was recently redesigned, with easier to access resources.

Medical Cannabis patient survey is complete, with a report on the website. About 800 participants responded. It covered cannabis use trends (most using daily), conditions cannabis is being used for, purchasing behaviors.

Completed Safe Driving Campaign, with final numbers and data arriving soon.

Finished the second Impaired Driving Survey, aimed at Virginia drivers aged 16 and older. Survey measures cannabis use data and the interaction with driving and driving behaviors. Results to be on website in December.

DBHDS News and Updates

Young Adult Survey data being finalized and should come out soon.

Was awarded a SAMHSA grant for the next five years. Will provide additional funding for seven CSBs focused on marginalized and underserved populations. Statewide Needs Assessment being finalized,

to help inform efforts. Will focus on working further upstream in terms of risk of protective factors.

Partnered with Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCoVA) for the CCoVA State Summit in Roanoke.

Through the Synar Initiative, which addresses youth access to tobacco and nicotine products, online merchant education modules for managers and staff at retail establishments are being developed and hopefully available soon. This year's numbers are 9.3% violation rate, well under the 20% requirement. Increased enforcement has helped this year.

DCJS News and Updates

Rolled out the **Be Safe** program. Consists of short, activity-based lessons focused on making good choices and prevention. Ideally taught by SROs but not required. It is aligned with school counseling standards and compliments the health standards.

Strengthening Connections will not happen this February. There will be a summer conference in July with a save the date to come soon. Partner agencies can table.

VDH News and Updates

Virginia Youth Survey is updated for 2023, and overdose deaths/hospital deaths/data is final for 2023. The Overdose Needs Assessment Tool is being updated again as well as the Opioid Cost Calculator.

In addition to today's presentation, VDH has other presentations on motor vehicle crash data and self-harm data and are happy to share.

VDOE News and Updates

New program manager for Opioid Abatement Education Plan, funded through Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA)

Engaged in evidence-based educational prevention programming for elementary, middle and high school. Currently have trained 87 teachers to use Botvin LifeSkills, with funding for 200. Initially focused on Health and PE teachers, but expanding to SROs, nurses, etc. Over 11,000 students will be receiving Botvin LifeSkills lessons this year. Working to create new modules on online learning centers on additional high-level, informative topics for professionals across Virginia.

State Driver's Education curriculum is constantly being updated. Added pieces on cannabis, interacting with the police, created instructional guides on opioids.

VFHY News and Updates

Spent most of last year developing high school fentanyl prevention lesson plan. Received OAA funding to help bring the lesson to grades 6-8. Coming out soon. Funding includes incentives to adopt the lesson, prioritized based on need. Applications due December 2, but the lesson itself is available for free. Also promoting social media campaigns for fentanyl prevention for youth (Deadly Dose) and adults (It Only Takes One).

VSP News and Updates

YOVASO finished their Drive for Change fall campaign. Seventy-six total groups participated (high schools, middle schools, youth and community groups), with 55,818 materials sent out.

Next campaign is Jingle Your Way to a Safe Holiday contest. Teens, individually or in groups, create traffic safety related video jingles for the opportunity to win cash prizes. Winning jingles will be

produced and shared across the state on social media.

Summer Leadership Retreat will be July 17-20 at JMU, promoting leadership and traffic safety for teens. Cost is \$15 per person, with registration opening in March.

Now have a new guide on how to start a YOVASO club.

February 20, 2025 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

Wyatt developed a draft resource on youth substance use prevention for a general audience. He will send the draft out with these minutes for review and will include instructions to collect summary information on our programs and resources to share.

Wyatt is also developing a document for collecting responses for information about the Annual Report. He will send a draft prior to the next meeting in May for discussion.

Group Discussion

VOSAP held a brief discussion identifying youth substance data and resources that are currently missing from national websites. The following resources were identified:

- Youth.gov
- The Community Guide

Virginia ABC News and Updates

Accepting **Alcohol Education & Prevention Grant** applications until March 1. Awards can be made of up to \$10,000 to organizations addressing underage drinking prevention, social providing/hosting prevention or high-risk drinking prevention.

Promoting **Power of Parents** and **Being Outstanding Leaders Together Against Drugs and Alcohol** (BOLT) ahead of spring break and National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (March 17-23).

Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) Kickoff Conference will be July 14-18, at Christopher Newport University. Registration opens April 1.

CCA News and Updates

Posted Impaired Driving Survey data in December. Going through RFP for another Safe Driving Campaign. Also currently conducting a medical cannabis program practitioner survey.

DBHDS News and Updates

DBHDS is rolling out a new strategic plan in April. Currently watching ongoing legislation that might be signed into law. Additionally, if any agencies are interested in Mental Health First Aid training, please reach out.

DCJS News and Updates

Virginia School Safety Training Forum dates have been announced. The event is July 28-30 in Hampton at Hampton Convention Center. Registration coming soon.

Developed new youth substance use and misuse intervention program. A pilot study has been conducted and ready to start the next round.

Two upcoming webinars are both available on both March 31 and April 28. These are **Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention** as well as **Supporting Individuals and School Communities Through Grief Experiences**.

DJJ News and Updates

Starting another round of training for the Seven Challenges drug prevention and counseling program.

VDH News and Updates

Updated dashboards on Overdose Deaths, Emergency Department Visits and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome found at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drug-overdose-data/>

An **overdose prevention website** was created as well as an **overdose needs assessment tool**.

