



**WAUKESHA COUNTY
HEROIN TASK FORCE**

WORKING TOGETHER
to break the cycle of substance use
through community action & hope!



March 24, 2026
Community Partners Meeting

Check out these Important Links

- **Recording:** Waukesha County Quarterly Community Partners Meeting: [Watch the entire HTF community partners meetings](#)
- **Recording:** Waukesha County Environmental Scan Survey Results: Miles Payne(Elevate) and John Kettler (HHS) present the [Environmental Scan survey results.](#)
- **PADLET:** Coalition Partners shared information using a platform called Padlet. The March 24th Padlet has now been “locked down” (can’t add more), but you can access all the active links. We will use this platform again to share information with each other. [Click here to access the March 24th Information Padlet.](#) Or, you can click on this QR Code.
- We themed up the **breakout room discussions**. See slides in the deck for details from each breakout room.



Breakout Room Themes Q1: What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

Growing Focus on Mental Health

Participants noted an encouraging increase in attention to mental health, including efforts to reach students earlier and reduce stigma. There is an opportunity to build on this with more consistent, evidence-based approaches.

Inconsistency in Programming

Prevention and mental health education vary widely across schools, with many relying on teacher-curated materials. This highlights a need for greater alignment and use of evidence-based curricula.

Gaps Across Grade Levels

Programming is uneven—limited in early grades, increases in upper grades, and declines after 9th grade—pointing to the need for more consistent, developmentally appropriate education across all grades.

Suicide Prevention Gap

The low number of schools offering suicide prevention education stood out as a critical gap and area for focused attention.

Strong Engagement with Room to Grow

Participants appreciated the high response rate and use of peer outreach, while also noting opportunities to engage more schools and better understand non-participation.

Ongoing Barriers

Staff capacity, scheduling constraints, and parental concerns continue to limit implementation, underscoring the need for practical support.

Opportunity for Action

The scan provides a strong foundation for collaboration and raises important questions about next steps—particularly how HTF and partners can turn these insights into coordinated, data-driven action.

Breakout Room Themes Q2: Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools? *(first slide)*

Strengthening Family Engagement and Buy-In

A consistent theme was the need to more intentionally engage parents, caregivers, and families. This includes partnering with PTAs, offering presentations to parent groups and boards of education, and creating simple ways (e.g., QR codes, surveys) to gather input on topics and comfort levels. Building understanding and reducing stigma among families is seen as essential to successful implementation.

Elevating Student Voice and Peer Leadership

Participants highlighted the effectiveness of student-led approaches, such as Peers4Peers, and saw strong potential to expand these models. Empowering students to lead and influence their peers can increase relevance, reduce stigma, and strengthen engagement.

Expanding Access to Evidence-Based Resources

There are opportunities to better connect schools with existing evidence-based curricula and best practices. Ideas included:

- Creating a “menu” of vetted programs and curriculum options
- Developing a toolkit of best practices and resources
- Identifying and learning from schools already doing this work well
- Helping schools navigate and select what fits their needs

Building Stronger School–Community Partnerships

Participants emphasized the importance of deeper collaboration between schools and community partners. This includes:

- Partnering with organizations (e.g., behavioral health providers) to bring expertise into schools
- Using the Environmental Scan as an entry point for conversations with school leaders
- Increasing coordination across prevention organizations to align efforts and resources

Breakout Room Themes Q2: Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools? *(second slide)*

Addressing Gaps Across the Continuum of Education

Opportunities exist to strengthen and better sequence prevention efforts across grade levels:

- Start mental health education earlier
- Ensure substance use prevention continues through high school
- Expand focus on priority areas such as suicide prevention and cyberbullying
- Integrate prevention more consistently into existing coursework (e.g., health classes)

Increasing Access to Data and Continuous Improvement

Participants noted the importance of strengthening data use and feedback loops, including:

- Increasing participation in surveys like the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Understanding what schools are currently using—and what is working
- Using data to guide decisions and refine approaches over time

Reducing Barriers Through Practical, Relationship-Based Approaches

Finally, many ideas pointed to the importance of meeting schools where they are:

- Building relationships with key decision-makers (e.g., curriculum leads)
- Offering flexible options—from full curriculum to supplemental support
- Leveraging existing entry points, such as professional development days
- Recognizing that personal connections and trust often drive adoption

There is a quiet
throughline; we don't need
to create something new,
it's about connecting,
aligning, and making it
easier for schools to say
“yes”.

Breakout Room Themes Q3: How can the AWY Grant and HTF Partnerships Move this work forward?



Expanding Reach to Families and Caregivers

Participants emphasized meeting families where they are—through PTAs, parent groups, churches, homeschool networks, and caregiver support groups. There is also a need to use the right communication channels and create simple, accessible ways to engage parents and caregivers.

Leveraging HTF's Trusted Voice

The Waukesha County Heroin Task Force can play a stronger role in endorsing evidence-based programs, reducing reliance on “teacher-curated” materials, and providing clear, consistent messaging about what works.

Reducing Barriers for Schools

AWY funding can help remove key barriers by offsetting costs for curriculum, training, and staff time—making it easier for schools to adopt and sustain prevention programming.

Strengthening School–Community Connections

Opportunities exist to better connect schools with community partners, expand peer-to-peer efforts, and bring in subject matter experts to support both students and staff.

Providing Practical Tools and Supports

There is a need for toolkits, training, and menu-style options that allow schools to choose approaches that fit their needs while maintaining quality and consistency.

Activating Parent and Community Champions

Engaging parent leaders, individuals with lived experience, and trusted community voices can help build buy-in, reduce stigma, and expand the reach of prevention efforts.

