

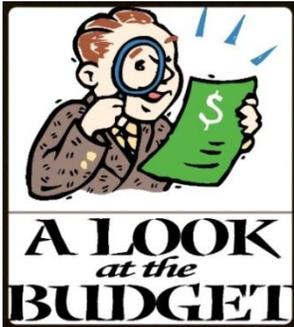


TCYSD COMMUNITY UPDATES

MARCH 6, 2015

We are honored to be charged with investing time, resources, and funding into local Tompkins County communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life, and hope that this quarterly communication will serve as another resource to help create a community where all youth are given the opportunities to thrive.

New York State Budget



Under the "[2015 Opportunity Agenda](#)" Governor Cuomo announced his proposed spending plan for 2015-16 on January 21, 2015. This plan is multi-faceted plan that impacts youth and youth service providers in a variety of ways, from the implementation of the [Raise the Age](#) Initiatives to continued reductions in Advantage After-school Funding and changes to the education system.

The funding provided to the Youth Bureau System and Youth Services Department was not left intact via the Opportunity Agenda. The Youth Development program funding and Runaway and Homeless Youth Funding (which flow through County Youth Services to our agencies and municipalities) will see a reduction in our 2015 budget if the Governor's proposal goes through. These reductions will impact all of our contracted agencies and municipalities if the legislative add-in is not restored.

The Association of Youth Bureaus is furiously advocating for restorations as well as additional support for Youth Development Funding and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act funding. Restorations will allow the programming to remain whole, while additional funding will allow the programs that can support the other changes proposed in the Opportunity Agenda, such as prevention services for youth as we look at the Raise the Age.

Locally, the loss of funding will mean an overall reduction of ~\$14,000 to Tompkins County Youth Services, our local municipalities and agencies.



Youth Worker Training Series



Effectively training youth workers can improve the success of the youth that they serve. We continue to be committed to providing the resources to youth workers to allow them to better serve the communities they are working in.

In the first quarter of 2015 we held two youth worker trainings – Probation 101 and the Tompkins County Mentoring Symposium a joint effort of the Community Foundation, Park Foundation, United Way and Youth Services.

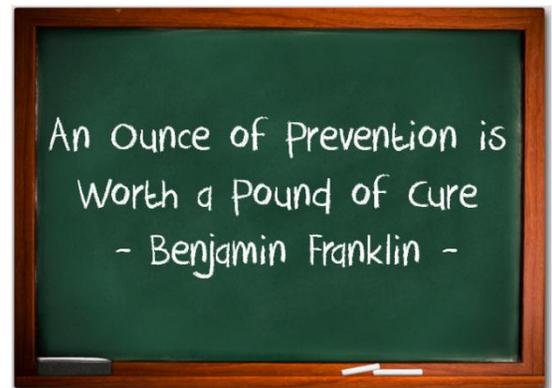
We look forward to hosting additional trainings in the Spring including:

- Results Based Accountability Part 2: Turning the Curve (for contracted agencies only)
- How to Access Childcare Payments for Summer Camp
- Developing Community-Wide Outcomes for Youth

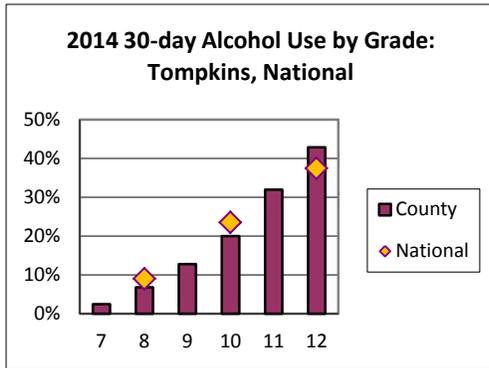
Municipal Drug Policy Committee on Prevention

As a member of the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth the Tompkins County Youth Services Department has been participating in the City of Ithaca's Municipal Drug Policy Committee on Prevention. The committee has worked hard to put forth two recommendations to Mayor Svante Myrick for consideration within the City's Drug Policy.

The recommendations include the ongoing support of a coalition of stakeholders to continue to work on prevention education as well as limiting availability of drug use paraphernalia. Recommendations from the four pillars of drug policy (prevention, treatment, harm reduction and public safety) are due by April 1, 2015.



