

CASA-Trinity, Inc.
Chemung County Prevention Team
School-Based Services Newsletter

August 2025 Edition



A Huge, Heartfelt, Thank You!



Before we dive in to this edition of the CASA-Trinity Chemung Prevention School Newsletter, we wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and thank all of YOU!

Without the continued support of our school partners, young people in Chemung County would not have such ready access to CASA-Trinity Prevention resources. You make that happen, and we are so grateful!

We know how precious your time is to you, whether you are a teacher, counselor, administrator, para-professional or other school support staff member. Allowing us to share that time with you and your students is a privilege we don't take for granted.

Educating young people is so much more than providing them with knowledge. It's about equipping them to meet life's challenges with confidence, courage and resilience. We know this is a monumental task, and that's why we're always here to help.

Read on to get a look at some of the ways in which we hope to be able to assist you and your students in the coming year.

Here's to a great 2025-2026 school year!



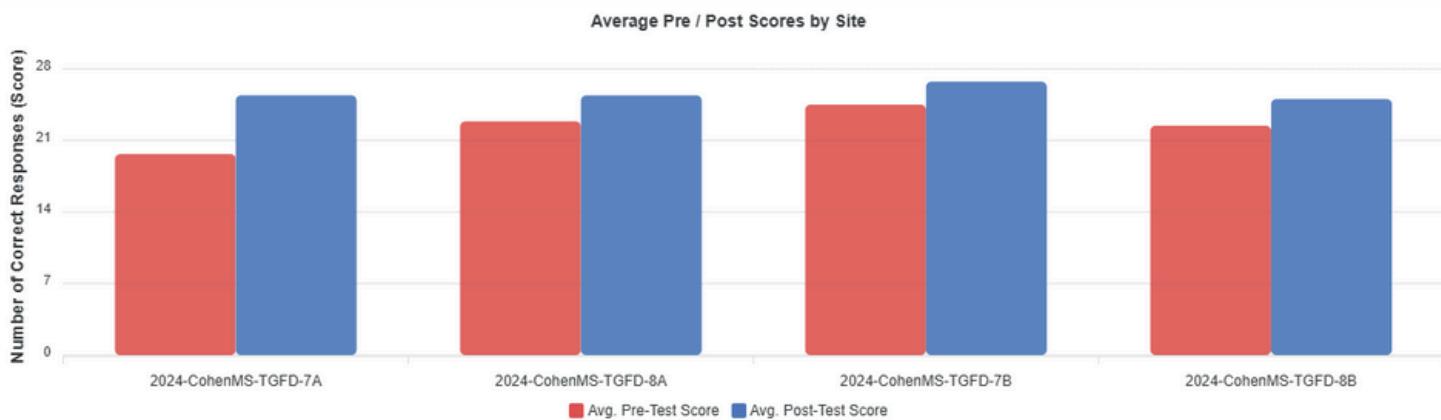
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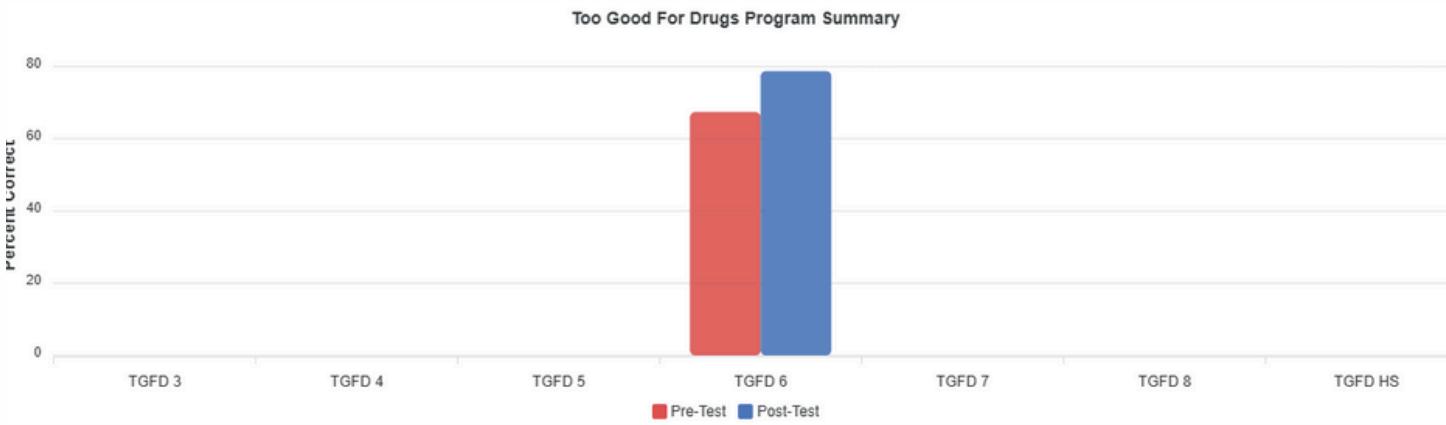
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Spotlight On: The Outcomes of 2024-2025

