

Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use

March 11, 2025

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

The Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use allows stakeholders to:

- Share current youth substance use prevention efforts being implemented in the State of Illinois.
- Share information on best practices to reduce youth substance use.
- Share data and research on efforts to reduce youth substance use.
- Review the Illinois STOP ACT report.
- Unify prevention efforts in the State of Illinois.

MEETING MINUTES

2:30-2:40 Samantha Alonis, Deputy Director, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

- *Samantha provided opening remarks.*

2:40-2:55 Marni Basic, Survey Research Outreach Coordinator, CPRD
Illinois Youth Survey Results

- *Marni reported that the IYS state reports have been posted to the website. They are based on the 2024 population sample. All of the reports can be accessed on the website. The county snapshot reports are being processed, and they hope to have the reports ready for publication within a few weeks.*
- *Questions and discussion followed:*
 - *Jody observed that according to the report, both 8th and 10th graders reported wine as their drink of choice, which is not new for 8th graders, but is a new trend for 10th graders. She is curious about this and has mentioned it to a network of alcohol and prevention researchers and discovered that there are movements nationally to look into this, especially to see if there is a link between “mom wine culture” and young person drinking habits. Jody also noted that 10% of 8th graders are getting their alcohol via home delivery, according to the report. This data is nuanced, but it needs to be paid attention to.*
 - *Matt stated that he and his community appreciate having the reports from IYS, and find them incredibly helpful.*
 - *Samantha acknowledged that alcohol use is on the rise for women. Hypothesized that middle-aged women are newly having adult diagnoses of ADD/ADHD, and there could have been an opportunity to mask their symptoms with substance use, including alcohol. She also noted that women were reporting drinking to cope with stress during the pandemic and considered the possibility of children modeling behavior seen in the home during that time.*
 - *Lily asked if there was a more specific way of asking about synthetic cannabis on the IYS. If it would be possible to distinguish delta 8 or other forms, as some may assume synthetic cannabis refers only to K2 or spice substances.*

2:55-3:05 Chris Schaffner, Jolt Foundation
Substance Use Trend/Polysubstance Use

- *Chris provided a detailed overview of current polysubstance use trends. Note that mixing stimulants and depressants is becoming more common and are often used together to*

balance the effects. They are also still seeing an increase in fentanyl presence in counterfeit pills. Discussed other polysubstance combinations, racial disparities in youth drug-related arrests, increases in stimulant-involved overdose deaths, and what may be driving youth polysubstance use, including economic instability and housing insecurity, mental health and trauma, criminalization, and systemic racism. Chris closed the presentation by sharing actionable items to decrease the harms of polysubstance use, including harm reduction strategies, social and emotional learning opportunities, positive youth development leading to strengthened protective factors, community and peer-led interventions, and culturally responsive approaches.

- *Questions and discussion followed:*
 - o *Sandra asked if fentanyl use is asked about on the IYS, or if that data would be available for the Chicago area. Samantha reported that many Chicago schools do not participate in the IYS and it should be advocated for as they are under-represented.*
 - o *Chris offered that the Chicago Recovery Alliance would have a good sense of what is happening in the Chicago area, and suggested Sandra reach out to the Executive Director for more information.*
 - o *Samantha noted that the presentations she has watched from the DEA are reflective of what Chris reported, although she added that the DEA says that people may not know what they are taking contains multiple substances. She said according to anecdotes, youth think they are taking a certain pill, but it is contaminated with something else.*

3:05-3:15 Kenneth Williams, Liquor Control Supervisor, Central Region, Division of Enforcement, ILCC

