

# FINGER LAKES

## PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER



**Finger Lakes Prevention Resource Center**

**National Council  
on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence**  
*Rochester Area*

1931 Buffalo Rd ■ Rochester, NY ■ 14624  
[www.ncadd-ra.org](http://www.ncadd-ra.org)

This report was developed by the FL PRC to provide an overview of the needs and resources within the 12 counties covered by the FL PRC. This was a collaborative effort by the FL Coalitions, The FL NGCDTF and the FL PRC.

# ABOUT OUR ASSESSMENT

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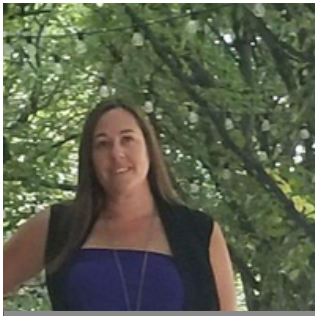
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This assessment was conducted to support the PRC and the National Guard in their efforts in aiding coalitions across the FL Region.

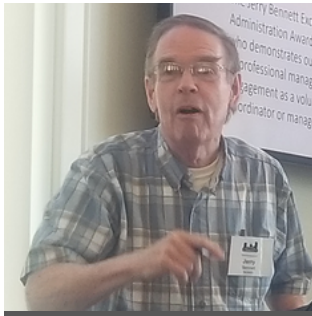
The goal of this assessment is to have up-to-date data on the needs and resources in each of the counties covered by the FL PRC for the purpose of assisting with coalition and community assessments, as well as, to guide the PRC and National Guard in their regional work in addressing gaps.

There were a few data gaps with the Needs Assessment. The team collected qualitative and quantitative data in each of the 12 counties but had difficulty gathering consequence data specific to youth in each of the 12 counties. The consequence data that was collected was not specific to substance use. It is reasonable to say that any of the consequence data listed in this assessment could be a direct result of substance use/misuse. We are also missing specific focus group data and key informant interview data as these were not conducted by the Needs Assessment Team. Additionally, there were a number of other areas where data was difficult to find. Those areas include certain risk and protective factors such as initiation, mobility, and belief in moral order. Along with this we know that COVID impacted the data from 2020-2021 and we will not have these results until the next assessment. The Region has several special populations that are not adequately represented in the data as well. The Amish and Mennonite communities, along with many Indigenous Tribes and communities do not utilize traditional American medical care, schools, law enforcement agencies, or modes of transportation and therefor are not included in the data collected.

# OUR COLLABORATIVE TEAM



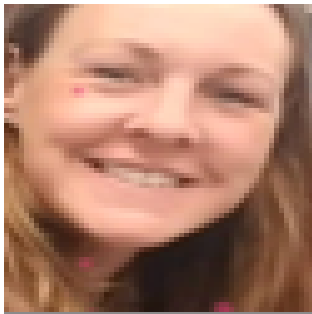
**Irene Lawrence**  
FL PRC Director



**Jerry Bennett**  
FL PRC CDS



**Jules Denning**  
FL PRC CDS



**Marcy Lambrecht**  
Former FL PRC CDS

Irene Lawrence, BSW, CPS  
FL PRC Director  
ilawrence@depaul.org  
(585) 360-7898

Jerry Bennett, BA, CPP  
FL PRC Community Development  
Specialist  
jbennett@depaul.org  
(585) 719-3488

Juliana Denning, BS  
FL PRC Community Development  
Specialist  
jdenning@depaul.org  
585-719-3487

NYS National Guard  
Civil Operations  
1st SG Kyle King  
kyle.r.king3.mil@mail.mil

SSG Stephanie Hazelett  
stephanie.a.hazelett.mil@mail.mil

Master SG Joseph Seaver  
josephseavercdtf@gmail.com




## **VISION**

The Finger Lakes Prevention Resource Center (FL-PRC) works to create sustainable community coalitions who promote healthy substance-free environments.



