

Youth Opioid Prevention

A CALL TO ACTION



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE NORTH VALLEY
Serving Butte & Glenn Counties



60%

of substance users
aged 15-24 started
using between 11
and 15 years of age.

The Epidemic

The abuse and overdose of opioids have reached epidemic levels. When looking at opioid use and overdose deaths, statistics show Northstate counties are among the highest percentage in the state. Between 2012-2014, the Butte County Coroner's Office reported that 126 people died from opioids. In fact, Butte County's circulation of opioid prescriptions is three times the national average, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; with over 1,300 prescriptions per 1,000 residents.

As the opioid epidemic within our communities becomes pervasive, youth increasingly become the unintended victims. The traumatic experience of growing up within a family and community where substance use is prevalent disrupts a young person's ability to thrive. The associated adverse experiences, such as childhood abuse and neglect, put our young people at increased risk for substance use and other behaviors that lead to negative outcomes in adulthood. In order to combat this epidemic, greater investments in prevention must be made.

communities are exposed to more child abuse, neglect, poverty, stress, family alcohol or drug abuse and incarceration. With these alarming statistics our local Clubs are uniquely positioned to disrupt the cycle of addiction and abuse by providing a high quality youth experience that employs key evidence-informed prevention strategies as its universal approach.

BGCA's Opioid Prevention Goal:

Provide improved social & emotional resilience for all youth by enhancing high quality youth development practices, risk prevention practices and messages in programs.



Our Boys & Girls Clubs hours are from 2pm to 6pm daily. We are open during a time of day when youth are most likely to get involved in high-risk activities and when juvenile crime escalates.

Opportunity

Today, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley operates 10 Clubs serving nearly **2,000 youth** each year every day after school and in the summer. Our Clubs represent a cross-section of Butte and Glenn Counties with 5 school-based Clubs, 4 Stand Alone Clubs, and 1 flagship Club within Juvenile Hall. 70% of the youth we serve live in poverty, 59% live in single and non-traditional households, and 42% reported they relied on social services.

Over **1,400** youth in our area are recognized as homeless, **24%** are labeled food insecure and our region has a public health crisis with more individuals experiencing adverse childhood experiences when compared to other counties in our state; meaning children in our



Driving Solutions

Boys & Girls Club's are in the best position and ready to implement effective substance abuse prevention strategies which include:

- Creating meaningful opportunities to build Social & Emotional Development Skills, specifically, self-regulation, communication, emotional awareness, healthy decision-making, self-efficacy, and healthy peer and adult relationships.
- Using a trauma-informed approach that realizes the widespread impact of trauma, and responds with fully integrated trauma-informed practices, policies and procedures which combats the effects of trauma.
- Creating high-yield, small group opportunities that allow youth to develop a sense of emotional safety, peer support, trust & transparency, collaboration, and leverage youth choice and voice.
- Implementing a prevention program and activities that are developmentally responsive and address all forms of substance use.
- Engaging families intentionally within the Club, and creating strong community partnerships to support youth and families with needs beyond the scope of the Club.

To Learn More and Become a Sponsor contact Rashell Brobst, Chief Executive Officer rbrobst@bgcnv.org