

Youth Substance Use Capacity Assessment Summary: Central Virginia

To aid in understanding the capacity for an increase in services for youth substance use across the state, OMNI consulted experts from each region of Virginia. These experts, representing various sectors of the adolescent substance use system of care, completed a survey asking about their perceptions of existing gaps within the youth substance use system of care and opportunities for growth. Further, these workgroup members participated in an in-person facilitated meeting where they were presented with current data and asked to reflect on their perceptions. Workgroup members who were unable to attend the meeting either participated in a follow-up Zoom meeting or provided written feedback. This document provides a summary of the survey results and workgroup discussions for the Central Virginia region.

Gaps and Barriers

Recovery Services are an Unknown Need

Stigma, lack of dedicated leadership, and low resources stifle the growth of intervention and recovery supports.

Stigma and Limited Resources Deters Help-Seeking

Stigma and limited resources, particularly in BIPOC and communities that have been historically marginalized, reduce families' willingness to seek help.

Lack of Detox and Other Youth-Directed Services

No youth detox services exist in Central Virginia and current services cater to adults.

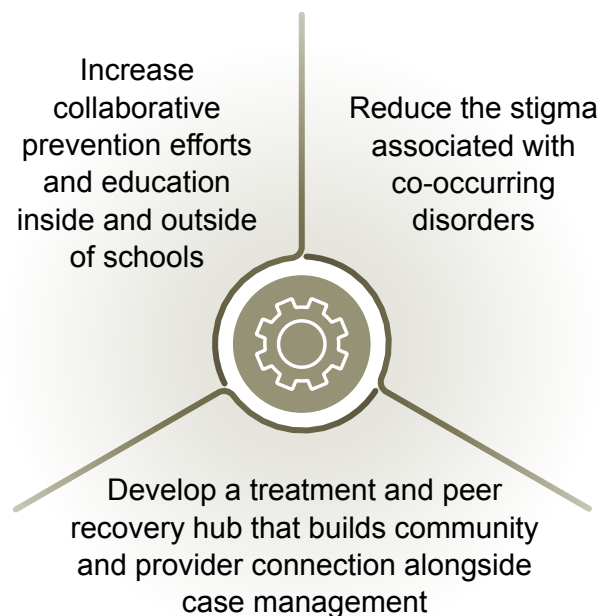
Limited Education on Youth Substance Use

Providers, youth, and families all need further education on youth substance use. A lack of leadership and resources keep education from being a priority.

Regional Strengths



Key Opportunities for Change



Youth Substance Use Capacity Assessment Summary: Eastern Virginia and Tidewater

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Gaps and Barriers



Lack of Detox and Recovery Services

Detox is unavailable and recovery services for youth are limited, which requires families to travel outside of the area for help.



Intergenerational Substance Use

Participants perceive that intergenerational substance use is high in the region and reduces the ability to identify an issue as well as the willingness to seek help.



Stigma Related to Substance Use and Treatment

Stigma, particularly in marginalized communities, deters some youth and their families from seeking treatment, recovery, and other services.



Lack of School Buy-In for Substance Use Education

Schools are limited in time and resources in all areas, so the time or capacity to incorporate prevention education may be low.

Regional Strengths

Local CSBs have knowledge to tailor treatment options and meet people where they are

Providers are closely connected with local universities which strengthens their voice



The Child Services Act is working well and just needs the resources to connect with more families

Key Opportunities for Change

Increase state Medicaid coverage to support youth substance use services

Build an interconnected support system that walks youth and their families through the treatment and recovery process



Educational campaigns that target stigma and intergenerational substance use

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Gaps and Barriers

Lack of Detox and Inpatient Treatment Services

No detox and few inpatient options exist for youth due to a lack of resources to assist in growth.

Lack of Culturally Responsive Practices

Education and treatment practices overlook the experiences of marginalized communities and do not account for their negative experiences with the medical system.

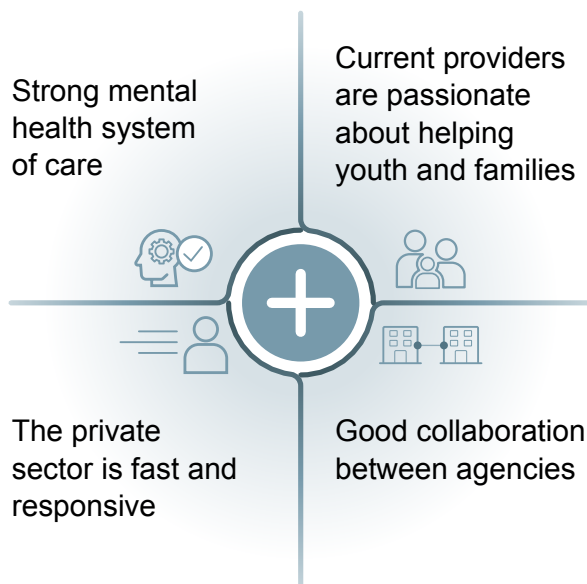
Low Support for Harm Reduction

Stigma, lack of dedicated leadership, and low resources stifle the growth of harm reduction supports.

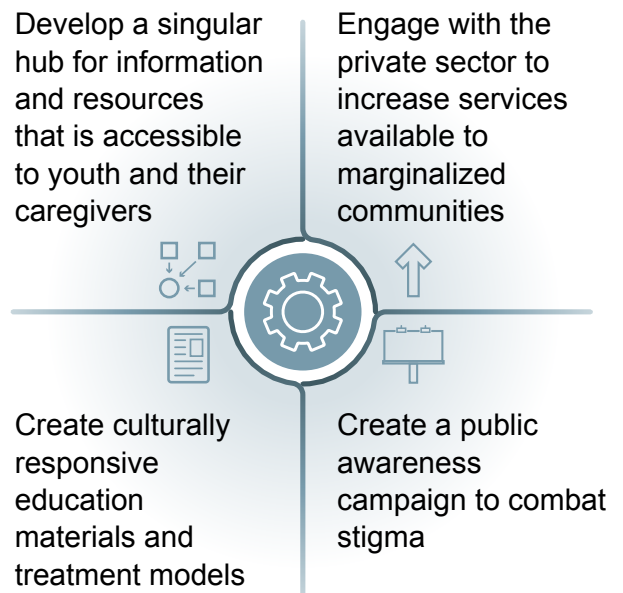
Fear of Providing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Providers are concerned that they will be prosecuted or punished for providing MAT to youth under 16.

Regional Strengths



Key Opportunities for Change



Youth Substance Use Capacity Assessment Summary: Shenandoah Valley

To aid in understanding the capacity for an increase in services for youth substance use across the state, OMNI consulted experts from each region of Virginia. These experts, representing various sectors of the adolescent substance use system of care, completed a survey asking about their perceptions of existing gaps within the youth substance use system of care and opportunities for growth. Further, these workgroup members participated in an in-person facilitated meeting where they were presented with current data and asked to reflect on their perceptions. Workgroup members who were unable to attend the meeting either participated in a follow-up Zoom meeting or provided written feedback. This document provides a summary of the survey results and workgroup discussions for the Shenandoah Valley region.

Gaps and Barriers



Lack of Transportation

Services within the region are limited and families face additional transportation issues that reduce their ability to access the services that are available both inside and outside of Shenandoah Valley.



Lack of Inpatient/Outpatient Services

Current service offerings are limited, and a lack of leadership and resources has slowed their development.



Intergenerational Substance Use

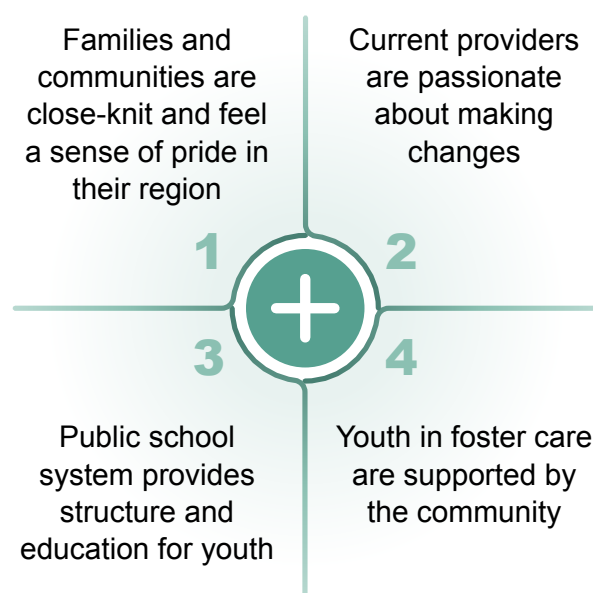
Participants perceive that intergenerational substance use, influenced by a historical lack of services, normalizes use and reduces the likelihood of seeking help.



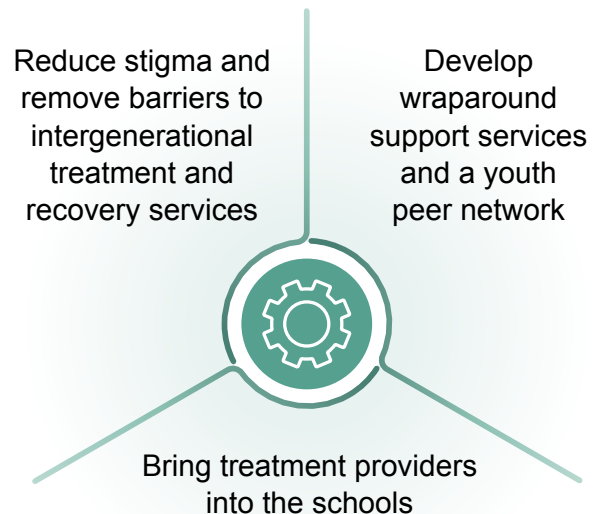
Lack of Social Worker/Mental Health Providers

Co-occurring disorders may be a major driver of substance use in the area, but supportive service providers are limited.

Regional Strengths



Key Opportunities for Change



Youth Substance Use Capacity Assessment Summary:

Southwestern Virginia

To aid in understanding the capacity for an increase in services for youth substance use across the state, OMNI consulted experts from each region of Virginia. These experts, representing various sectors of the adolescent substance use system of care, completed a survey asking about their perceptions of existing gaps within the youth substance use system of care and opportunities for growth. Further, these workgroup members participated in an in-person facilitated meeting where they were presented with current data and asked to reflect on their perceptions. Workgroup members who were unable to attend the meeting either participated in a follow-up Zoom meeting or provided written feedback. This document provides a summary of the survey results and workgroup discussions for the Southwestern Virginia region.

Gaps and Barriers



Changes in Medicaid Billing

Changes to Medicaid billing have reduced providers' willingness to provide services for youth.



Lack of Peer Recovery Providers

Peer Recovery Services are nearly non-existent in the region and youth who seek such services are often placed with adults, leading to complications regarding support and understanding of the youth's needs.



Lack of Detox and Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders

No detox facilities exist in the region and a lack of mental health providers reduces the ability to serve those with co-occurring disorders.



Intergenerational Substance Use

Participants perceive that intergenerational substance use is high in the region and reduces the ability to identify an issue as well as the willingness to seek help.

Regional Strengths

Current diversion programs have assisted in connecting youth with services

Some schools have a strong desire to support prevention efforts



Community members feel a sense of pride for their region and want to strengthen the area

Key Opportunities for Change

Create culturally responsive education that addresses intergenerational substance use

Address transportation, internet, and other resource barriers



Develop a treatment network that caters specifically to youth and is separate from adults

Youth Substance Use Capacity Assessment Summary: Virginia Statewide

To aid in understanding the capacity for an increase in services for youth substance use across the state, OMNI consulted experts from each region of Virginia. These experts, representing various sectors of the adolescent substance use system of care, completed a survey asking about their perceptions of existing gaps within the youth substance use system of care and opportunities for growth. Further, these workgroup members participated in an in-person facilitated meeting where they were presented with current data and asked to reflect on their perceptions. Workgroup members who were unable to attend the meeting either participated in a follow-up Zoom meeting or provided written feedback. This document summarizes the information provided in each region's survey and workgroup discussions to provide an overview of the capacity of the Commonwealth of Virginia to increase services for youth substance use.

Gaps and Barriers

Lack of Detox, Inpatient, and Outpatient Treatment Services

Changes to Medicaid billing have reduced providers' willingness to provide services for youth.

No Regional or Centralized Support Hubs

Many families are often unaware of the treatment and recovery services that do exist in their region or the surrounding areas. This causes difficulties in identifying youth-centered services and is a barrier to seeking help.

Stigma Related to Substance Use and Help-Seeking

Stigma, particularly in historically marginalized, rural, and low-income communities reduces willingness to seek help.

Resource-Related Barriers

Many families struggle with transportation, access to the internet, insurance, and other support services which reduces their ability to access available services.

Overall Strengths



Key Opportunities for Change

