

FISCAL YEAR '23 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, local law enforcement, drivers-ed facilitators, coalitions, and other community members who have an important role in our youth's lives.

At Preventions 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 the 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 Student Advisory Board (SAB). SAB 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, SAB 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.

19

SAB members from across the state of Illinois.

















RESOURCES

This year, with the guidance of the SAB, the YPRC focused on producing and updating several resources. The following resources were the focus of FY '23:

- All About Vaping Parent's Edition created
- Tips for Engaging Youth updated
- How to Engage Youth in Your Messaging created
- How to Talk to a Friend About Suicide updated
- Back to School Crisis Line created
- Unhappy Holidays updated
- Adolescent Brain Alcohol vs Marijuana created

















WEBINARS

The YPRC staff joined staff from the other Resource Centers at Prevention First to produce the "Engaging Youth in Prevention" webinar focused on adults that work with young people. In addition, the SAB produced and recorded a follow-up to this webinar entitled "Engaging Youth in Prevention - Student Advisory Board Edition" where SAB members discussed what authentic youth engagement looked like from their perspective and gave tips to adults on how to best engage youth in prevention work.

PREVENTION FIRST

ENGAGING YOUTH IN PREVENTION

Presented by the Resource Centers at Prevention First

Robyn Block - Youth Prevention Resource Center (YPRC)

Robyl Wilkins - Youth Prevention Resource Center (YPRC)

Robyl Wilkins - Youth Prevention Resource Center (YPRC)

Robyl Wilkins - Youth Prevention Resource Center (YPRC)

Isoly Hewilin - Alcohol Policy Resource Center (APRC)

Isoly Hewilin - Alcohol Policy Resource Center (APRC)

Isoly Hewilin - Cannabia Policy Resource Center (CPRC)

Byant Laiche - Resource Center Program Assistant

Kellie Beurichs - Chief Programs Officer



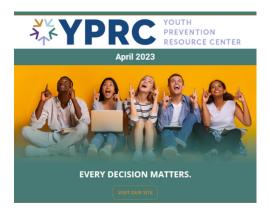
NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA

The YPRC engages with our audience through many forms of media, including our newsletter and social media. The SAB created several social media campaigns throughout the year. From the roll out of the new 988 text crisis line to the National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week annual campaign, we ensured that we were getting the word out to our followers all year long.











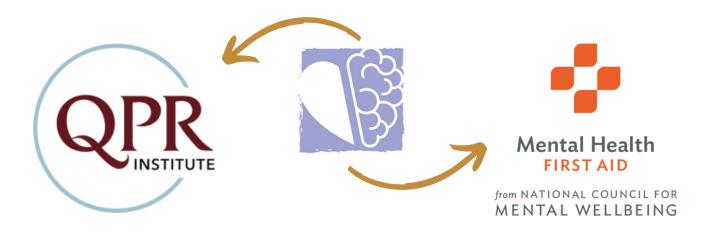
754
newsletter
contacts

25,465
YPRC social media reach for FY '23.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health continues to be a topic of conversation among our SAB members and our larger audience as a whole. The YPRC provides mental health trainings to both youth and adult impactors throughout the year.

- Provided 4 Mental Health First Aid trainings.
- Provided 8 Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) trainings.
- Provided a mental health workshop to the Youth Advancing Communities Together Program





YOUTH LEADERSHIP STORIES

Serving on the Youth Prevention Resource Center's Student Advisory Board has offered me a lot of things throughout my two years participating in it. Friends, connections, and new ideas have all been great parts of my time on it. Yet, it's how the YPRC has strengthened my knowledge base and enhanced my abilities that has been most impactful of all. These include traits like self-assurance in my leadership abilities, familiarity with preventative measures, and aptitude in talking with adults, all of which I didn't have prior. These abilities enabled me to start doing grassroots work in my own neighborhood. For specific examples, we created multiple programs in the SAB that helped me develop my public speaking and other leadership skills, which contributed to my growing confidence in my leadership talents in school clubs.

