

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, 2.5 million children are homeless each year, representing 1 in 30 youth. People are easily identified as homeless when they are sleeping on the streets, also known as “rough sleeping”, however, in the broader sense, youth and families that experience unstable, unsafe, or inadequate housing are considered homeless as well. We serve youth and their families who are “couch surfing” sleeping at friends’ houses or moving between temporary housing. With the rising costs of home rental and ownership and escalating utility costs that are outpacing the cost of living, an increase in homelessness is predictable. Aside from recognizing the devastation of being homeless, why is this important to us who serve youth? This condition goes well beyond youth settling in a stable home. Youth who have experienced homelessness experience higher levels of social isolation and low self-esteem, sleep disorders, and anxiety. In addition, youth tend to have higher Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scores due to frequent changes in environments and unsafe living conditions, leading to higher vulnerability to substance misuse by youth and family members, domestic violence, and sexual abuse.



How can we help? First, we must be aware of the long-term impact of homelessness on the youth we serve in our schools, youth-serving agencies, and places of worship to guide our intervention and/or support efforts. Youth need continued support long after securing stable housing. Next, instead of labeling children with behavioral issues as “bad”, or blaming the parents for improper discipline, it is important we recognize the role that homelessness may have played in a youth’s life. Some youth may need mental health, medical, and dental health support, while others simply need caring adults who “see” them and provide emotional support and encouragement. Early identification of and support for youth experiencing distress due to their living conditions is key. Let’s remain cognizant of this need as we serve the youth in our community. Together we can be sure that “ALL children are capable of success – No Exceptions!”

Happy Thanksgiving!

Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



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Special Dates:

- Daylight Savings 11/6
- Veterans Day 11/11
- World Kindness Day 11/13
- World Diabetes Day 11/14
- Universal Children’s Day 11/20
- Thanksgiving Day 11/24



Community Stakeholder Meeting

hosted by
Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Oct. 11th
8:30 - 1:00pm

Havert L. Fenn Center
2000 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Please RSVP to Dana Espinosa at:
Despinosa@RoundtableSLC.org or (772) 871-5880

mission
vision analysis
STRATEGIC PLANNING
organization
statement
goals

The Roundtable hosted the first of two Community Stakeholder Meetings on October 11th, 2022 at the Havert L. Fenn Center. Community stakeholders were invited to participate in this first stage of the Roundtable's Strategic Planning process. During the four hour event, break-out sessions were held for our Teen Pregnancy, Academic Success, and Healthiest Weight Networks. Chairs, Debbie Hawley, Sonya Gabriel, and Stefanie Myers did an excellent job hosting two separate breakout sessions during which participants reviewed risk factors and resource gaps pertaining to each network. The event was a great success with over 75 stakeholders in attendance and the feedback provided in a follow-up survey has been overwhelmingly positive. We will host our next Community Stakeholder Meeting on Dec. 6th and invite stakeholders to join us for the Unintentional Injury, Safe Neighborhoods, Economic Sufficiency, and Substance Abuse Networks strategic planning process. Thank you to all who joined us for this very important process!



Thank you to all our community stakeholders for their valuable insight and contributions to the Roundtable's Strategic Planning Process!



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Roundtable of St. Lucie County
LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN

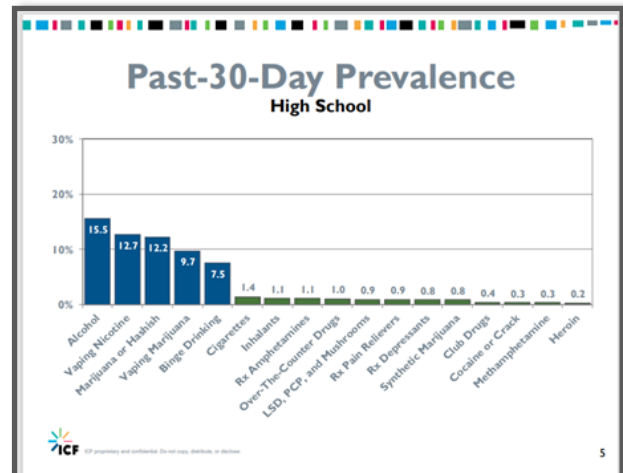
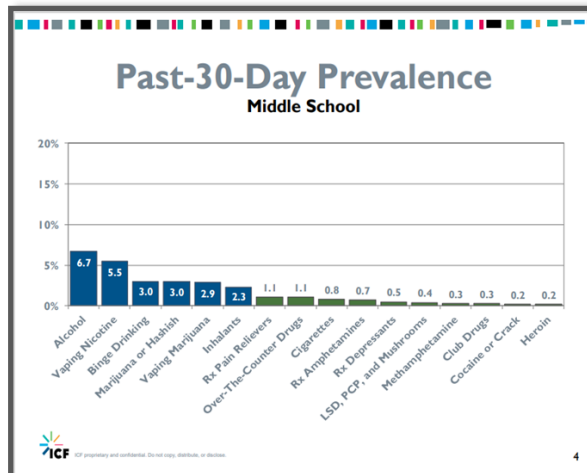


