

Michigan Youth Coalition Network Youth Advisory Council



Photo-voice Project

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About Us

Imaging this: Going to school and seeing your peers vaping . What would be your reaction? Would you support your peers in what they are doing or would you make yourself brave enough to make your peers aware about the consequences of vaping? Seeing our peers and family members continuously smoking and vaping makes us anxious and worthless. Our names are Firas Kayali, Bashar Hasan, Nora Algahim, Nazma Begum and Farhana Begum. we're students of Hamtramck High School. The five of us here take the initiative and challenge ourselves to change our community and peers as well as serve them a healthier lifestyle. We are here to make our imagination into a real aspiration.





vaping and smoking

This picture shows a bunch of vapes that were collected near Hamtramck High School. We were shocked to see so much vaping going on in our community. Vaping is not only bad for your health, but also for your well-being. Research shows that vaping can cause lung damage, heart problems, addiction, and other diseases. It can also affect your mental health and increase your risk of poverty. Smoking can be very costly for your medical bills and your quality of life



VAPING AND SMOKING

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT 80% OF YOUNG FOLKS THAT WE INTERVIEWED ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT FLAVORED E-CIGARETTES ARE A SAFER OPTION?

smoking isn't just bad for your health, it can also impact your work ethic. Studies shows that smoking makes people less productive and more likely to miss work, which affects the whole community. So, let's spread the word about the real deal with e-cigarettes and smoking. Together, we can keep our community healthy and avoid a bunch of problems in the future. Knowing the facts helps us all make smarter choices for a better tomorrow.

80%



shop location

Take a closer look at this image, it shows a liquor store right behind Hamtramck High School. It may not catch your eye at first, but it's a place where people who look old enough can easily buy alcohol and vapes without checking any age verification.

In this image, you see the store with signs advertising alcohol, sitting really close to the school. What makes it more concerning is that the place is a popular hangout for students after school, making it a common spot for them.



