

### 2019 Collaborative CHNA Health Issue Key Findings

The misuse of alcohol, over-the-counter medications, and illicit drugs affect the health and well-being of millions of Americans. Recent data shows that Pinellas County youth are engaged in increased rates of heavy or binge drinking.

- 56% of high school students reported use of alcohol or any illicit drug(s) in Pinellas County
- 31.4% of middle school students reported use with alcohol or any illicit drug(s)
- Prevention of first-time opioid use or “painkillers” is a top priority for our pediatric population

### Outcomes-Driven Activities

#### Parent Education and Awareness

Talk to parents about substance use (marijuana and alcohol) to bring awareness of impact on developing children and adolescents. This data and data from the *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey*, recognize there is a need to educate an even younger population, as young as 10 years old.

#### Increase Stakeholder Collaboration

Innovative and creative stakeholders, along with community leaders, need to all be at the table to develop and disseminate opportunities (new resources) to help this growing issue of substance use and abuse.

#### Need for Community Navigators

Focus groups and key informant interviews have found a gap in treatment and services. Someone assisting or directing those needing substance use or addiction help would be extremely beneficial to those circumnavigating an already confusing health care system.

### PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

1. Increase parent and community education and awareness around substance use (marijuana and alcohol) to bring awareness of impact on developing children and adolescents in Pinellas County by Dec. 31, 2022.
2. Increase collaboration of stakeholders to develop/disseminate innovative opportunities and resources to address disparities around substance and opioid abuse in Pinellas County by Dec. 31, 2022.
3. Increase and/or request funding for community navigators, to extend assistance with resources and linkage to care in Pinellas County by Dec. 31, 2022.

