



## Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting

City Hall, 697 Vista Ave, Page AZ  
April 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AGENDA

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the City of Page Substance Abuse Task Force and the general public that the Page Substance Abuse Task Force will hold a meeting open to the public in Page City Hall located at 697 Vista Avenue, Page, Arizona. Members of the Substance Abuse Task Force will attend either in person or virtually.

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Camilla Adams-Chair

Breanna Vega

Michael Barnes

Madison Kavaia

City Council Liaison, Mike Farrow

Ron Macdonald

Ricky Cottrell-Vice Chair

Bunny Cochran

**3. Minutes**

A. Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting Minutes — January 21, 2026

B. Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting Minutes — March 18, 2026

**4. Hear from the Citizens**

The public is invited to speak on any item or area of concern. Items presented during the Citizens portion which are not on the agenda, cannot be acted upon by the Substance Abuse Task Force. Individual members are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussing or considering the item among themselves unless the item is officially on an agenda.

**5. Reports**

A. Page Magistrate Court Update:

- Case Statistic and Treatment Court Program

B. Page Police Department Update:

- Substance Abuse Related Statistics and Programs

C. Canyonlands Healthcare Update:

- Substance Abuse Treatment Program and Trends

D. Catholic Charities Update:

- Case Statistics and Programs

E. Community Bridges, Inc. Update:

- Substance Abuse Related Statistics and Programs

F. Coconino County Health Update:

- Substance Abuse Treatment Programs and Trends
- Overdose Fatality Review Presentation

**6. Unfinished Business**

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to Freshmen Focus at Page High School

**7. New Business**

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to MPH Practicum by Brooke Whitethorne
- B. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to Establishing Guidelines for Loaning Impairment Goggles to Community Groups

**8. Adjourn**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Next Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Persons with disabilities should call the City of Page at 928-645-8861 for program and services information and accessibility.

If you would like to receive City Council and Board agenda notifications via email, please visit our public portal and sign-in or create an account to subscribe: <https://pageaz.portal.civicclerk.com/>.

**DISCLAIMER:** Agenda Items may be taken out of order. This agenda may be subject to change up to 24 hours prior to the meeting. Please see the local crier boards or our website at [cityofpage.org](http://cityofpage.org) for the current agenda.

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted at the following places: City Hall Bulletin Board located at 697 Vista Avenue, Page, Arizona; Justice Building Bulletin Board located at 547 Vista Avenue, Page, Arizona; U. S. Post Office Lobby located at 44 Sixth Avenue, Page, Arizona, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_ City of Page



**Substance Abuse Task Force  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force was held at 5:30 pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2026, in the Council Chambers at Page City Hall. Chair Camilla Adams presided. Vice Chair Rick Cottrell, Members Madison Kavaiya, Ron Macdonald, and Breanna Vega were present. Members Michael Barnes and Bunny Cochran were absent. City Council Liaison Mike Farrow was present.

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Staff members present: City Manager Frank Marbury, Administrative Assistant Sheri Ptacek, City Clerk Cindy Scott, and City Attorney Josh Smith.

**HEAR FROM THE CITIZENS**

Coconino County Health representatives Brook Whitethorne and Merle Begay provided an overview of substance abuse issues affecting local youth and discussed the locations where they will conduct outreach presentations.

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Board Presentation (City Clerk): City Clerk, City Scott, and City Attorney Josh Smith gave a presentation on Responsibilities, Conflicts of Interest, Roberts Rules, and Open Meeting Law

Page Magistrate Court Update: Not attended

Page Police Department Update: Assistant Chief Larry Jones provided information on youth alcoholism and drug abuse.

Canyonlands Healthcare Chair Adams gave an update on Devil Days and education on vaping at the school.

Catholic Charities Update: Not Attended

Encompass Health Update: Nyki Thomas provided demographics at Encompass, and the City Attorney gave an update on the Detox Facility.

