



Whatcom Prevention Coalition



Creating a
*h*ope
Informed Community

Coalition Mission:

To build safe and healthy communities by providing leadership, promoting prevention, and building partnerships that mobilize youth, families, and neighborhoods to reduce substance abuse and other destructive behaviors among youth and the broader community.

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<https://www.facebook.com/whatcompreventioncoalition/>

Web: <http://www.wfcn.org/>

About the Whatcom Prevention Coalition

The Whatcom Prevention Coalition (WPC) is a coalition that works to build strong youth, families, schools and communities by coordinating services that support healthy youth development, improve family functioning, and build community. WPC is a partnership of dedicated individuals that represent schools, law enforcement, health professionals, youth-serving organizations, parents, youth, media, businesses, treatment providers, and a variety of other key stakeholders.

WPC understands that the strength of its partnerships allows it to achieve greater success through a collective impact. The knowledge, skill, and passion that each partner brings benefits school and community-based approaches, increases community connections, and supports healthy youth and families.

Efforts of the Coalition

Many of WPC's efforts have focused on creating the type of community residents want to work, live, and play in. While some strategies are created to address emerging needs or concerns, most efforts are delivered to create long-term impact, usually building upon existing strengths and efforts in the community.

The WPC utilizes a combination of direct services, environmental services (population-level), and school-based prevention/intervention services to serve youth and families in the community.

Examples of strategically coordinated efforts from WPC include:

- Community-based direct services (parenting programs, youth services, etc.)
- School-based direct services (Student Assistance Programs)
- Coalition and community training (Adverse Childhood Experiences, substance abuse, mental wellbeing, conflict resolution, etc.)
- Community assessment & planning
- Community events (Town Hall meetings, community family nights, etc.)
- Policy work (vaping in public places ordinance, etc.)
- Community education campaigns (including social norms campaigns, parent messaging, etc.)
- Youth-led prevention efforts (support for youth prevention clubs)



The coalition uses a strategic planning framework to coordinate community assessment, planning, and strategy implementation. This comprehensive approach results in strategies that are data-driven and selected for the best possible impact in the community. This often leads to services that are research-based best-practices.

Building Community, Resilience, and HOPE!

WPC delivers strategies that are designed to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors. By reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors, the likelihood that adolescents will participate in substance use or experience other negative behaviors can be reduced. Reducing risks has ripple benefits. **The focus on reducing risks for substance use, for example, simultaneously reduces risks for other problem behaviors, such as delinquency, teenage pregnancy, school drop-out, and poor mental health.**



Similarly, local prevention services have focused on reducing or mitigating the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACE's are traumas experienced during childhood (e.g., abuse, neglect, addiction in the home).

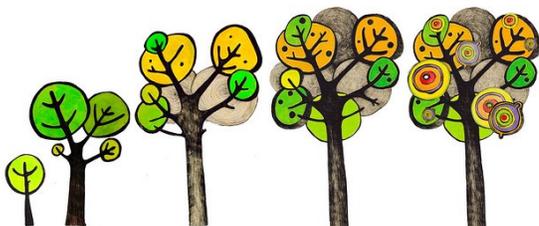
Conversely, youth who report higher levels of hope also report experience much fewer problems. Fortunately, in Whatcom County most youth report high levels of hope. Most youth also make healthy choices, like choosing not to use substances.

Building essential connections helps to foster resilience and can help create hope, resulting in benefits such as:

- Lower substance use
- Better mental health and wellbeing
- Better academic performance
- Better school attendance
- Better family functioning
- Healthier relationships with peers



Research shows that individuals who are motivated (or connected to their passions) and have a pathway to achieve their goals demonstrate healthier behaviors and are at less risk for a variety of problems. Help give hope to others!



Resources to Create Positive Change

The Whatcom Prevention Coalition coordinates services through a variety of funding sources, including the Drug Free Communities Grant, local sales tax revenue, and the Washington State Health Care Authority. Resources from Educational Service District #189 also provide school-based Student Assistance Professionals. Beyond direct funding from grant sources, each member of the coalition provides a range of essential knowledge, skills, experience, and other in-kind resources that continue to benefit Whatcom County. The 'human capital' is perhaps WPC's greatest resource!

What YOU can do!

WPC is always looking for new members and welcomes diverse participation. Bring your talent, energy, skill, expertise, or passion to this group. Contact to find out about current efforts and how you can help your community thrive!!!

Partners Include:

*Animals As Natural Therapy
Bellingham School District
Bellingham Police Department
Brigid Collins Support Center
Communities In Schools of
Whatcom-Skagit
Educational Service District #189
Local Parents
Lummi CEDAR Project
MAD HOPE
Media representatives
Mercy Housing
NAMI
Northwest Behavioral Health
Services
Northwest Hearts United
Northwest Youth Services
Unity Care
Washington Traffic Safety
Commission
Western Washington University
Whatcom County Commission
Against Domestic Violence
Whatcom County Cooperative
Extension
Whatcom County Health
Department
Whatcom County Juvenile Court
Whatcom Dispute Resolution
Center
Whatcom Family & Community
Network
Youth Marijuana Prevention &
Education Project
Youth Prevention Clubs
YMCA*

And more!

Looking for more information?

This document is intended to provide a quick overview of the Whatcom County Prevention Coalition and its partnerships. Please contact to get more details about strategic plans, action plans, and more.