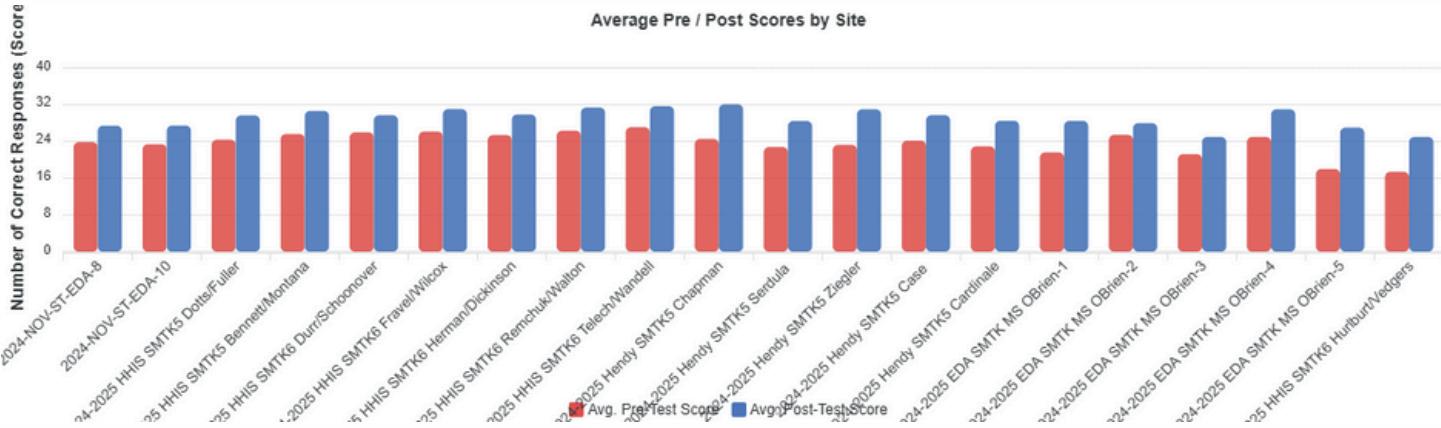
For the 3rd year in a row, Cohen Middle School invited us in to present Too Good for Drugs and Social Perspectives to their 8th grade health students. Knowledge increased in all areas across the board!



Too Good for Drugs was also presented to every 6th grade student in the Elmira City School District. Average knowledge scores improved by 10.3 points from program start to finish!



This was the first year using Stanford's SmartTalk program for cannabis awareness. We presented this program to Elmira 5th and 7th grades and Horseheads 5th and 6th grades, and their post-test improvements speak for themselves!





Onward to 2025-2026: School Programming Goals

In the 2024-2025 school year, CASA-Trinity Prevention reached over 1,500 Chemung County students with programming and 1:1 support services! We are hoping to expand that number in the coming year by:

Offering more programming for younger students

Prevention is a life-long process that doesn't just start once students reach middle school.

Last year, Elmira and Horseheads 5th and 6th grade classrooms invited us in for programming, as well as the 4th grade classrooms from Gardner Road Elementary.

We're hoping to keep that momentum going by reaching more students in younger grades.

If you are interested in seeing what's available for younger students, let's chat!

