

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PREVENTION PLAN

The Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN) Comprehensive Community Prevention Plan (CCPP) serves as a strategic roadmap for addressing substance misuse prevention across Washoe County. Guided by the Strategic Prevention Framework and evidence-based practices, the CCPP identifies key risk and protective factors affecting youth, families, schools, and communities.

It outlines priority areas, strategies, and collaborative efforts to reduce substance misuse, promote healthy behaviors, and strengthen community resilience. Developed through data collection, community input, and cross-sector collaboration, the CCPP reflects JTNN's commitment to building a healthier, safer, and drug-free community.

KEY PRIORITIES

JTNN has identified five strategic prevention priorities:

- ✓ Prenatal & Postpartum Prevention Education
- ✓ Crisis Resilience Training
- ✓ Increase School-Based Prevention Capacity
- ✓ Increase Perception of Risk Around Marijuana
- ✓ Collective Impact – Case Management

COLLABORATION SNAPSHOT

JTNN leads cross-sector prevention efforts through coalition committees, school partnerships, youth programs, and partners.

Regular trainings, shared tools like the Resource Toolkit, and collaborative initiatives (Rx Take Backs, Overdose Awareness, etc.) strengthen community capacity to prevent substance misuse.

WILDER SURVEY INSIGHTS

KEY STRENGTH

JTNN as a Trusted Backbone Organization

JTNN facilitates funding, trainings, and strategic guidance for collaborative prevention efforts, acting as a reliable “backbone” to the coalition’s structure.

KEY CHALLENGE + RESPONSE

Challenge Identified: Limited collaboration and perceived competition among local organizations.

JTNN’s Response: JTNN is strengthening coalition-wide coordination by hosting regular cross-sector meetings, providing shared access to a centralized SharePoint folder, and offering collaborative prevention trainings to align efforts and reduce fragmentation.

RISKS, PROTECTIVE FACTORS, & OUTCOMES

In the CCPP, understanding and addressing risk and protective factors is essential to promoting well-being and reducing substance use in Washoe County. Risk factors increase the likelihood of youth substance use and related negative outcomes, while protective factors help reduce those risks or buffer against them. By identifying and addressing both, the CCPP guides prevention efforts to improve outcomes and build a healthier, safer community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DATA TRENDS

RISKS

Emotional Health Indicators

- 34.3% felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2+ weeks

Emotional Support

- 51.2% school students reported never or rarely receiving the help they needed when feeling sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious

Measures Related to Child/Parent Relationship

- Only 35.9% of middle school students feel comfortable talking about personal matters

Violence in the Home

- 63.5% insulted or put down by a parent or other adult in their home

Bullying at school:

- 27.6% of middle schoolers bullied on school property

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Parental disapproval of Rx misuse

- 77.8% said parents would find it "very wrong" to misuse Rx drugs

Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them

- 82.5% perceive risk for using prescription drugs not prescribed to them

Prevention programming access:

- 1,313 middle school students participated in prevention programming in 2023 and 2024 combined

OUTCOMES

Lifetime use (2021 vs 2023):

- Increased for all substances except cigarettes (which decreased slightly from 8.3% to 7%).

Current use (2021 vs 2023):

- Marijuana: 16.5% → 17.4%
- Alcohol: 21.4% → 22.9%
- E-cigs: 20.5% → 18.1%
- Cigarettes & Rx misuse: both slightly decreased

Washoe County is higher than state average in vaping, marijuana, and alcohol

RISKS

Emotional Health Indicators

41.5% felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2+ weeks

Emotional Support

- 60.7% of high school students reported never or rarely receiving the help they needed when feeling sad, empty, hopeless, angry, or anxious

Family history of substance misuse

- 30.4% lived with someone using drugs/alcohol

Low parent-child communication

- Only 31.2% feel comfortable talking about personal matters

Violence in the Home

- 61.2% insulted or put down by a parent or other adult in their home

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Parental disapproval of Rx misuse

- 79.2% said parents would find it "very wrong" to misuse Rx drugs

Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them

- 80.4% perceive risk for using prescription drugs not prescribed to them

Prevention programming access:

- 373 high school students participated in prevention programming in 2023 and 2024 combined.

Middle school prevention impact:

- Many high school students previously received prevention programming as 7th and 8th graders. The work invested in middle school has directly contributed to shaping protective factors now seen in high school.

OUTCOMES

Lifetime use (2021 vs 2023):

- Decreased for most substances except marijuana (held steady at 33.1% → 33.2%)

Current use (2021 vs 2023):

- Marijuana: 31.1% → 33.2%
- Alcohol: 49.3% → 48.5%
- E-cigs: 41.8% → 37.4%
- Cigarettes: 19.7% → 15.2%
- Rx Drugs: 14.5% → 10.9%

Washoe County is higher than state average in vaping, marijuana, and alcohol

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JTNN would like to thank every community member who participated in a Focus Group, Key Informant Interview, or completed the Wilder Survey.

The following JTNN staff members contributed to the completion of this Comprehensive Community Prevention Plan (CCPP):

- Anne-Elizabeth Northan, Executive Director
- Kimberley Sarandos, Deputy Director

The data for this CCPP was compiled, analyzed, and organized with the support of an external consultant:

Impact Evaluation & Assessment Services

Margo Teague, Principal

margo.impactevaluation@gmail.com

impactevaluationservices.com

This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Nevada State Department of Health and Human Services through Grant # SG-2025-00513 from Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department nor Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant.

This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Nevada State Department of Health and Human Services from Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services SAPP Grant. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department nor Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant.

This publication was supported by the Nevada State Department of Health and Human Services, Fund for a Resilient Nevada.