



The Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth Coalition strives to implement a *coordinated, comprehensive, collaborative, and sustainable* plan of evidence-based activities and services to *prevent and reduce* youth substance use and promote healthy childhood development.

To find out more about the HWP4Y Coalition and learn how you can get involved, contact Coalition Coordinator Bree Berneche at 413-566-5060 ext 17 or by email at [bberneche@hwrdsd.org](mailto:bberneche@hwrdsd.org).



*Preventing substance use and promoting safe and healthy development for young people in our communities*



Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
85 Wilbraham Road  
Hampden, MA 01036  
413-566-5060



**Gina Kahn, Ed.D., Director**  
[gkahn@hwrdsd.org](mailto:gkahn@hwrdsd.org)

**Bree Berneche, Coalition Coordinator**  
[bberneche@hwrdsd.org](mailto:bberneche@hwrdsd.org)

**Janet Farrell, Program Assistant**

[jfarrell@hwrdsd.org](mailto:jfarrell@hwrdsd.org)

**Hampden-Wilbraham  
Partners for Youth**

**HWP4Y.org**



**United for Safe,  
Healthy, and Drug-free  
Communities**

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**DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES**  
*Local Problems Require Local Solutions*

## Our Vision

Preventing and reducing youth substance use is a collective responsibility. We envision a community-wide collaboration to promote healthy and positive youth development in Hampden and Wilbraham. Together, using effective, evidence-based public health and education strategies, we can reduce youth substance use so that our young people will have the best opportunity to grow into strong, happy, healthy, productive adults.



## Who We Are

The Drug-free Communities model engages representatives from a variety of community sectors:



We are a diverse group of community members and agencies working to reduce teen substance use in the broader context of promoting physical health, mental health, and safety for all Hampden-Wilbraham students. Our Coalition is coordinated by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District and supported by a 10 year grant from the federal Drug-free Communities (DFC) program, awarded in the fall of 2014. Since the passage of the DFC Act in 1997, this program has funded more than 2,000 coalitions and currently mobilizes nearly 9,000 community volunteers across the country.

## What We Do

The Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth (HWP4Y) Coalition helps to plan initiatives that address local conditions contributing to substance use.

**Our efforts take the form of:**

- *educating parents about substance use risk, how to communicate with their teens, and how they can support community-wide prevention activities*
- *increasing awareness of policies and regulations that better protect youth from alcohol and drugs and supporting law enforcement in their efforts to prevent access to alcohol and drugs for minors*
- *working with school and community members to implement strategies and to support effective prevention curricula and services*
- *co-sponsoring and supporting alcohol and drug-free school and community activities for youth and families*
- *promoting community level programs to reduce prescription drug misuse such as Take Back Days, permanent disposal sites, and health care professionals' education for safer prescribing*
- *convening monthly meetings to discuss our progress, further identify emerging trends or changing local conditions, and provide trainings in effective prevention strategies*
- *engaging the community in conversation about how each of us play a role in substance use prevention*