



2023–2024

# Prevention Programming and Evaluation Findings

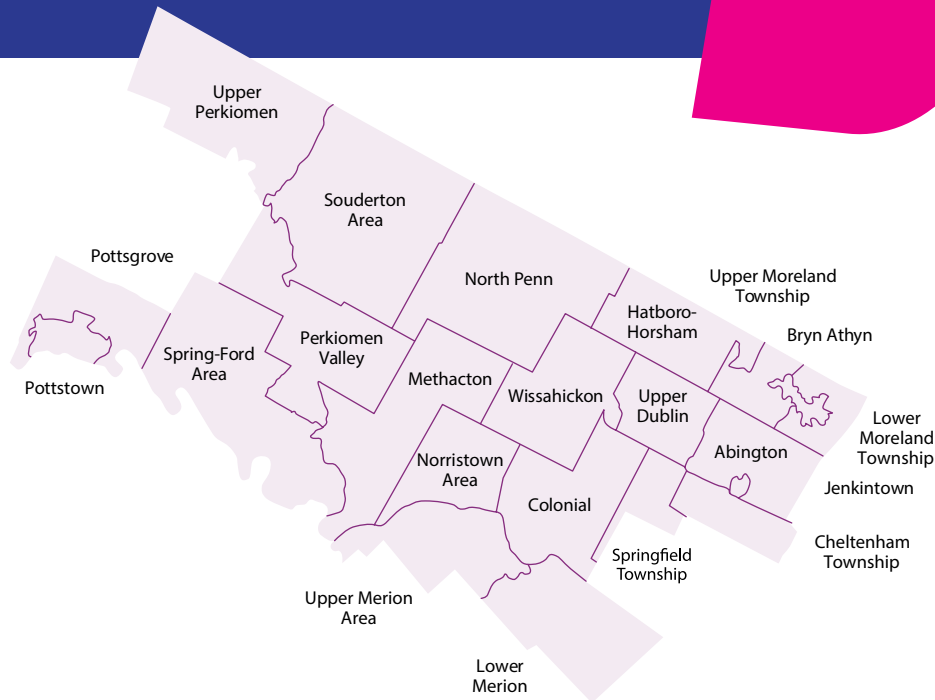
The data reflected in this report highlights important information about the scope of data collection and key findings for a selection of Montgomery County's evidence-based programs provided in schools during the 2023–24 school year.

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 prevention 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](mailto:SAP@montgomerycountypa.gov)