Florida Youth Substance Mis-Use On The Decline

The administration of the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), is part of the multi-survey Florida Youth Survey (FYS) Project, which for the past twenty years has been administered to Middle and High school students. Modeled on the “Communities That Care”, the FYSAS assesses risk and protective factors for substance use, and substance abuse prevalence. The FYSAS has been a collaborative effort between the Florida Departments of Health, Education, Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, and the Governor’s Office of Drug Control, and it is administered annually in the spring. In 2022, all sixty-seven counties were surveyed. This includes 384 public middle and 352 public high schools, with a sample size of 47,572 students across grades 6 through 12 . Surveys were administered online (61.5%) and with book-lets (38.5%). The full state and local county report will be made available on the Florida Department of Children’s and Families website at www.MyFLFamilies.com.

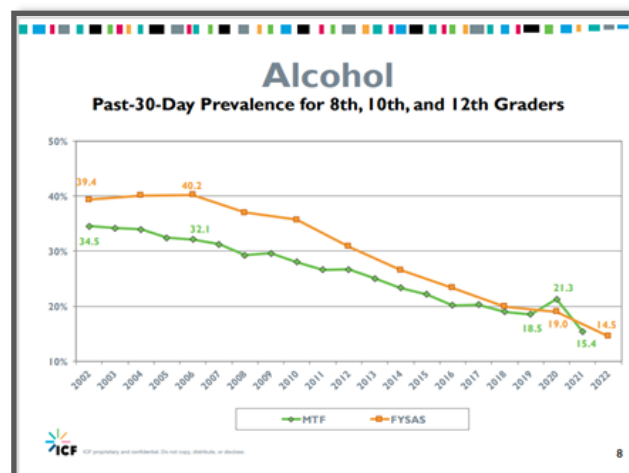
State Key Findings

- ◆ Alcohol and vaping nicotine are the highest prevalence substance use categories across age groups.
- ◆ Marijuana use, vaping marijuana, and binge drinking are also higher prevalence.
- ◆ Among High School students, marijuana use is nearly as prevalent as vaping nicotine.
- ◆ Rates of use for other drug categories, including cigarettes, are very low.



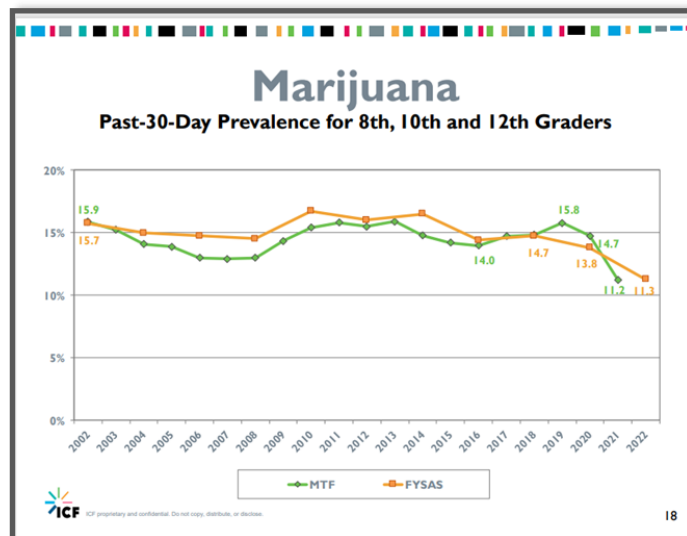
State Alcohol Use Trend Summary

- ◆ The long-term decline in alcohol use continued in 2022, after decreasing (among high school students) and increasing (among middle school students) in 2020.
- ◆ Between 2004 and 2022, there was a 26.5 percentage point reduction in past-30-day use among high school students and 13.6 percentage point reduction among middle school students.



