

PROJECT

AMP

AMPLIFYING  
OUR  
FUTURES

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## Project Amp Update:

### National Prevention Network Conference

Project Amp Mentor Saabi Markar and Deputy Project Director Laura Winn presented at the National Prevention Network Conference in Anaheim, CA in September, discussing preliminary findings and lessons learned from implementation during the pilot study (see picture above). Stay tuned as we complete data collection, share our results, and launch a website with guidance, training, and resources to support Project Amp in your community.

## RESOURCES

### [Facing Teen Substance Use](#)

Doctors Scott Hadland and Sarah Bagley make the case for greater prevention and treatment resources specifically for adolescents.

### [SBHCs on the Front Lines](#)

Alexa Eggleston of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation advocates for a focus on substance use prevention and early intervention in school-based health clinics.

### [Best Starts for Kids in King County, WA](#)

This national model for multi-level prevention and early intervention integrates prevention programming for children, parents, schools, and wider communities.

### [Getting the RT in SBIRT Right](#)

Read about a recent randomized trial that compared adolescent referral to treatment outcomes across pediatricians, embedded

## Engaging Youth in Substance Use Prevention: Q&A with Michael Miller, Young People in Recovery (YPR)

Michael Miller is the Communications and Chapters Director with [YPR](#), a national chapter-based organization promoting recovery-ready communities across the United States. In this role, he partners with [the Center for Social Innovation for Project Amp](#) and another Conrad N. Hilton Foundation-supported initiative, Youth Engagement Strategies and Support (YESS). Below, Michael shares his thoughts on the importance of engaging youth and young adult peers in designing and delivering substance use services.

### Can you describe how you became involved with YPR?

I became involved shortly after entering recovery. The organization offered me the opportunity to become an advocate for myself and join a larger network of recovery advocates across the country. I volunteered with the Denver YPR chapter, then eventually joined the national team as a Chapter Coordinator.

### What is the potential impact of peer-delivered services on mitigating substance use and enhancing recovery?

When I was a teenager and developing a substance use disorder, I was not going to engage with someone who wasn't a peer or maybe an individual a little older than me, who I could potentially look up to. Scare tactics from prevention programs I'd participated in had weakened my trust in individuals delivering prevention services.

I often consider the quote "be the person you needed when you were younger" when I'm thinking about prevention. I needed another young person to talk with about substance use and mental health while encouraging me to be the person I wanted to be.

### From what you've seen, how are young people getting involved as change agents, peer supporters, and leaders in substance use prevention and recovery initiatives?

I believe young people are leading the way in activism and advocacy. They have an ability to reach and organize their peers in ways we couldn't have dreamed of even ten years ago. Utilizing technology and challenging the status quo will be a crucial component of any shift in the way we address substance use and other mental health disorders. Youth and young adults are the best at both.

### In your opinion, why is youth engagement important in substance use prevention work, and what can be done to further engage youth in advocacy, program planning, or service delivery?

behavioral health clinicians, and usual care.

### [Enhance your SBIRT Capacity](#)

The BIG Initiative provides information on the latest research-based best practices related to SBIRT and coordinates national efforts to advance SBIRT. Check out their website for webinars, training videos, and multi-disciplinary online courses.

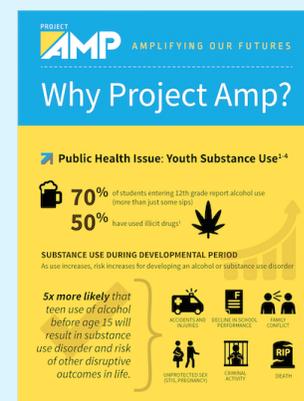


### [Archived Updates](#)

Check out archived email updates from Project Amp.

### [Why Project Amp?](#)

Download the infographic and share it with colleagues.



Youth engagement is important because often, drug use is initiated in adolescence. When we have open and honest dialogue with youth around prevention and recovery, it becomes much more likely that those young people will make healthier decisions or know where and how to reach out if they're struggling.

To meaningfully engage youth we have to truly value and honor the youth perspective. That means implementing ideas, programming, or services developed in partnership with youth if that is who we are trying to reach. We need to get away from developing services with "youth in mind." The best way I've seen youth engagement is to provide the space for them to engage with each other.

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