

Washington Healthy Youth (WHY) Coalition

Overview

The Washington Healthy Youth (WHY) Coalition represents more than 15 state agencies and organizations. In addition to state agencies, academic groups, non-profit organizations, county agencies, and community coalitions ensure a wide range of perspectives are considered.

The WHY Coalition focuses on reducing underage alcohol and cannabis use, as well as systemic factors that relate to underage substance use. This includes:

- Promoting changes in industry regulations and practices, as well as utilizing data to inform strategic direction
- Elevating the critical intersection between commercial and social determinants of health
- Educating policy makers on emerging public health and prevention priorities for regulated substances
- Supporting community prevention efforts through development dissemination of resources and educational materials
- Increasing statewide collaboration to support policies and programs that address all systems that support the health of Washington's youth

Coalition members share information about social and environmental factors within schools and communities that affect youth behaviors and attitudes to substance use.

There are two primary workgroups of the coalition: a communications work group and cannabinoid work group.

The communications work group maintains several public-facing resources concerning underage substance use. These include:

- [Start Talking Now](#): a site that serves as substance use disorder prevention resource for parents and other adult influencers.

- [Not a Moment Wasted](#): a site includes youth-facing information on health and lifestyle, alcohol, and cannabis as well as help and resources.
- [Prevention materials for parents](#): accessible materials that were developed with input from community members to supplement the resources above.

The communications work group also serves on the advisory team for the Department of Health (DOH) youth marijuana prevention and adult influence campaigns, as well as the Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (HCA's DBHR) underage drinking prevention and the rethinking college drinking media campaigns.

The cannabinoid work group focuses on public health and prevention priorities in the quickly evolving cannabis landscape. These efforts include:

- Convening researchers, public health practitioners, and program managers to inform implementation of policies and programs
- Producing educational briefs on emerging trends chemically created cannabinoids and high-concentration cannabis products
- Engaging in and supporting public health priorities within agency rulemaking and policy research, for example to inform Liquor and Cannabis Board's collaborative rulemaking process.

Funding

The Washington Healthy Youth Coalition is not funded.

Coalition members

The statewide Washington Healthy Youth Coalition is co-chaired by the Liquor and Cannabis Board and HCA. Coalition members include the Department of Health, Educational Service Districts, Washington Association for Substance Misuse and Violence Prevention, Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Department of Licensing, Washington Poison Control, Foundations for Healthy Generations,

Washington State Patrol, Washington Association
of Juvenile Court Administrators, and Seattle
Children's Hospital.

For more information

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Websites:

- <https://www.starttalkingnow.org/>
- <https://notamomentwasted.org/>