

Substance Abuse Prevention and Support in PWCS

The background image shows a school building with a brick facade and a blue roof. A yellow school bus is parked on the left side of the frame. In the foreground, a group of children are walking across a green lawn. The sky is overcast and grey.

**Mallory McKnight, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist,
Student Health and Wellness**

**Shylea Michaelis, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Student
Health and Wellness**

What is the PWCS Substance Abuse Prevention Program?

Student Health and Wellness Department

2 Full-Time Specialists

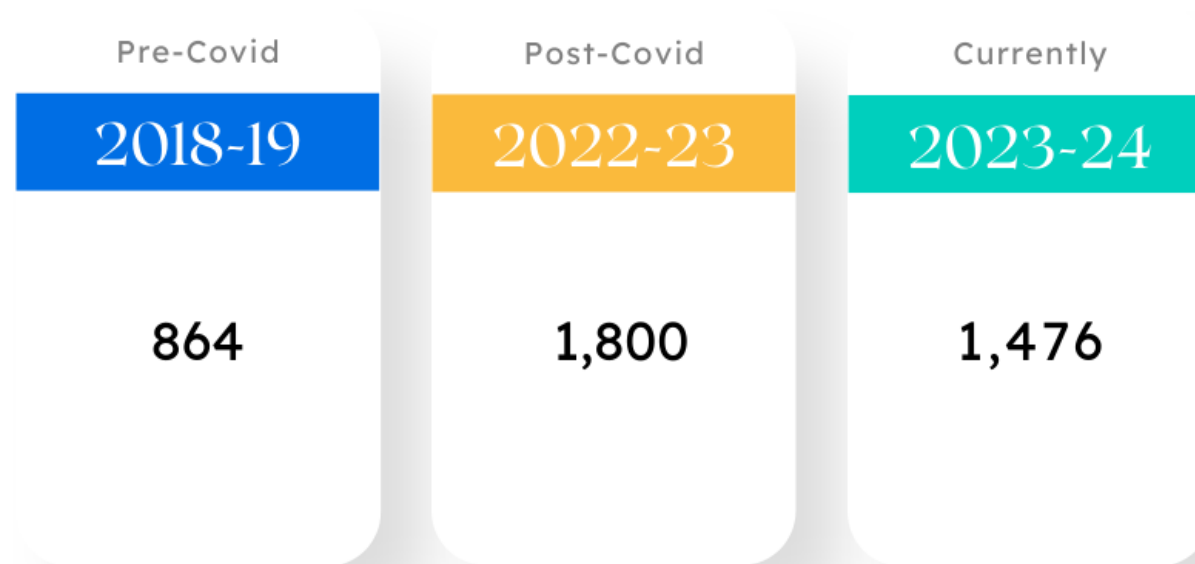
Provides support and resources to schools to prevent substance use among students.

Aims to equip schools with tools and knowledge needed to identify risk factors, implement prevention initiatives, and connect students to community resources when necessary.



PWCS Substance Use Data

Code of Behavior Violation: Prohibited Substances



*2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 - Data not shared due to reduced number of students in person due to the pandemic

*PWCS Data Analysis and Reporting Team (DART)

Substance Use Data: PWCS

Code	Infraction	2018-19	2022-23	2023-24
TB2	Electronic Cigarettes	303	639	473
DG8	Marijuana Possession	101	245	289
DG7	Marijuana Use	107	189	171
DG5	Synthetic Marijuana Use/Possession	6	162	175
D11	Other Drug Possession/Paraphernalia	34	128	77

PWCS Tiered Prevention & Support for Students

Tier I Universal

- Grades K-5 students receive prevention education lessons from school counselors.
- Grades 6-10 students receive prevention education lessons from HPE teachers.

Tier II Targeted

- Secondary students with a first-time substance use infraction can be referred to “Stop and Think”: Vaping, Marijuana, and Opioid Education Program.

Tier III Intensive

- In partnership with Prince William County Community Services, New Horizons counselors work in each high school to support students with substance use, mental health, and co-occurring concerns.

PWCS Substance Abuse Prevention Curriculum Topics (K-10)

Grade	Title of Lesson	Grade	Title of Lesson
K	Safe/Unsafe Choices	3	Stop, Think, Choose: Decision-Making and Substance Awareness
1	Medication Safety	4	Peer Pressure and Substance Awareness
2	Healthy and Unhealthy Choices: Substance Awareness	5	How Substances Affect the Brain
6-10	Researching different substances and trends. Identifying consequences of substance use and abuse. Understanding the social aspects of substance use.		



Stop and Think: Vaping, Marijuana, and Opioid Education Program

- Virtual, one-session educational program for secondary students who have a first-time substance use infraction.
- Focuses on mental and physical effects of substance use.
- Provides students the opportunity to gain accurate information, honestly assess their involvement with substances, and make personal decisions about behavior changes.



School-based New Horizons Program



PRINCE WILLIAM
Community Services



Referral

Students may be referred by family members, school staff, or they can refer themselves.



Assessment

The New Horizons therapist will conduct an initial assessment to determine the appropriate level of service needed.



Individual/Group Counseling

Students can be recommended to participate in individual and/or group counseling based on the student's needs.



