

San Juan Island Prevention Coalition Strategic Plan



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

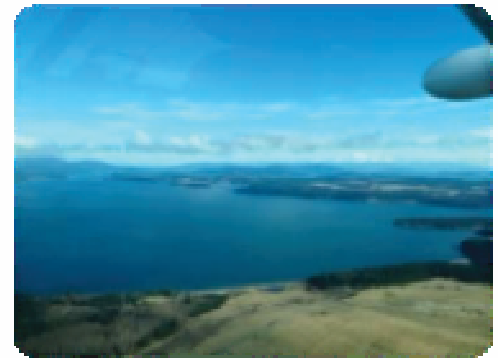
Overview of Plan

“Saving lives,” is really central and important to the work of San Juan Island Prevention Coalition (SJIPC), which was founded in 2002 following a series of fatal alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes on San Juan Island. The Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative Strategic Plan carries forward the vision, mission, and work of a community and its community coalition to save lives by having a system that increases healthy behaviors through protective factors while decreasing risk factors in individuals, families, school, and the community.

The youth of San Juan Island have always preferred to make statements positive and proactive, therefore, their slogan has been a constant and continuous message voiced and heard,

“VOICES for Healthy Choices!”

Mission: The mission of San Juan Island Prevention Coalition is to reduce substance abuse by youth and to create a community culture supporting healthy choices and responsible behaviors by youth and adults. (2002, 2008)



Service Area: The community of San Juan Island is the most populated island in an archipelago of remote and rural islands off the northwest Pacific Coast. Islanders can see Canada from the rocky shores and mountain tops. Island history includes a dispute over the U.S. – Canada border. The many coves and beaches of the island have a history of serving as a transfer point in smuggling wool and opium from Canada in the nineteenth century, then liquor and drugs in the twentieth century. Nationally recognized as a summer tourist destination and retirement community, the island’s 52 square miles are dotted with old farmhouses, fields of lavender, sheep and cattle, horses, and alpacas. Narrow two lane roads crisscross the island with scenic marine overlooks, dead end trails and driveways at every turn – some ending in large expensive homes, others ending in primitive “off-the-grid” cabins and mobile homes. San Juan Island has a population of about 8,000 year-round residents with 15% being school age children, but this number triples during the summertime. The local Chamber of Commerce estimates that San Juan Island receives 500,000 visitors a year. The town and harbors are places “of party” atmospheres that perpetuate the tourist attitude and resident joke, “Friday Harbor: A small drinking town with a fishing problem.” Within this environment, youth are being raised with conflicting messages regarding healthy choices and behaviors, and community norms that support substance abuse behaviors.

San Juan Island School District currently serves 783 students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 12. For the purposes of the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative, we are focused on the core data relevant to students in Grades 8 and 10, however, as a coalition, we are also assessing Health Youth Survey Data for Grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, and looking at local indicators throughout the K-12 continuum.