VDOE News and Updates

Through the Opioid Abatement Education Plan, we had great success this quarter providing students with the evidence-based program, Botvin LifeSkills Training. Four new divisions were onboarded, and 200 new educators are on track to be trained this grant cycle. Hearing great feedback from teachers and will be conducting a formal survey soon.

As a reminder, all teacher training and student materials are free to educators and the opportunity comes with an additional stipend. Our quick share takes 5-10 minutes and if other opportunities arise within our groups to share about the Opioid Abatement Education Plan in webinars or meetings for anyone connected to K-12 teachers, school-based mental health professionals, school resource officers and school nurses, please feel free to reach out to Nennaya Shields via nennaya.shields@doe.virginia.gov.

VDMV News and Updates

Highway Safety Grant application still open. Registration will open soon for Highway Safety Summit, which is May 19-21. The next Impaired driving stakeholder meeting will be held on virtually on March 6.

VFHY News and Updates

Refreshing all free youth education and prevention lessons, which should be available within the next few months. The next Virginia Youth Survey will be launched in fall 2025.

VNG News and Updates

Hoping to get more staff across the state to support coalitions. Collaborating with organizations on a human trafficking education event in Farmville.

VSP News and Updates

Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) opened registration for the free Arrive Alive Project, in which youth promote safe and responsible driving. Middle and high school can register, and the campaign runs from March 3 through May 31. Schools can choose to compete or simply participate.

The 2025 Summer Leadership Retreat is July 17-20 at James Madison University. Registration is \$15 per person, or \$75 for team of six. SROs and other adults may attend in addition to students. Retreat

is for high school students, including rising freshmen and graduating seniors. Registration deadline is June 21.

YOVASO also offers field trips for YOVASO member schools.

May 15, 2025 Discussion Topics

Speaker: Katharine Beachboard of VDMV gave a presentation on the latest data regarding Impaired Driving in Virginia. Brianna Bonat gave a presentation on the Cannabis Control Authority's 2024 Impaired Driving Survey. Presentation slides for both are attached.

VOSAP Updates

Wyatt thanked everyone for feedback on the Evidence-Based-Youth-Resource document. Also thanked those who gave lists of youth prevention programs that VOSAP partners offers.

Group Discussion

Wyatt shared a draft of the VOSAP questionnaire. Can include a question in the annual report questionnaire asking how funding cuts may have impacted VOSAP member organizations substance use prevention efforts. Group indicated this would be useful information.

Wyatt asked if we expect nicotine pouch use to increase, given national trends. Unsure of how the question will be worded in the 2025 Virginia Youth Survey.

Virginia ABC News and Updates

Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) Kickoff Conference will be July 14-18, at Christopher Newport University. Registration is open through May.

The Virginia College Collaborative and the Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee are hosting an **online forum** on May 19 about the **new law** requiring public institutions to provide RAs training in opioid antagonist administration.

Talk. They Hear You SAMHSA PSA campaign is running on broadcast, cable TV, and social media until June 27.

We have posted **Virginia Alcohol Health & Safety** Community Dashboards on our website, displaying alcohol health and safety data and trends across the state.

CCA News and Updates

Medical cannabis program practitioner survey report is available online. There is now an online form to bulk order educational resources free of charge. People can sign up online for a CCA newsletter. In the process of hiring three new positions

DBHDS News and Updates

State Opioid Annual Response report is available. DBHDS was impacted by federal cuts, losing two staff and CSBs losing more. Finalized next 5-year strategic plan and working to lighten the load of CSBs. Liquid nicotine study/workgroup being held in July, with Colleen Hughes representing DBHDS.

DCJS News and Updates

July 28-30 in Hampton – School Safety Training Forum. Grants for violence prevention are open

(closes July 14). Operation ceasefire grant will probably open in July. **Conference on Violent Crime** May 28-30 at Virginia Tech. **School Safety Forum** July 28-30 in Hampton.

DJJ News and Updates

Rolling out Seven Challenges treatment curriculum.

VDH News and Updates

Elle Merkle shared news specific to Crater Health District where she works. Partnered with VSU (using Opioid Abatement Authority funding) to find initiatives and staff. Outfitting two mobile units to support the locality

VDOE News and Updates

July 13-16 at James Madison University – **Health and Physical Activity Institute (HPAI)**.

- Call for Proposals closes on June 1, 2025.

Nov 6-9 at the Founders Inn, Virginia Beach – Va Association of Health and Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (**Va AHPERD**)

- Call for Proposals closes on June 15, 2025

VDMV News and Updates

Highway Safety Summit May 19-21 in Virginia Beach. Stakeholder meeting on June 12 (virtual). Always looking for new stakeholders

VDSS News and Updates

Doing more work to promote and kinship care. Opioid Abatement Authority helping with Kinship Navigators program. Major cuts in AmeriCorps programs in Virginia. Opioid Reduction Registry will be finalized and launched in the future.

VSP News and Updates

YOVASO conference coming up at JMU July 16-20. Remember to drive with caution over Memorial Day weekend. Will be increased police presence on roads to help public safety.

Final Summary

Through the review of information submitted for fiscal year 2025, \$14,440,827 was spent on youth substance use prevention, with \$30,617,121 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 VDH data, 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.

In response to cuts in national health-related funding in Virginia, future VOSAP efforts will provide resources and guidance on calculating and communicating the return on investment for prevention initiatives. Additionally, member organizations will further refine and centralize connections to our overlapping programs, resources, tools and organization events.

VOSAP Collaborative Contact Information

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Phone: (804) 977-7440

Website: 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 21, 2025
- November 20, 2025
- February 19, 2026
- May 21, 2026