Outreach and Collaboration

New Horizons counselors can make referrals for outpatient services. They also collaborate with other school-based staff on prevention initiatives and intervention services.



Education for Families

Including family education is essential because families, especially parents, greatly influence their children's behaviors and attitudes. Educating parents empowers them to model healthy behaviors, foster open communication, and equips them to recognize early warning signs of substance use.





Stop and Talk

- A new initiative tailored for parents of students enrolled in the Stop and Think program.
- Sessions encourage parents to participate in discussions while offering a comprehensive overview of the information their teens have received, along with valuable resources and practical tips for addressing substance use.

Stop and Talk parent sessions 4:30- 5:30 p.m.

November 21, 2024

December 19, 2024

January 30, 2025

February 27, 2025

March 27, 2025

May 1, 2025

May 22, 2025

PARENT PRESENTATIONS

- REVIVE Trainings
- Drug Trends and Resources
- Hidden in Plain Sight
- Substance Use and Mental Health
- Recognizing Early Warning Signs of Substance Use
- Talking to Kids about Drugs and Alcohol
- Building Resilience in Children
- The Science of Addiction
- Family Engagement Series

SAPS can also provide resources at school events including health fairs, back to school nights, etc.



Internal

Schools
Cross-departmental
Health and PE
Athletic Directors and Coaches
PWCS Opioid Task Force
PTO

External

Northern Virginia SAPS Group
Prince William Community Services
Treatment Providers
Coalitions
Law Enforcement
Health Department



Collaboration

Staff Professional Development 2024-25



1

DC/MD/VA DRUG TRENDS

2

OVERVIEW OF CARON PREVENTION
PRESENTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

3

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE IMPACT ON
THE COMMUNITY

4

THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF DRUGS LAWS ON
RACE AND CLASS

5

VAPING 101: UNDERSTANDING YOUTH E-
CIGARETTE USE, CANNABIS, AND OTHER AVAILABLE
RESOURCES

6

HOPE AND HEALING FOR CHILDREN IMPACTED BY A
FAMILY MEMBER'S SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

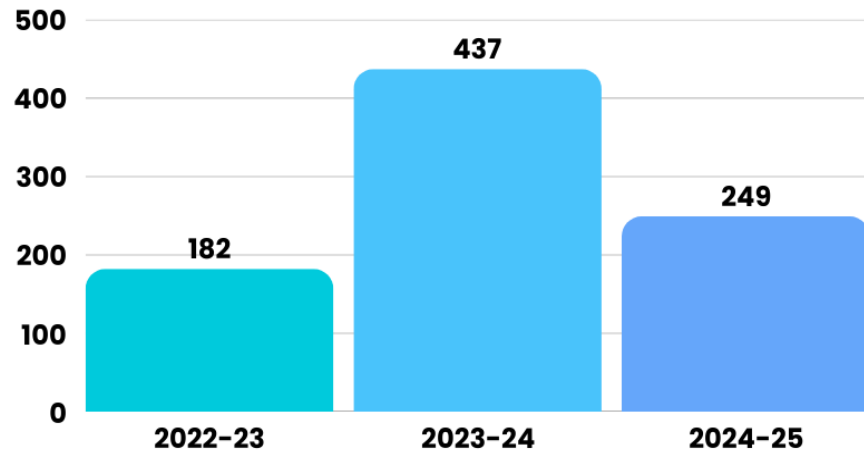
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REVIVE! TRAINING

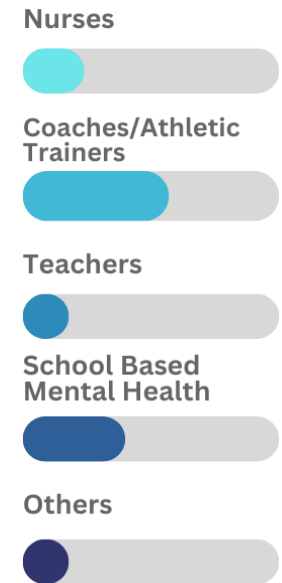
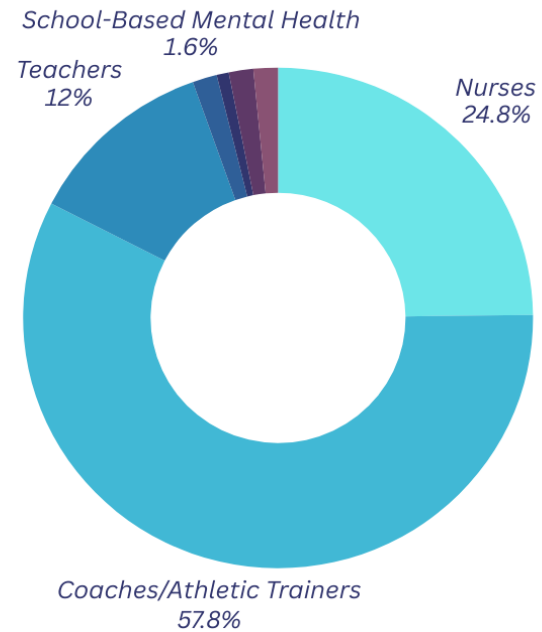


PWCS REVIVE! TRAINING

NUMBER OF PWCS STAFF TRAINED



TRAINING ATTENDEES



Contact us


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