

Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative

Partners for Healthy Communities

Coalition Vision

Bremerton is a healthy community that educates and engages all youth in a hope-filled and substance free lifestyle.

Coalition Mission

To provide opportunities for youth to be in a safe and substance-free environment while they move from surviving to thriving. To coordinate and generate resources for youth, families, and the Bremerton community. To develop a unified message to end substance abuse and communicate common values of respect. Empower today's youth to be Bremerton's better tomorrow

Coalition Coordinator

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Bremerton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Bremerton, 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

The Bremerton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is a grassroots volunteer organization formed in May of 2012 for the purpose of mobilizing the Bremerton community to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse. We work in partnership with representation from all parts of the community: youth, education, law enforcement, local government, healthcare, treatment, faith-based organizations, volunteer groups, youth organizations, parents, business, and the media to effectively support our children and youth to live substance free. Leading by example, Mayor Lent is a founding member of the Coalition. The City took its commitment one step further and in 2013-2014 dedicated funds to support a new School Resource Officer position and an alcohol and tobacco retailer compliance check. The Police Department, the coalition and local youth partnered to conduct an Alcohol and Tobacco Retailer Compliance Check on 18 Bremerton businesses.

Our youth prevention club at Bremerton High School assisted by the CPWI funded Student Assistance Professional, conducted a successful student social norms prevention campaign with multiple events and messaging.



About Our Community

The City of Bremerton, incorporated in 1891, is located in central Kitsap County and lies east of the Olympic Mountains directly across Puget Sound from Seattle. Bremerton was founded because of its proximity to the recently established Naval Base. Bremerton is the county's largest city with an estimated population of 41,500 the largest employer is the Federal defense agency which includes Naval Base Kitsap. It is the largest active shipyard in the nation and employs over 16,000 civilians and active duty military. The population of Bremerton is 99% urban with a median household income of \$47,358 and 19.6% live below the poverty level. Its population is 74.65% White, 9.3% Hispanic or Latino, 5.47% African American, 4.48% Asian, 1.2% American Indian and 4.9% other.

Like many mid-size cities, Bremerton is challenged with a higher rate of youth substance abuse, delinquency, and poverty than the rest of the county and the state. This is characterized by lower school performance, increased use of tobacco products, alcohol, and other substances, and students struggling with depression, mental health issues and suicidal thoughts. Our coalition is concentrating efforts to provide a web of support to Bremerton's children, youth, parents, and the community as a whole. Our greatest challenges are the use of legal marijuana and the increase in opiate use. Our greatest strength is our ability to work together effectively to solve community problems and fill gaps in services.

About Prevention Programs in our Community

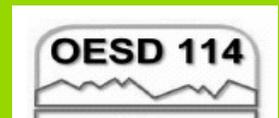
Our main goal is to decrease youth substance use. We will accomplish this through community-wide collaboration; education regarding the effects of drugs and alcohol; and strategies to prevent and reduce youth substance use; decreasing youth access to alcohol and other drugs; school-based intervention and prevention services; youth and parent social norming; and through activities, events, policies and programs that support a substance-free lifestyle. We offer and evaluate the effectiveness of topic specific prevention education including strategies to recognize and prevent youth substance use.

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For more information
about CPWI visit
www.TheAthenaForum.org