



Alliance
for **Healthy**
Communities

YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

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ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Mission

To improve the health of our communities through cross-sector partnerships and programs.

Vision

AHC envisions safe and healthy populations in all of the communities we serve.

Values

Alliance for Healthy Communities (AHC) is a convener, collector, conduit, and catalyst for change. Multi-agency collaboration and coordination is at the heart of AHC. We are a group of community members working toward a common goal; joining skills and resources to address community needs and focus on local issues to produce change.



DIFFICULTIES

COVID-19 affected every person, organization, and country. Alliance for Healthy Communities and its affiliated coalitions were not without difficulties; adapting meetings, prevention strategies and efforts. It is amidst those difficulties that we found strength, both as an organization and community as a whole.

COALITION METRICS

DETERRA BAGS

There were 934 Detera bags handed out through various channels and events throughout the county for residents to safely dispose of medications in their home. An 84% increase from last year!

NARCAN

The lifesaving drug Narcan has been deployed 450 times by the Pasco Sheriff's Office, New Port Richey Police Department, the Fire Department of New Port Richey and Pasco County Fire Rescue.

As overdose fatalities soared in 2020, ASAP and its community partners distributed 1,150 kits of Narcan, which is 2,300 doses to community members most at risk for overdose.



TIMER CAPS

ASAP and Pasco County Senior Services distributed 169 medicine timer caps to residents who wanted to better secure their medications.

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Dade City Police Department, and New Port Richey Police Department collected 1,713.35 pounds of unwanted and unused medications at disposal sites throughout the county.

ASAP IN THE MEDIA

ASAP was featured in various media outlets on various projects, collaborations, and outreach.

- 4 News Articles
- 1 Podcasts

SOCIAL MEDIA

- @PascoASAP Facebook page reaches 2,566 followers, with 237 posts reaching 249,165 people.
- @Pasco_ASAP Twitter is up to 1,040 followers. With 1,914 tweets
- Pasco_ASAP Instagram grew to 127 followers,
- ChangeTheLanguageASAP Instagram grew to 81 followers

OUTREACH

The pandemic limited our traditional outreach efforts and challenged us to find new ways to reach community members and disseminate information. Despite challenges, ASAP has educated and disseminated prevention and mental health awareness information to 3,650 people within our community!

SUBSTANCE USE IS PREVENTABLE AND PEOPLE DO RECOVER.



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Mission

To coordinate community efforts to reduce countywide risk factors for addiction, thereby preventing and decreasing substance mis-use in a comprehensive and long- term manner that primary impacts youth in the community.

What We Do

Pasco ASAP was founded in response to alarming rates of increased substance misuse among youth. Community members and stakeholders have built a coalition principled on the collaboration to meet the needs of a rapidly growing county. Pasco ASAP is a community group that designs and coordinates initiatives to reduce substance misuse and addiction. General meetings are held monthly and welcomes any/all persons who wish to be a part of the solution to our community's greatest substance use issues.

QUARTERLY SUCCESSES

Quarter 1

- Seven ASAP members participated in the CADCA Coalition Bootcamp Training, provided as part of the DEA360 Strategy.
- ASAP's Substance Exposed Newborns Committee and Healthy Start Coalition of Pasco County present to Keiser University students on safe sleep for infants, car seat safety, family planning, and the importance of folic acid during pregnancy.
- ASAP participates in the Annual Storybook Forest event hosted by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco, reaching 394 youth under 18 y/o, and 370 adults.
- ASAP participates in Pepin Academy's Health Day for middle and high school students, playing "Drug Facts Jenga" where more than 150 kids answered questions about drug trends in Pasco County.



Quarter 2

- ASAP moves all general and committee meetings to online platforms to keep members connected and initiatives moving forward.
- ASAP's Rx/Opioid Committee Launches new campaign "Use Only As Directed" to promote education, awareness and safe practices.
- ASAP's Recovery Committee says "Thank You" to Emergency Responders and Nurses who are on the frontline, assisting those suffering from addiction at their worst moments.
- Pasco County overdose numbers spike, a continuing upward trend of 2020; ASAP members and community partners work to build solutions.
- ASAP Rx/Opioid Committee teams up with Grace Sober Living House to distribute Narcan Kits to the community and those most at risk for overdose. Announcing efforts on 'The Godlogic Project' podcast; partners distributed 850 Narcan Kits or 1,700 doses!

