



YPRC

YOUTH
PREVENTION
RESOURCE CENTER

**FISCAL YEAR
'25**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



YOUTH PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER

We believe our work with youth is some of the most critical work we do at Prevention First. We work directly with youth, teachers, advisors, parents, SROs, coalitions, and other community members who have an important role in our youth's lives.

At Prevention First's Youth Prevention Resource Center, we apply a holistic approach in all that we do, ensuring that youth voices are represented and respected. We invest significant resources to be responsive to the needs of our youth and support healthy decision-making, supporting both those who work with youth and youth themselves.

The Youth Prevention Resource Center offers on-site and virtual training, webinars, tip sheets, and resources on various topics and issues facing youth today.



YOUTH ARE OUR PARTNERS

We consider youth to be experts on their peers and, as such, an integral part of the work we do. The YPRC facilitates a group of young people known as our Youth Advisory Board (YAB). YAB members are selected through an application process and play an active role in developing resources and identifying solutions to the issues facing their peers. They undergo training and have opportunities to speak with and to various stakeholders that impact our shared work.

This year, YAB members served as subject matter experts on issues impacting young people during IL Alliance calls, created social media campaigns, and guided the work the YPRC did throughout the year.

14

YAB members from across the state of Illinois.

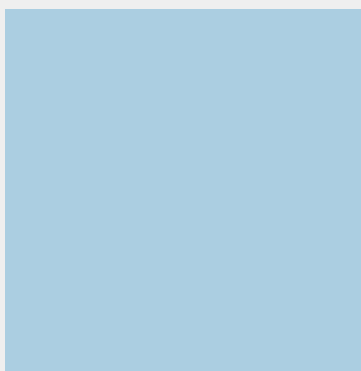
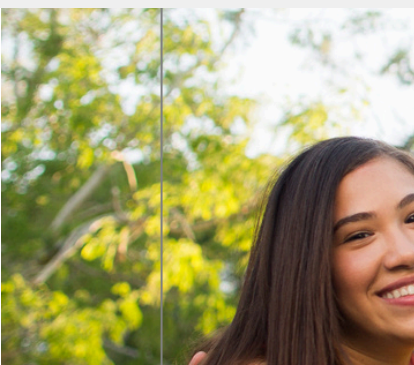


10

monthly meetings conducted.

2

in person meetings



RESOURCES

This year, with the guidance of the YAB, the YPRC focused on producing several resources. The following resources were the focus of FY '25:

- Help a Young Person Quit Vaping
- Neurodiversity: The Intersection of Neurodivergence and Increased Risk Factors
- Academic Burnout - English
- Academic Burnout - Spanish
- 2025 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week Social Media Toolkit
- Neurodiversity Key Terms
- Unhappy Holidays (updated)



120+

YPRC created
resources
downloaded from
our webpage.



WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

108
webinar
attendees.

The YPRC hosted three webinars in FY '25:

- Performance Based Substance Use Prevention
- Virtual Youth Engagement Panel
- The Substance Use/Mental Health Connection

The YPRC presented seven in-person trainings in FY '25 facilitated by YPRC Staff:

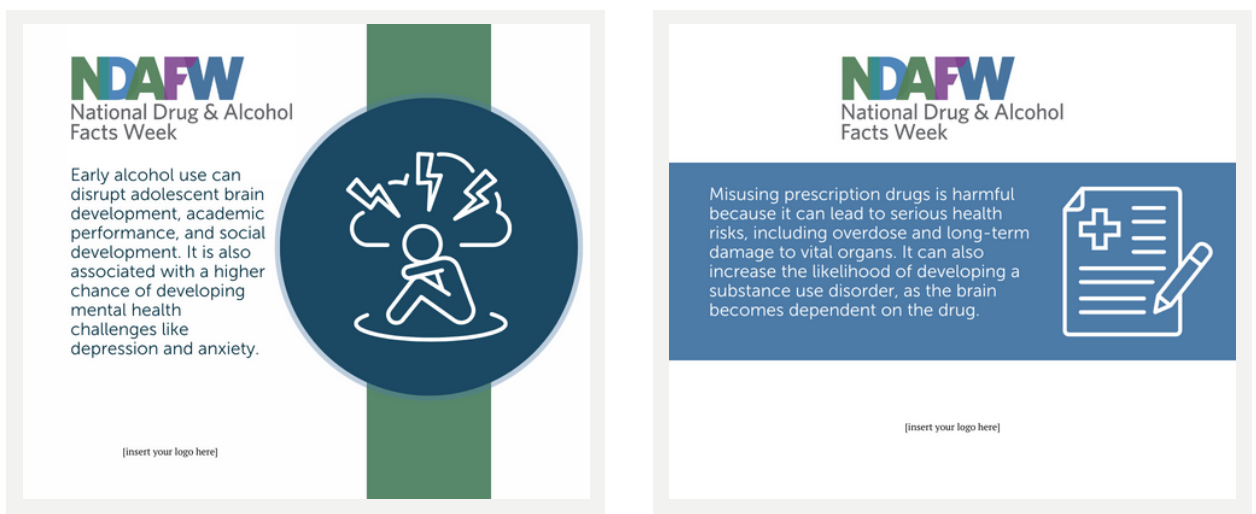
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Why Prevention Matters to Communities presented to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Humboldt Park
- Neurodivergence and the Increased Risk of Substance Use for the Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute
- Youth Engagement, Recruitment, and Retention for the Prevention First Substance Use Prevention Training and Technical Assistance team's Summer Networking Events

