

Amidst the Pandemic Oxford County Schools Seek to Reduce Tobacco Use Among Students

Need/Issue

In 2019, Maine schools showed that 30% of children were using e-cigarettes. This number is significantly higher than the percentage of adults using e-cigarettes in 2017. In 2019, 6.8% of high school students in Maine smoked cigarettes on at least one day in the past 30 days which is higher than the national average.



Intervention/Program Description

Anna Warren is the Substance Use Prevention Coordinator through Healthy Oxford Hills and has been in the position since December of 2020. Anna reached out to schools in Oxford County to extend her services and support regarding tobacco prevention and awareness. Partnership forms were sent to each of the principals that made contact with Anna. Three were happy to sign the form and gave her access to school staff and data.

Summary

Partnerships were formed between Healthy Oxford Hills and Buckfield Jr, Sr, High, Dirigo Middle, and Mountain Valley schools, acknowledging the resources that can now be provided since forming the partnership. Due to the pandemic, opportunities to perform trainings are not available and makes the partnerships all the more important.

Results/Success

- Buckfield Jr. Sr. High, Dirigo Middle, and Mountain Valley signed partnership forms
- They gave HOH permission to access their school specific Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) data so that educational materials could be made for them based on their needs assessment.
- Buckfield High's social worker requested that educational materials on marijuana be created and sent to them.
- Anna made contact with Buckfield Jr. Sr. High staff and created rapport

Resources

Tobacco use in Maine 2020. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2021, from <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/smoking-region/tobacco-use-maine-2020>

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