## **MISSION**

Finger Lakes Prevention Resource Center (FL-PRC) promotes the use of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) by providing training and technical assistance to coalitions and providers for the purpose of unifying and mobilizing communities to use prevention strategies, promote sustainability of drug free programs, and encourage partnership with local, state, and federal entities in the 12-county Finger Lakes Region.



# OUR REGION

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## **A Brief Description About the Finger Lakes Region**

The OASAS Finger Lakes Region is located in the Northwest part of the New York and covers 12 Counties (Monroe, Ontario, Broome, Livingston, Chemung, Tioga, Wayne, Seneca, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Yates).

The constantly growing population of the Finger Lakes Region (FL) is 1,525,487.00. Each of the 12 Counties have at least one drug free coalition addressing risk and protective factors. There are, however, a total of 23 drug free coalitions across the region and each of these coalitions work with the FL PRC in some way.

Census data reflects that 93.3% of the population identify as white. 20.3 % of the FL population is under the age of 18 (highest number coming from Monroe County), and 10.3% is over the age of 65 (highest number coming from Broome County), leaving the majority of people between the ages of 19 and 64. The Finger Lakes Region has a population make up of 10.27% African American / Black, 2.9% Asian, 6.75% Hispanic, .043% Indigenous or Alaska Native, and 2.6% who identify as 2 or more races. The FL Region also has a high percentage of U.S. Veterans (5.72%, or 87,277.00 individuals) who have served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Finger Lakes with the majority of them coming from Monroe County (33,216.00) and Broome County (10,740.00) (*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Wayne County, New York; Livingston County, New York; Chemung County, New York; Monroe County, New York; Tioga County, New York; United States*).

It's also important to note that the region is geographically mixed with Monroe and Broome counties being more urban and the rest of the counties being much more rural. The majority of our region struggles with poverty on a systems level and, an individual level, even with the median household income ranges between \$55 and \$65,000 across the 12 counties. "Many of the federally qualified health centers across the finger lakes are feeling the loss of sustainability as they lose funding." (*All 6 Federally Qualified Health Centers Across the Finger Lakes Protest the Loss Of \$250M (trilliumhealth.org)*).

# OUR REGION

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## **A Brief Description About the Finger Lakes Region Cont...**

Language is remarkably diverse in the FL Lakes Region and is a barrier to services in most of the 12 counties. We have communities with individuals who speak, Asian/ Pacific Island, Indo-European language, ASL, Spanish and Native languages. We have seen a continuous increase in diversity of languages in the FL Region since the late 90's but have seen more recent increase in the Hispanic population, the African American population, European populations an Amish population. Seneca, Yates, and Monroe have the highest rates for Indo-European languages. Broome, Wayne, and Monroe have the highest rates for Spanish languages.



# THE DATA

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## **A Brief Description of the Problems**

Each of the FL Counties is seeing a rise in; nicotine use, opioid use, vape use, cannabis youth use, mental health concerns/emotional distress, dis-engagement from community members in programs/schools/rec centers and conflict/violence within schools. Two of the most alarming issues we see reflected in the data are an increase in motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol and other drugs (higher than NYS numbers for many of our counties), and the average age of onset is 12-13 with onset as early as age 9.

## **A Brief Description of the Risk and Protective Factors**

We believe that the pandemic has played a significant role in the risk and protective factors that communities are working with. Even though it is getting better the after effect of the pandemic still has a strong impact on the overall risk and protective factors that are affiliated with substance use.

For the purpose of this assessment, we adjusted the Risk and Protective Factors (R&P's) list to match what we see on the surveys used across the counties. The R&P's reviewed were availability/access, initiation, enforcement, perceived risk, influence, conflict/violence, attachment/involvement, belief in moral order/religiosity, transition/mobility, skills/behavior.