142
training
attendees.

NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA

The YPRC engages with our audience through many forms of media, including our newsletter and social media. Through a targeted outreach campaign at the beginning of FY ‘25, the YPRC grew our newsletter contact list by 320% now reaching over 3700 contacts!

The YAB created several social media campaigns throughout the year. The creation of tools like the NDAFW Social Media Toolkit ensured that we were getting the word out to our followers all year long.



3747

newsletter
contacts

53,180

YPRC social media
reach for FY '25.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP STORIES

My time on the Youth Advisory Board truly taught me a multitude of life skills. I was able to participate in selecting the prime points we wanted to focus on and projects within each subject. I enjoyed being on a virtual panel answering questions about authentic youth engagement. I met people from all over Illinois with all different backgrounds and we had so much fun working together as a team!! I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to serve for a second year.

Reese Edmondson

YAB Member

I thoroughly enjoyed working with my peers on the Youth Advisory Board to come up with relevant issues in our communities and put together solutions. My favorite experience was being interviewed on a virtual panel as a voice for youth. The YPRC taught me the valuable skills of how to connect ideas, brainstorm effectively, and put plans into motion. I was able to apply these abilities to conduct, collect, and edit interviews that can be posted to inform our target audience about social hosting via social media.

Zed Agarwal

YAB Member

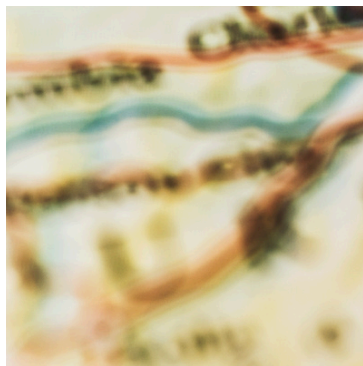
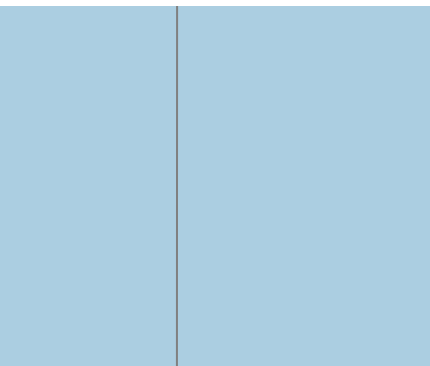
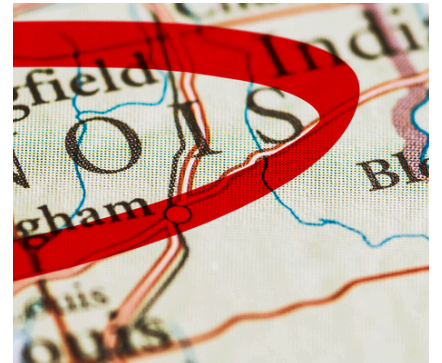


YOUTH LEADERSHIP STORIES

Serving on the YAB has shown me that no matter your age or where you come from, you can always find opportunities to make a difference in the world around you. While working to positively impact society, you can form so many meaningful friendships and make lasting connections with people who have similar goals such as spreading awareness on pressing issues while being creative, innovative, and hard-working. The YAB truly opens your eyes to the power that comes with collaborating with others to help shape the future of our world.

Laila Hutchison

YAB Member



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prevention.org/yprc