

## Did you know....

- Cannabis use is higher in Neptune compared to the rest of Monmouth County.
- Neptune Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Monmouth County for treatment admissions for Marijuana among individuals ages 18-25.
- NHS students reported that marijuana is the most used substance among youth in Neptune.
- 32% of teens thought driving under the influence of marijuana was not dangerous; only 12% thought the same of driving under the influence of alcohol.
- 1 in 10 cannabis users will become dependent. That number rises to 1 in 6 for those who start in their teens. The dependency risk jumps to 25-50% for those using daily.
- 13 is the average age of first time drug & alcohol use. 9 out of 10 addictions started use in the teen years.
- National trends show that in 2024 & 2025: 9% of eighth graders, 18% of 10th graders, and 44% of 12th graders have used marijuana, alcohol, or nicotine substances.
- Nicotine vaping remained stable among all grades, with 9% of eighth graders, 14% of 10th graders, & 20% of 12th graders reporting use in the past year.
- When students believe their parents hold more permissive attitudes toward drinking they report more frequent heavy episodic drinking & more negative alcohol-related consequences.

## Did you know....

- Drug use is associated with sexual risk behavior, experiencing violence, and mental health and suicide risks.
- Protective Factors that help buffer youth from risky behaviors, including substance use include: Parent or family engagement, Family support, Parental disapproval of substance use, Parental monitoring, and School connectedness.

### LOCAL RESOURCES

Information & Referral:  
Monmouth County Division of  
Behavioral Health:  
732-431-6451

Hotlines:  
24-hour Confidential Service  
Addictions Hotline of NJ:  
1-800-238-2333  
Meridian Behavioral Health,  
Neptune, NJ:  
732-643-4400

Self-Help Groups:  
Smartrecovery.org  
Alcoholics Anonymous:  
<https://www.nnjaa.org/> or <https://area45snjaa.org/>  
Narcotics Anonymous:  
1-800-992-0401

Jersey Shore Addiction Services  
732-988-8877

Prevention Coalition of Monmouth  
County (PCMC)



# NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE MISUSE

25 Neptune  
Boulevard  
Neptune  
732-869-1202

Talking to your kids about their activities 15 minutes a day reduces their likelihood of using marijuana by 67%.



Governor's  
Council on  
Substance  
Use  
Disorder

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## Vision & Mission

The vision of the Neptune Township Municipal Alliance is a healthy community free of the misuse of substances.

The mission for the Neptune Township Municipal Alliance is to promote wellness, healthy choices, and prevent substance use/misuse through a collaborative community effort.

We welcome you to join us in our community prevention efforts.

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## 2026 Alliance Meeting Dates

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**January 27—1pm**

**March 24—1pm**

**May 19—1pm**

**August 25—1pm**

**October 20—1pm**

**December 8—1pm**

**Meetings are currently held via Zoom**

Alliance meetings are open to the public.  
(Schedule subject to change)  
Please join us!

<https://neptunetownship.org/departments/municipal-alliance>

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## About the Alliance

The Municipal Alliance program began in New Jersey in 1989, to provide a statewide, comprehensive, and coordinated effort to prevent substance misuse. Neptune Township Municipal Alliance works in conjunction with the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD), the Monmouth County Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and the Prevention Coalition of Monmouth County (PCMC). Our Alliance is funded by GCSUD, matching township funds and in-kind services, as well as local fundraising efforts.

The Neptune Township Municipal Alliance works to increase awareness among all Neptune residents about the harmful effects of misusing cannabis, alcohol, nicotine, opioids, and other drugs. We work closely with the Township Committee, Board of Education, Police Department, and Emergency Medical Services. In addition, we've built strong relationships with other local entities, such as the Prevention Coalition of Monmouth County, Prevention First, Wellspring, Embright Education, HMH Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Jersey Shore Addiction Services, NJ Counter-Drug Task Force, and local organizations, to help spread meaningful substance misuse prevention messages.

As our local data supports, youth marijuana & alcohol use are our most targeted issues. Join us in a community-wide effort to combat the perception of low risk surrounding youth using these (and other) substances.

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## 2026 Alliance Efforts

**Alliance Elementary Program** - an age-appropriate exploration of choices, tools, and boundaries for elementary age students in the Neptune public school system.

**Recreation Prevention Program** - run jointly through Neptune Recreation & the Neptune Municipal Alliance, this summer camp program for youth 6-12 is infused with age-appropriate, evidence-based prevention messages.

**Student Assistance Prevention Program** - geared toward Neptune middle and high school students, this program focuses on the 40 developmental assets, and incorporates evidence-based programs such as Don't Get Vaped In & Athletes and Wellness.

**L.E.A.D.** - Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence utilizes the evidence-based curricula Too Good for Drugs, with Neptune Police offering 5<sup>th</sup> grade students 10 sessions addressing substance misuse, drug-related crimes, bullying and violence while promoting law enforcement services. L.E.A.D. helps students build self-confidence needed to make healthy choices & achieve success.

*Also, please look for us at:*

- **National Night Out (August)**
    - **Neptune Day**
    - **Cops vs. Kids Games**
  - **Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs**
  - **Community & School Events**
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