



Wayne County Recovery Coalition

March 2025 Newsletter

About Our Coalition:

The mission of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC) is to improve the health and safety of individuals and families in Wayne County through comprehensive, community-wide strategies that reduce and prevent youth and adult substance use, assure treatment services are available and accessible for all, and promote long-term recovery for everyone. WCRC was initially formed in 2019 when a task force was developed to look into the rising number of ER visits related to drug misuse and overdose deaths due to opioids in Wayne County. In September of 2023, the WCRC was awarded a Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP) grant to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

Partners in Wayne County are uniting in health, safety, and well-being: Anchored, Boys and Girls Club of the Altamaha Area, City of Odum, City of Screven, Coastal Pines Technical College, Drug Court, Family Connections, Forward Digital Marketing, Jesup Police Department, Life, Inc., Mother's Against Substance Abuse, Press Sentinel Newspaper, Safe Kids, Shane's Crib, Share Health Southeast Georgia, Wayne County School System, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Southeast Health District, and St. Simons by the Sea. By combining resources and support as partners in prevention, Wayne County will become a safe and healthy place for youth and families to thrive and live life substance free.

Adulthood Day at Wayne County High School

Anchored was invited to present at Wayne County High School's Adulthood Day 2025 on February 5th. Renee Bolin, WCRC Project Coordinator, had the privilege of representing WCRC and Anchored at the event. Her presentation focused on healthy relationships, with particular emphasis on two key areas that are crucial for our young adults:

1. Understanding and Setting Boundaries
2. The Five Levels of Trust That Exist in Our Social Circles

A total of 148 students participated in the Healthy Relationships station, with each session lasting 30 minutes. The participation was excellent, with students actively engaging in the material. This opportunity allowed Renee to connect with local students, providing them with practical tools they can use in their daily lives and sharing valuable insights about maintaining healthy relationships as they transition into adulthood.



Upcoming Events:

- **Wayne County Recovery Coalition Meeting**

Location: Anchored Conference Room

March 11th, 2025 | 9:30 am

Location: Sam Dryer Community Center

April 15th, 2025 | 9:30 am

- **Memory Cafe, Life, Inc.**

Location: 213 W JL Tyre Street Screven, GA 31560

March 11th, 2025 | 1:00pm-3:00pm

- **Wayne County Family Connection Meeting**

Location: 367 Bamboo St. Jesup, GA 31545

March 25th, 2025 | 9:30 am

April 22nd, 2025 | 9:30 am

- **Be Kind to Your Mind 5k Run & Walk**

Save the Date: May 10th



March is Vaping Awareness Month: Protecting Youth from Vaping Risks

Vaping has rapidly become a major health concern, especially among young people. Many youth are drawn to e-cigarettes because they are often marketed as a "safer" alternative to smoking. However, e-cigarettes still pose significant health risks, and their use among teens continues to rise. March is **Vaping Awareness Month**, where the aim is to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping and provide resources to help young people quit.

The brain is the last organ in the human body to fully develop with research stating that brain development continues until the early to mid-20s. Nicotine exposure during periods of significant brain development, such as adolescence, can disrupt the growth of brain circuits that controls attention, learning, and susceptibility to substance use disorder. Many e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive.

The effects of nicotine exposure during youth and young adulthood can be long-lasting and can include lower impulse control and mood disorders. The nicotine in e-cigarettes and other tobacco products can prime young brains for substance use of other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamine. Let's work together to curb the vaping trend and protect the health of Wayne County youth.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services





2025: Year of the Youth

On February 21st, Anchored had the honor of attending a special event hosted by the City of Screven, alongside other members of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition including Family Connection, the Chamber of Commerce, and Share Health Southeast Georgia. The city dedicated the Screven Veterans Memorial Garden and officially proclaimed 2025 as "The Year of the Youth"!

"All young children and their families across the country and in Wayne County, Georgia, deserve access to high-quality early drug education and quality care." Anchored is committed to this mission by providing awareness, education, and services that support the well-being and future of our youth. We are incredibly grateful for the leaders, counselors, partnerships, and community support that make it possible!

Here's to an intentional year investing in a brighter future for the next generation!

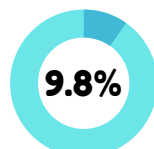


National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW)

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW), observed this year on March 17-23, is an annual initiative aimed at educating youth on the science of substance use and its effects on health. This week-long observance provides young people with evidence-based information to help them make informed choices and better understand the risks associated with substance use.

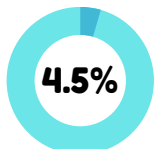
Drug and Alcohol Facts in Wayne County

30 Day Use



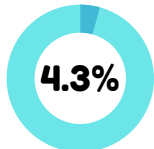
Alcohol:

During the 2023-2024 school year 420 Wayne County 10th grade students responded to the Georgia Student Health Survey, in which 9.8% reported usage in the past 30 days



Prescription Drugs:

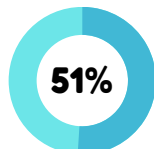
During the 2023-2024 school year 420 Wayne County 10th grade students responded to the Georgia Student Health Survey, in which 4.5% reported usage in the past 30 days



Tobacco:

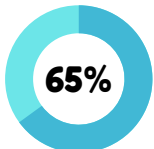
During the 2023-2024 school year 420 Wayne County 10th grade students responded to the Georgia Student Health Survey, in which 4.3% reported usage in the past 30 days

Perception of Risk



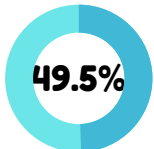
Alcohol:

During the 2023-2024 school year 420 Wayne County 10th grade students responded to the Georgia Student Health Survey, in which 51% reported moderate or great risk for alcohol use.



Prescription Drugs:

During the 2023-2024 school year 420 Wayne County 10th grade students responded to the Georgia Student Health Survey, in which 65% reported moderate or great risk for prescription drug use.



Tobacco:

During the 2023-2024 school year 420 Wayne County 10th grade students responded to the Georgia Student Health Survey, in which 49.5% reported moderate or great risk for tobacco use.



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SOUTHEAST GEORGIA



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<https://www.waynecountyrecovery.com>



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