WAUKESHA COUNTY HTF

VISION, PURPOSE, AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Vision

The Waukesha County Heroin Task Force (HTF) envisions a healthy, connected community where individuals are empowered to make safe choices around substance use, recovery is supported, and everyone can access the care and support they need to thrive.

Purpose

The purpose of the Waukesha County Heroin Task Force (HTF) is to save lives and strengthen community health by addressing substance use together through collaboration, data driven strategies, and community led action.

Mission

The Waukesha County Heroin Task Force (HTF) supports Waukesha County residents by mobilizing community partners to reduce the harms of substance use, increase access to treatment, and support recovery through education, collaboration, and bold action.



Brenda Dunlap
HTF Co-Chair



Larry Nelson
HTF Co-Chair

Welcome New Partners!



Kathy Kramer, Dean, School of Education and Human Services at Carroll University



Marica (Maci) Potkonjak, Pharmacist, Pick 'N Save:
Menomonee Falls,



Ashley Wojtecki, Supervisor Behavioral Health Services,
ProHealth Care

Others we may have missed?



County Executive Paul Farrow

AGENDA



Welcome



Waukesha County Update-County Executive Paul Farrow



Setting Context for the Meeting



Important HTF Updates



Update on the Waukesha Recovery High School



HTF Receives AWY Coalition Grant



Results from the Waukesha County Environmental Scan



Small Group Discussion & Brainstorming



Watercooler Time from 4:00-4:30

AGENCY OR PARTNER UPDATES

Do you have
something to share
with the full group?



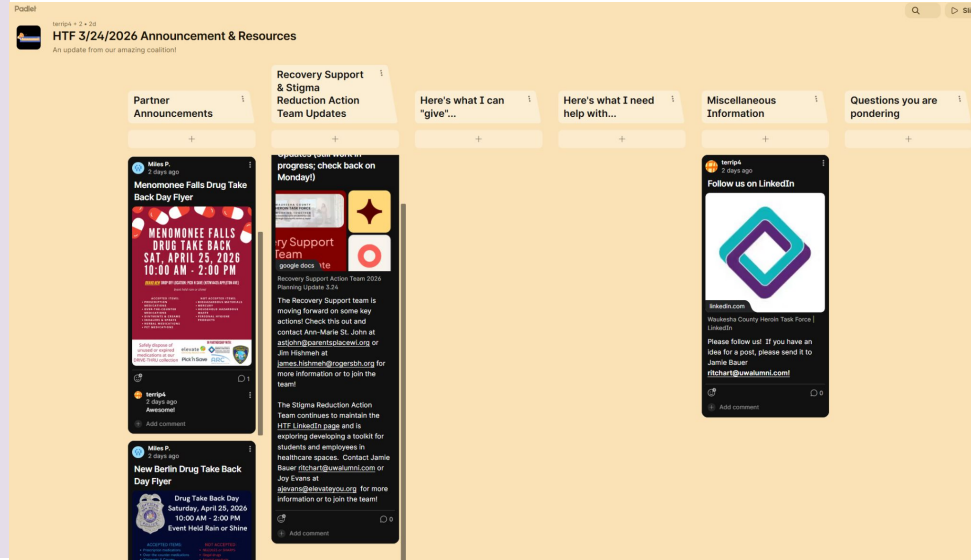
HTF 3/24/2026 Announcement & Resources

An update from our amazing
coalition!



We invite community partners to share announcements and other relevant and timely information through our HTF Announcements & Resources Padlet this month!

Use the QR code or [this link to add to our board.](#)



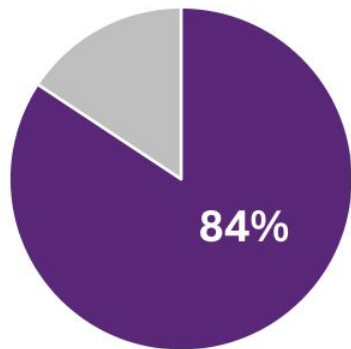
2025 HTF Community Partners WRAP UP SURVEY

Data Review

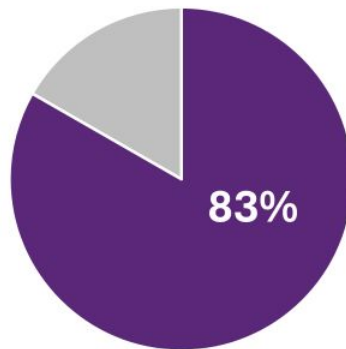


WAUKESHA COUNTY
HEROIN TASK FORCE
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to break the cycle of substance use
through community action & hope!

About our meetings



■ Able to attend
■ Not able to attend



■ Benefited
■ Didn't Benefit or Undecided

- 51 people completed the survey
- However, 34 people answered most of the questions

EMAILS

Most respondents find all types of information useful, especially when it helps them learn about events, resources, and opportunities across partners.

