

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Mission

The Wapato Wellness Coalition is working to create a community where everyone experiences a feeling of safety and well-being through prevention, education and intervention of substance abuse.



Coalition Coordinator

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Wapato Wellness Coalition

Wapato, 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. CPWI priorities include reducing underage drinking, marijuana use and opioid misuse/abuse among middle and high school aged youth. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

Wapato Wellness Coalition was established in 2016 and was awarded the grant from the CPWI through the Dedicated Marijuana Account. Wapato Wellness Coalition members are actively involved in meetings and events, and represent 12 sectors of our community. These sectors include the local school district, youth leadership, parents, local government, health care, youth serving organizations, faith-based organizations, local business, volunteer and civic organizations, other substance abuse serving organizations and law enforcement/key prevention accomplishments

- **Challenges:** Lack of knowledge by adults of the harms of underage drinking; low perception of risk and consequences of youth alcohol use; availability of alcohol and marijuana to youth.
- **Strengths:** The Wapato School District personnel, substance abuse organizations and community members are actively involved in the Wapato Wellness coalition; working to help address the challenges presented.

About Our Community

Wapato is a very diverse community located on the Yakama Indian Reservation, the homeland of the Yakama Nation. It is the home of the first Buddhist Temple in the state of Washington and is still open. The primary industries of Wapato is farming and ranching. These drew many different groups of settlers that have made the town's population diverse. Diversity has given Wapato its unique nature, which is celebrated throughout the year at different events. Wapato has a population of approximately 13,963. It is around 62% Latino/Hispanic, 22% Native American, 17% non-Hispanic White, 4% Multi-racial, 3% Asian and 1% black.



There are 7 schools in the Wapato School District: four elementary (Satus, Camas, Adams and Simcoe in construction), one middle (Wapato Middle School), one high (Wapato High), and one alternative high school (PACE) serving a total of 3,369 (OSPI 2016). Of those students 22.8% are Migrant, and 89.1% qualify for free or reduced priced meals.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

Using local and state data, the coalition identified priorities to reduce problem amongst youth by implementing evidence and research based practices which will address the specific needs of the Wapato community.

The following goals and strategies are being conducted by the Wapato Wellness Coalition.

- **Goal one:** Increase community connectedness and decrease community disconnectedness in Wapato. Strategies include: increasing coalition member capacity to plan, implement and evaluate positive community change as measured by a community survey
- **Goal two:** Increase the understanding of influence of community norms on children's lives by implementing the Social Norms Campaign to provide healthy beliefs and clear standards. Strategies include: To address misperceptions in the Wapato community around usage rates for Marijuana and Alcohol as measured by the Healthy Youth Survey data.
- **Goal three:** Decrease favorable attitudes towards marijuana and alcohol. Strategies include: increase familial resistance to marijuana and alcohol by training 15 families in the Strengthening Families Program. As measured by pre and post participant surveys.
- **Goal Four:** Decrease perception of peer use and increase opportunities for prosocial involvement. Strategies include: Promoting a youth prevention club name "We Are Enough" in the Wapato High School, advised by the Student Assistant Specialist.
- **Goal five:** Increase policies, social practices favorable towards ATOD use. Strategies include: Assessing current school polices regarding substance use and possession.
- **Goal Six:** Increase perception of harm by providing a school based substance abuse prevention and early intervention program delivered by the Student Assistant Specialist.

Each year the coalition will evaluate programs based on pre/post testing results, and an annual community survey and bi-annual Healthy Youth Survey. Our coalition will work together to determine community needs and make necessary changes to the strategic plan

Other Contacts

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For more information
about CPWI visit

www.TheAthenaForum.org