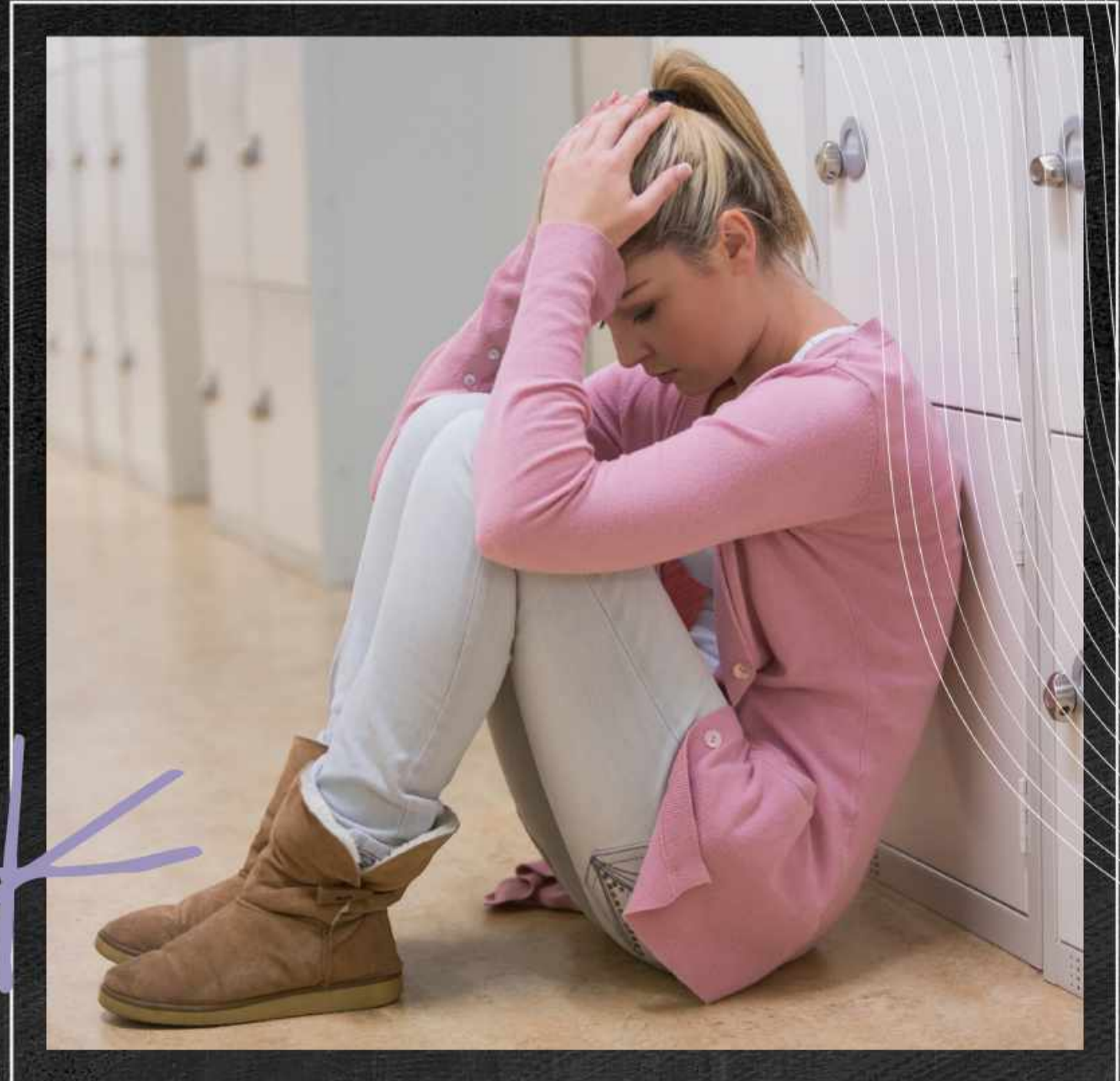
Objectives

This picture highlights how places selling tobacco products are close to our school, making it easy for students to access them. The rules for selling these products aren't taken seriously, raising concerns about the impact on students who buy without proper checks. We aim to start a conversation about preventing young people from buying such items. By sharing this image, we hope the community will take action, prioritizing the well-being of students and youth by holding businesses accountable for selling to minors.



what makes students turn to drugs ?

Students often worry about their school grades and test scores due to various reasons. The pressure to perform well academically, the fear of failure, and the desire to meet expectations from parents, teachers, and peers can contribute to this worry. The constant worry about school grades and test scores can have a detrimental impact on students' mental health. It may lead to increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. The pressure to excel academically can create a toxic environment where students feel overwhelmed and unable to cope with the demands placed upon them. This can result in a negative impact on their overall well-being and emotional stability. Sometimes, when students feel stressed about grades and tests, they might turn to drugs or smoking to cope. It could be a way for them to escape the pressure or numb their feelings of anxiety.



Family

Environment

Family environment significantly influences a teenager's behavior and their vulnerability to drug use. A dysfunctional family or one with a member using drugs increases the likelihood of a teenager also engaging in substance abuse. Poor family relationships, combined with academic and job-related stress, can make it challenging for teenagers. The pressure may lead them to consider using drugs as a coping mechanism. In tense family situations, teenagers may be more inclined to experiment with drugs as a means of seeking relief. Open communication and mutual support within families are crucial to alleviate pressure and prevent teenagers from resorting to drug use.



Summary

Our presentation highlights the excessive use of vaping among students and challenges the misunderstanding about the safety of e-cigarettes. The amount of e-cigarettes around our school is alarming and signifies the need to address associated health concerns. We specifically addressed a local liquor store openly advertising alcohol and vaping products with limited age verification, posing a significant threat to students. Our goal is to hold businesses accountable, limit youth access to harmful substances, and empower the community to prioritize student well-being through actionable steps.

Thank you!