71%

Find Info distributed through email useful

97%

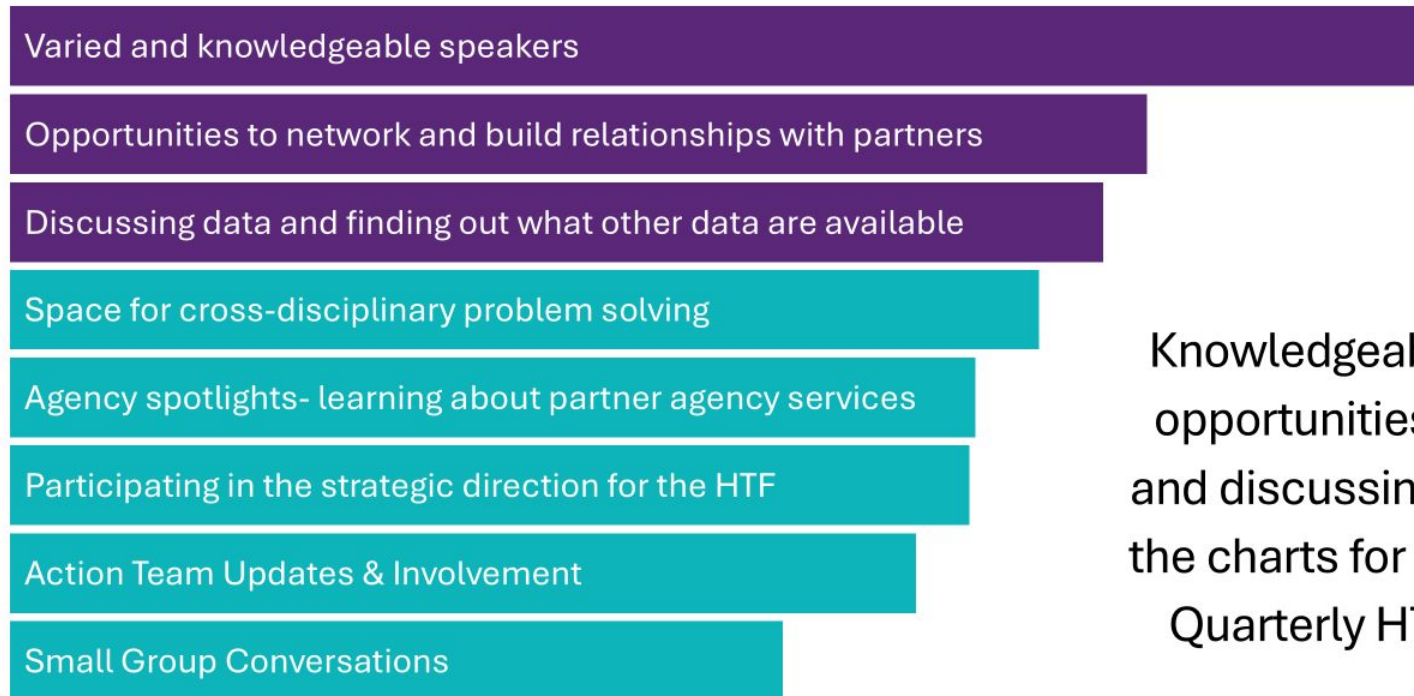
Think the frequency of emails is 'about right'

Improvement Option

A few respondents prefer shorter, more frequent emails instead of longer updates.

About our meetings

Ranked importance of HTF agenda items based on importance to individual and organization



Knowledgeable speakers,
opportunities to network,
and discussing data topped
the charts for importance in
Quarterly HTF meetings

What would you like to see more of?

Community partners value the HTF meetings but would like to see a stronger focus on actionable next steps, strategic problem solving, and using local data to guide coalition-driven work.



Are we achieving what we said we would?

65% Believe Having a Positive Impact

To what extent do you believe that the HTF's collective efforts are contributing to positive change in our community related to substance use

76% Agree we are Meeting our Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Waukesha County HTF coalition is to save lives and strengthen community health by addressing substance use together through collaboration, data driven strategies, and community led action.

68% Think our Community Response is Stronger

The mission states that the coalition supports residents by mobilizing community partners to reduce the harms of substance use increase access to treatment and support recovery through education, collaboration and bold action. 68% agree our response is stronger in last 2 years.

Are we moving the needle?



HTF Members see progress in awareness, collaboration, communication, and harm reduction (like naloxone access and earlier intervention), but note ongoing opportunities to strengthen data use, community engagement, and alignment of goals to fully move the needle.

“Overall change in attitudes about the availability of naloxone, and overall change in the stigma of addressing addiction. Moving away from the idea that addiction is a "them" issue rather than an issue of the community.”

“I have noticed slow changes in the perception and understanding of addiction as a disease model more often than as a moral failing”

HTF Workgroups



41% of Respondents Participated in an Action Team 2025

50% of Respondents said they would be interested in an Action Team in 2026 (*17 people*)

Emerging priorities for short-term HTF workgroups:

- Rising stimulant use and changing drug trends
- Polysubstance use and co-occurring mental health needs
- Alcohol use disorder as an emerging focus area
- Expansion of harm reduction strategies
- Diversion programs (e.g., PAARI-style models)
- Legislative advocacy priorities and partner toolkits
- Stigma reduction, particularly around MOUD
- Data-driven response to anticipate next waves of substance use
- Strengthening cross-sector coordination and rapid response efforts



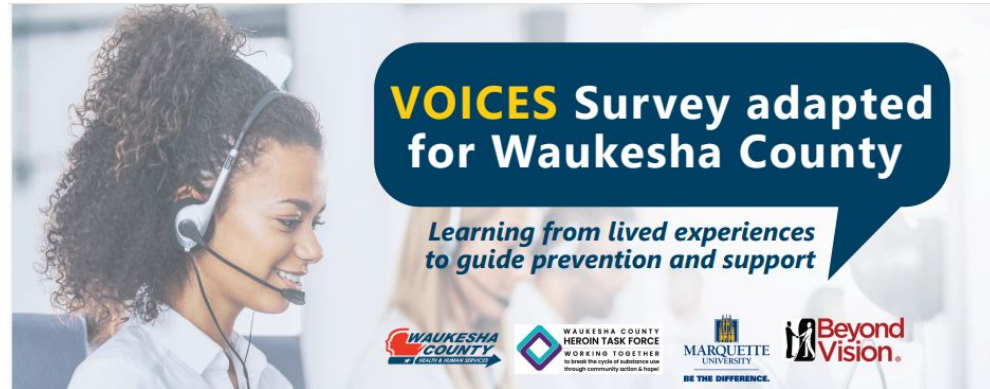
“

I really think the name of this group should be changed. I know there was talk about this a few years ago, but the name is really outdated given the data. Heroin isn't the "issue" anymore. It would be great if the name could be changed to reflect the spectrum of drugs and drug use. It may make people more inclined to participate, too.”