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



22,165  
surveys completed

18,109  
students reached

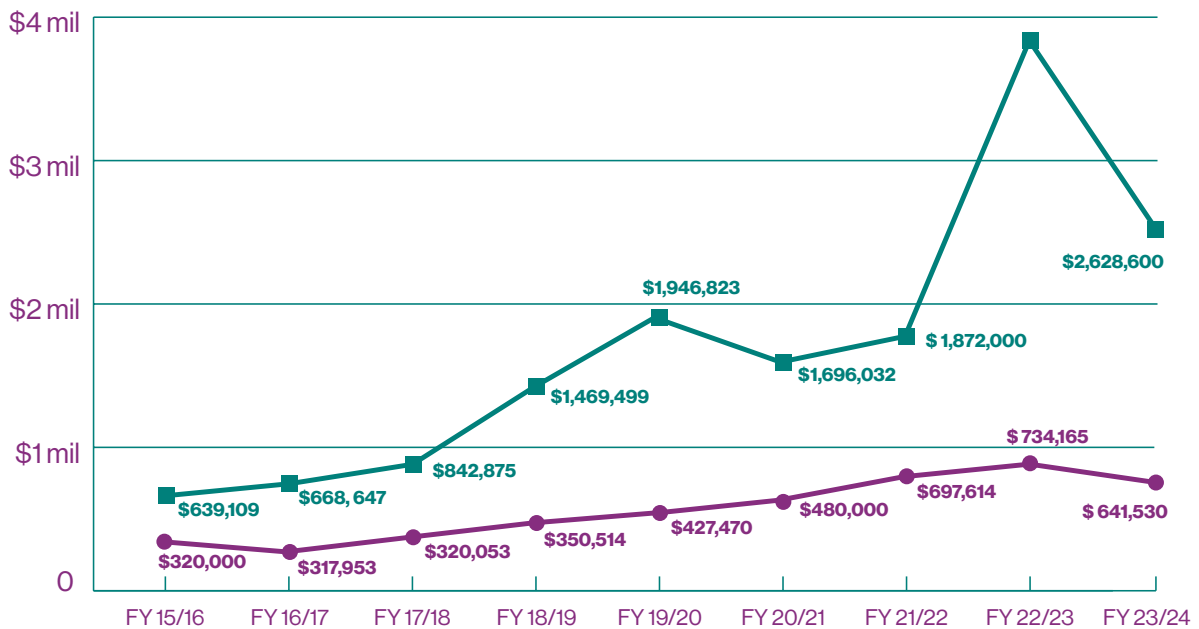
1,356  
parents reached

## 11 Programs Implemented

- Botvin LifeSkills Training
- CATCH My Breath
- DESSA Mini
- Families Fuertes
- Guiding Good Choices
- Second Step
- Signs of Suicide
- Strengthening Families 10-14
- Strong African American Families
- Too Good for Drugs
- Vaping Prevention Plus Wellness

# Funding

## Overall Funding



- Drug & Alcohol Prevention/Student Assistance Programs: Total Funding FY 23/24: \$2,628,600\*
- Mental Health Student Assistance Programs: Total Funding FY 23/24: \$641,530