Quarter 3

- ASAP, in partnership with Grace House Sober Living and Recovery Epicenter, handed out free Narcan at three locations around Pasco County for International Overdose Awareness Day. Grace House & Recovery Epicenter donated the boxes of Narcan distributed for the event.
- ASAP's Recovery Committee, Pasco RCO, Recovery Epicenter, Grace House, and the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners Mike Wells honored medical professionals during National Recovery Month
- AHC partnered with BayCare Behavioral Health to recognize suicide prevention week and World Suicide Prevention Day, distributing materials, 'Don't Let Your Story End' Prevention Bracelets, and hosted a virtual event "A night of HOPE: Healing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education, with over 40 participants.
- ASAP participated in a PSA, promoting the organization, its efforts, and how to get involved as part of a larger community awareness campaign with the Pasco Sheriff's Office Behavioral Health Intervention Team.

Quarter 4

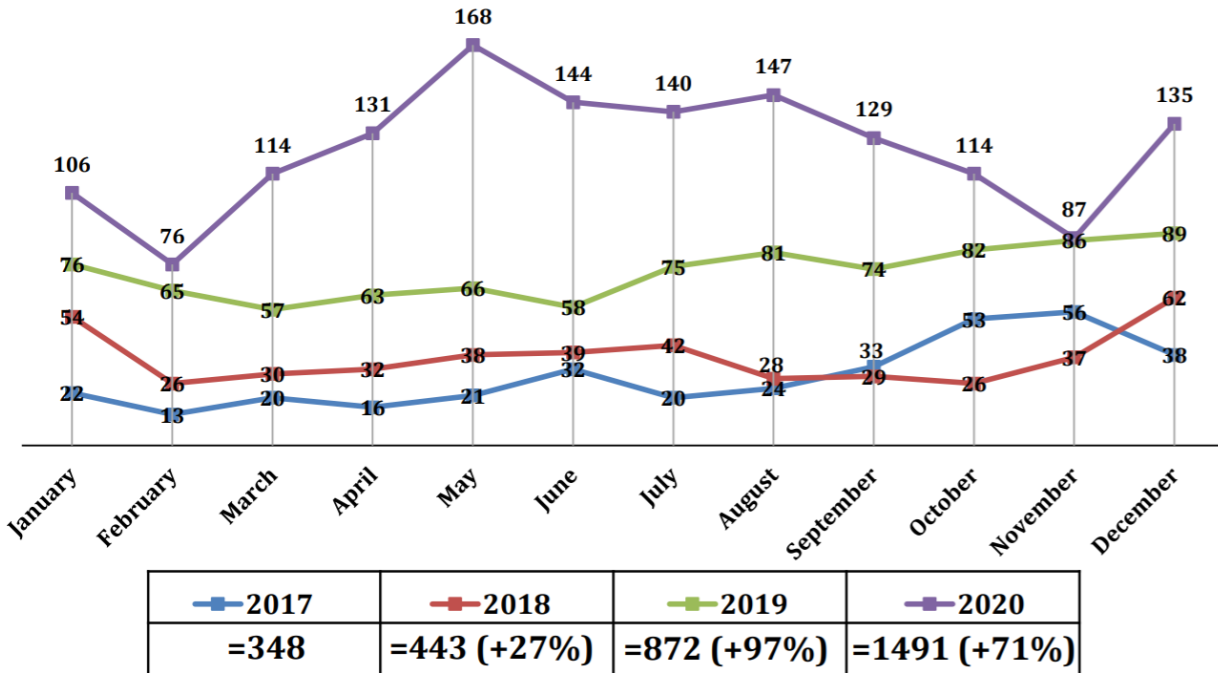
- ASAP hosts its annual Narcotic Overdose Prevention Education (N.O.P.E) Candlelight Vigil Virtually, with over 180 people attending.
- ASAP's Rx/Opioid Committee expands its campaign efforts from social media to community signage, featuring several large posters/signage with infographics at the Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel. The campaign now reaches even more demographics and community members in its prevention/education efforts.
- ASAP participates in DEA360 'Just Think Twice' campaign, launching a media campaign and designated bench to 'Think Twice, Pledge to be Drug Free, Remembering Enrique Camarena' at 1730 US-19, Holiday, FL 34691.
- Pasco & Hernando Substance Exposed Newborn Committees partner up for virtual workshops launching early 2021.
- The Cultural Competence Committee debuts its 'Cultural Competence: A Guide to being Culturally Inclusive.' This 20-page guidebook is filled with valuable resources, information, and activities to promote cultural competence on individual and organizational levels, in hopes to bring about community-level change.
- ASAP Rx/Opioid Committee and Pasco Sheriff's Office Opioid Taskforce team-up to increase efforts to decrease substance misuse and overdoses in our community, with plans to host an educational Townhall in March 2021.



