



# Fairfax County's Opioid Response Efforts

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting

Ellen Volo, Opioid and Substance Use Task Force Coordinator

February 28, 2023

# History and Structure

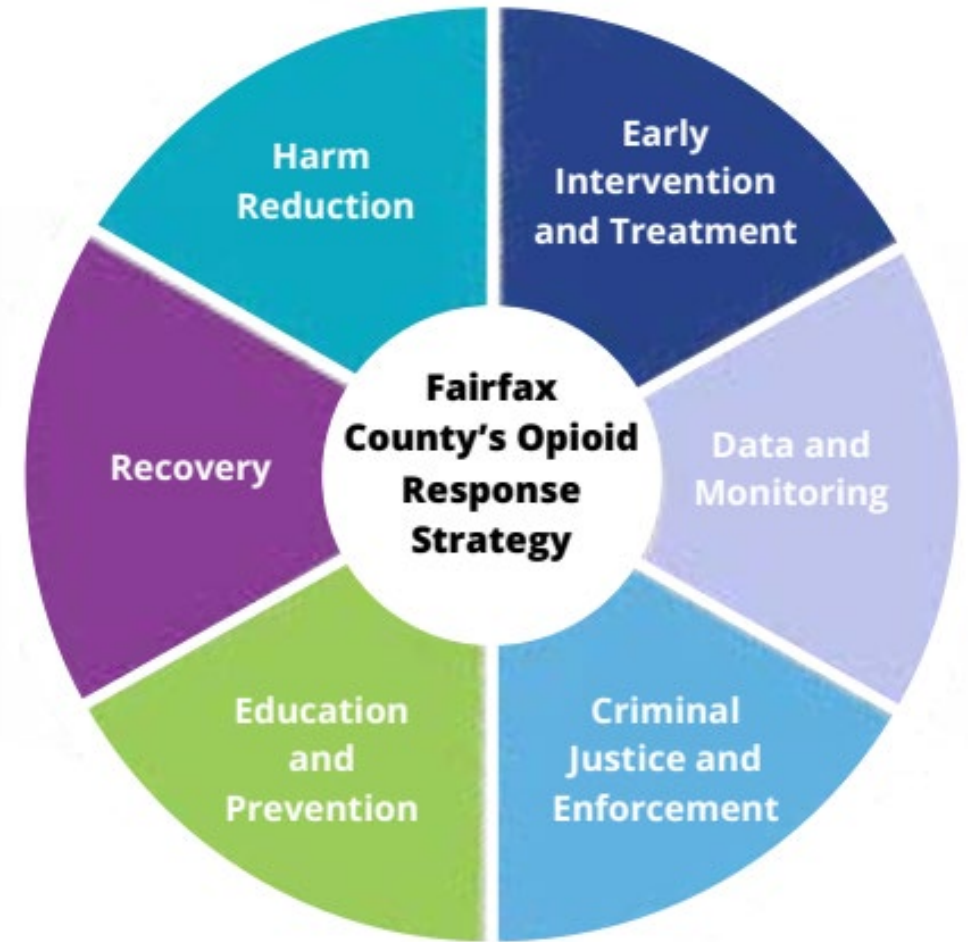
- 2017/2018: Initial appropriation of funds and first opioid work plan finalized
- Programs/activities funded through a variety of sources
- Structure:
  - **Task Force:** 65+ County/ Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) staff representing over 15 agencies
  - **Steering Committee:** County and FCPS leadership
  - **Fairfax Prevention Coalition:** community engagement arm
    - [www.fairfaxpreventioncoalition.com](http://www.fairfaxpreventioncoalition.com)



