

RISK FACTORS for teen alcohol and other drug use/abuse:

COMMUNITY

Availability/easy access.

Community laws and norms favorable toward teen alcohol and other drug use.

Lack of perception of harm/involvement in the problem behavior.

SCHOOL

Academic failure in late elementary school.

Inconsistent or lack of enforcement of policies.

Mixed messages toward the problem behavior.

FAMILY

Family history/genetic factors.

Family management problems/conflict.

Favorable parental attitudes, lack of perception of harm, and involvement in the behavior.

INDIVIDUAL/PEER

Friends who engage in the problem behavior.

Favorable attitudes and lack of perception of harm.

Early initiation of the behavior.

**source: Hawkins and Catalano*

LCAHY'S Purpose:

To develop a comprehensive solution to preventing and reducing youth substance use/abuse and related risk behaviors by:

- 1) Identifying the causes, conditions (*individual, peer, school, family, & community*) that put our youths at risk.
- 2) Identifying and implementing protective strategies that will prevent our youths from engaging in behaviors that negatively affect their development and future.

How Can You Be Part of the Solution?

- **Become a Board Member, Affiliate Member or Community Partner.**
- **Help with LCAHY Projects**
- **Support our Youth Initiative, *Teens for Healthy Youth***
- **Join the LCAHY in changing our communities' norms by creating an environment that supports the health, safety, and future of our youths.**
- **Make a Donation online via the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry at www.cf-lowcountry.com and select LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth Fund.**

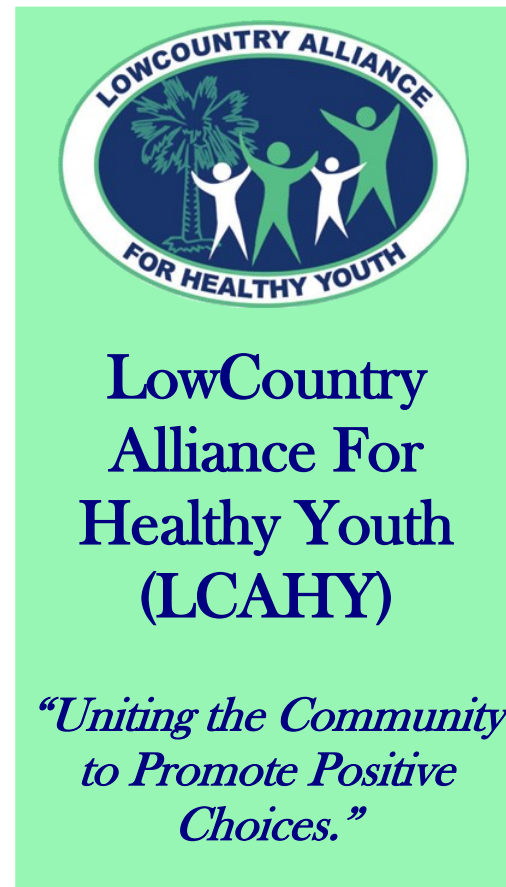
Contacts:

Email: Chairwoman Wendy Cummings at lcalliance4healthyouth@gmail.com

Website: www.lcahealthyouth.com

Facebook: LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth.

LCAHY is a grant recipient of the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program awarded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Community Foundation of the LowCountry serves as the fiscal sponsor.





“Uniting the Community to Promote Positive Choices.”

HISTORY:

The LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth (LCAHY) was established in 2012 in response to numerous alcohol-related tragedies involving our youths. Over the past years, a perceived increase in the use of marijuana and misuse of prescription drugs and low perception of harm has generated concern.

MISSION STATEMENT:

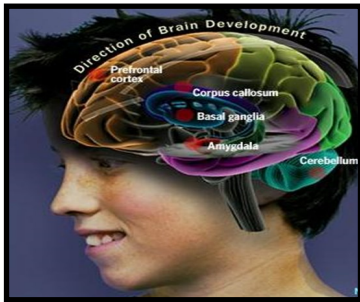
To bring together all sectors of our community to identify and implement strategies that promote positive youth development by addressing substance use/abuse and related risk behaviors.

COALITION MEMBERSHIP:

LCAHY, a community prevention coalition, encompassing the communities of Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, S.C. includes representation from:



Why Should the Community Care?



Cost of Teen Substance Use/Abuse

- Places a toll on individuals, families, schools, law enforcement, medical/social services, the workplace and the community at large.
- Contributes to teen brain impairment, academic problems, addiction, sexual risks/abuse, traffic crashes, injuries/death, suicide, violence, and mental health disorders.

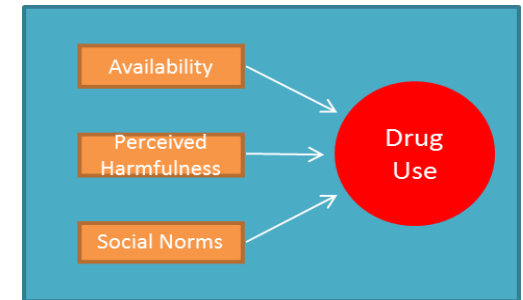
Did you know?

- The brain is not completely developed until the mid-twenties.
- Half of all lifetime cases of mental and substance use disorders begin by age 14 and three-quarters by age 24. *SAMHSA

Communication is Key!

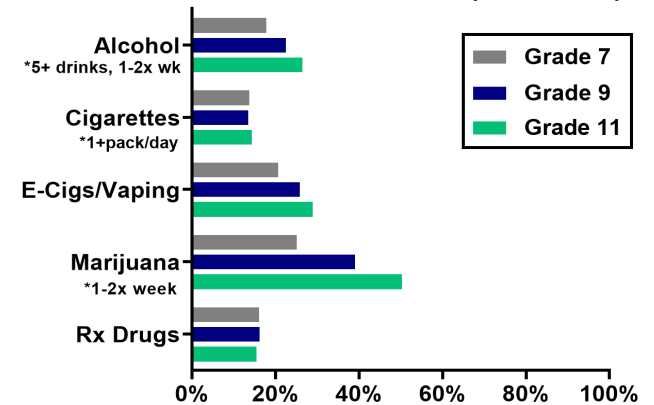
Talking to our youths early and often about the health, safety, social, and legal consequences of substance use will make it more likely that our children and teens will make healthy choices supported by family, their peers, and the community.

Three Big Contributors To Drug Use



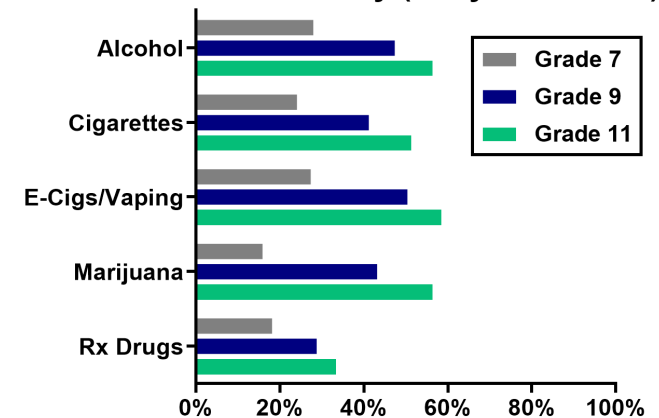
Are These the Norms We Wish to Accept as a Community?

Perceived Harmfulness (No Harm)



Source: SC CTC 2020 Student Survey

Substance Availability (Easy to Access)



Source: SC CTC 2020 Student Survey