State Marijuana Use Trend Summary

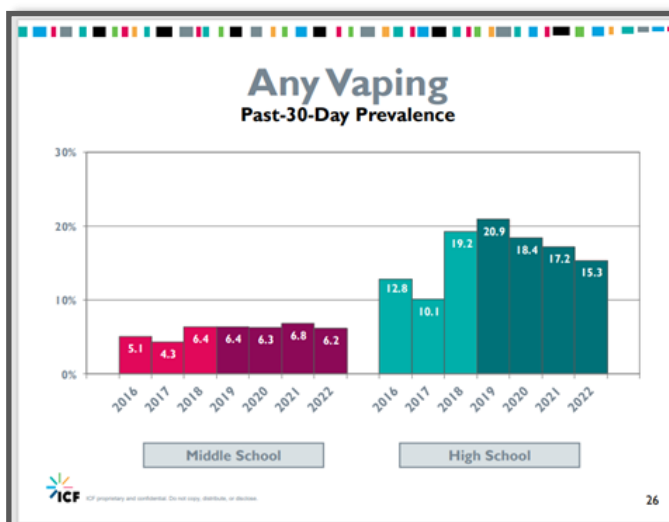
- ◆ Past-30-day use has dropped from 18.6% in 2014 to 12.2% in 2022.
- ◆ The drop of 3.7 percentage points between 2020 and 2022 is the largest change in the trend line, raising the possibility of a pandemic-related effect.
- ◆ Among middle school students, past-30-day use dropped to an all-time low of 3%, after small increases in 2018 and 2020.



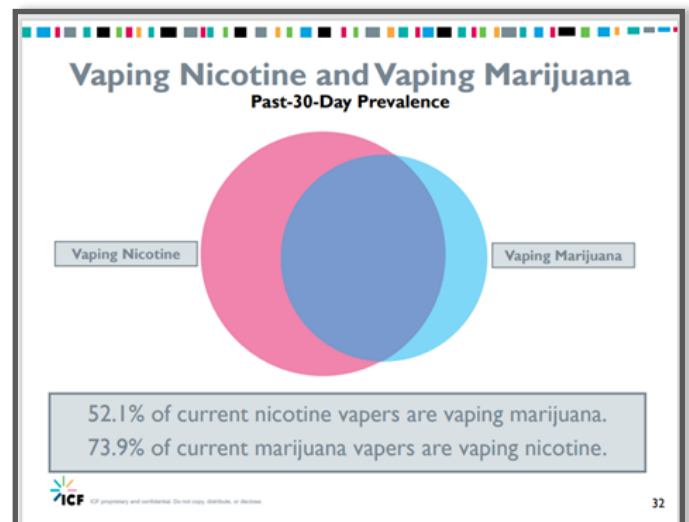
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State Vaping Use Trend Summary

- ◆ Among high school students, the vaping epidemic peaked in 2019, with rates for both vaping nicotine and vaping marijuana decreasing between 2019 and 2022.
- ◆ Among middle school students, vaping rates have been more stable since 2019. However, between 2021 and 2022, nicotine vaping decreased 0.9 percentage points and marijuana vaping increased 0.4 percentage points.



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Source: BERT ROTHENBACH, Ph.D. ICF, Rothenbach Research and Consulting, presented on October 18th, 2022.

Thank you to all who wore RED in support of Red Ribbon Week!





Kim Reid: Moving on... but forever a Treasure Hunter!

As the Kids at Hope Project Coordinator, I have had the pleasure of working with Kim Reid for five years. We both started with the Roundtable in November of 2017 exactly one week apart. During this time, I have witnessed her passion for this community, her love for the youth and children, and her concern for the citizens. Kim's commitment to the members of Youth Leadership St. Lucie is unwavering. She poured herself into her work and there were many days her tear ducts were active as well due to the genuine bond she shared with the youth she served.