Coconino County Health Update: Not Attended

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**City of Page Task Force Regular Meeting – January 21, 2026**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Sheri Ptacek, Staff Liaison

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Camilla Adams, Chair

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting, held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Sheri Ptacek Staff Liaison



**Substance Abuse Task Force  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force was held at 5:30 pm on the 18th of March 2026, in the Council Chambers at Page City Hall. Chair Camilla Adams presided. Members Michael Barnes, Bunny Cochran, Madison Kavaia, Ron Macdonald, and Breanna Vega were present. Vice Chair, Rick Cottrell, was absent. City Council Liaison was excused.

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Staff members present: City Manager Frank Marbury and Administrative Assistant Sheri Ptacek.

**HEAR FROM THE CITIZENS**

No Citizens addressed the Board

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Page Magistrate Court Update: No attendance

Page Police Department Update: No Attendance

Canyonlands Healthcare Chair Adams gave an update on Direct Services, Well Devil Days, and Parent Teacher Conferences

Catholic Charities Update: No Attendance

Encompass Health Update: Nyki Thomas provided demographics for Community Bridges, Inc.

Coconino County Health Update:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to the Page Attacks Trash Event.

Member Kavaia gave a presentation on Page Attacks Trash. Motion was made by Member Cochran to attend the Page Attacks Trash and purchase items to hand out. The motion was seconded by Member Macdonald and passed unanimously upon a vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

**City of Page Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting – March 18, 2026**

Sheri Ptacek, Staff Liaison

Camilla Adams, Chair

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting, held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Sheri Ptacek Staff Liaison

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT: YOUTH ALCOHOL USE AND MENTAL  
HEALTH GAPS IN PAGE, ARIZONA AND COCONINO COUNTY

Brooke Whitethorne  
Grand Canyon University  
PUB 660: Practicum

## Executive Summary

Youth substance use remains a significant public health concern across the United States. Alcohol continues to be the most commonly used substance among adolescents, with use increasing significantly during high school years (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2023; National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], 2024). In rural communities such as Page, Arizona, and the surrounding Coconino County region, youth face additional risk factors including geographic isolation, limited mental health services, and socioeconomic challenges (McLeroy & et al., 2003).

Data from the Arizona Youth Survey (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission [ACJC], 2024), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023), and local community health assessments indicate that adolescents in Coconino County report concerning levels of alcohol use, marijuana use, and mental health challenges. Additionally, youth suicide rates in the county exceed state and national averages, highlighting critical gaps in mental health prevention and treatment services.

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) (Coconino County Health and Human Services [CCHHS], 2024) examines youth substance use patterns, socioeconomic factors, and mental health indicators in Page and Coconino County. The findings suggest that coordinated community-based prevention efforts are necessary to address the intersection of youth alcohol use and mental health concerns. Establishing a youth substance use prevention coalition could provide education, early intervention, and improved access to mental health services for adolescents in the region.

## **Introduction**

Adolescent alcohol use remains one of the most prevalent public health concerns affecting youth in the United States. Early alcohol consumption is associated with increased risks of substance use disorder, mental health disorders, academic problems, and risky behaviors (Hingson & et al., 2006; Miller & et al., 2007). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023), alcohol is the most used substance among high school students.

Rural communities often face additional challenges related to substance use prevention, including limited access to behavioral health services, transportation barriers, and shortages of mental health professionals (McLeroy & et al., 2003). These barriers can contribute to higher rates of untreated mental health conditions and increased vulnerability to substance misuse. Page, Arizona, is located in Coconino County, a large rural region in northern Arizona. While the county contains a diverse population and strong community networks, the area has been identified as experiencing elevated rates of mental health concerns and substance use among youth.

This report examines available data on youth substance use, mental health indicators, socioeconomic conditions, and educational outcomes in order to identify gaps in services and inform prevention strategies.

## **Community Overview**

Page, Arizona is a small rural city located in northern Arizona near Lake Powell and the Navajo Nation. The community serves as a regional hub for tourism and local services. Coconino County is the second largest county in the United States by land area and includes both urban and rural populations (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024; Arizona Department of Health [ADHS], 2024). Due to the county's geographic size and rural communities, access to healthcare services,

particularly mental health services, can be limited for many residents (CCHHS, 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, 2024; & Arizona Department of Health [ADHS], 2024).

Key demographic indicators include:

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Page, AZ</b>	<b>Coconino County</b>
<b>Population</b>	~7,500	~145,000
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$79,521	\$67,266
<b>Poverty Rate</b>	12.3%	16.4%
<b>Uninsured Rate</b>	9.5%	13.8%

*Table 1. Socioeconomic factors of Page and Coconino County.*

Socioeconomic challenges such as poverty and lack of insurance coverage can significantly influence access to mental health and substance use treatment services.

### **Data Sources**

Data for this community health assessment were obtained from multiple national, state, and local sources. These included the Arizona Youth Survey (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2024), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Coconino County Health and Human Services Community Health Needs Assessment (2024). Additional demographic and socioeconomic information was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau (2024). These sources provide reliable surveillance data related to youth substance use, mental health indicators, and community characteristics.

### **Youth Substance Use Trends**

Substance use typically begins during adolescence, with alcohol serving as a gateway substance for many youth (Miller & et al., 2007). Data from the Arizona Youth Survey (Arizona

Criminal Justice Commission [ACJC], 2024) indicates that alcohol use increases substantially between 8th and 12th grade.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Alcohol Use</b>	<b>Marijuana Use</b>	<b>Prescription Drug Misuse</b>
<b>8th Grade</b>	12.9%	7.2%	3.4%
<b>10th Grade</b>	26.1%	15.9%	4.4%
<b>12th Grade</b>	41.7%	25.8%	6.5%

*Table 2. Youth Substance Use in Arizona.*

The data represented in Table 2 demonstrates that nearly half of Arizona high school seniors report alcohol use, illustrating the need for early prevention strategies. Research also shows that adolescents who begin drinking before age 15 are significantly more likely to develop alcohol use disorder later in life (Hingson & et al., 2006). National surveillance data from the CDC also shows that alcohol use among adolescents is associated with other risky health behaviors (Kann & et al., 2018).

### **Local Youth Substance Use Indicators**

Data from community health assessments suggest that youth in Coconino County may experience higher levels of substance use compared to state averages (CCHHS, 2024).

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Coconino County</b>	<b>Arizona</b>
<b>Youth Alcohol Use</b>	27.5%	20.2%
<b>Youth Marijuana Use</b>	23.4%	15.6%
<b>Youth E-cigarette Use</b>	20.5%	18.6%

*Table 3. Youth Substance Use in Coconino County.*

These findings suggest that targeted prevention programs may be necessary to address substance use behaviors among adolescents in the region.

## Mental Health Indicators

Mental health challenges among adolescents have increased nationwide in recent years. Depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation are major concerns for youth populations (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2023).

In Coconino County, the youth suicide rate is significantly higher than the national average (CCHHS, 2024).

<b>Region</b>	<b>Youth Suicide Rate (per 100,000)</b>
<b>Coconino County</b>	17.8
<b>Arizona</b>	14.5
<b>United States</b>	10.5

*Table 4. Youth Suicide Rates Comparison.*

The strong relationship between substance uses and mental health conditions highlights the importance of integrated prevention strategies (Catalano & et al., 2012). Adolescents experiencing depression or emotional distress are significantly more likely to engage in alcohol use and other substance use behaviors (SAMHSA, 2023).

## Educational Risk Factors

School engagement is an important protective factor for adolescent health. Truancy and school disengagement are associated with higher risks of substance use and mental health concerns (Mason & et al., 2016).

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Truancy Rate</b>
<b>8th</b>	12%
<b>10th</b>	14%

<b>12th</b>	12%
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*Table 5. Truancy Rates by Grade. Source: Arizona Youth Survey (ACJC, 2024).*

Truancy patterns among middle and high school students in Arizona show relatively consistent rates across grades, with slightly higher rates during the transition into high school, a period identified as particularly vulnerable for youth development (ACJC, 2024; Mason & et al., 2016).

### **Key Risk Factors Identified**

Several risk factors contribute to youth substance use in the region:

- Limited access to behavioral health services
- Rural geographic isolation
- Poverty and economic stress
- Limited youth prevention programs
- Mental health stigma
- School disengagement and truancy

### **Protective Factors**

Despite these challenges, the community also possesses important strengths:

- Strong school systems
- Community organizations and youth programs
- Tribal and cultural networks
- Community interest in prevention initiatives

These strengths provide a foundation for community-based interventions. Family-based prevention strategies can also strengthen protective factors and reduce substance use risk among adolescents (Prado & et al., 2007).

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this assessment, several recommendations are proposed.

**1. Establish a Youth Substance Use Prevention Coalition**

- a. A coalition composed of schools, healthcare providers, community leaders, and youth organizations could coordinate prevention efforts and community education. Community coalitions that involve schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations can reduce youth substance use and improve prevention outcomes (Komro & et al., 2013).

**2. Expand Youth Mental Health Services**

- a. Increasing access to counseling, telehealth mental health services, and school-based mental health programs would help address service gaps.

**3. Implement Evidence-Based Prevention Programs**

- a. Programs such as LifeSkills Training and Communities That Care have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing adolescent substance use (Hawkins & et al., 2009; Spoth & et al., 2008).

**4. Strengthen School-Based Prevention**

- a. Schools can provide education on substance use, coping skills, and mental health awareness (Mason & et al., 2016).

**5. Increase Community Awareness**

- a. Community education campaigns can help reduce stigma surrounding mental health and encourage early intervention.

**Limitations**

This assessment is based primarily on secondary data sources and publicly available reports. As a result, some indicators may not reflect the most recent local trends or may not

capture all subpopulations within the community. Additionally, county-level data may not fully represent conditions specific to the city of Page. Future assessments may benefit from primary data collection such as community surveys, focus groups, or stakeholder interviews to provide more localized insights.

### **Conclusion**

Youth alcohol use and mental health challenges represent significant public health concerns in Page, Arizona, and the surrounding Coconino County region. Data from national, state, and local sources indicate that adolescents face multiple risk factors related to substance use, mental health conditions, and socioeconomic stressors.

Addressing these issues will require coordinated community action involving schools, healthcare providers, community organizations, and families. Prevention programs that focus on early intervention, school engagement, and mental health support have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing substance use among adolescents.

Establishing a youth substance use prevention coalition could provide a collaborative framework for implementing evidence-based strategies, expanding access to behavioral health services, and improving long-term health outcomes for youth in the community.

## References

- Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. (2024). *Arizona youth survey*.  
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- Arizona Department of Health Services. (2024). *Arizona health status and vital statistics annual report*. <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/ahs/>
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- Spoth, R., Trudeau, L., Shin, C., & Redmond, C. (2008). Long-term effects of universal preventive interventions on methamphetamine use. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, 162*(9), 876–882.
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- U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). *QuickFacts: Coconino County, Arizona*.  
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/coconinocountyarizona>

# Youth Wellness & Alcohol Prevention Partnership

Stakeholder Meeting – City of Page  
Brooke Whitethorne, MPH Candidate  
Grand Canyon University

# Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Identify shared concerns around youth alcohol use
- Review local youth substance use data
- Introduce the Youth Alcohol Prevention Practicum Project
- Hear perspectives from community partners
- Explore opportunities for collaboration
- Begin forming a stakeholder partnership

# Community Introductions

Please share:

Your name

Your organization or role

One hope you have for youth in our community

# Northern Arizona Community Context

Large rural geography

Limited access to behavioral health services

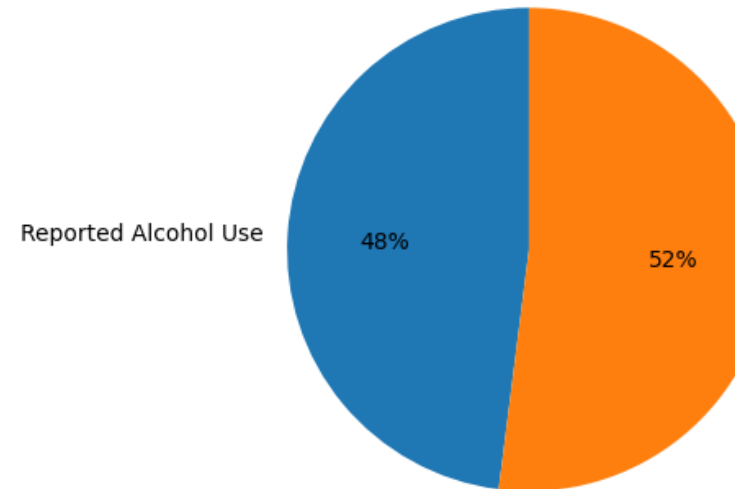
Communities spread across vast distances

Diverse tribal and rural populations

# Youth Alcohol Use Trends

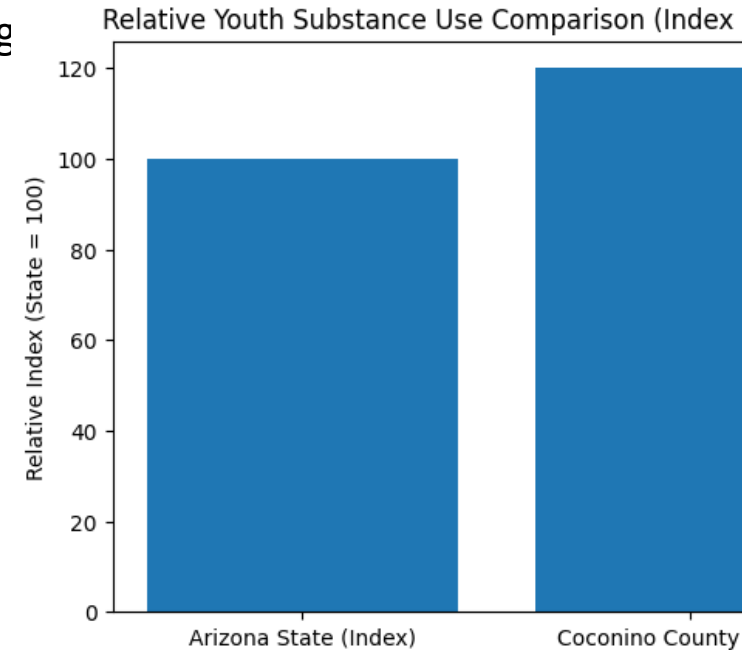
Nearly half of high school seniors report alcohol use  
Early alcohol use increases risk for later substance use  
Prevention efforts are critical during adolescence

High School Seniors Reporting Alcohol Use (



# Local Community Impact

Youth substance use in Coconino County is reported high  
Mental health challenges are linked to substance use  
School engagement can be a protective factor



# Community Strengths

Strong school systems

Cultural and tribal networks

Community organizations

Local government support

Interest in prevention

# Youth Alcohol Prevention Practicum Project

Community-driven prevention approach

Youth engagement and education

Stakeholder collaboration

Evidence-based prevention strategies

# Community Prevention Framework

Assess community needs

Build partnerships

Implement prevention strategies

Evaluate outcomes

# Conversation Café Discussion

What challenges affect youth in our community?

What prevention efforts already exist?

What opportunities exist for collaboration?

# Engaging In-Person and Online Participants

MS Teams participants can share thoughts in the chat

A facilitator will monitor online comments

Online participants may join discussion groups virtually

# Building the Stakeholder Team

- Join the stakeholder partnership
- Share community insights and data
- Participate in prevention activities
- Support youth engagement initiatives

# Next Steps

- Compile discussion insights
- Share meeting summary with partners
- Schedule next stakeholder meeting
- Begin planning prevention strategies

# References

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. (2024). Arizona Youth Survey.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). Strategic Prevention Framework.