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

**23** mini grants awarded totaling **\$78,610**

**8**  
Nonprofits

**8**  
Shool districts

**3**  
Libraries

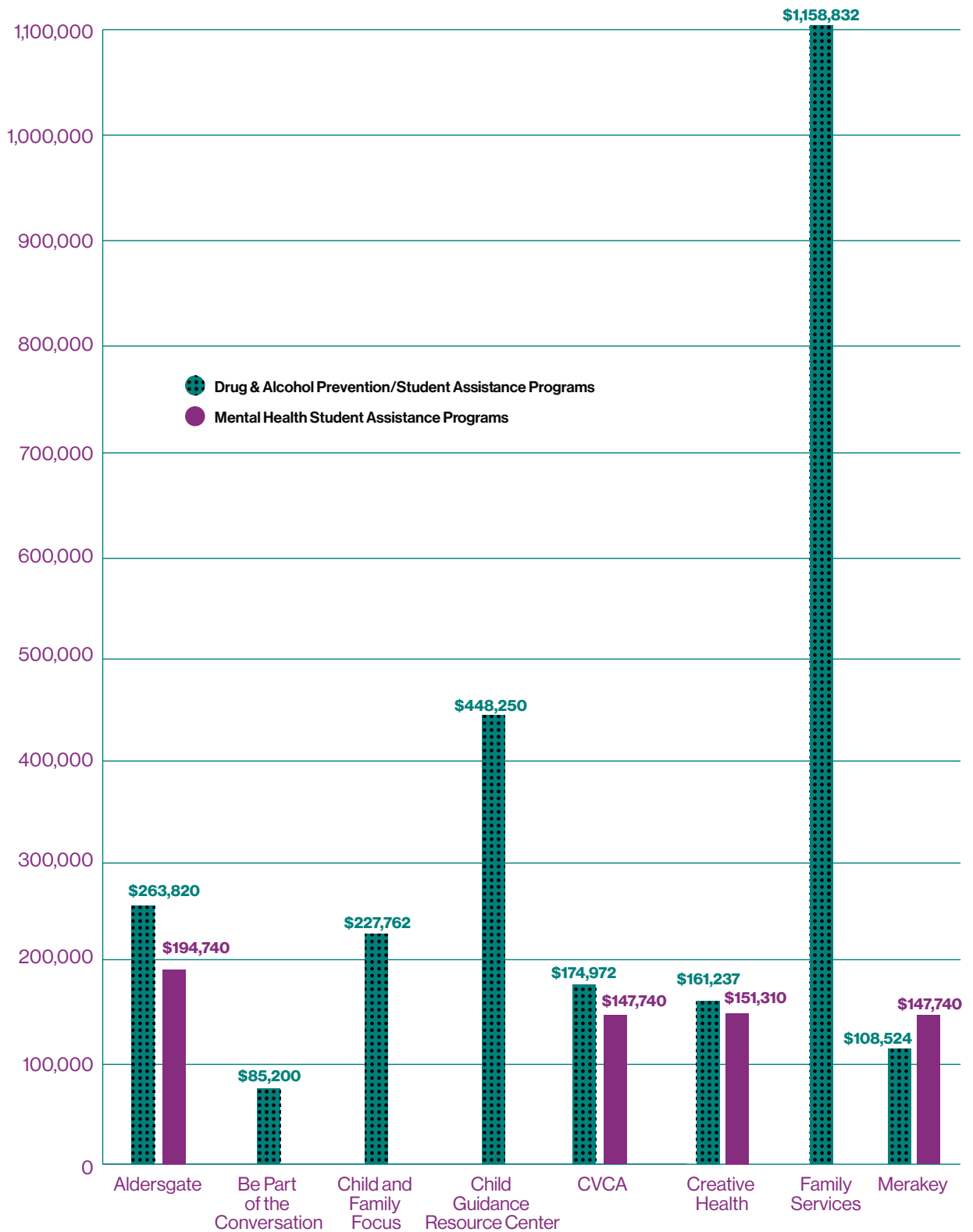
**2**  
Boroughs

**2**  
Police departments

Funded activities included: after school activities for youth in a variety of locations, educational workshops, trainings, youth leadership development, and meditation/mindfulness/yoga for youth and adults.

# Funding

## Funding by Agency & Services



# Program Findings

## Too Good for Drugs

After participating in Too Good for Drugs, **47% of students correctly identified the body parts affected by smoking**, compared to 11% at pre-test.



After participating in Too Good for Drugs, **91% of students correctly indicated that using marijuana could cause you to forget things**, compared to 71% at pre-test.

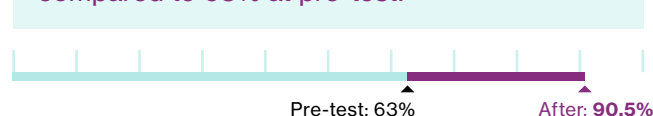


## CATCH My Breath

After participating in CATCH My Breath, **97.8% of students correctly indicated that nicotine can change the way your brain works**, compared to 92% at pre-test.

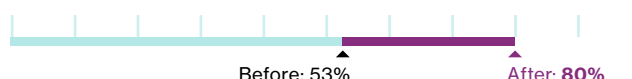


After participating in CATCH My Breath, **90.5% of students correctly indicated that advertisements about e-cigarettes are meant to make young people use them**, compared to 63% at pre-test.

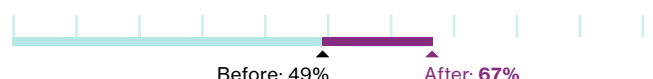


## Signs of Suicide

After participating in Signs of Suicide, **80% of students correctly identified that most suicide attempts do not occur without warning signs**, compared to 53% at pre-test.



After participating in Signs of Suicide, **67% of students correctly identified that depression is an illness that doctors can treat**, compared to 49% at pre-test.

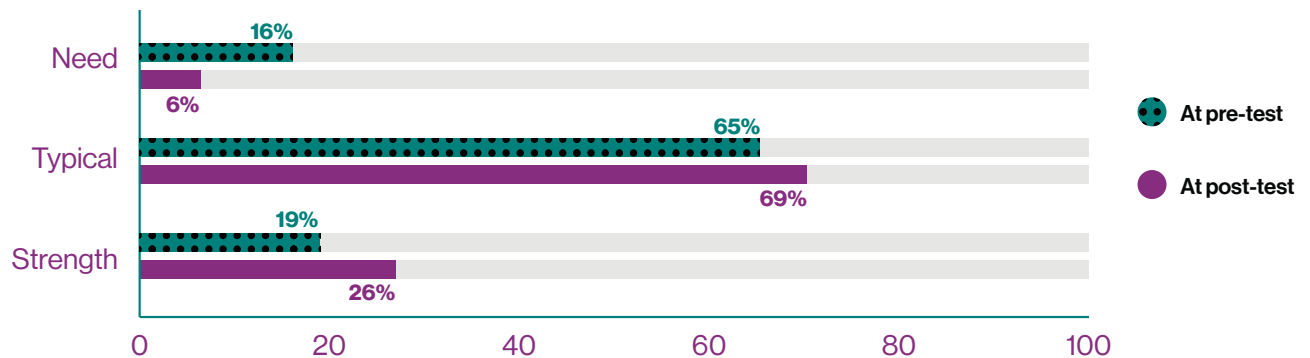


## Second Step

### DESSA

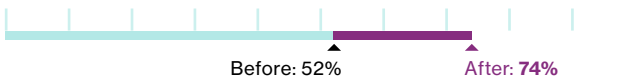
The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) is a strengths-based measure of social-emotional behaviors related to resilience, social-emotional competence, and school success for children in kindergarten through 8th grade.<sup>1</sup> This data represents DESSA-Mini results for students in grades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

After participating in the Second Step program, 26% of children scored in the strength range.



### LifeSkills

After participating in LifeSkills, **74% of students correctly identified that stress can cause you to get sick**, compared to 52% at pre-test.



After participating in LifeSkills, **93% of students correctly identified that smoking cigarettes can cause mouth cancer**, compared to 67% at pre-test.



### Additional data reported last year from:

#### Be Part of the Conversation Parent Forums

**4** Youth Aid Panel Volunteer trainings

**7** Substance Use Prevention training

#### Youth Marijuana Prevention Project

**4** trainings reaching  
**120** Key Participants

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

Who Knew Campaign –  
**1,700** parents and students engaged through the virtual campaign

## Parent Evidence-Based Programs

**12** non-evidence-based programs

**795** parents reached

**12** Strengthening Families cohorts

**12** Guiding Good Choices cohorts

**4** Strong African American Families cohorts

**2** Familias Fuertes cohorts

**1,104** parents total across all programs

## Community Prevention

Girls on the run:

**1,400** girls impacted

Internet Free Family Nights:

**3** events reaching **154** family members

Mock Teen Bedroom:

**4** reaching **100** parents

Teen Senate:

**19** youth met **6** times and participated in **5** team building activities

Tip sheets for parents:

**924** tip sheets distributed

Social host take out bag

**>2,400** take out bags distributed

## Coalition Support

**52** hours of Technical Assistance

**10** countywide coalition meetings including  
**7** local coalitions

## SAP

### Drug & Alcohol SAP Group:

**532.25** hours reached

**596** students reached

### MH SAP Group

**1,161.75** hours reached

**1,434** students reached

### Individual Support Services (aka MH3):

**2,087.50** hours reached

**983** students reached

### SAP Services

**388** SAP Screenings

SAP Team Maintenance Trainings reached

**81** school personnel

## Provider Support

**12** Provider Trainings

**41** Provider Coaching Sessions

## Teacher/School District Support

**12** Teacher Trainings in evidence-based programs, **59** Teacher Coaching Sessions,  
**10** classroom management trainings

**36** 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 student's 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 may complete a screening to assess domains such as drug and alcohol use, suicidal ideation, trauma, and other mental health concerns. 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](mailto: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.