



*Addiction to opioids, tobacco and other drugs plagues our state and country, with devastating human consequences.*



In 2020, 23% of Indiana high school seniors reported using e-cigarettes, according to the Indiana Youth Survey. With studies showing that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to become smokers later in life, this has the potential to compound Indiana's already serious tobacco problem in years to come.



In Indiana, overdose deaths, which declined by 12% between 2017 and 2018, increased by 6% in 2019 to approximately 1,700 deaths. Early data from 2020 show even starker increases: drug overdose deaths for the 12-month period ending in April grew by 13% in the U.S. and by 17% in Indiana from 2019 to 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Research shows that drug use often begins as early as middle school, making early intervention in schools a critical step in combatting Indiana's addiction crises. In 2018, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation launched *Prevention Matters*, a four-year grant initiative to help Marion County schools identify, implement and sustain proven substance use prevention programs. In addition to navigating difficult choices related to drug and alcohol use, proven prevention programs also have been shown to improve academic achievement, attendance and classroom behavior, address bullying and in-school violence, and promote social-emotional well-being.

**IMPACT**



TOTAL NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS REACHED IN 2019-20

**75,500**



TOTAL  
ALLOCATED

**\$12 MILLION**



TOTAL NUMBER OF  
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN 2019-20

**144**

**TIMELINE**

**JANUARY 2018**

*Prevention Matters* initiative announced

**DECEMBER 2018**

Second round of *Prevention Matters* implementation grant recipients announced; schools begin implementation of evidence-based prevention programs

**JUNE 2022**

Initiative concludes

**JULY 2018**

First round of *Prevention Matters* implementation grant recipients announced; schools begin implementation of evidence-based prevention programs

**AUGUST 2019 - JUNE 2022**

Schools and districts continue implementation of evidence-based prevention programs



## EXPANDING REACH

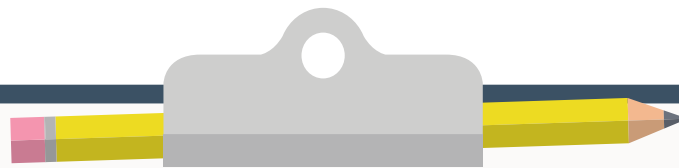
It is too early to determine specific impacts on students' mindsets and actions, but we are encouraged that so many schools have adopted evidence-based prevention programs and taken advantage of available training and resources. While the shift to eLearning driven by COVID-19 made it challenging for schools to implement programs – and limited our ability to collect data – schools persevered despite these limitations and should be commended for their efforts. Highlights of progress made in the second year of Prevention Matters implementation include:

The program expanded from 103 schools in year 1 to 144 schools in year 2, across 27 grantees. These include a mix of traditional public schools, public charter schools and private schools across Marion County.

The number of students served grew from 44,764 in the first year of *Prevention Matters* to 75,625 students in the second year. That represents more than 40 percent of all students in Marion County public and private schools.

Overall, *Prevention Matters* grantees made strides with training program implementers and implementing evidence-based programs for their students.

There is some early evidence that the programs are having a positive impact on students, including progress in curriculum knowledge and social-emotional competence, based on evaluation data collected in year 1 of the program (2018-19).



## LESSONS FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

**Leadership Matters:** Superintendents and school leaders should set the tone at the top for quality implementation and planning for sustainability.

**Commit to Supporting Teachers/Staff:** Schools must commit to training new teachers and staff annually and providing booster training for existing teachers and staff. It's also important to have a dedicated time period for program instruction, with lesson reinforcement throughout the week across other classes.

**Monitor Implementation:** Regularly observing and providing feedback to teachers and staff helps to ensure quality of implementation.

**Regularly Measure Impact:** It's important to measure and track early indicators of implementation success, such as students modeling competencies. Districts and schools also must develop rigorous data collection and reporting systems to track hard outcomes, such as suspensions.

**Plan for Sustainability:** Ongoing sustainability depends on schools and districts prioritizing programs within their budgets.