Some of the counties struggle with Skills, some struggle with Initiation, but when looking at the region at large, we see that many of them struggled with availability/access, conflict/violence, perceived risk, and parent enforcement. 9 of our 12 counties are seeing concerns with access and availability of substances in family/schools/community specific vapes, alcohol, and cannabis. Many youth are reporting that parents or relatives are giving them alcohol, cannabis, or vapes, and schools do not enforce their "no drug" policy strongly.





# THE DATA

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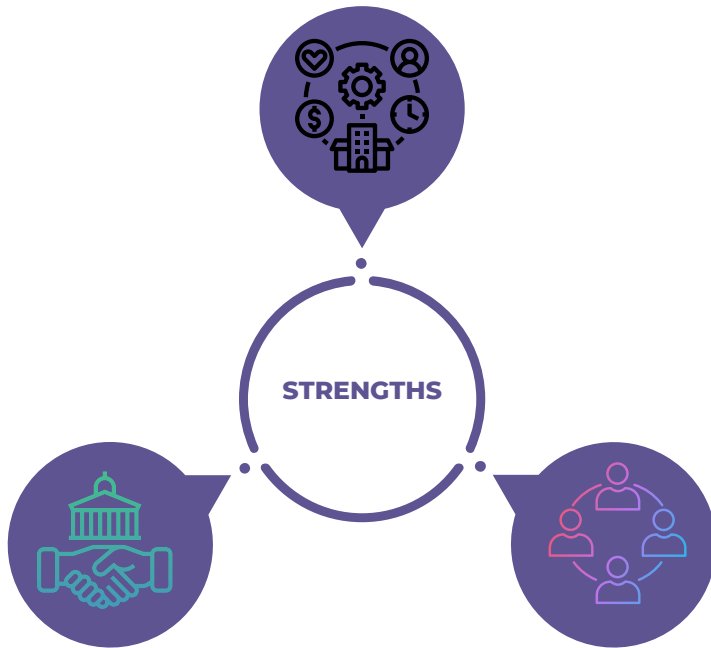
## **A Brief Description of the Risk and Protective Factors Cont....**

So, it comes as no surprise that community and family norms are also a concern for most of the region, specifically regarding cannabis, alcohol and vapes. Six out of the twelve counties are seeing lowered risk of harm for substance use specific to alcohol and cannabis. It should also be noted that all twelve counties in the region are being affected by conflict and violence on community, school, and family levels and many counties violence rates are higher than the state.

On the positive side, overall data across (almost all) of our counties shows that youth feel they have a strong connection to families, communities and school with the exception of a few counties. Our region also has strong law enforcement activities regarding substances. In addition, we as a region are very pro-social in hopes of reducing harmful social norms and we see the importance of having community events.

Many of our counties do not report on mobility but our connecting coalitions report lack of mobility in their area. The other R&P gap identified in the region is belief in moral order/religiosity. Many of our counties do not track this data.





### Mobility and Transportation

Many of the counties in the FL Region struggle with mobility. Specifically, the aging population. In the more rural areas, there is no public transit. Without a car, gas, or a family member to drive them, they are not able to get around.

### Cultural Connection

Data shows that many of the Amish, Spanish, African, Indo-European cultures in our region do not participate or utilize the programs or resources that are offered. Along with this, racial concerns are ever present and language is a barrier.

### Data Sharing

Many entities and organizations are reluctant to share data. This is a barrier for our communities and our region. The less data coalitions/programs have access to the harder it is to offer services that the community needs.

