In an effort to further protect the rights of our youth in Addison County to remain substance free, we have created this Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP) Guide to assist in creating alcohol policies prioritizing public health and safety and youth alcohol prevention.
“Our team of prevention experts believe in the health, education, and future financial stability for our youth through increasing protective factors while reducing risk factors. When students are healthy and happy they can make informed decisions that will have positive, lasting impacts on their future and the future of the community that they live in.”
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What’s a MAP?

Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP)

Outlines the safe, appropriate use of alcohol on municipally-owned or managed property, places, spaces and events.

Positive Impacts

Decreases:

- underage access to alcohol
- injuries and hospital visits
- impaired driving incidents
- demand on security and police resources
- costs to taxpayers
- legal risks for local government
Along with this new approach to food pick up was the shift in access to alcohol with curbside cocktail pick up. In an effort to keep the economy as healthy as possible the state of Vermont has allowed restaurants to sell alcohol in take-out form, yet arguably the sacrifice of public health was put at more risk."

-Jesse Brooks
Director of Prevention UWAC
"Curbside Cocktail: What’s The Harm"

Governor Phil Scott signed a directive to allow for delivery and curbside pickup of unopened alcohol.

18% Of Addison County High School students reported riding with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. (Past 30 days) 2019 YRBS
Increased access to alcohol and other substances

Heightened youth risk factors

The following factors can directly impact youth, and create serious health and social consequences within a community:

- Decreased perception of harm
  - Youth access to alcohol
- Increased youth alcohol consumption
  - Increased social norms
- Decreased supervision relating to curbside cocktail pickup
  - Inconsistency in ID checks
  - Increased drinking and driving

24% of Addison County students started or increased using alcohol after the pandemic began.

50%...Of Addison County students don't think it's wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol.

*2020 Vermont Young Adult Survey*
Being proactive concerning alcohol consumption and access can also greatly reduce the risk of drunk driving accidents among adults. Alcohol-impaired driving crashes still account for one-third of all traffic-related deaths in the United States.

Annual cost of alcohol-related crashes (US): Over $51 billion

186
People were killed in crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver in Vermont from 2009-2018

Prevention Saves. (Money Too)

When a community sets standards for health and safety, it saves money.

Focusing on public health can lower costs associated with Health Care, Criminal Justice, and Lost Productivity.
Writing a vision statement concerning substance use is vital to assure public health and safety, and protect public property. By making prevention an objective on a municipal level, we can more effectively lower youth risk factors and substance use.

A vision statement describes the municipalities purpose, what it's striving for, and what it wants to achieve.

Elements of a MAP

The following should be included when creating a MAP:

- Regulation of Alcohol Availability
- Controlling Alcohol Pricing
- Ensure Community Safety
- Marketing and Advertising Limitation
- Preventing and Reducing Drinking and Driving
- Advocate for Prevention Based Alcohol Policies
Next, a specific example of an alcohol ordinance in Vergennes (Left) that prohibits open containers on City property or in a vehicle on City property. A prime example of how a perfectly effective ordinance is compromised by curbside cocktails and should be addressed in necessary amendments.

The Jericho Town Plan has an entire section based on Community Health. In this excerpt (Right) it states the importance of preventative actions against advertising and sales as it relates to young people in the community.

**Decide Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs**

"People who are more active are less likely to use tobacco, drugs, or alcohol. Keeping youth away from these products stops unhealthy habits before they can start. Tobacco use is the leading cause of early death in the United States and in Vermont. Jericho can support residents in choosing not to use tobacco through establishing tobacco free public spaces, such as public parks and town property. Outdoor community and public events such as farmer’s markets, fairs and festivals can set a good example for youth by choosing to be tobacco, electronic vapor product, and alcohol-free. The town may consider limits to the advertising and sale of these products to prevent substance use among young people..."

**-2019 Jericho Town Plan**
Section 12 Healthy Community

1. No person shall have in their possession an open container containing any malt or vinous beverage, or spirits, or alcohol while on City property or in any vehicle located on City property unless a permit has been issued specifically authorizing the possession of malt or vinous beverage, or spirits, or alcohol on city property...
Prevention Inclusive Policy

Alcohol policy is important, but when it comes to staying proactive, consider including other substances when writing municipal policies. **ACT 164** will allow the production and sale of cannabis in Vermont.

**Possible Community Impact:**

- Decreased perception of harm
  - increase of access
- Increased use among youth
  - Increased social norms
- Increased driving under the influence

The following should be included when creating Cannabis policies:

- Age restrictions
- Public use limitations/allowance
- Packaging requirements
- Sale hours
- Zoning restrictions
Prevention Inclusive Policy

Negative Effects of Alcohol and Cannabis on Brain Functions and Driving Skills

- Speed (too fast)
- Lane departures
- Poor hand-eye coordination
- More risk-taking behavior
- Alcohol Only

- Car following (not maintaining proper distance)
- Speed (too slow/maintaining consistent speed)
- Delayed braking
- Cannabis Only

"Some users think that driving under the influence of cannabis is without risk. This is not true. Many users perceive the risks and subsequently overcompensate when driving while high."

-Cannabis: The Current State of Affairs CADCA
It’s within these statements that we urge municipalities to reflect, as public health is at risk when increased access to substances are available.
While talking about prevention is a great start, getting involved is an even better way to gain knowledge about key community prevention efforts. One way to do so, is joining a local prevention based coalition like Partners Educating and Empowering Prevention for Success or P.E.E.P.S.

**P.E.E.P.S.** is made up of many local community sectors such as youth, parents, non-profits, volunteer organizations, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, policy makers, youth serving organizations, Vermont Department of Health, Department of Liquor Control, and more. Connecting with community partners within prevention based coalitions will more effectively reduce risk factors within a community.
"We hope this guide can act as a touchstone resource for each municipality in Addison County. In joining coalitions and gaining further knowledge of prevention tactics, we can work together to be proactive in our substance free initiatives. We are encouraging cities and townships to include prevention in planning and put the rights of our youth to maintain substance free in the forefront of policy."

-Tim O'Toole Prevention Coordinator
U.W.A.C.
Resources:

United Way of Addison County Prevention

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - SAMHSA

Directive 4: State of VT

CADCA- Cannabis: The Current State of Affairs

Youth Risk Behavior Survey - YRBS

2020 Addison County Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use