-HTF Survey Respondent

VOICES Survey

Thank you to our
partners!



Frances Thomas, Public Health
Strategy Supervisor, Waukesha
County HHS

Felicia Behnke Shaw, Clinical
Therapist, Waukesha County HHS



Communications Update for the HTF Community Coalition

**Nicole Kelly, HHS Public Information Officer (PIO) &
Terri Phillips, HTF Facilitator**

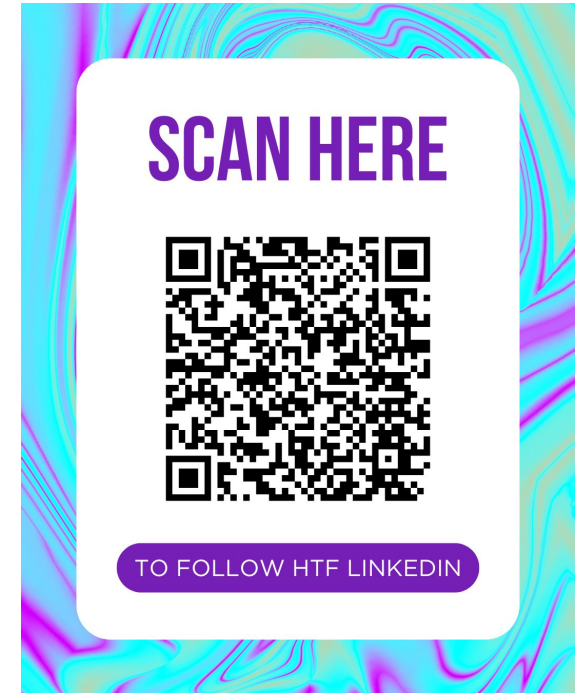
HTF Communications Overview

- HTF LinkedIn Page
- About Us Document being finalized!
- We listened to our partners!
 - The Steering Committee working on a name change & potential logo shift (same colors!) to better align with the HTF's Purpose & Mission



HTF LinkedIn Page

- **SUPPORT**: Please follow us & repost!
- **SUSTAINABILITY**: We have our own content calendar, but need your help!
- **CONTRIBUTE**: Help us today (and in the future) to add to our content calendar



Gratitude & Thanks to Jamie Bauer, Joy Evans and the Stigma Reduction Action Team who are managing the LinkedIn content!

HTF About Us Document

**WAUKESHA COUNTY
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2026

VISION

The Waukesha County HTF envisions a healthy, connected community where individuals are empowered to make safe choices around substance use, recovery is supported, and everyone can access the care and support they need to thrive.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Waukesha County HTF is to save lives and strengthen community health by addressing substance use together through collaboration, data driven strategies, and community led action.

MISSION

The HTF coalition supports Waukesha County residents by mobilizing community partners to reduce the harms of substance use, increase access to treatment, and support recovery through education, collaboration, and bold action.

The HTF coalition meets quarterly bringing community partners together through two virtual meetings and two in-person gatherings annually.

**9-30-2025
@ Rogers Behavioral Health**

WEBSITE

YOUTUBE

www.wchtf.org

Purpose

- Overview of the HTF Coalition
- Accomplishments
- How to engage

HTF: Our Next Chapter

- 
- Our work is evolving—and so is how we tell our story
 - The Steering Committee is exploring a name that reflects our collective impact and future direction, while keeping the colors and identity you recognize
 - Stay tuned for an announcement in June



RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

OPENING FALL 2026

WHAT IS A RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL?



SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

A specialized school designed for students in recovery from substance use, providing academic support alongside recovery services.



PEER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Connect with peers who understand your journey. Build lasting friendships in a judgment-free environment.



PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Small class sizes with individualized attention, flexible scheduling, and credit recovery options to help students succeed.

LEARN MORE TODAY

262-970-1484
mlehnerer@waukesha.k12.wi.us



**WAUKESHA COUNTY
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**Marc Lehnerer, Director
of Student Services,
School District of
Waukesha**

Brenda Dunlap,
Director of
Programs, Elevate

Elevate is also
serving as the
fiscal agent for the
AWY grant HTF
recently received

SOR Strategy	Funding Awarded	Note
Drug takeback events	\$500	-
Permanent disposal drop box(es)	\$500	-
Prescription drug deactivation units	\$1,712 (400 pouches)	RPC will purchase
Prescription drug lock boxes	\$1,700 (150 boxes)	RPC will purchase
Prevention community education event(s)	\$1,000	-
Overdose prevention community education event(s)	\$1,000	-
Staff time	\$7,200	-
School-based prevention programming	\$20,000	-

SUMMARY
Total award: \$33,612
RPC responsible to spend: \$3,412
Coalition responsible to spend: \$30,200

Small Breakout Rooms

Introduce yourself and your role. Share the answer to this question:

- What's one thing you or your organization is working on right now that you're excited to share?