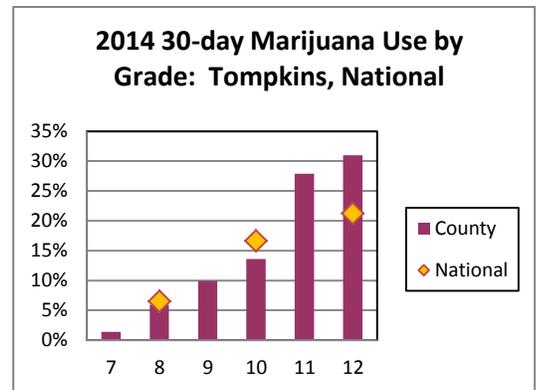
News from the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth



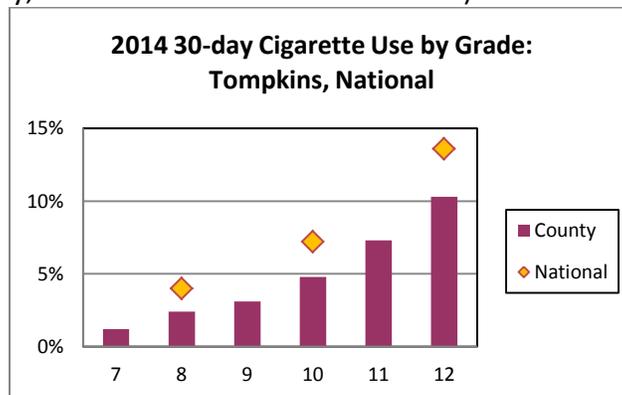
The Community Coalition for Healthy Youth continues to meet monthly to bring partners together to reduce youth substance use. Please come to a meeting if you think you might be interested; dates and times can be found at www.healthyyouth.org.

In collaboration with TST BOCES, area schools, the Alcohol & Drug Council, and Tompkins County Youth Services Dept., CCHY surveyed students in grades 7-12 in

late October, 2014. Data are used in each district and at the County level to guide school and community efforts to prevent and reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, to improve student connections to school and school safety, and to identify the risk and protective factors our community can modify to improve students' long-term success. On March 3, a CCHY team shared an overview of the regional survey results with schools and administrators and then met with school teams to review school and district results. A summary of highlights will be available in the near future.



The charts show that local 12th graders have higher use rates for alcohol and marijuana than their national peers. Cigarette use is below national rates for all grades. (30-day use is used to describe any use in the 30 days before the administration of the survey. Nationally, it is used to indicate current use.)



Spotlight on Mentoring

Few bonds in life are more influential than those between a young person and an adult.



Research confirms what we many young people have known intuitively — that mentoring works. Responsible Mentoring of youth can occur through traditional mentoring (one adult to one young person); group mentoring (one adult to as many as four young people); team mentoring (several adults working with small groups of young people, in which the adult-to-youth ratio is not greater than 1:4); and e-mentoring (mentoring via email and the Internet).

In the 2013 study “[The Role of Risk: Mentoring Experiences and Outcomes for Youth with Varying Risk Profiles](#),” researchers examined mentoring program relationships, experiences and benefits for higher-risk youth, findings include:

- The strongest program benefit, and most consistent across risk groups, was a reduction in depressive symptoms — a particularly noteworthy finding given that almost one in four youth reported worrisome levels of these symptoms at baseline.
- Findings also suggested gains in social acceptance, academic attitudes and grades.
- In addition to benefits in specific domains, mentored youth also experienced gains in a greater number of outcomes than youth in the comparison group.

Overall, the study’s results suggest that mentoring programs can be beneficial for youth with a broad range of backgrounds and characteristics. There are a variety of mentoring programs in Tompkins County that provide fantastic opportunities for many of our young people. To learn more about programs in Tompkins County visit the [OJ guide](#).

A Message from the Youth Services Board

Opportunities for Involvement

Do you support the mission of investing time, resources and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life? Are you willing to commit to providing your thoughts, insights, and time to help



advise the Youth Services Department?

If you answered yes to these questions perhaps membership on either a local youth commission or the Tompkins County Youth Services Board is the right fit for you!

Current vacancies include:

- **Tompkins County Youth Services Board** is in need of representatives from Caroline, Danby, Groton, and Ulysses/Trumansburg, as well as two Tompkins County youth ages 16-21.
- **The Joint Youth Commission** is looking for commissioners residing in Caroline, Town of Ithaca and Village of Lansing;
- **The Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Town or Village of Dryden and Village of Freeville.
- For more information on ways you can get involved please contact Amie Hendrix at ahendrix@tompkins-co.org.



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