# FY23-25 Opioid Response Plan

## Primary Goals:

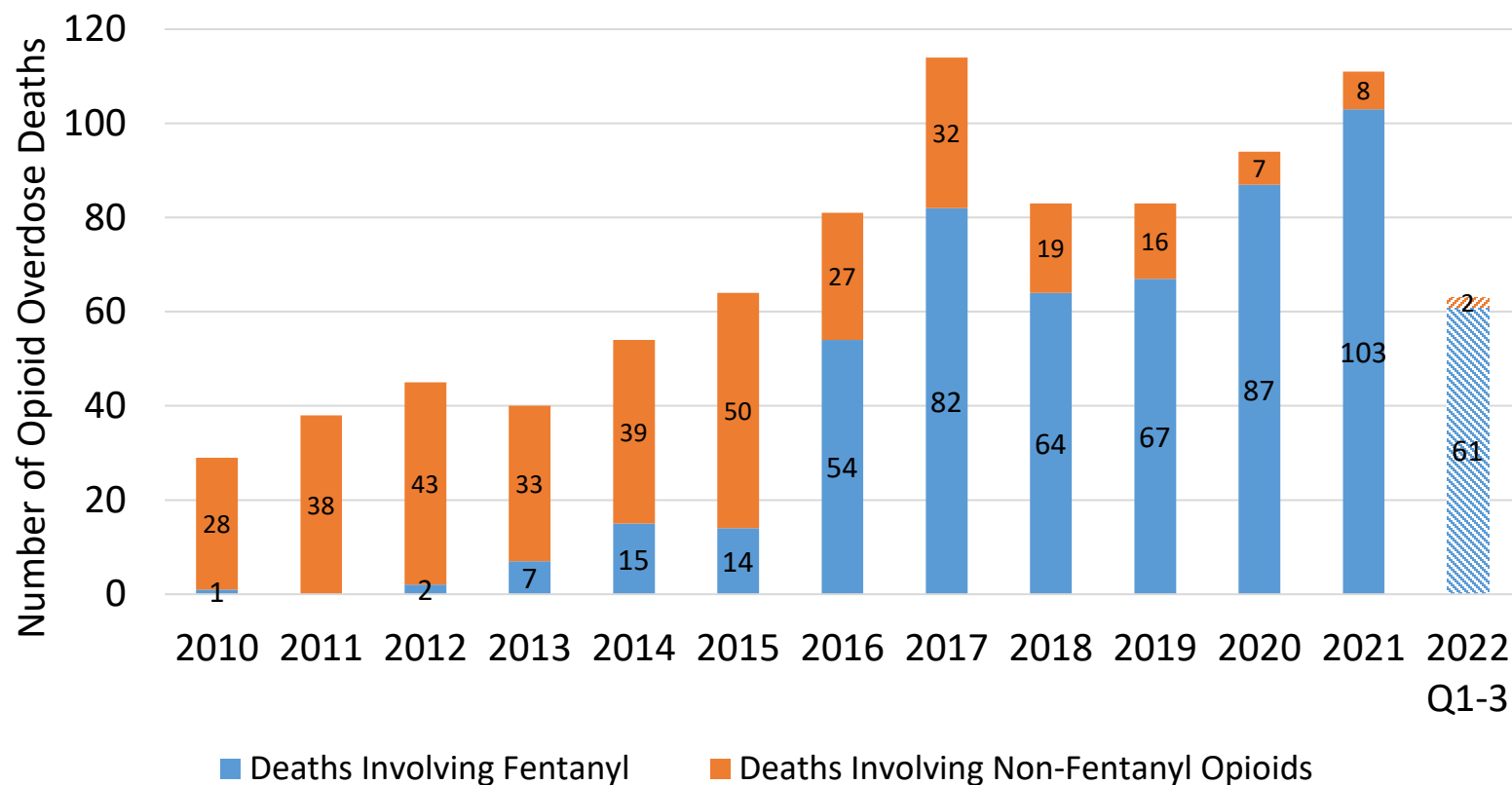
- Reducing deaths from opioids
- Improving the quality of life of individuals impacted by opioid use disorder
- Using data to describe the problem, target and improve interventions, and evaluate effectiveness



# Local Effects of the National Epidemic

- The proportion of opioid overdose deaths involving fentanyl has rapidly increased in recent years
- Statewide, increase of 1,000+ people (64%) in drug overdose fatalities from 1,627 in 2019 to 2,669 in 2021
  - 2,557 projected in 2022

Opioid Overdose Deaths by Fentanyl Involvement, Fairfax Health District, 2010-2022 Q3