On October 25, 2022, Kim attended her last Youth Leadership meeting. The members presented her with a gift basket, thank you card, and a large group hug. Some of the sentiments shared by the youth were, "Thank you so much for everything you do! You have been so inspirational and an incredibly important influence in my life, I appreciate you." Another youth wrote, "So grateful for all of your contributions to make our community a better place". Kim has left an indelible impression on the youth she served.

Kim sincerely embraces the creed of the Treasure Hunter's Pledge, believing "all children are capable of success, no exception." She lives every day exemplifying it as she searches for all the skills, talents, and intelligence that exist in the children she has the joy of serving. She challenged others to live what they were reciting. Kim Reid will be missed, but the impact she has made on the youth she encountered will not be forgotten. She will forever be an Ace for all of her "kids at hope". Once a Treasure Hunter always a Treasure Hunter. [#Kids@Hope4Life](#) - Written by, Kevin Singletary, KAH Project Coordinator





Jaguars at Hope

Bayshore Elementary Principal Mrs. Silas has been a true Treasure Hunter for their students and staff. The Kids at Hope (KAH) team opened the school year with a Tunnel of Hope at Bayshore Elementary that was a great success and recently returned to conduct a more in-depth KAH training for returning instructional staff. Teachers were looking for ways to implement KAH practices and principles daily in their classrooms. The KAH team presented on the use of the “Language of Hope”, if the climate in the classroom is going to change, language is an integral part in that change. An example of this practice is taking old, negative labels and redirecting them into new, positive labels. An example of this is changing the negative labels we use for students to positive:

Rebellious ➔ Independent
Demanding ➔ Persistent
Stubborn ➔ Confident

Staff reflected on their time in elementary school and agreed the words of their teachers were a powerful influence on them. They were encouraged to take advantage of the influence they yield on these young creative minds. The KAH team provided homework to the staff to help them see the role of a Treasure Hunter from a different perspective. Staff was asked to complete a Treasure Hunter Aces/Bio on which they were asked to share some of their talents and skills, who their ACEs are and why, as well as their dreams for this school year. They will place their answers outside their classrooms and use this as a tool to engage students while fostering lasting relationships. The enthusiasm of Principal Silas and her staff is inspiring as they embrace the Kids at Hope culture that “ALL children are capable of success, NO Exceptions!”



Active Bystander TECC Training



The IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Team was invited to attend the Active Bystander TECC Training, hosted in West Palm Beach by Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network. Being an active bystander is always a possibility with any individual. However, with our Outreach Team regularly working in the streets, at youth-serving agencies and schools, becoming trained and certified was important for both their safety and the youth they serve. Bystanders can and do save lives when the situation arises. The goal of this training was to teach individuals the ability to save lives by taking very specific actions in the event of an emergency. Basic initial care is taught, such as bleeding, burns, and blocked airways. Lessons include offering support and comfort to those harmed, being able to work effectively with emergency responders, and overall enhancement of your response skills. You are the *HELP* until HELP arrives. It was an essential training, and hopefully one they never have to recall in a time of need.

Thoughts about the training from the IGNITE team:

- ◆ “This training gave us basic understanding in how to survey a scene and help stabilize a person in danger of losing their life.” – Darcy McFolley, IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Supervisor
- ◆ “Being someone on the scene who knows what to do during an active shooting, may give the victim another chance in life.” – Ismael Angervil, IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Worker
- ◆ “The training was very hands on, we were taught how to properly care for a gunshot wound, stop a main artery bleed, and how to properly make a 911 call and give them accurate information.” – Markesha Brockington, IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Worker
- ◆ “Now that I am trained and certified as an active bystander, I can help myself, my family members, and the people in my community.” – Lakenya Ruffin, IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Worker
- ◆ “The training contained tons of knowledge and ideas, now I feel better prepared should I find myself in a bystander situation.” – Lee Davis, IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Worker

Board Member Spotlight:



It is only fitting during National Children's Month to put the spotlight on Roundtable Board Member, Sean Boyle. Sean has served the youth of this community and their families loyally and with genuine sincerity throughout his 25 years with the Children's Services Council (CSC). He enjoys being out in the community, interacting with the youth and families, and not behind his desk. He regularly volunteers his time at community events and projects. He is currently in his third season coaching a 7-9-year-old basketball team twice a week. A sentiment Sean stands by in youth basketball is, "If you're not smiling, you're not playing". Sean completed his undergraduate degree in Psychology at Indiana University and his graduate degree in Adult Education at National Louis University in Illinois, with a focus on the fields of Training and Community Development/Organization. One of his most important mentors throughout his 31 years working in the human services field has been Kathryn Basille, the former CEO of CSC. Sean shared that he had a plan to leave after two years but when Kathryn came to CSC she asked him simply – "What do you want to do?" And when he shared his ideas, she gave him the freedom and faith to go do them. When he succeeded with those ideas, she asked him "what next?". As Sean explains, "She had faith in me and believed in me before I did". Sean's goals for CSC, above pursuing the mission of CSC, are to continue building future leaders for our community and developing a positive workplace culture, making sure family is first for his team. Having raised two children with medical needs, Sean is also a huge proponent of the availability of health care to the entire community. Sean and his wife have two adult children and two cats, and recently celebrated his daughter's marriage. His hobbies include basketball, he has played in a recreational league his entire adult life. He also has a strong passion for music and often listens to Spotify whenever possible. A surprising fact about Sean Boyle is that he once collaborated with an online friend to create music and was awarded a record deal with Silencer Records, even getting airplay in Germany and some in the US.



Sean Boyle, CEO
Children's Services Council



Our Sponsors:



Our Board Members

- ◆ Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Tom Bakkedahl, 19th Judicial Circuit—State Attorney
- ◆ Rosetta Bartell, Housing Authority of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Linda Bartz, Board of County Commissioners
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- ◆ John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Department
- ◆ Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
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- ◆ Robert McPartlan, Department of Children and Families
- ◆ Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem
- ◆ Jessica Parrish, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- ◆ Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice
- ◆ David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie
- ◆ Dr. Jonathan Prince, St. Lucie Public Schools
- ◆ Nate Spera, St. Lucie County Fire District
- ◆ Clint Sperber, FL Health Department - St. Lucie County
- ◆ Peter Tesch, Economic Development Council
- ◆ Dana Trabulsy, State Representative
- ◆ Andrew Treadwell, Indian River State College
- ◆ Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Our Mission:

To sustain a team of county and business leaders who mobilize resources to improve the education, health, safety, nutrition and care of all children in St. Lucie County.

Our Vision:

We envision a community where county leaders, businesses and residents are united to provide all children of St. Lucie County the resources they need to thrive, be successful and achieve their full potential.

Executive Committee

CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

VICE-CHAIR

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

SECRETARY

Jessica Parrish, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee

TREASURER

Ann Berner, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

PAST CHAIR

Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

STEERING COMMITTEE

Debbie Hawley, St. Lucie Public Schools

AT LARGE

Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids

www.RoundtableSLC.org

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

546 NW University Blvd., Suite 204
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
Phone: 772-871-5880
Follow us on Facebook @RoundtableSLC

For questions or to subscribe to our Newsletter:
DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

Teresa Bishop, Chief Executive Officer

TBishop@RoundtableSLC.org

Dana Espinosa, Operations Manager

DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org

OUR INITIATIVES:

IGNITE Youth Alliance—(772) 448-5712

- ◆ **Monica Jakobsen, Project Coordinator**
MJakobsen@RoundtableSLC.org
- ◆ **Darcy McFolley, Outreach Supervisor**
- ◆ **Shantel Lariosa, Project Assistant**
- ◆ **Marcus Mills, Senior Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **LaKenya Ruffin, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Markesha Brockington, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Lee Davis, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Ismael Angervil, Outreach Worker**

Kids at Hope & Youth Leadership St. Lucie

- ◆ **Kevin Singletary, Project Coordinator**
KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org
- ◆ **Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison**
KReid@RoundtableSLC.org

Drug Free St. Lucie

- ◆ **C. Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator**
JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org

