The data reflected in this report highlights important information about the scope of data collection and key findings for a selection of the County’s evidence-based programs provided in schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

WestEd has been funded by the Office of Drug and Alcohol in Montgomery County to assist in evaluation planning, program evaluation implementation, and comprehensive reporting of alcohol and drug programming in the county. WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency working to improve education and other important outcomes for children, youth, and adults.

WestEd has designed data collection procedures, trained providers on data collection, and conducted analyses of the evaluation data collected from students participating in evidence-based programs provided in Montgomery County schools as well as other prevention programming offered throughout the county.

Questions? Contact Katie Kucz, MPH — Prevention Coordinator, Office of Drug and Alcohol, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, (610) 278-3538, kkucz@montcopa.org, www.montcopa.org
OVERALL FUNDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Drug &amp; Alcohol Funding</th>
<th>Mental Health Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 15/16</td>
<td>$639,109</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 16/17</td>
<td>$668,647</td>
<td>$317,953</td>
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<td>FY 17/18</td>
<td>$842,875</td>
<td>$320,053</td>
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<td>FY 18/19</td>
<td>$1,469,499</td>
<td>$350,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 19/20</td>
<td>$1,946,823</td>
<td>$427,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING BY AGENCY & SERVICES

- Aldersgate
- Carson Valley Children's Aid
- Creative Health Services
- Merakey
- Family Services

Be a Part of the Conversation

MINI-GRANTS GIVEN TO 27 MINI-GRANTEES TOTALLING $82,000

- 6 school districts/schools
- 11 police departments
- 5 community organizations
- 5 coalitions
**PROGRAM FINDINGS**

**LIFE SKILLS**

**INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF RISKS AND HARM**

- **92%** elementary school students said this was true. An increase of 39 percentage points.

**INCREASED AWARENESS OF IMPACTS OF ALCOHOL USE**

- **At least 50%** of teen deaths are related to alcohol.

**TOO GOOD FOR DRUGS**

**INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF DRUG & ALCOHOL USE ON THE BODY**

- **81%** 2nd grade students knew. An increase of 20 percentage points.

**INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DRUGS & ALCOHOL**

- **80%** 2nd grade students knew. An increase of 9 percentage points.

**CLASS ACTION**

**INCREASED AWARENESS OF IMPACTS OF ALCOHOL USE**

- **89%** agreed. An increase of 17 percentage points.

**Examples:**

- Cigarette smoking can cause your skin to wrinkle.
- People who smoke cigarettes can usually stop anytime they want.
- Medicine is a drug that changes the way your body works.
- Alcohol is a drug.
- At least 50% of teen deaths are related to alcohol.

**Examples of smoking:**

- Cigarette smoking can cause your skin to wrinkle.
- People who smoke cigarettes can usually stop anytime they want.

**Examples of medicine:**

- Medicine is a drug that changes the way your body works.

**Examples of alcohol:**

- Alcohol is a drug.

**Examples of teen deaths:**

- At least 50% of teen deaths are related to alcohol.
**IMPROVEMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**

More students agreed: People can replace self-injury with a new, healthier coping mechanism.

More students disagreed: Self-injury is the same as a suicide attempt.

**SIGNS OF SUICIDE**

83% agreed: Depression is an illness that doctors can treat.

91% disagreed: The best thing to tell a suicidal friend is to ‘pull yourself together & things will get better.’

Drug and/or alcohol abuse is a sign that a person might be depressed and/or suicidal.

95% agreed: Most suicide attempts occur without any warning signs or clues.

86% disagreed: People can replace self-injury with a new, healthier coping mechanism.

**SIGNS OF SELF-INJURY**

95% agreed: An increase of 6 percentage points

86% disagreed: An increase of 21 percentage points
Nearly every student correctly identified strategies for **calming down and belly breathing**

**DESSA**

The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) is a strengths-based measure of social-emotional behaviors related to resilience, social-emotional competence, and school success for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

After participating in the Second Step program:

- **6%** of students scored in the **NEED** range
  - a decrease of 12 percentage points
  - Children with scores in the NEED range can be considered at risk for exhibiting or developing social-emotional problems.

- **45%** of students scored in the **STRENGTH** range
  - an increase of 25 percentage points
  - Children with scores in the STRENGTH range can be considered NOT at risk for exhibiting or developing social-emotional problems.

BE A PART OF THE CONVERSATION PARENT FORUMS

14 PARENT PROGRAMS REACHING 379 MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARENTS

- **2** elementary parent presentations
- **3** technology parent presentations
- **5** vaping prevention parent presentations
- **2** opioid parent presentations
- **2** teenage substance abuse parent presentations

73% of participants found the presentations very helpful
87% of participants would attend another Be a Part of the Conversation program
93% of participants would recommend a Be Part of the Conversation program to a friend
81% of participants felt they were aware of resources after attending the program

YOUTH MARIJUANA PREVENTION PROJECT (YMPP)

A FIVE-YEAR INITIATIVE FUNDED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF DRUG & ALCOHOL

Our goals tie directly to the Identified Risk Factors from Montgomery County’s Needs Assessment process:

1. Reduce youth marijuana use in Montgomery County
2. Increase youth perceived risk of marijuana use
3. Increase youth perception of parental disapproval

School Policy Forum
Vaping, Nicotine, Marijuana
44 attendees

Health Teacher Training
123 attended Part 1
121 attended Part 2
30 received Act 48 Credit
**STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)**

**IN THE 2019–2020 SCHOOL YEAR 1,453 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN DRUG & ALCOHOL (D&A) SAP GROUPS**

- 1,549 Drug & Alcohol SAP Group hours
- 526 Mental Health SAP Group hours
- 1,254 Mental Health Individual Support (MH3) Group hours

**514 STUDENTS RECEIVED SAP SCREENINGS**

- 86% reported they would attend another program like SAP in the future
- 83% said they would recommend to a friend
- On average, most participants in SAP programming felt they learned skills to help make better choices

PA SAP trains school staff to identify alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues that act as barriers to student’s success.

The primary goal of SAP is to help students overcome barriers, remain in school, and advance academically.

Once students are referred to SAP, they may be referred for a screening to assess domains such as drug and alcohol use, suicidal ideation, trauma, and other mental health issues.

Community or school based referrals are generated from the screening results.

SAP Liaisons meet in-person with student, parents, and school staff; they also attend SAP Team meetings.

For more information email: SAP@montcopa.org

On average, participants reported being very satisfied with SAP services