

Parent Alert | August 2020

## Substance Abuse Prevention Funding:

What's the Problem?



### ***Is prevention cheaper than treatment?***

**Yes.** Each year substance abuse costs the United States more than [\\$740 billion](#). That's enough money to [end world hunger](#)....*twice*.

This staggering number includes not only treatment but also substance-related crime, health issues, road safety, foster care, and more.

It may surprise you that **Columbus, OH is ranked #3** in U.S. [cities](#) with the most heroin use (3% of the population). In fact, the American Addiction Centers website estimates, based on research, that 64% of Columbus's population uses marijuana, 20% uses cocaine, and 12% uses meth.

What if we could step in and stop substance abuse before it starts? **Prevention programs could save our country nearly [\\$100 billion a year](#).**

	Health Care	Overall	Year Estimate Based On
Tobacco <sup>1,2</sup>	\$168 billion	\$300 billion	2010
Alcohol <sup>3</sup>	\$27 billion	\$249 billion	2010
Illicit Drugs <sup>4,5</sup>	\$11 billion	\$193 billion	2007
Prescription Opioids <sup>6</sup>	\$26 billion	\$78.5 billion	2013

Source: [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

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## How does prevention get funding?

Unfortunately, rarely do Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions receive funds allocated specifically for prevention. Ohio's General Revenue Fund (GRF) does not have a line item in its budget for substance abuse prevention.

In other words, unless a Coalition receives a federal, state, or local grant, the only money it can use to prevent substance abuse is whatever it earns through grassroots fund raising (which isn't much).

Thankfully, it is possible for Coalitions (with a lot of work) to apply for and receive grants. See Ohio's [2020 breakdown](#) of grant awards resulting in the grant funds listed below:

- OH mental health funds: \$7.6 million
- OH substance abuse prevention funds: \$2.1 million
- OH substance abuse treatment funds: \$2 million

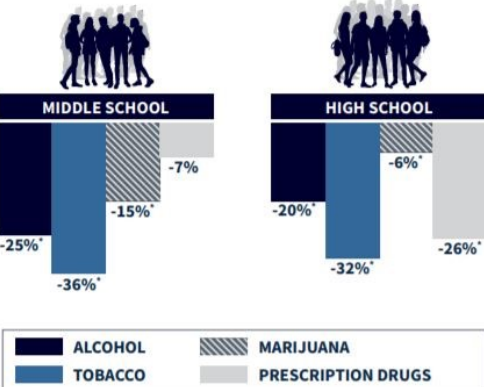
Over multiple decades, various Coalitions in Wayne County have received grant funding from federal, state, and local dollars. This money helps decrease how many of our youth use substances: **Most years, our rates are actually lower than the state average.** Grant-funded communities have seen a noticeable decrease in youth substance use.

### PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PAST 30-DAY USE



DFC coalitions reported that substance use/misuse **DECLINED** for youth living in DFC-funded communities.

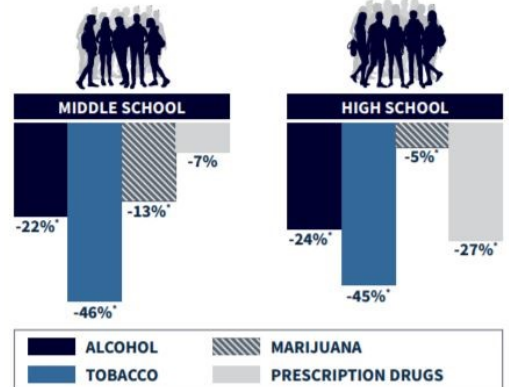
#### ALL DFC GRANT RECIPIENTS SINCE INCEPTION



\* p < .05

\*Note: Less than 3% of middle school youth report misuse of prescription drugs (no change over time).

#### FY 2018 DFC GRANT RECIPIENTS



\* p < .05

Source: [Whitehouse.gov](http://Whitehouse.gov)

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## Follow the Links to Learn More

[Contacting your elected officials](#)

[Prevention makes cents](#)

For more information and info-graphics on prevention, visit Prevention Action Alliance's [website](#).

Short [clips](#) that explain prevention!

Thank you for being a vital part of our community!