**Speed
Networking!
Get to know
the HTF
Community
Partners!**

Waukesha County Environmental Scan

Waukesha County Heroin Task Force Quarterly Meeting

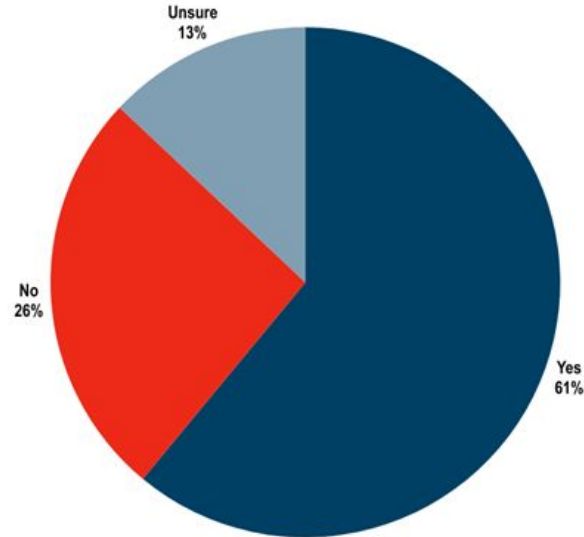
March 24th 2026, Zoom

Prepared by: Waukesha HHS, Elevate, Addiction Resource Council



[Click on this link to access to the Environmental Scan Report](#)

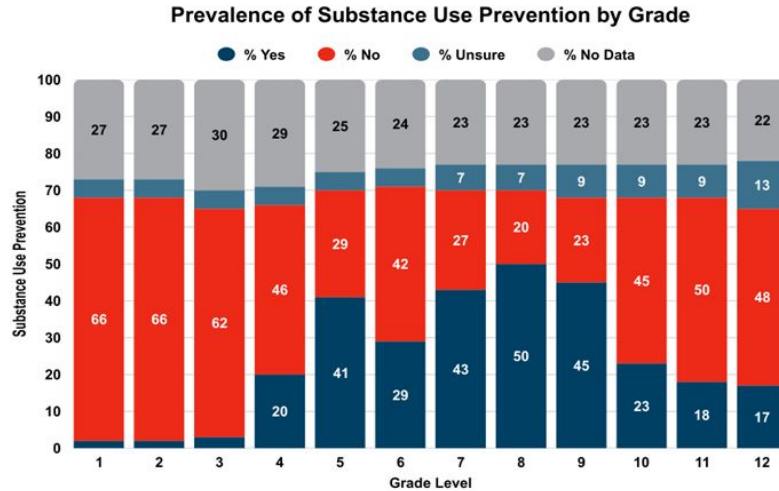
Substance Use Prevention Education Among
Waukesha County Schools



School Prevention Program Prevalence

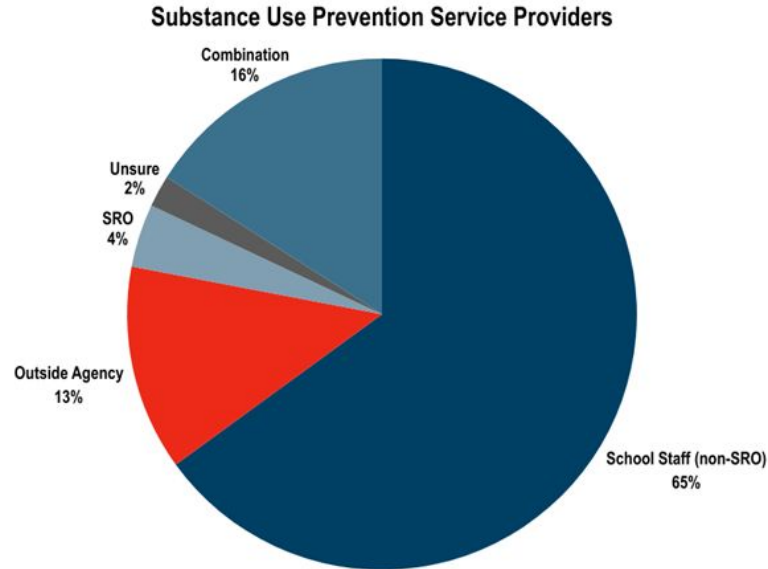
- 75 responses accounted for 106 schools
- Response rate of 83% (128 total schools identified)

Prevention Programming By Grade

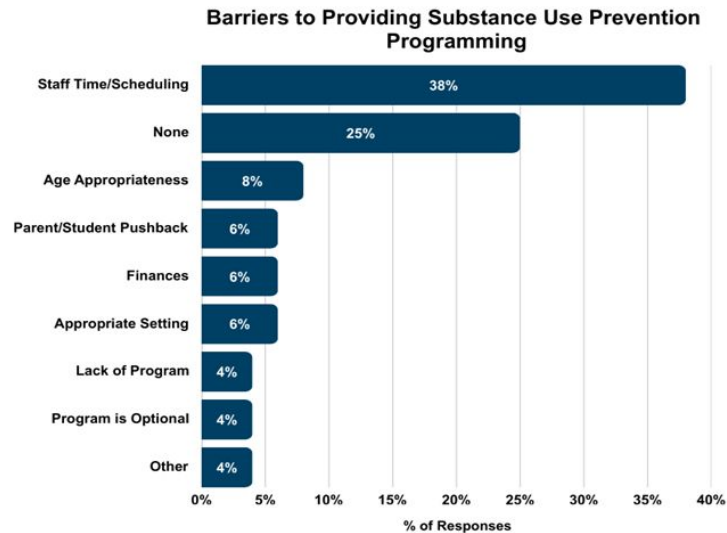


- 102 grades incorporated some level of prevention programming.
 - Spikes at 5th, 8th, and 9th grades
- Trend of "highest available grade" paired with freshman health class curriculum.

