

# Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

## Coalition Mission

Safe Yakima YOUTH coalition mobilizes and connects resources and partners to create a community where youth are healthy, empowered, and drug free.

## Coalition Coordinator

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I am the Community Prevention Specialist with ESD 105. My focus is substance prevention at Washington Middle School and A.C. Davis High School. Within Yakima School District, I serve as a PAX GBG Partner for elementary schools. I am passionate about building community resilience for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

## Safe Yakima YOUTH

Yakima, 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 marijuana among 8th and 10th grade students. By providing evidence-based practices and promoting the positive changes in communities, we can build healthier communities.

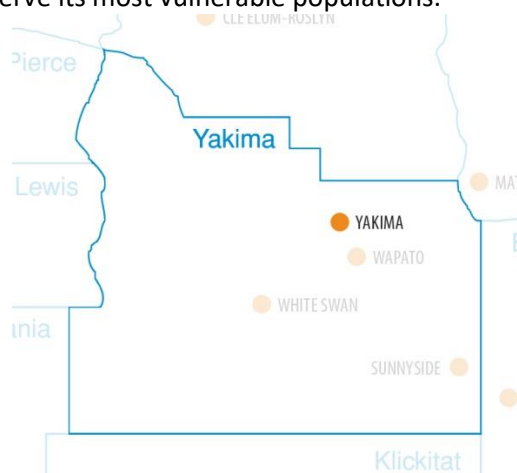
### About the Coalition: Communities & Schools Working Together

Formed in 2006 from a board of directors workgroup of Safe Yakima Valley, the coalition has actively been working to make Yakima one of the safest places to live, work, and raise a family.

The original concerns of the coalition were increasing youth employment, reducing crime, and attacking the methamphetamine problem. Those challenges have grown to include underage marijuana and alcohol use, prescription drug misuse, and the legalization of marijuana.

Sectors involved in the coalition are educators, medical professionals, law enforcement, local government, youth leaders, parents, youth, and substance abuse professionals.

The coalition is housed and fiscally supported by ESD 105. In 2017, an official coalition name and logo was adopted. There is a high level of leadership that supports the work the coalition does. The opportunities to serve are endless, and the coalition is grateful for the trust of the community to serve its most vulnerable populations.



## About Our Community

Yakima, WA is a community consisting of 80,000 residents. Of those residents, the “minority” is the majority with 57% of residents identifying with a minority racial background. Twenty-five percent of Yakima is under the national poverty rate. Yakima is a young community with 39% of its residents under 25 creating an opportunity to inspire and empower young adults. Morelia, Mexico is the sister city to Yakima, WA. The partnership with Morelia celebrates and embraces rich cultural traditions from Mexico.

Yakima, WA thrives from an economy supported by agriculture. Yakima County is the nation’s top producer of apples, and over 75% of the country’s hops are grown in the area. The community’s events and culture reflect the seasons and a history of agriculture.

## About Prevention Programs in our Community

- Increase community organization and connectedness through community-based process with coalition development
- Decrease the availability and use of marijuana through environmental strategies by building underage marijuana policies with city council
- Increase the perception of enforcement of alcohol and marijuana laws through information dissemination by Davis High School to Washington Middle School
- Decrease favorable attitudes of marijuana in youth and increase perception of harm of marijuana in youth through environmental changes through social norms campaign
- Increase school bonding through education practices with PAX Good Behavior Game
- Increase positive family management of youth using alcohol/marijuana through education with Strengthening Families program at Washington Middle School and Discovery Lab

Results will be measured through the Healthy Youth Survey, Pre and Post testing, and attendance.

## Other Contacts

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**CPWI is funded by**

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For more information  
about CPWI visit  
[www.TheAthenaForum.org](http://www.TheAthenaForum.org)