

**Walsh County Health District  
Strategic Plan – Dec. 31st, 2023  
The Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery  
Services Block Grant**

**Priority Substance:** High school student's underage drinking

**Intervening Variable:** High social access

**Problem Statements:**

1. Problem:

- High School underage drinking has been identified due to the following data. In Region 4, as reported on the YRBS 2021 data, 23.4% of high school students are currently drinking alcohol (within the last 30 days).

2. Intervening Variables:

- High social access was identified through the 2017 YRBS data stating that in Region 4, 12.2% of students obtained alcohol by someone giving it to them.

3. Local Conditions:

- Alcohol is being accessed through sneaking it and/or parents not monitoring the alcohol in the home and giving it to youth. 21.1% of adults "agree" that underage drinking is accepted in their communities, and 57% of adults believe that it is "not difficult at all" for youth to sneak alcohol from their home or a friend's home (ND Community Readiness Data, 2022)

**Environmental Strategy:** Establishing a social host ordinance in Walsh County to reduce underage drinking and social access.

**Activities:**

1. Facilitate local Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.
2. Provide public messaging through various media outlets/signage throughout the community.
3. Key stakeholder meetings.
4. Collection of new data.
5. Participating in continuing education for WCHD staff members.
6. Supporting alcohol free events in Walsh County.

**Goal Statements:**

1. Short Term Outcomes: Increase in public and adult awareness through messaging and educational campaigns. We will measure this outcome through keeping track of media reach numbers and analyze the reach numbers by age, items disseminated, and online polls gaging knowledge on social access and underage drinking.

2. Intermediate Outcomes: Increase the number of adults monitoring their alcohol at home and taking the Not in My House pledge. We will measure this by monitoring how many pledge cards we distribute, online polls, teen focus groups, and law

enforcement place of last drink data.

3. Long-term Outcomes: Reduce by 3 percentage points (2021 ND YRBS 20.6%) region 4 ND high school students reported current use of alcohol by October 1st of 2026 as measured by 2025 ND YRBS Data. We will measure this goal by evaluating the 2025 ND YRBS data to determine if rates of high school underage drinking has decreased in Region 4.