Prevention Service Providers



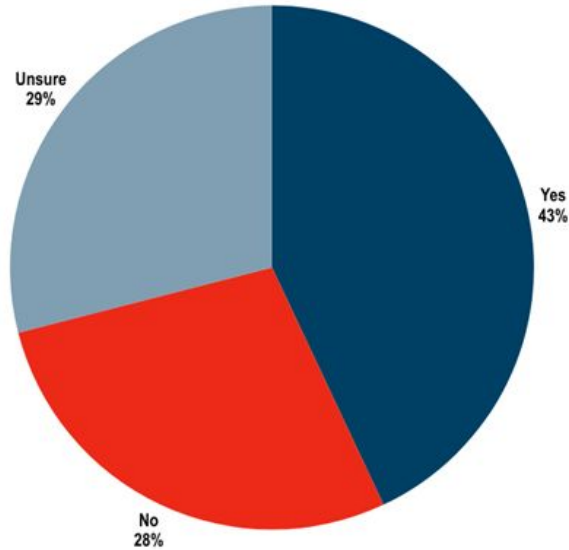
- Majority of prevention services are provided by school staff.
 - Counselors, Social Workers, Support Staff, etc.
- Outside Agency (Elevate, ARC, etc.)



Barriers to Implementation

- Most reported barrier to implementing substance use prevention programming is staff time/scheduling.
- 25% responded with no barrier, a good sign!

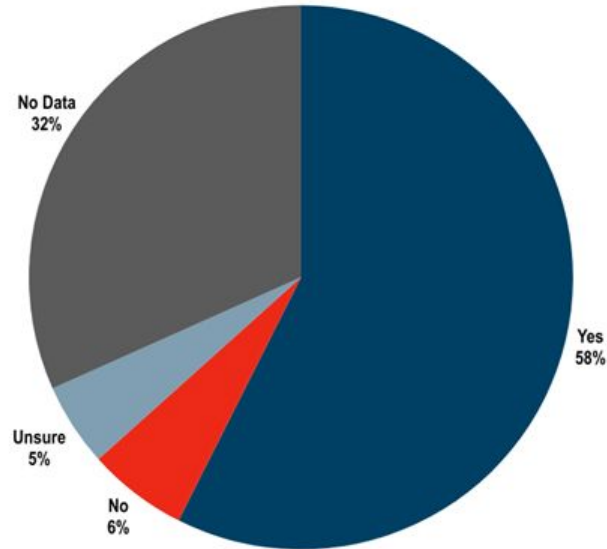
"Is your school interested in resources to support/enhance its substance use prevention programming?"



Gauging Future Interest

- 43% of schools are interested in more support or resources.
- But the ability to act on that support maybe informing the no or unsure responses.
 - Raises the question of structural or outside agency support to enhance programming.

Waukesha County K-12 Schools Providing
Mental Health Education

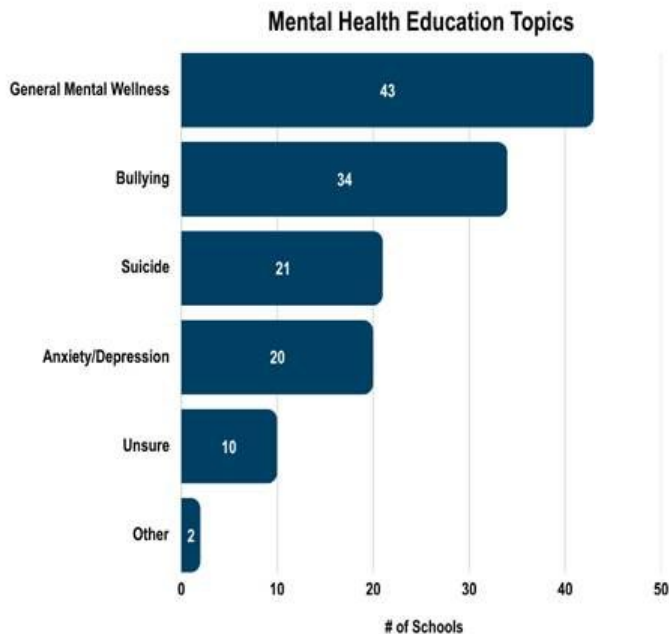


Prevalence of Mental Health Education

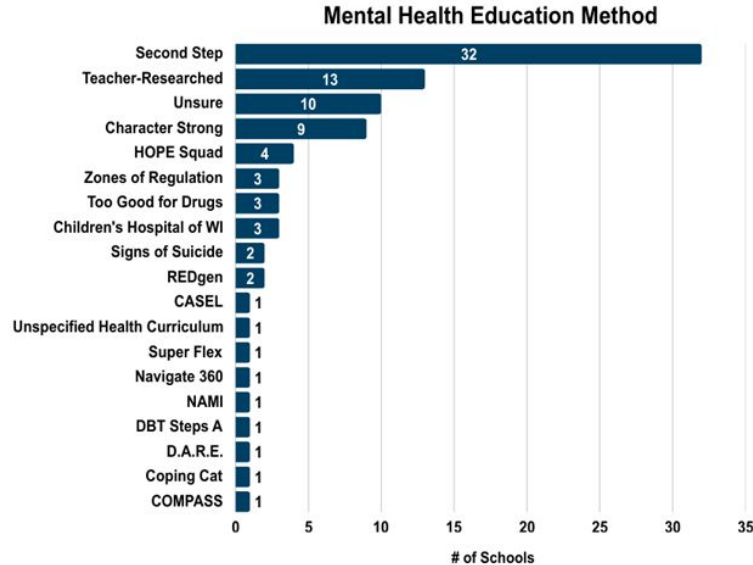
- 58% of schools are implementing some kind of mental health education.
 - Note a large portion of no data.
 - Possible reluctance from respondents to answer definitively?

