

Health Area Focuses of the Month

June 2025

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

Objective: Reduce the misuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs—particularly among youth—by promoting prevention, early intervention, and access to equitable support services that address underlying health and social needs.



Substance use continues to be a major public health issue in Durham, with wide-reaching impacts across all age groups. North Carolina sees 11 overdose deaths per day, up from just 6 in 2018, with Black residents experiencing disproportionate harm. Youth remain especially vulnerable—16% of middle schoolers have consumed alcohol, and over 25% of high schoolers report marijuana use. Emerging forms of substance use, like vaping and misuse of prescription medications, further complicate prevention efforts. Structural inequities, such as housing instability and targeted marketing, compound these risks—making community-centered, inclusive solutions all the more urgent.

CHC'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Educational Resources

Sharing tools, fact sheets, and prevention materials about the risks of drug misuse at community events—and making these resources available year-round on our website:

<https://www.chealthc.org/tobacco-vaping-alcohol>

Partnerships & Supplies

Collaborating with the health department and peer organizations to distribute free **Narcan** and **xylazine/fentanyl testing kits**, empowering community members to respond to drug-related emergencies safely.

Harm Reduction Advocacy

Our team has received **harm reduction training** and actively champions practical, compassionate approaches to substance use—centering the health and dignity of those most affected.

QUESTIONS?
CALL 919-470-8680