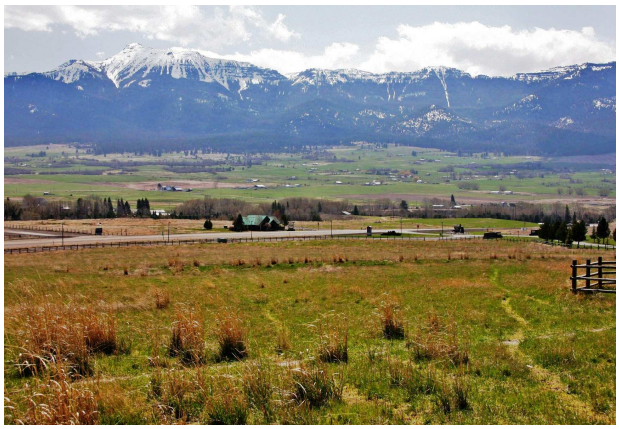
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention: Promoting healthy lifestyles, families, communities



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TADA (Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) Youth Prevention Coalitions

"None before 21"™ Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign

Wallowa County Reducing Underage Drinking Task Force

Wallowa County Local Alcohol & Drug Planning Committee-Mental Health Advisory Council Joint Committee (LADPC-MHAC)

Annual Northeast Oregon Prevention Conference

Prevention in Wallowa County

All across the country, adults are concerned about healthy development of young people. In searching for answers to the behavior problems of alcohol and other drug abuse, delinquency, violence, school drop out, and teen pregnancy, researchers have shown there are number of **risk factors** that increase the chance of adolescents developing health and behavior problems and there are **protective factors** that give youth resilience to problems. Oregon supports county and tribal governments in their strategic plans to prevent alcohol and drug abuse.

Wallowa Valley Together Project, Inc. (WVTP) is a non-profit organization responsible for the coordination and delivery of prevention services for Wallowa County. WVTP provides direct services to all ages and populations throughout all of Wallowa County.

WVTP employs multiple strategies to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention across all ages and populations. These strategies include prevention education in the schools and communities, information dissemination, community mobilization, environmental and social strategies, policy changes, and community strategies.

In addition, WVTP provides services and programs for problem gambling prevention, suicide prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, violence and bullying prevention, and media safety.

Some prevention education curricula WVTP provides include *Strengthening Families Program 10-14; Protecting You, Protecting Me; No Bullying; STARS (Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex)*; *Steps to Respect;* and *Life of an Athlete*.

With input from TADA youth coalition members, WVTP developed the "None before 21"™ underage drinking prevention campaign in early 2006 and it has grown ever since.

Wallowa County Suicide Prevention Steering Committee

Wallowa County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council

Wallowa County Juvenile Crime Prevention Steering Committee

Wallowa County Victims Impact Panel Advisory Board

With elements for youth, parents, retailers, alcohol vendors, lodging establishments, local businesses, and the general public, "None before 21"™ has been a very successful compliment to the other prevention strategies implemented in Wallowa County. The campaign is now being used in at least nine other counties in Oregon as well as in Washington, Idaho, California, South Dakota, Montana, and New York.

WVTP hosts a regional prevention conference in October each year designed to bring current and relevant information to those in the prevention field and their colleagues. With the unique challenges and barriers facing rural and isolated communities, it is vital to provide affordable, accessible high-caliber training. Presenters at past conferences have include trainers from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), John Underwood of the American Athletic Institute, instructors from Oregon's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), Nigel Wrangham, and Eric Martin.

Beginning in 2005, WVTP and TADA worked to create a survey instrument to be used locally to measure youth attitudes, use and perceptions of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use as well as other high risk behaviors. Development of the Youth Alcohol Attitudes and Use Survey was completed in 2006 and administered locally to youth in grades 8-12 in all public school districts in Wallowa County. The survey has now been administered for three consecutive years, providing critical local data. Assistance in the design of the instrument has been provided by PIRE's Prevention Research Center. Survey information and results for 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 are available on our website.

http://www.wvtp.org/dataandsurveys.htm