

Montcalm Prevention Collaborative

July 2020



One County. One Cause.

WHO WE ARE

The Montcalm Prevention Collaborative is a grassroots coalition initially formed in 2009 as a collaboration between two previously existing prevention groups: Tobacco-Free Montcalm and Montcalm Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (MCPUD). While the Coalition's name has changed several times over the years, what hasn't changed is the member's commitment to the community.

MPC members include concerned parents, community members, business leaders, organization representatives, and youths who are committed to making a difference in Montcalm County. The coalition is governed by a member-elected Board of Directors with the day-to-day work being overseen by a Coalition Coordinator.

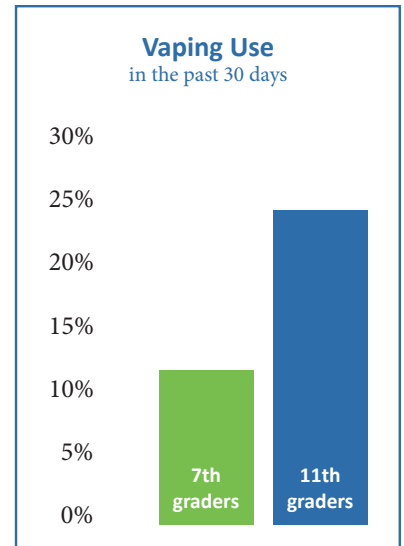
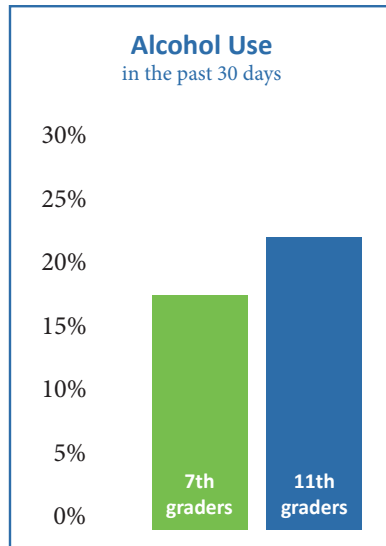
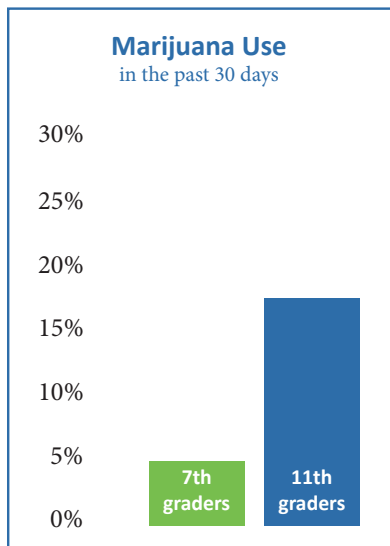
Our Coalition work is currently funded through a grant from the federal Drug-Free Communities Support Program with approved work in two major areas: underage drinking and prescription drugs, and two minor areas: tobacco and marijuana. Our primary goal is to continue to invite people, including yourself, to the table to help in building long-term coalition sustainability to continue the prevention work in Montcalm County.

WHAT WE DO

There have been many trends in substance use over the years, and coalitions across the nation have worked to address them all. Excited about the possibilities of what we can achieve through continued growth, the MPC will study the changing landscape of drug and alcohol use in our County and adopt Best Practices in tackling drugs on the rise.

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Technology and changes in the law make it easier than ever for youth to obtain and use drugs and alcohol. In Montcalm County, youth are joining others from around the world as part of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) to create healthier, more fulfilling lives.



Data Source: MiPHY 2017-2018 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Establishment and operation of 5 drop box locations for medication disposal
- Collection and disposal of 7,300 pounds of unused medication
- Shared best practices around prescribing opioids with physicians
- Distribution of Narcan kits with community collaborative partners and law enforcement
- Increased Tobacco compliance and Synar checks with local law enforcement partners
- Promoted healthy, substance-free events in schools and increased prevention programs with school partners
- Tremendous amount of work was done around recreational marijuana both at the local township level and countywide pre-vote to ensure youth concerns have a voice.
- Conducted a messaging campaign around Marijuana, with the focus on “It’s still bad for youth.”
- We expanded youth engagement and participation in the majority of County schools and provided capacity-building training to our Collaborative staff, as well as youth, using CADCA’s National Youth Leadership Training.

SECRETS TO OUR SUCCESS

Diverse Membership: We engage people across ages and settings to ensure broad community representation and access to essential insights and expertise.

Best Practices: Guided by the science of prevention and social change, we use proven strategies for improving outcomes related to vaping.

Action Orientation: Committed to producing tangible results we consistently move from thoughtful conversation to strategic action.

Continuous Improvement: Through ongoing evaluation of our prevention work, we learn from each decision we make and each action we take.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As our funding comes to an end September 30, 2020, our progress and positive results in the community also run the risk of disappearing. We need to engage new supporters to ensure the continuation of our effective prevention curriculum and youth leadership initiatives. Help us keep the momentum going by becoming involved in one of the following ways:

✓ **Become a supporting member:** Donate money or supplies, and/or attend our events. You are welcome to attend our meetings to stay up-to-date on what’s happening with the Collaborative.

✓ **Become a voting member:** Join the Collaborative and help us move or work forward by serving on one of our committees and/or providing in-kind services.

✓ **Become a collaborator:** Spread the word about our work and how people can connect with us.

For more information, contact Jodie Faber, Prevention Coordinator at coordinator@montcalmprevention.org or visit montcalmprevention.org.