Expanding the reach of our Brief Intervention services

We typically see students for brief intervention services once they've been identified as using a substance by parents or school staff.

However, we can do an assessment and have a conversation with any student who is experiencing noticeable behavior changes, allowing us to help them before they face suspension or other issues.

Our county referral form for this program can be found here: [2025–2026 Student Support and Teen Intervene Referral Form](#)

For an easy way to contact us about programming, visit our [Chemung County Prevention Offerings](#) web page or click on this [Prevention Services Interest form link!](#)

On the Agenda: Red Ribbon Week!

CASA–Trinity Prevention's next big event will be hosting some Red Ribbon Week activities in October.

From October 23rd–October 31st, we will be celebrating students who make the choice to stay healthy and protect their futures. This year's theme is "Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free".

We hope to hold events and giveaways during this campaign for county students grades 3–12.

We will be reaching out to our school partners in September, but please connect with us if you already know you want to be part of the fun!



Why Work with a Prevention Professional?

Let's face it: young people are getting information about drugs and alcohol much earlier, from a wide variety of sometimes pretty questionable sources. As educators, we do our absolute best to provide them with the facts. But when life gets tough, when pressures build and kids are looking for answers, education alone may not be enough to keep them safe.

While a low perception of harm from substances is definitely a risk for early use, early initiation into substances also has a lot to do with student's social skills, mental wellness, community/family connectivity, and peer relationships.

One way Prevention Professionals seek to address this is by providing evidence-based programs that empower young people, giving them the skills to understand themselves, their peers, and their world. These "protective factors" can neutralize many of the risks that they are exposed to.

A big bonus to teachers and counselors: our flexibility allows us to deliver these programs with fidelity, whether that is week to week or day to day, so that you don't have to add any extra work into your already full schedules.

We know that our county school districts are already working hard towards increasing students' social and emotional learning. Think of us as your "Special Teams" players: always ready on the sidelines to take the field when the times comes, while allowing you, as educational professionals, to lead the way.

Did You Know?

According to our most recent CLYDE survey, the factors most likely to protect young people from early substance use are:

- Strong Social Skills
- Opportunities for pro-social school engagement
- Belief in a moral code
- Pro-social activities with family
- Pro-social activities in and for their community



2024-2025 Prevention Champions

In case you missed it, this year we initiated our Prevention Champion campaign during National Prevention Week in May! CASA-Trinity staff nominated community members who show a passion for prevention for this award. These five school employees were awarded for their partnership and dedication to prevention efforts. Congrats, Champions!



Top Left: Kirsten Southard-Twichell, teacher, Thomas A. Edison High School



Top Right: Carrie Rollins, Principal, Broadway Academy

Bottom Left: Erin O'Brien, teacher, and Jennifer Mathews Assistant Principal, Ernie Davis Academy

Bottom Right: Bob Demember, teacher, GST BOCES STEM Academy (pictured with Jessica Fierro, CASA-Trinity Prevention)





Teachers: Let's Talk!

Your job is so incredibly vital; but that also means it can be incredibly challenging. You do your absolute best each day to provide your students with the education, support and encouragement they need to thrive, even when there may be times when you don't feel like you're thriving yourself.

CASA–Trinity Prevention wants you to know that we are here for YOU too!

While many prevention programs are geared towards supporting youth, our organization has supports for adults as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you think we can help. If we don't have the resources to assist you, we may be able put you in touch with someone who does.

We are always a phone call or an email away!

Middle and High School Administrators: Your Assistance, Please!

The **CLYDE (Community–Level Youth Development Evaluation) Youth Survey** is conducted every other year in partnership with Chemung County school districts. This anonymous survey gives local students a voice on important issues such as mental health, substance use, and school climate. The insights we gain help guide our coalition and community partners in creating responsive, youth–centered strategies that support student well–being and promote a safer, healthier Chemung County.

Please be on the look–out for upcoming communication about the CLYDE survey from **Anthony Hooks (ahooks@casa-trinity.org)**, our community–based Prevention Specialist.

Once again, thank you for your trust and partnership. Enjoy the summer vibes while they last, see you in the fall!

Hope begins here.

CASA  **TRINITY**
COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
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