Mental Health Education Topics

- Over 40 schools provide education on "general mental wellness" (goal setting, positive social norms, coping skills)
- Further investigation needed as to why only 21 schools report suicide prevention education

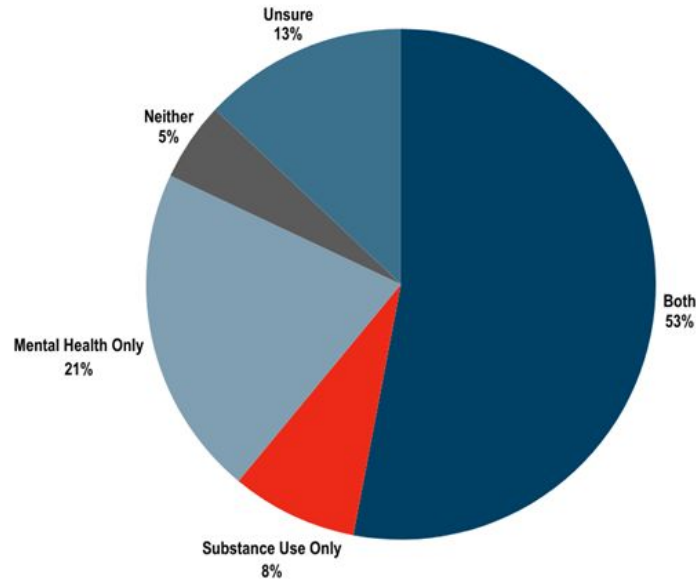


Popularity of Mental Health Programs



- Second Step is by far the most common program.
 - "Second Step programs combine discussions with fun activities and family resources. The programs help children learn human skills, such as responsible decision-making, working together to solve problems, managing strong emotions, and getting along with others. These skills can help children succeed academically and socially." <https://www.secondstep.org/>

Co-Occurrence of Substance Use and Mental Health Education



Co-Occurrence of Mental Health & Substance Use Education

- A large portion of schools are providing both mental health and substance use.
- Mental health is more likely to be taught alone than substance use.

Key Takeaways

Summary of Key Findings

- Substance use prevention reported by 61% of responding schools and mental health education reported by 74% of responding schools.
- Implementation varied substantially by grade level
- Mental health education was more commonly reported than substance use prevention among respondents, but suicide-specific education was reported considerably less often than general mental wellness.
- Capacity constraints and curriculum variability were cross-cutting issues. For substance use prevention, staff capacity/scheduling was the most frequently reported barrier (38%), and both domains showed wide variation in methods/curricula.

Implications for Waukesha County

- Parallel barriers
 - Staffing/Scheduling capacity
 - Financial constraints
 - Stigma and stakeholder perceptions
- Parallel opportunities
 - Strategic use of partnerships
 - Program alignment
 - Standardization of "minimums" with flexibility

Questions?

Thanks to Miles Payne, Youth Services Manager with Elevate & John Kettler, Integrated Services Coordinator, Waukesha County HHS for presenting today!



Interactive Group Activity to reflect on the presentation

Please thank our small
group facilitators!

- Kelli Erickson
- Joy Evans
- Nicole Kelly
- Felicia Behnke Shaw
- Ashley Eilenfeldt
- Jamie Bauer
- Frances Thomas

Instructions

1. You will be placed in a **Breakout Room** for 15 minutes
2. Introduce yourself to the partners
3. Collectively reflect (Facilitator/notetake in each breakout room)
 - a. *What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention and mental health education in our schools?*
 - b. *Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention and mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?*
 - c. *How could the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY) grant, along with the coalition's partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?*

Breakout Room 1- Felicia, Colleen, Brenda, Meghan

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- Overall increased emphasis on Mental Health beyond valuable, increase education to students and parents/ caregivers
- Providing opportunity to children's to have education on MH
- Breaking down barriers and stigma when addressing it earlier
- Joint effort/ collective on working together on MH

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- Partnerships with the PTAs and having HTF be part of the PTAs and partner with families
- Empowering students/ student led and opportunities (Peers4peers)
- WYRBS- increase school participation
- Parents/caregivers to provide feedback in what works for them topics and comfort levels - QR code or something easy help schools get the engagement

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition's partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- Reach out to partnership with PTAs
- Checking with private schools
- Virtual schools some way to connect with those parents
- Homeschool groups
- Connection the schools AODA coordinator
- Monthly parents group- bring in speakers - Parents Cafe
- Church places youth groups etc's MOPs- any parents groups

Breakout Room 1- Any other thoughts! Use this extra slide!

Other ideas/thoughts

- Normalizing can be part of what someone is diagnosed with and here is the education, and taking away the blame
- All of this on the school personnel, there are a lot specialized programming from community agencies that they could be utilizing
- What kind of training and supports do the staff have in mental health when they are doing so many other things with the students

Other ideas/thoughts

- Reaching out to grandparents raising grandchildren groups, and other foster parent support groups

Breakout Room 2- Kelli, Veronica, Kirk, Danielle, Marc

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- Surprised by the lack of evidence-based curriculum, a majority of them were “teacher curated”. Some were unsure!
- Only 21 schools provided suicide prevention education
-

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- There is a lot of free, evidence-based curriculums out there, we just need to help them find it.
- Having 988 listed on the back of student IDs is required from public schools - advocacy for this at private schools?
- Look at school district websites to see what information they have listed about their curriculum/prevention work
- Using the report/presentation as an “in” to have in-person conversations with school admin

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition’s partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- HTF is a trusted source in our community, so how can we use our voice to endorse evidence-based prevention programs
- Addressing teacher-curated curriculum
- More connections between students and community resources
- Using funds to offset costs of evidence-based curriculum for schools who are interested in strengthening their prevention work

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- The amount of schools willing to participate and share
- People saying “no” to implementing prevention programs or no interest in having resources to support it
- That only 21 percent of schools report suicide prevention education

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- More prevention programming specific to suicide
- Ensuring that AODA prevention continues through the HS years.
 - 9th grade prevention programming built into the health class - more universal and research-based
- Menu of programs/curriculum choices presented to the schools for them to pick from. Discussion with prevention organization to see what fits the schools needs and partnership to get grant funding to make it happen.
- Explore partnership with Rogers behavioral health to bring in their expertise and tap into them as a resource.

