

Press Release

October 11, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Dr. Sharon Harris

516- 676-2008

safeglencove@yahoo.com

SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Youth Substance Use Prevention Month

In October, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is observing [Youth Substance Use Prevention Month](#). The need for prevention has never been greater. Studies show that the earlier in life a young person starts using alcohol or other drugs, the greater their lifetime risk of misuse or addiction.

In 2021, more than 100,000 people in the U.S. died from a drug overdose. According to SAMHSA's 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 8.2 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 drank alcohol in the past month, and 13.8 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 used illicit drugs in the past year.

SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework puts comprehensive solutions in place for successful prevention strategies which include the following:

- Address youth risk and protective factors
- Operates at the individual, relationship, community, and society levels
- Addresses social determinants of health
- Is tailored to the unique needs of individuals and communities
- Is culturally competent
- Is sustainable

Early intervention is vital for youth. Every year that substance use is delayed while the adolescent brain develops, the risks of addiction and substance misuse decrease.

SAMHSA's prevention system includes four elements (4 E's):

- Early action (act early, across the lifespan and the continuum of care).
- Easy access (create and sustain barrier-free access to prevention resources and services).

- Effective delivery (deliver resources and services that are responsive to local needs and based on data).
- Equitable opportunities (develop and support opportunities for everyone to achieve optimal health — regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, geographic location, disability, and other identities).

According to SAMHSA, prevention saves money. Substance misuse costs the nation hundreds of billions of dollars each year, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Prevention has the potential to reduce those costs dramatically. The average effective school-based program would save an estimated \$18, per \$1 invested, if implemented nationwide.

The President’s 2023 budget request calls for increased funding to expand evidence-based prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support, with targeted investments to support underserved communities, as well as to reduce the supply of illicit drugs and stop drug trafficking.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is a branch of the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#). It is charged with improving the quality and availability of treatment and rehabilitative services in order to reduce illness, death, disability, and the cost to society resulting from [substance abuse](#) and [mental illnesses](#). For more information about SAMHSA please visit www.samhsa.gov.

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention, and education agency in the City of Glen Cove and provides evidence-based Life Skills prevention education to Elementary and Middle School students and their parents. It’s Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled. “Keeping Glen Cove SAFE,” in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about SAFE please visit www.safeglencove.org or to learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition.