

HCC



Hernando Community Coalition
A Behavioral Health Partnership

Contact Info

Office Phone: 352-596-8000

Email: info@hernandocommunitycoalition.org

Website: www.hernandocommunitycoalition.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HCCADC

Instagram: www.instagram.com/hernandocoalition/



The HCC serves as a convener of community sectors including youth, parents, schools, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, government agencies, and more, who work in partnership to better the health of youth and families through the prevention of substance misuse and supporting emotional and behavioral health awareness.

The HCC membership is comprised of the Board of Directors, the General Membership, Youth Groups, and sub-groups who work on issue specific objectives. Membership includes both individuals and those who represent their respective organizations and businesses.



Our Mission is to serve as a collective voice for Hernando County residents working towards the health and wellness of community members, with a focus on youth substance abuse.

The HCC utilizes **SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework** to develop data backed logic models and strategic plans of action to target local factors and conditions contributing to behavioral health issues.

Coalition Goals

- Increase Community Collaboration
- Reduce and Prevent Youth Substance Use
- Reduce and Prevent Substance-Related Problems

HCC Executive Board

Janice Smith - Chairman
Hernando County School District

Sandra Marrero - Vice Chairman
BayCare Behavioral Health

Maureen Soliman, R.N. - Secretary
People Helping People

Jennifer Gotts - Treasurer
SunTrust Bank

Tresa Watson - Executive Director

We **EDUCATE - SUPPORT - ADVOCATE - IMPROVE COMMUNITY CONDITIONS**

Substance use, addiction, poor emotional health, and mental illness take a toll on individuals, families, and communities. Hernando County, like many areas in the country where poverty is high and resources and opportunities are limited, has not escaped the series of social issues plaguing youth and communities today such as school dropout, crime, overdose, violence, and even death resulting from behavioral health issues.

We Have Made Change!

The HCC was formed in 2003 as a task force when school district staff learned that Hernando students had some of the highest rates of alcohol and tobacco use in the State. The work of the HCC is funded through grants or contracts (mainly State or Federal resources), through small foundation awards or donations, and by the in-kind resources of community partners. Since incorporating in 2004 as a separate entity to focus on substance-related problems, the HCC partners have made significant progress reducing youth substance use.

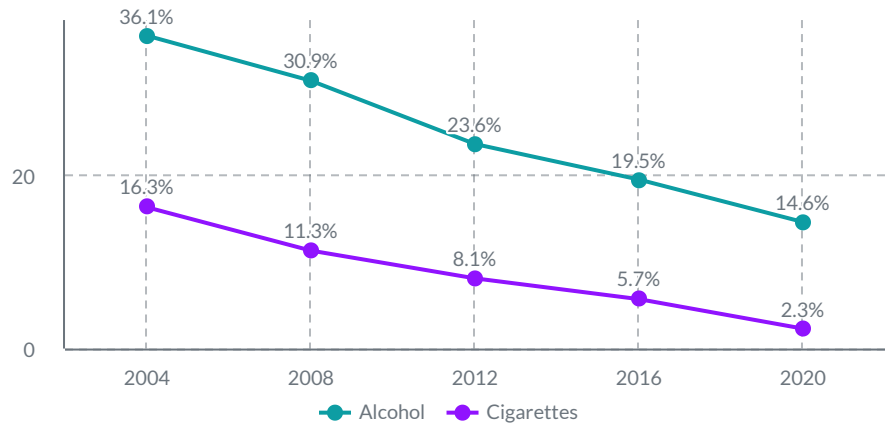


HCC was named CADCA's National Coalition of the Year in 2016 for our outcome-based work.

Percent of Hernando County Middle and High School Students (Ages 11-17) Who Reported Past 30-Day Use of Alcohol or Cigarettes, 2004 to 2020

We have seen a **60%** reduction in past 30-day alcohol use and an **86%** reduction in past 30-day cigarette use reported among Hernando County students aged 11 to 17 in 2020 compared to 2004!

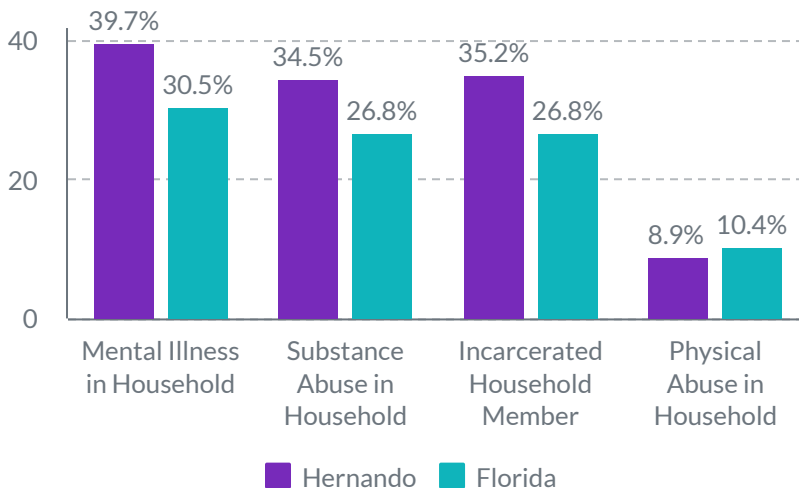
Source: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)



Current Threats Include...

Despite the considerable strides, challenges remain such as new drug threats, socioeconomic factors, and policies and norms supportive of substance use, **leaving much work still to do.**

Hernando County High School Students Report a high rate of Adverse Childhood Experiences in their homes.



Sources: FYSAS, Hernando County Schools, FL Dept. of Health, FL Dept. of Law Enforcement

Vaporizers

The use of electronic devices for vaping nicotine and marijuana has skyrocketed among Hernando youth. In the 2016/17 school year, there were 16 student violations for vaping nicotine. In the 2020/21 school year, there were 507 vaping violations, a percentage increase of 3,069%! Additionally, 97 violations were for vaping marijuana.

Rx and Other Opiates

In 2020 in Hernando County, there were 208 non-fatal opioid and heroin involved ER visits and 93 hospitalizations.

An estimated 48+ babies per year in Hernando County are treated for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) based off 3-year averages, of which 3 per year are babies born to teen mothers.

Learn about our current HCC projects here: www.hernandocommunitycoalition.org