### Resources

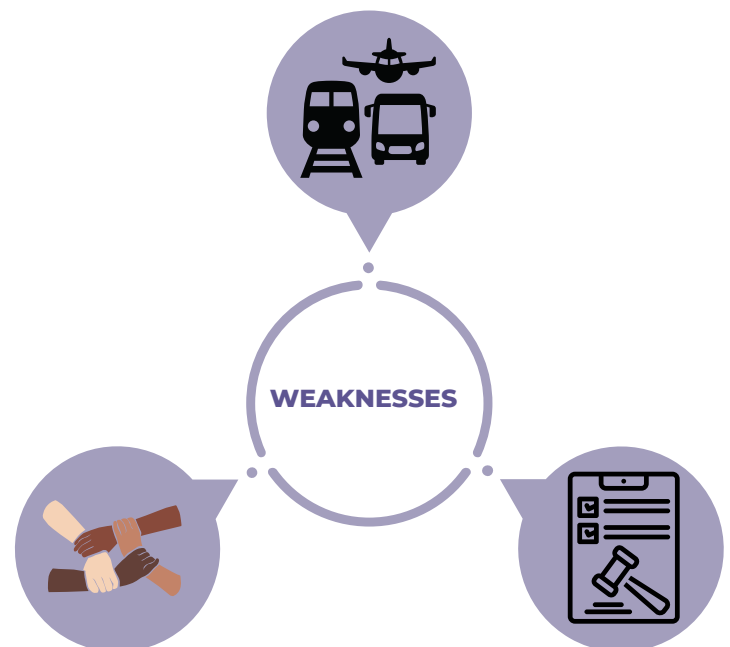
The Finger Lakes Region is rich in resources and has several networks that promote access to services across all the counties. Some of these include S2AY Rural Health Network, Common Ground Health, The Latino Health Coalition, SOR Networks, and the Consortium of Addiction Services and Supports FL/Region II.

### Collaboration

Collaboration is heavily practiced in the Finger Lakes Region, and it promotes the health and vitality of our Regional Networks, Consortiums, and Task forces.

### Coalitions

Each County has a functioning coalition that is working to address a number of risk and protective factors through environmental strategies.



## KEY FINDINGS

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It should be noted that regardless of the level of substance use we see, the region shows a decrease in youth use for most substances including opioid, alcohol, stimulants, and other drugs. The exception of this is youth use with methamphetamines in Steuben, Chemung, Tioga, Broome Counties, and youth alcohol use in Broome, Ontario, and Livingston which we have seen go up. The region also shows high levels of mental health concerns and conflict for youth, but the information given is not specific to substance use.

Many of our counties share priority areas of concern. Shared areas of concern for the majority of our counties are preventing chronic diseases, tobacco prevention, youth education on cannabis, and healthy eating. Along with this the region is also focusing on promoting well-being and preventing mental health issues and substance use/misuse.

## Areas of Interest

The data highlighted in this needs assessment is strongly connected to risk factors but does not address protective factors as strongly. Data shows that youth who have more protective factors than ACES are likely to have better outcomes. This makes protective factors an additional area of interest for the PRC.

## Coalition Connection

The Finger Lake Region had 23 active coalitions. Of those 23 coalitions, all of them are working toward the risk and protective factors they see in their county/community. 8 are focusing on availability/access, 3 are focusing on initiation, 6 are focusing on enforcement, 10 are focusing on perceived risk, 4 are focusing on conflict/violence, 5 are focusing on skills, 1 is focusing on mobility, and all 23 are focusing on influence (norms) and attachment (pro-social activities within school/family/community) in some way.

Additionally, all 23 coalitions are addressing the substances they see as an issue in their county/community. 6 are addressing opioid use concerns, 1 is addressing methamphetamine use, 1 is addressing stimulant use, 9 are addressing youth vape use for cannabis, nicotine or both, 10 are addressing youth cannabis use, 3 are addressing youth nicotine use, 2 are addressing prescription medication misuse, and 14 are addressing underage alcohol use.



# THANK YOU

The Finger Lakes Prevention Resource Center is funded by NYS OASAS and aims to foster growth and sustainability of drug free community coalitions within the Finger Lakes Region by providing training and technical assistance on SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework.

This needs assessment was done in collaboration with The Finger Lakes National Guard Counter Drug Taskforce FL team members and with the support of many of the FL Drug Free Communities Coalitions.



1931 Buffalo Road, Rochester NY 14624



585-719-3482



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