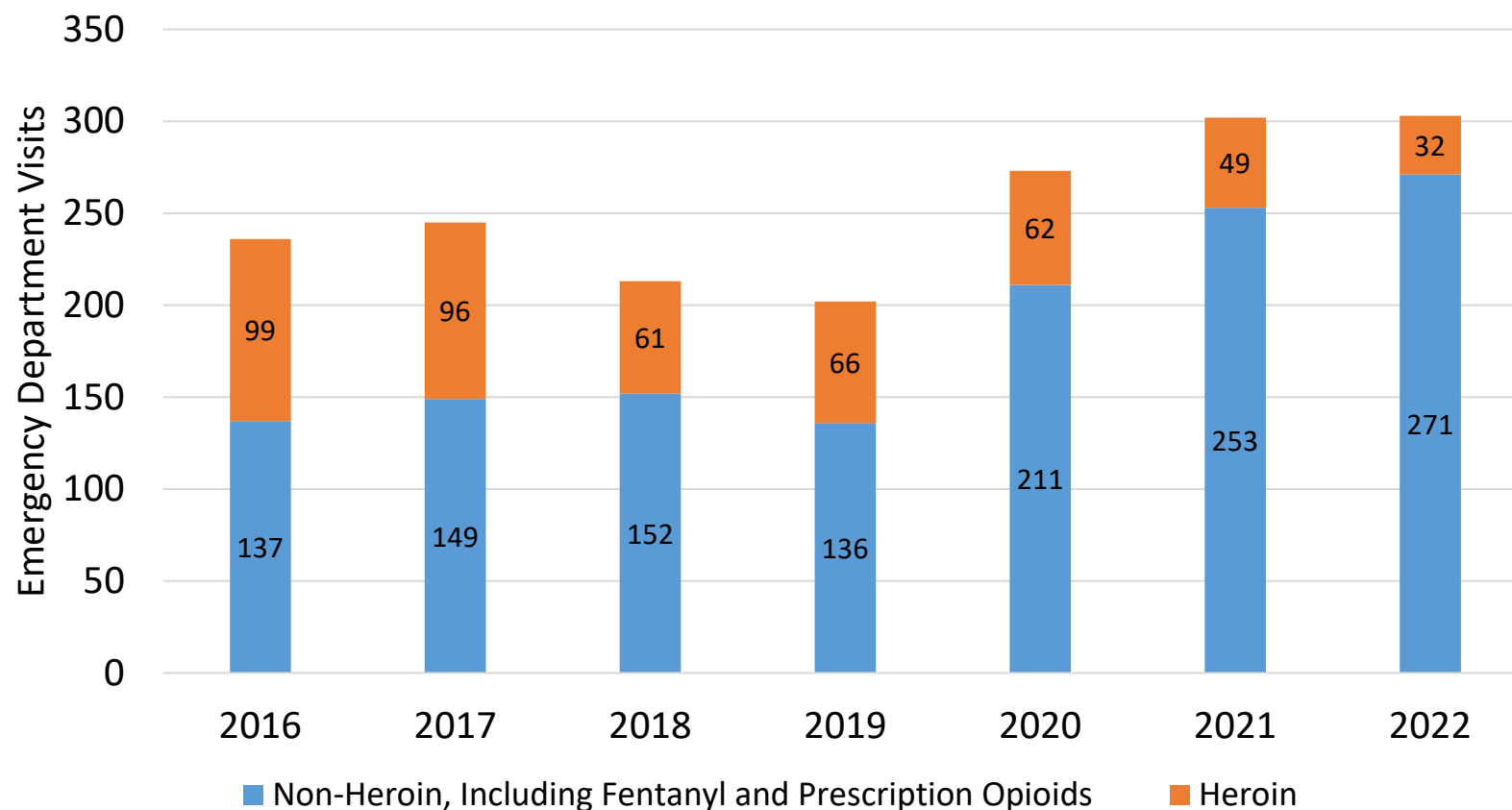


Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia Department of Health

# Local Effects of the National Epidemic

- 303 total ED visits for non-fatal overdoses in 2022 – increase of ~50% from 2019 to 2022
- The greatest rate of ED visits for non-fatal opioid overdose at FHD facilities is among those ages 25 to 34, but affects all ages
- In January 2023, there were 30 ED visits for non-fatal opioid overdose at FHD facilities (27 non-heroin, 3 heroin)

Number of Emergency Department Visits at Fairfax Health District (FHD) Facilities for Non-Fatal Opioid Overdoses, 2016 - 2022

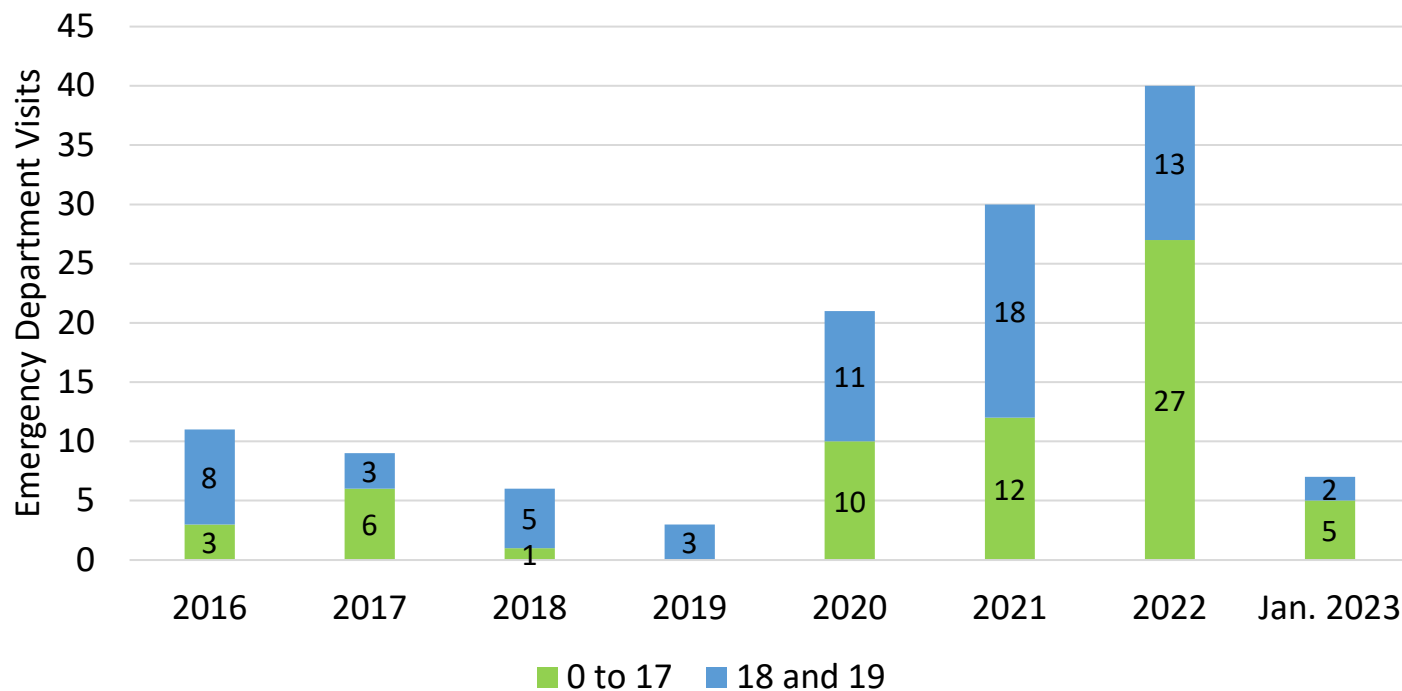


Source: Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), Virginia Department of Health

# Local Effects of the National Epidemic in Youth

- In 2021 and 2022, all non-fatal opioid overdoses at FHD facilities among those ages 19 and younger were non-heroin, including fentanyl and prescription opioid overdoses
- Youth (17 and under) fatal and non-fatal overdoses reported to Fairfax County Police Department's (FCPD) Overdose Investigation Unit also trended higher in 2022 compared to previous years

Number of Emergency Department Visits at Fairfax Health District (FHD) Facilities for Non-Fatal Opioid Overdoses, Ages 19 and Younger, 2016 - Jan. 2023



Source: Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), Virginia Department of Health

# FPCPD Overdose Investigation Unit Trends/Awareness

- Fentanyl is a highly addictive synthetic opioid that is 50X more potent than heroin and 100X more potent than morphine
- Significant increase in the presence of fentanyl in counterfeit prescription pills (Percocet/Xanax)
  - DEA lab testing in 2022 reveals 6 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a lethal dose (dea.gov/onepill)
- Fentanyl also is used as a substitute or cutting agent in other drugs like cocaine and heroin
- Just two milligrams of fentanyl, the small amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially deadly dose (DEA.gov)



Dollar Bill with Powder



Foil with Pills



Rainbow Fentanyl

# Examples of Programs/Activities

**Education and Prevention:** Communications Campaign (February 2023)

**Early Intervention and Treatment:** Community-based and jail-based medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) programs

**Data and Monitoring:** Opioid Dashboard

**Criminal Justice and Enforcement:** FCPD Overdose Investigation Unit

**Harm Reduction:** Fire and Rescue Department Leave Behind Narcan Kits

**Recovery:** Peer Outreach Response Team



*“At the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, it’s hard to describe how differently incarceration of addicted people looks compared to the vomit buckets and overcrowded cells I witnessed in so many other American jails.” – Raising Lazarus, by Beth Macy (author of NYT Bestseller Dopesick)*





# Select Youth Programs/Activities

- Trainings available for the community, including adolescents, parents and FCPS staff:
  - REVIVE! training - how to recognize an overdose and administer Narcan (residents receive free Narcan upon completion of the training)
  - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) - how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges and substance use disorder (youth and teen-specific versions available)
- Training for staff (FCPS, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC), Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB))
- Expanded Narcan availability in FCPS and the community
  - 1,080 FCPS staff trained in REVIVE! in 2022 by CSB
  - FCPS entered into an MOU with the Virginia Department of Health to receive Narcan for free
- Community presentations (Spring 2022, Winter/Spring 2023, etc.)
  - Example: Pyramid-level substance use presentations in winter/spring 2023 hosted by FCPS in collaboration with FCPD and CSB
- Public Communications (County and FCPS)
  - Numerous messages, webinars, videos, and social media graphics

# Select Youth Programs/Activities

- Substance Abuse Prevention Specialists Program (SAPS)
  - A partnership between FCPS, CSB and JDRDC which provides substance use prevention, education and intervention services to youth and their parents.
- FCPS Overdose Protocols
  - For school staff to follow upon learning of or witnessing a suspected student overdose on school grounds, off school grounds and/or outside of school-sponsored activities.
- FCPS Return to Learn
  - For students returning to FCPS following an extended absence (e.g., due to a non-fatal overdose or intensive mental health treatment) who need support as they integrate back into classes/social environment of school. FCPS works with the student/family to develop an educational plan, including any modifications the student may require.
- Handle With Care
  - Enables local law enforcement to notify schools when they encounter a child exposed to potential trauma (e.g., experiencing or witnessing a drug overdose). School personnel and mental health partners provide appropriate trauma-sensitive support and interventions. FCPS and FCPD implemented in December 2022.

# Select Youth Programs/Activities

- Post-overdose outreach for youth encountered by public safety for a nonfatal overdose
- Enhancing/expanding treatment options for youth with substance use disorder:
  - CSB youth MOUD pilot
  - JDRDC + CSB referral process for justice involved youth using fentanyl
  - Establishing CSB Intensive Outpatient Youth Services
  - Mapped current available youth service providers, identified gaps, and expanded provider networks to include intensive levels of care
  - Leveraging the Children's Services Act system of care to provide care coordination and expedited access to funding for intensive treatment
  - Support/navigation pilot with Northern Virginia Family Services
  - Exploring possibility of providing MOUD for youth in juvenile detention facilities
  - Exploring use of grant and opioid settlement funds to expand regional youth treatment capacity

# Opioid Settlements

- Refers to settled lawsuits brought by states/localities against numerous organizations in the pharmaceutical supply chain, including manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacy benefit managers, for their role in the opioid epidemic
- Three Components Form Virginia's Guidance for Opioid Settlement Fund Distribution
  - Virginia's MOU with cities and counties
  - Code of Virginia and in particular Title 2.2, Chapter 22, Article 12
  - Settlement Agreements
- Three settlements are currently in the payment phase, with many lawsuits still pending
- Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is the state entity administering funds
- Evolving landscape due to multiple factors

# Opioid Settlements

- Funds generally must be used for abatement purposes:
  - Efforts to treat, prevent, or reduce opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids, or to otherwise abate or remediate the opioid epidemic
- Fairfax County is receiving funds directly and also is eligible to receive funds from the OAA
  - Direct Distributions (funds received directly)
  - Individual OAA Distribution (noncompetitive, but must apply)
  - Cooperative Projects (competitive; must include at least two cities or counties)
  - Planning Grants (competitive)
- Board action will be needed to submit OAA applications



# Guiding Principles for Using Opioid Settlement Dollars

- Align with the County's FY 23-25 Opioid Response Plan
- Fill critical system gaps (i.e. youth treatment services)
- Optimize existing programs/projects
- Invest in system transformation
- Balance timely use of funds with fiscal responsibility
- Utilize evidence-based/informed approaches
- Continue to leverage existing funding sources where possible



# Local implementation

## **For Spring 2023 application window:**

- Exploring an initial OAA cooperative (regional) project application (competitive) for youth substance use detox and treatment services
  - Including a local match will give application priority consideration
- Launching a survey this spring to gather local and regional community input on substance use treatment services and other opioid resource needs

## **For the October 2023 – April 2024 and subsequent windows:**

- Internal County process for agencies/FCPS to submit requests for settlement funds for opioid-related projects
- Opioid Settlement Executive Committee will vet proposed projects

# Questions?

For more information:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/opioids>



# Resources - Education/Awareness

## Trainings/presentations:

- Pyramid-level substance use presentations in winter/spring 2023 hosted by FCPS in collaboration with FCPD and CSB
  - <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/alcohol-tobacco-and-other-drug-programs>
- CSB REVIVE! - how to recognize and reverse opioid overdoses (residents receive free Narcan upon completion of the training)  
<http://bit.ly/revive-csb>
- Mental Health First Aid - how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges and substance use disorder (youth and teen-specific versions available) <http://bit.ly/CSB-MHFA>
- Spring 2022 Youth Substance Use Trends Webinar (FCPS and Fairfax County government)
  - <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/substance-webinar>

## Communication tools

- NewsCenter article:
  - Text can be edited for use in newsletters; includes information on fentanyl and community resources available
  - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/opioids-learn-how-get-help-and-prevent-overdoses>
- Communications toolkit:
  - Social media graphics in multiple languages available for use by community members and organizations
    - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/opioids-communications-toolkit>

# CSB Resources

If the situation is immediately life-threatening, call 911

**Fairfax-Falls Church CSB Emergency Services (24/7)** - Available for people who have a mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or developmental disability in need of immediate help

703-573-5679 <https://bit.ly/CSB247>

**CSB Entry and Referral** - Assessment and referral services available for youth, adults, and pregnant women including office-based opioid treatment

703-393-8500 <https://bit.ly/CSBentry>

**CSB Fairfax Detoxification Center (24/7)** - A short-term residential program to help adults safely detoxify from the effects of drugs and/or alcohol

703-502-7000 <https://bit.ly/CSBdetox>

**CSB Peer Outreach Response Team** - provides outreach, engagement and resource navigation to individuals who have opioid and other substance use challenges. If you or someone you know could benefit from PORT services, call 703-559-3199.

<https://bit.ly/35ibMB5>

# FCPS Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP)

## Services:

- ★ **Tier 1: Education & Outreach for All Students, Families, Staff & Community**
  - Prevention lessons/presentations
    - live, webinar, podcast, social media, classrooms, community
    - students, parents, teachers, community members
  - Community outreach
  - Prevention campaigns, initiatives, social media messaging
  
- ★ **Tier 2: Individual & Group Brief Intervention/Counseling:**
  - Referrals
    - discipline & non-discipline
  - Brief screening, education, counseling
  
- ★ **Tier 3: Refer student/family to outside resources**
  - (higher level of care)
    - Partnerships with CSB & other community and private agencies and treatment centers



SCAN ME



<https://bit.ly/3tG5Mw0>

571-423-4270

# FCPS Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP)

- ❖ Parents/Guardians can call their child's school front office staff or ask their counselor to connect to their school's assigned SAP Specialist.



OR

- ❖ Contact the Office of Student Safety and Wellness:  
<https://bit.ly/3tG5Mw0>  
571-423-4270

Additional SAP Program info:



- ❖ FCPS resources
  - Search Keywords: ATOD, SSAW, Vaping

