Youth substance use in Pitt County

Kaitlyn Baxter

So What?

• Youth drug abuse is a high public health concern.
• Overdose deaths in individuals aged 15-24 years old has quadrupled.
• In North Carolina
  o 8.14% of teens use drugs
  o 9.15% of teens use drink alcohol
• High-risk drug use in youth increase likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors.
• Schools, parents, families and community organizations can help prevent high-risk drug use.

Now What?

• Collect updated statistics on substance use locally
• Engagement with PCCSU Youth Team to encourage peer education
• Plan, prepare and host the PCCSU Youth Summit in the spring of 2025 focused on:
  o Youth empowerment
  o Mental health
  o Education on substance use
  o Parent resource fair

What?

• Current local data on substance use amongst teenagers in Pitt County is limited and outdated.
• The mission of the Pitt County Coalition on Substance Use is to create a community where youth reject substance uses.
• Important issues addressed by PCCSU is
  o Need for parental awareness and education about substance use
  o Socio-cultural influence on substance use.
  o Negative impact of substance use on the community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Lillie Malpass and Briana Brantley at the Pitt County Coalition on Substance Use for allowing me to collaborate with them.

Table 1: Percentage of substance used within past 30 days of persons aged 13-18.