

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities



Coalition Mission

To prevent substance misuse in childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood through unified, community action.

Coalition Vision

Port Angeles is a safe place where young people thrive, free from substance misuse and supported in their overall health and well-being.

Coalition Purpose

Together, with community members and partners we aim to prevent young people from developing an unhealthy relationship with alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, opioids, and other substances.

To access our full 2021-2023 Strategic Plan download [here](#), and 2022-2023 COVID-19 Enhancement Fiscal Year Budget [here](#).

To learn more, visit,
www.pahealthyyouth.org

Port Angeles Healthy Youth Coalition

Port Angeles, Washington

About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI)

CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. CPWI priorities include reducing underage drinking, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. Together, partners build healthier communities by providing evidence-based practices and promoting local strengths and assets.

About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together



On July 1, 2021, Clallam County Juvenile and Family Services received 18 months of funding from the Washington Health Care Authority to re-fortify community-based prevention efforts to reduce underage substance use and promote youth mental health in the Port Angeles School District. By receiving these grants, Port Angeles Healthy Youth Coalition became one of the newest additions to the statewide Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI), a proven model sustaining local coalitions throughout Washington State.

Since 2003, the Port Angeles Healthy Youth Coalition has supported local prevention efforts in Clallam County. Initially, a recipient of the University of Washington's Community Youth Development Study, "Communities That Care" or CTC, followed by the Washington State Strategic Prevention Framework - State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) and then the federal Drug-Free Community Support Program (DFC).

After a lapse in fiscal support, the Port Angeles Health Youth Coalition was re-conceptualized in 2019 under the guidance of the Washington State University Fellowship program in partnership with the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. From 2019 to 2021, the Coalition was supported by two Fellows, who, alongside dedicated volunteers, built enough capacity to attract the support of the CPWI. Now, with this renewal funding source, the

PAHYC members and partners, in partnership with the Olympic Educational Service District 114, serve the youth and families of the Port Angeles School District.

About Our Community

The City of Port Angeles has long been the primary urban center of the North Olympic Peninsula. It is the largest city and Clallam County, Washington county seat. Described as “*where the mountains meet the sea*,” Port Angeles is the quintessential representation of the Pacific Northwest. Nestled between the Olympic National Park and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Port Angeles is strongly influenced by its geographic features, proximity to Canada, and tribal culture of the Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe. Since time immemorial, this has been the lived territory of the Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe, a sovereign, federally-recognized Indian Nation with its own constitution and government.

The Port Angeles School District includes nearby rural areas in the 98362 and 98363 zip codes, with enrollment for the 2021-22 school year of 3,446 students in a community population of 19,960 (2020, US Census). The student population is 71.3% White, 10% Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native 5.2%, 1.7% Asian, 0.7% Black, and 10.8% multi-racial. The languages spoken in Port Angeles are primarily English and Spanish, with 1.1% of students being English language learners. 38% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

While most students in the Port Angeles School District do not use substances, improvements can be made to reduce early initiation of substance use. For example, measures from the Washington Healthy Youth Survey show local substance use among 8th, 10th, and 12th-grade students are frequently above statewide averages.

Students’ anonymous self-reports reveal this is influenced by a higher than statewide average perceived access to substances, lower perceptions of harm from regular substance use, and perceived attitudes that peers and friends are tolerant or approving of substance use.

To respond to these challenges, the Coalition has identified its primary goals to support youth and strengthen their capacity to address peer beliefs and behaviors, in tandem with building community support for prevention and implementing programs that promote healthy, safe community norms and attitudes. These supportive strategies include but are not limited to Town Hall Events, Hidden In Plain Sight and High In Plain Sight, Youth Prevention Clubs, SPORT Prevention Plus Wellness, Guiding Good Choices, Nurse Family Partnership, Med Take Back Campaign, LockMed Lock Distribution with Starts With One, Purchase Surveys, and promoting social norms marketing and statewide prevention campaigns.

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For more information
about CPWI visit
www.TheAthenaForum.org