2020 OVERDOSE REPORT

Overdose Comparison Chart 2017-2020

All Overdoses 2017/2018/2019/2020 Comparison:

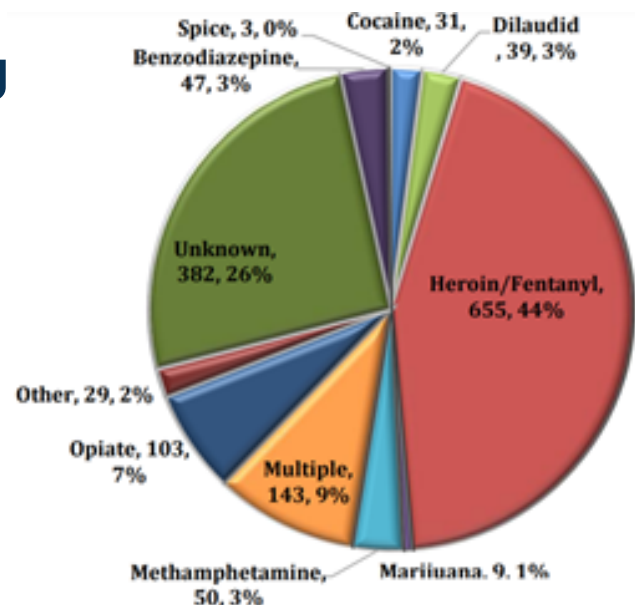


In 2020, overdoses have continued to rise, peaking in May with 168. The Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP) and community partners have worked diligently to distribute life-saving Narcan to the community and those most at risk. Overdoses are expected to remain higher than years past.

**Note: Medical examiner data for July 2020 through December 2020 was not available at the time of this assessment and numbers may change once that information is received.*

All Overdose by Drug

Heroin and Fentanyl continue to be the primary substance individuals overdose on in 2020. According to the Pasco Sheriff's Office, the unknown category continues to increase, with many individuals being unwilling or untruthful with disclosing the drug in which they overdosed on, as well as many overdose deaths being unknown. Individuals using multiple drugs and overdosing is also increasing, with common combinations being opiates and benzodiazepines. The Pasco Sheriff's Office also reports opiates increasingly testing positive for fentanyl, showing a prevalence in laced pills.





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OVERVIEW

Mission

Stand Above the Influence is a youth led coalition that empowers youth to be agents of change by strengthening their voices and educating others to build a healthier community.



Vision

To inspire innovative communities that embrace the voices of our youth to affect positive change in cultivating safe and healthy communities.



What We Do

STAND was founded in response to alarming rates of increased substance misuse among youth. It has since evolved to address a variety of issues that we experience. We advocate for change on a community level; educating peers, parents, school administrators, and community stakeholders. We advocate for policy change at local and state levels; meeting with leaders to discuss issues and ways to enact lasting change.



SUCCESSSES

Quarter 1

- Unveiled the new STAND branding; including logo, mission & vision.
- STAND Leadership Meeting & 2020 Visioning. Identifying the most pressing issues for youth today being Mental Health & Substance Misuse, Tobacco & Vaping, and school safety.
- Meetings moved to virtual amidst pandemic and 'Safer at Home' restrictions.



Quarter 2

- STAND launches its proclamation for Children's Mental Health Week; and presents to Pasco County Board of Commissioners.
- STAND launches Group Me App to help keep youth and mentors connected
- STAND joins TikTok, Instagram, & Snapchat, increasing awareness.
- STAND mentors start virtual challenges and campaigns



Quarter 3

- STAND youth participate on a virtual panel at the Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention Meeting.
- STAND hosts its first ever Pet Rally, collecting \$1,800 in pet supplies for the Pasco County Animal Shelter and is featured in Suncoast News.
- STAND launches its first monthly STAND General Coalition Meeting, providing a platform for all stand youth and mentors to collaborate once a month.



Quarter 4

- STAND hosts its first officer elections.
- STAND assists SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) with their Adopt-A-Highway road clean-up
- STAND Member records a PSA for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office discussing what makes STAND so awesome!
- STAND Members say the pledge of allegiance at the Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education (NOPE) Candlelight Virtual Vigil.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & AFFILIATES

Wrapping up the year is always a time of reflection; 2020 amongst our most challenging years as an organization, as it was for most amidst a global pandemic. At the end of the day, it is not about what we have accomplished, but about the people we have lifted up, the lives we impacted and the community that we have helped make better.

"COMMUNITY IS MUCH MORE THAN BELONGING TO SOMETHING; IT'S ABOUT DOING SOMETHING TOGETHER THAT MAKES BELONGING MATTER."

Let's continue to cultivate a community of kindness, compassion and diversity; one that fosters dreams, connection and purpose. We are looking forward to a new year and exciting new projects on the horizon.



**TO OUR
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS,
COALITION
MEMBERS &
SPONSORS FOR
BEING A PART OF
OUR SUCCESS!**



Alliance
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Communities**

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