Mobile driver's licenses and state ID cards, ACC on Home Delivery

- *Kenneth stated that while the statute for mobile driver's licenses has changed, the Secretary of State has not implemented a system for this yet. You can check their website and sign up to receive updates, they are hoping to have the program up and running by the end of the year. Kenneth reported that these mobile IDs are extensions of a physical card, not a replacement and that there are certain circumstances where a physical copy must be produced. A mobile ID is not simply a picture or digital copy, it will be accessed through an app, most likely. There is specific language in the statute preventing officers from accessing information on an individual's phone if it is handed over to view a mobile ID. The ILCC does not have comments on whether or not the mobile ID will be accepted to purchase alcohol, as there is still much to learn from the Secretary of State office and their plan for implementation.*
- *The ILCC is continuing to explore alcohol compliance checks for home delivery. The IYS data is concerning with 8th graders reporting accessing alcohol through home delivery. Some compliance checks have been completed, but they are much more complicated than a brick-and-mortar retailer as there are many more considerations, including various delivery apps, emails to set up accounts, and needing credit cards for payment. During these details, the order is placed by an adult, but the underage individual is the one who accepts the order.*

3:15-3:30 Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First
What Works/Doesn't Work in Prevention

- Jody presented on the topic of what does and doesn't work in prevention. She noted that using the Strategic Prevention Framework is the gold standard in prevention, and it works because the community drives the changes; it is data-informed, outcome-based, and leads to population-level change. She also shared CADCA's Seven Strategies for Community Change, noting that just focusing on schools is not enough and that prevention needs to happen at environmental levels as well. To help with identifying policies, the STOP Act Report to Congress has a glossary of policies and strategies that have been reviewed by six different entities and rated for effectiveness.
- Jody also showcased the slide deck from the PTTC, which are customizable and contain talking points for each slide on what does not work in prevention. These slides are available to any in the prevention field to use to educate their community and partners.
- Questions and discussions followed:
 - o Joanne asked if communities have had success with talking to law enforcement about not having mock car crashes? The prevention people often look like the "bad guys" for not supporting these types of interventions, but they are not effective. Jody suggested using the NHTSA data when talking with law enforcement partners, as they often fund law enforcement opportunities.
 - o Joy shared an example of when she experienced that drunk goggles were not effective. After using them for a program, the students wanted to purchase them because they were so fun, which was incredibly concerning, and now they no longer use them for prevention education. She also stated they had success recently with a vape compliance check in their community.

3:30-3:40 Jake Levinson, CPRC Administrator, Prevention First
Spring Legislative Updates, Data Observations

- Jacob shared that use is down over all ages. However, vaping is now the primary method of use for cannabis. Vaping is still a concern, and edible use and dabbing are also up. These are more potent methods of use, and are a data point to keep an eye on. He also shared a few legislative updates to stay informed of: Related to impaired driving HB2416, cannabis derivatives HB2748, hemp-infused beverages SB1766, home delivery HB2557 and HB3074, on-premise consumption SB1772 and HB3061. The CPRC newsletter will continue to provide legislative updates as they evolve. Conversations with regulatory agencies continue to discuss local ordinances related to derived products.

3:40-3:50 Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Webinar, Data Observations, Law Enforcement & Coalitions Resource

- Jody shared two upcoming APRC webinars: "Navigating the Strategic Prevention Framework to Prevent Alcohol-Impaired Driving" on Tuesday, April 8th 10-11:30 and "Environmental Scans: Tools for Alcohol and Cannabis Prevention" on Tuesday, May 6th 10-11. The APRC has also recently created a resource for law enforcement outlining the benefits of working with coalitions and what can be gained from a partnership. Alcohol compliance check training will continue into the spring with the following classes scheduled: March 13th in North Aurora, April 14th in Mt. Carmel, May 14th in Burbank, and June 4th in Belleville. Officers can sign up for these trainings through their MTU's.

3:50-3:55 Group Announcements

- *Randyl stated that the YPRC is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 youth advisory board. These young people play an active role in creating resources, talking to stakeholders, and other substance use prevention projects. The application link was posted to the chat.*
- *Kenneth is looking for 18-19 year-olds to participate in alcohol compliance checks where the minors will attempt to purchase alcohol. They are guaranteed \$100 for participating in the detail, and volunteers are needed from across the state. If interested, email ilcc.enforcement@illinois.gov*
- *Samantha suggested that as people are recruiting youth for projects, to ensure that any printed materials have detailed information with clear requirements and contact information.*

3:55-4:00 Samantha Alonis, Deputy Director, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

- *Samantha provided the closing remarks and thanked the presenters and those in attendance.*

SFY 25 Meeting Schedule
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm