**WestEd**
**Justice & Prevention**
RESEARCH CENTER

Montgomery County
Department of
Health and Human Services

## 2022–2023
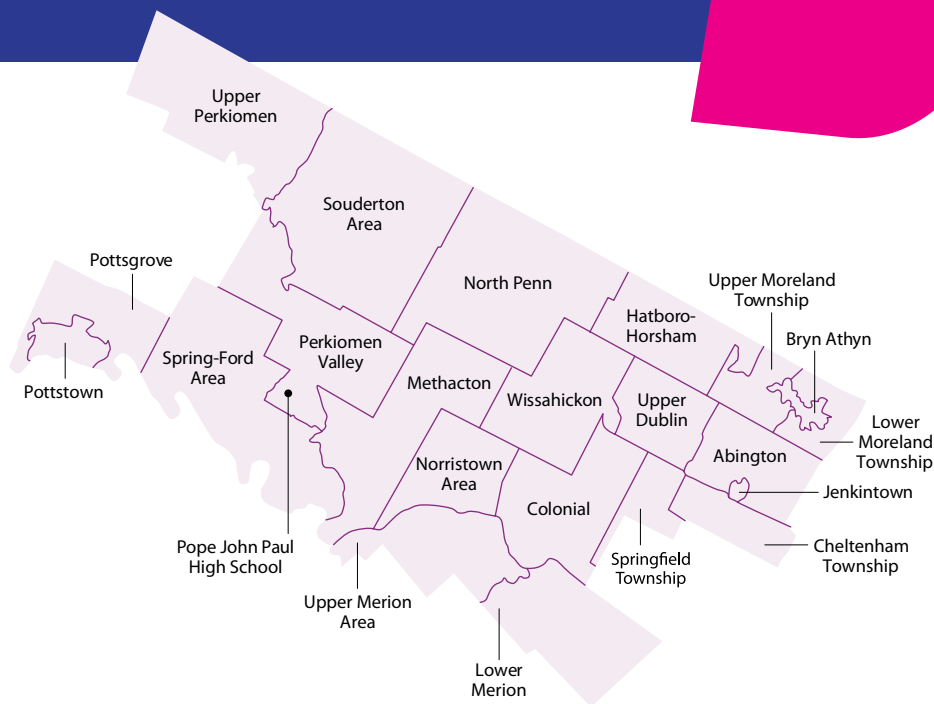# Prevention Programming and Evaluation Findings

The data reflected in this report highlights important information about the scope of data collection and key findings for a selection of Montgomery County's evidence-based programs provided in schools during the 2022–23 school year.

WestEd has been funded by the Office of Drug and Alcohol in Montgomery County to assist in evaluation planning, program evaluation implementation, and comprehensive reporting of alcohol and drug programming in the county. WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency working to improve education and other important outcomes for children, youth, and adults.

**Questions?**
Contact
SAP@montgomerycountypa.gov

To see more program results, visit https://montcopaprevdata.org/

Upper Perkiomen
Souderton Area
Pottsgrove
Pottstown
North Penn
Upper Moreland Township
Hatboro-Horsham
Bryn Athyn
Spring-Ford Area
Perkiomen Valley
Methacton
Wissahickon
Upper Dublin
Lower Moreland Township
Norristown Area
Abington
Jenkintown
Pope John Paul High School
Colonial
Cheltenham Township
Upper Merion Area
Springfield Township
Lower Merion

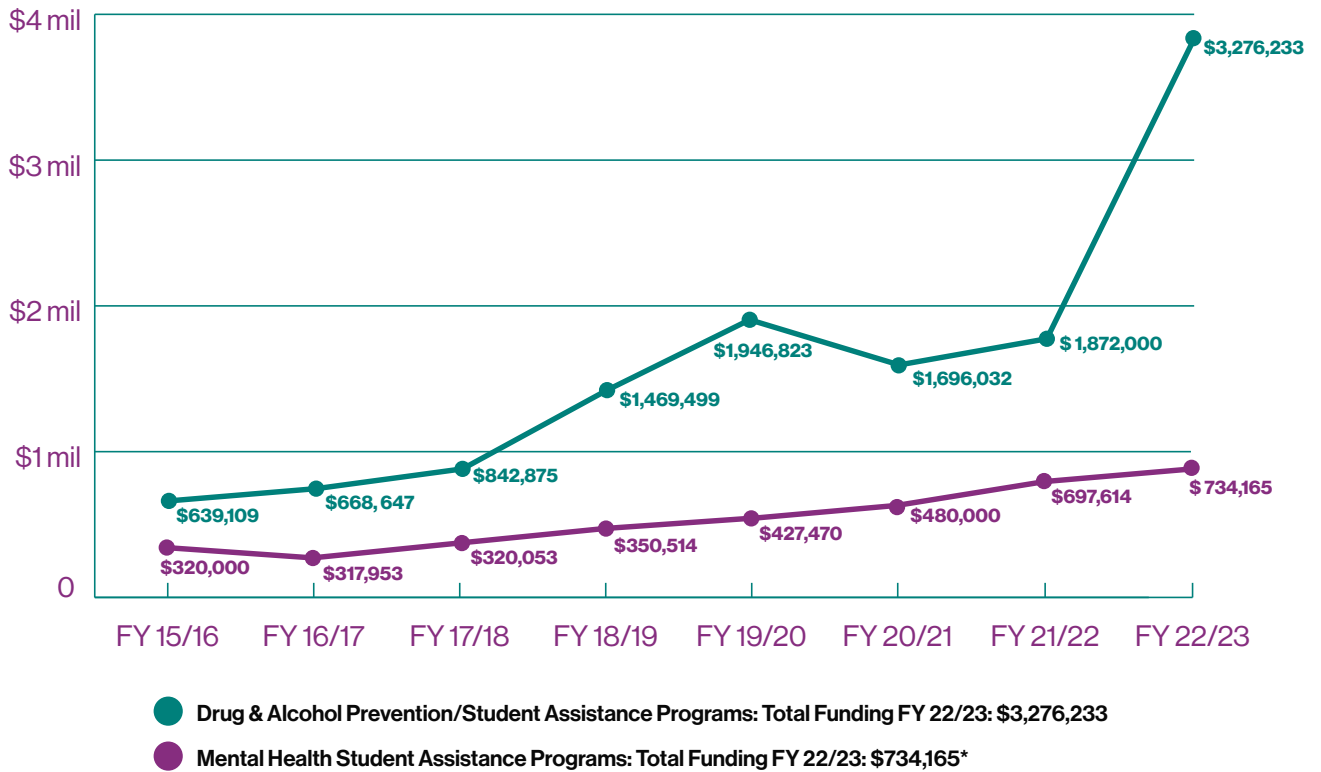| 28,696 surveys completed | 20,589 students reached | 1,479 parents reached |
|---|---|---|

## 11 Programs Implemented

- Be Part of the Conversation
- Botvin Life Skills Training
- CATCH My Breath
- Guiding Good Choices
- Second Step
- Signs of Suicide
- Strengthening Families 10-14
- Strong African American Families
- Student Assistance Program
- Too Good for Drugs
- Vaping Prevention Plus Wellness

# Funding

## Overall Funding



Chart data points:

Drug & Alcohol Prevention/Student Assistance Programs (teal line):
- FY 15/16: $639,109
- FY 16/17: $668,647
- FY 17/18: $842,875
- FY 18/19: $1,469,499
- FY 19/20: $1,946,823
- FY 20/21: $1,696,032
- FY 21/22: $1,872,000
- FY 22/23: $3,276,233

Mental Health Student Assistance Programs (purple line):
- FY 15/16: $320,000
- FY 16/17: $317,953
- FY 17/18: $320,053
- FY 18/19: $350,514
- FY 19/20: $427,470
- FY 20/21: $480,000
- FY 21/22: $697,614
- FY 22/23: $734,165

● Drug & Alcohol Prevention/Student Assistance Programs: Total Funding FY 22/23: $3,276,233

● Mental Health Student Assistance Programs: Total Funding FY 22/23: $734,165*

*Includes other initiatives including: program evaluation costs, teacher-led initiatives, and the College Project. Montgomery County Awarded Grants to Support Crisis Services and SAP (montco.today)

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Mini-grants given to 3 mini-grantees totaling **$30,000**

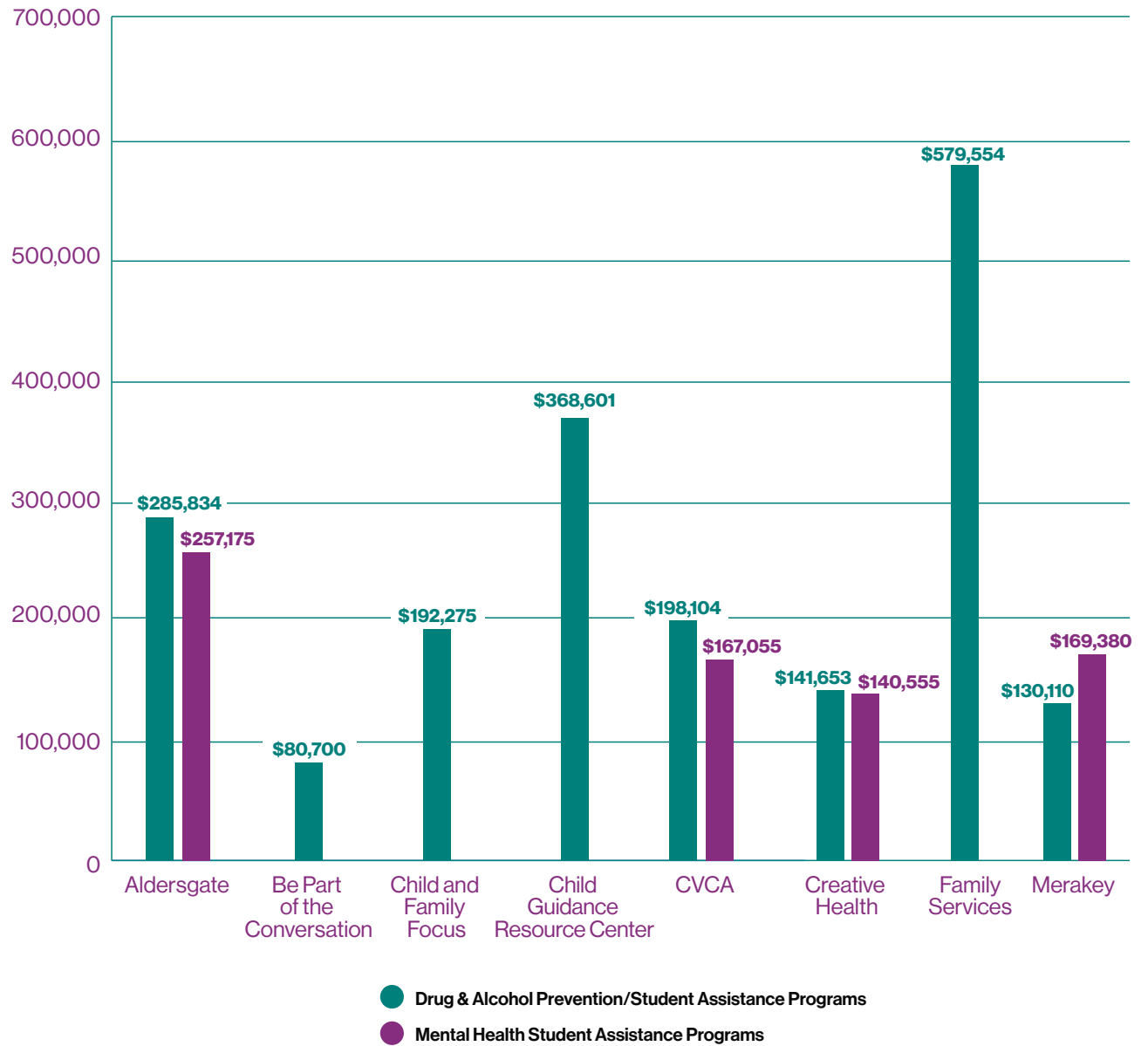| **2** | **2** | **3** |
|---|---|---|
| Private Schools | Coalitions | Nonprofits |

Art classes at a community center, **3** drug & alcohol prevention programs, **2** mental health promotion programs, **1** event for athletes and coaches on substance use prevention, **1** community club for youth, **1** event during prevention week

# Funding

## Funding by Agency & Services



Chart: Funding by Agency & Services (y-axis from 0 to 700,000)

| Agency | Drug & Alcohol Prevention/Student Assistance Programs | Mental Health Student Assistance Programs |
|---|---|---|
| Aldersgate | $285,834 | $257,175 |
| Be Part of the Conversation | $80,700 | |
| Child and Family Focus | $192,275 | |
| Child Guidance Resource Center | $368,601 | |
| CVCA | $198,104 | $167,055 |
| Creative Health | $141,653 | $140,555 |
| Family Services | $579,554 | |
| Merakey | $130,110 | $169,380 |

**Legend:**
- ● Drug & Alcohol Prevention/Student Assistance Programs
- ● Mental Health Student Assistance Programs

# Program Findings

## Too Good for Drugs

**"Alcohol can change the way a person walks, talks, and thinks."**

At pre-test,

**55%** true

At post-test,

**89%** true

**"Smoking marijuana makes the heart beat faster."**

At pre-test,

**44%** true

At post-test,

**71%** true

**"Tobacco can hurt the heart and lungs."**

At pre-test,

**73%** true

At post-test,

**89%** true

## CATCH My Breath

At pre-test,

**72%** of students correctly indicated that most e-cigarettes contain nicotine.

At post-test,

**92%** of students correctly identified this fact as true.

At pre-test,

**45%** of students correctly identified the following statement as false: "E-cigarette vapor contains mostly water."

At post-test,

**81%** of students correctly identified this statement as false.

On average, students agreed that they are less likely to vape after participating in CATCH My Breath.

## Signs of Suicide

At pre-test,

**52%** of students correctly identified that depression is an illness doctors can treat.

At post-test,

**71%** of students identified this statement as true.

At pre-test,

**62%** of students correctly identified the following statement as false: "If I talk to someone about their suicidal feelings, it may give them the idea to kill themselves."
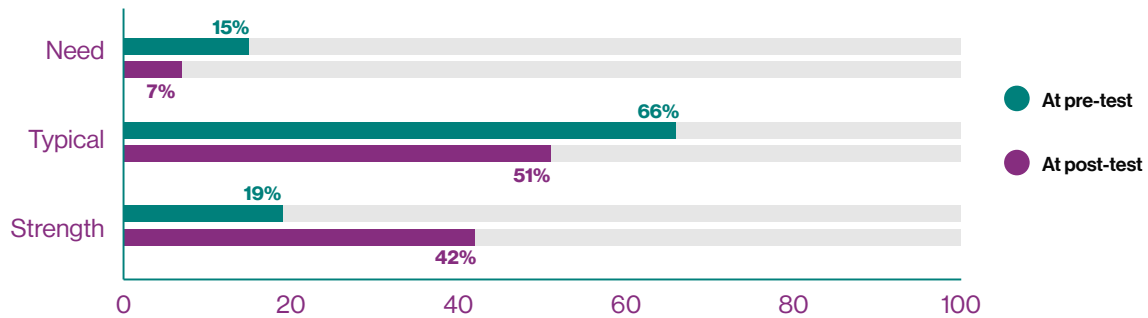
At post-test,

**84%** of students identified this statement as false.

## Second Step

### DESSA

The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) is a strengths-based measure of social-emotional behaviors related to resilience, social-emotional competence, and school success for children in kindergarten through 8th grade.[1] This data represents DESSA-Mini results for students in grades kindergarten through 2nd grade.

**After participating in the Second Step program, 42% of children scored in the strength range.**



## Life Skills

| At pre-test, | At pre-test, | At pre-test, |
|---|---|---|
| **54%** of students correctly identified that a good way to refuse something is to be assertive. | **69%** of students correctly identified that risk-taking can be impacted by drug or alcohol use. | **67%** of students correctly indicated that smoking cigarettes can cause mouth cancer. |
| At post-test, | At post-test, | At post-test, |
| **73%** of students correctly identified that skill. | **87%** correctly identified this fact. | **95%** of students correctly identified this fact. |

### Additional data reported last year from:

**Be Part of the Conversation Parent Forums**

**4** Youth Aid Panel Volunteer trainings

**1** Substance Use Prevention training

**Youth Marijuana Prevention Project**

**4** trainings reaching

**145** Key Participants

**1** Training for Montgomery County Superintendents on latest trends

Who Knew Campaign –

**59,108** parents and students engaged through the virtual campaign

## Parent Evidence-Based Programs

**20** non-evidence-based programs

**676** parents reached

**9** Strengthening Families cohorts

**17** Guiding Good Choices cohorts

**9** Strong African American Families cohorts

**3** Familias Fuertes cohorts

**803** parents total across all programs

## Community Prevention

**Alcohol EDU:**

**636** students across **5** high schools

**Girls on the Run:**

**1,203** girls impacted

**Mock Teen Bedroom:**

**4** reaching **62** parents

**Tip sheets for parents:**

**924** tip sheets distributed

**Social host takeout bag:**

over **2,400** takeout bags distributed

## Coalition Support

**55** hours of Technical Assistance

**11** countywide coalition meetings including **4** local coalitions

## SAP

**Drug & Alcohol SAP Group:**

**813.25** hours reached

**864** students reached

**MH SAP Group**

**1,097.75** hours reached

**1,093** students reached

**Individual Support Services (aka MH3):**

**2,526.25** hours reached

**1,691** students reached

**SAP Services**

**497** SAP Screenings

SAP Team Maintenance Trainings reached
**76** school personnel

## Provider Support

**11** Provider Trainings

**42** Provider Coaching Sessions

## Teacher/School District Support

**13** Teacher Trainings in evidence-based programs, **32** Teacher Coaching Sessions, **10** classroom management trainings

**40** hours of technical assistance for strategic planning using the PAYS data

PA SAP trains school staff to identify alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues that act as barriers to students' success. The primary goal of SAP is to help students overcome barriers, remain in school, and advance academically.

Once students are referred to SAP, they complete a screening to assess domains such as drug and alcohol use, suicidal ideation, trauma, and other mental health issues. Community or school-based referrals are generated from the screening results. SAP Liaisons meet in-person with students, parents, and school staff; they also attend SAP Team meetings. For more information, email: SAP@montgomerycountypa.gov

## Endnotes

1    Naglieri, J.A., LeBuffe, P. A., & Shapiro, V. B. (2014). DESSA-Mini: Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) K-8th Grade: A universal screening and progress monitoring system for social-emotional competencies. Charlotte, NC: Devereux Foundation.