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition’s partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- Use funding to partner with schools to offer them options for prevention programming, have staff trained, and take financial burden off of schools
- More school districts on board with programming

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- Good response rate from schools considering challenges in getting data from schools in the past. Used Peer4Peers which made it an internal ask from students to do the Outreach. Schools got Pizza money as a reward.
- Surprised there was a lot of existing mental health education
- Interesting to see that there is an influx of education at the 'top' grades

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- Make sure to have resources on Cyberbullying
- Has someone identified best practices of schools already doing substance use prevention so as to not reinvent the wheel. Second step vs 'teacher researched'
- Put together a toolkit of best practices and make it easy for schools to find.
- Get information of chart of education that schools are already using. What is working, what is not, and why.
- Reach and connect with the curriculum staff in each district to see how they decide to get substance use curriculum

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition's partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- Support schools to get second step if it is a good program, instead of 'teacher researched'
- Expand elevates Peer2Peer program -

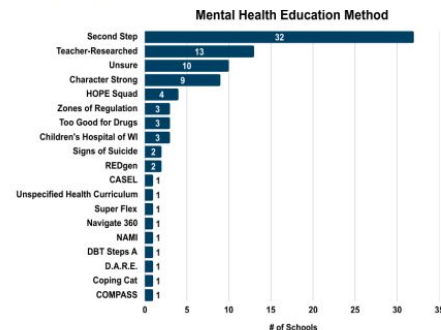


Figure 11

Breakout Room 5- Joy E., John G., Christine H., Allison S.

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- Fascinating information
- Breakdown of prevention education by grades/class
 - Lack of prevention education for students under grade 4
- Appreciation for the environmental scan in general
 - There was great information shared that is beneficial for the community
- Prevention education decreased after 9th grade
 - More influence once students enter high school

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- Starting mental health education earlier and adding more substance use prevention later
 - Addressing the gaps in prevention education
- Increased collaboration between community partners
- Getting parents, grandparents, guardians, etc. involved in prevention education efforts
- Reducing stigma

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition's partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- Partnership with Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) (law enforcement)
 - Officers teach prevention education courses.

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- Pleased that there is an increased desire for data driven decisions
 - Data can be very difficult for non-profits.
- Number of schools that are involved but that we didn't know about
 - Rally community support
- Staff capacity and parental pushback

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- Incorporating presentations to parent groups and boards of education
 - Help to eliminate the "NIMBY" sentiment
 - Find the right decision makers, get parental buy-in
- Once parental buy-in achieved, bring appropriate content to those schools
 - Need a personal connection to someone that lives within the

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition's partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- Publicity
- How to get proper content and information to the parents
- Staff time funding to serve as ambassadors to be the "face" for staff that are afraid to speak up
- Meet with parents to talk about this (funding to cover a breakfast)

Breakout Room 6- Any other thoughts! Use this extra slide!

Other ideas/thoughts

- Publicity- getting information to parents- they aren't on LinkedIn, they are on TikTok
- Parenting in Recovery- Hereditary and generational disease
 - Parental champions- friend who is a social worker at the high school
 - Utilize local relations
 - Parents listen to other parents-
- People with lived experience

What stood out to you from the Environmental Scan findings about prevention & mental health in our schools?

- Findings bring up more questions - What is the ask of the HTF and partners?
- Pleased with the number of schools who are providing some kind of education
- Interesting which grades are receiving the most education - how can we expand to providing something in each grade?
- Why did some schools choose not to respond? Or did we not connect with the right person?

Where do you see the greatest opportunities to strengthen substance use prevention & mental health education in Waukesha County Schools?

- Strategy of involving students seemed to work - could we expand on that strategy?
- Merging of ARC and Family Service could provide a good opportunity to expand and unify efforts.
- Offer a menu of options to schools from a full curriculum to general support from a SME. A toolkit for teachers/schools who want to handle it themselves.
- How do we get on professional development day schedules to provide training and support?

How could the AWY grant, along with the HTF coalition's partnerships, help move these opportunities forward?

- Toolkit
- Short training for staff who are teaching these topics
- Paid staff time for diving deeper into the data or having longer more in-depth interviews with school staff



BRIEF HTF ACTION TEAM UPDATES



[Check out the details on our Padlet!](#)

How to get involved?



- Contact Terri Phillips at terrip@sjdconsulting.net
- **Support Recovery Team**
 - Ann-Marie St. John (Parent's Place): astjohn@parentsplacewi.org
 - Jim Hishmeh (Rogers): james.hishmeh@rogersbh.org
- **Stigma Reduction Team**
 - Joy Evans (Elevate): jevans@elevateyou.org
 - Jamie Bauer (BioForward): JBauer@bioforward.org
- **Metrics & Data Team**
 - Frances Thomas (HHS): fthomas@waukeshacounty.gov
 - Felicia Behnke-Shaw (HHS): fbehnkeshaw@waukeshacounty.gov

Please take our BRIEF meeting survey!



NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Meeting summary will be distributed in the next 7-10 days
- ✓ 2026 HTF Quarterly Community Partner Meetings on the books!
 - June 9, 2026 (IN PERSON: Waukesha County Business Alliance)
 - October 6, 2026 (IN PERSON)
 - December 1, 2026 (VIRTUAL)
- ✓ “Water Cooler” Discussion! Join us from 4:00-4:30; share more announcements and/or continue the conversation!



***We invite you to stay on the Zoom Meeting until 4:30 p.m
for the after meeting “Water Cooler Discussion”.
Topic: TBD***

thank
you