Furthermore, by the SAB asking for feedback on prevention tools, I learned about preventative strategies and developed faith in my own ability to influence others. This has enabled me to start initiatives in my own neighborhood to concentrate on prevention, such as in a substance prevention club in my school. I'm so grateful to have been a part of the SAB, and I look forward to spreading the YPRC's messages in the future.

MATTHEW LEWIS

SAB Member

Being a part of the SAB allowed me to further grow my leadership skills and create change at a statewide level. I have been involved in prevention work in my local community, but the SAB allowed me to extend my efforts throughout Illinois. I was given opportunities to lead by creating social media projects and offering input from a youth perspective. The SAB provided me with workshops and events where I could grow by meeting other people. I got to hear a variety of different perspectives that have helped me take different approaches to prevention depending on the community. I am incredibly grateful for these opportunities as I have been able to take this knowledge and these skills back to my community where I continue to educate my peers through substance prevention.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP STORIES

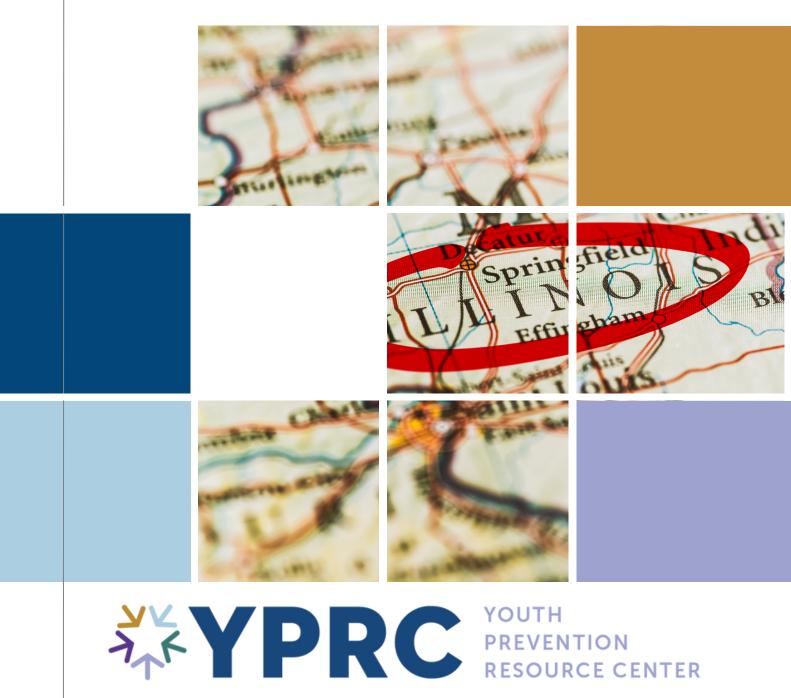
My time with the Student Advisory Board has been nothing short of inspiring. Prior to joining this group, I never thought that students from across the state could work together to make an actual difference especially with regards to statewide and even nationwide issues such as substance misuse and the lack of mental health awareness. However, hearing the stories of this diverse group of individuals has furthered my understanding of the problems my state faces beyond my local community. As a member of the mental health subcommittee, I was able to build upon my current understanding of mental illnesses and worked with others to develop a resource that would allow for parents to easily communicate to their children about mental health issues.

Moreover, I also worked with another group to develop a presentation on how alcohol and other substances are being deceptively marketed similarly to soda and other child-friendly products. We voiced our concerns as youth on this topic during a virtual Alliance Call with other leaders in the mental health awareness and substance prevention arena from across Illinois. In conclusion, the YPRC has provided incredible opportunities for me to grow and develop as a leader and youth advocate in my community through QPR training, monthly meetings, and annual leadership retreats.

ADITHYA SATHYAMURTHY

SAB Member







yprc@prevention.org



prevention.org/yprc