

Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Vision Statement

To protect and enhance the quality of life of youth.

Mission Statement

To advocate for coordinated strategic services, in both the public and private sectors, to meet the needs of Oak Harbor youth.

<http://www.oakharboryouth.org>



Coalition Coordinator

Julie Bartlett

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Bio: Julie has enjoyed working in the field of prevention for the last 16 years. Working with OHYC is one of the highlights of her career.

Oak Harbor Youth Coalition Oak Harbor, WA



About the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI):

CPWI is a partnership of state agencies, counties, schools and local prevention coalitions supporting communities in preventing alcohol and other drug abuse and its negative consequences. Our highest priority is to reduce underage drinking among 8th and 10th grade students. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities and Schools Working Together

The Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) is a project designed by the Washington State Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery to focus substance abuse prevention resources into high need communities across the state.

In 2012, after an extensive review of data for Island County, Oak Harbor was identified as the community with the greatest need for this project.

The primary substance abuse issue in Oak Harbor is underage drinking. Although rates of use are not significantly higher than the state, the number of middle and high school students who report drinking alcohol in the last 30 days is concerning. To help address this issue, the Oak Harbor Youth Commission established five main goals:

- Increase feelings of community connectedness;
- Increase enforcement of alcohol laws;
- Reduce favorable attitudes towards antisocial and problem behaviors;
- Increase academic performance; and
- Address family management problems

Other Contacts

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CPWI is funded by:



Transforming lives

For more information about CPWI visit the [DSHS website](#).



About Our Community

Oak Harbor is located on the northern part of Whidbey Island, which is one of two islands in the county. The Oak Harbor community was originally settled by people of Dutch heritage. Many community members still identify with this ancestry. Oak Harbor is also home to the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station which draws a diverse population of young families from across the U.S.

Oak Harbor Statistics

Population: 22,260 residents

Ethnic Diversity: 72.6% White; 10.2% Asian; 4.9% Black or African American; 1.0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; 0.9% American Indian or Alaska Native; 7.8% two or more races.

Median Income: \$50,372

Zoning: 9.42 square miles

About Prevention Programs in our Community

OHYC plans to tackle four primary strategies and programs, including:

- Serving as a coordinating body of knowledge for all youth and family services available in Oak Harbor.
- Partnering with local law enforcement to better enforce alcohol laws.
- Supporting the evidence-based program *Project SUCCESS* at Oak Harbor High School.
- Distributing information and addressing policies to reduce substance use in our community.

OHYC partners with a variety of community agencies and groups, including the Oak Harbor Police Department, Oak Harbor School District, the Island County School-Based Mental Health counselors, youth-serving organizations, local churches, civic groups, and parents.

Progress towards goals will primarily be tracked through program evaluations, an annual survey with community members and data provided by students in the Healthy Youth Survey.