

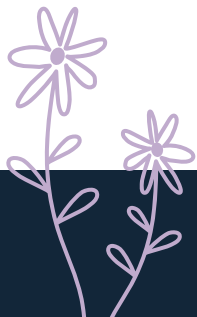


Collaborating with and learning from Washington's teens and young adults.

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC or the Council) at the Department of Health (DOH) is a formal way for young people to participate in and contribute to public health programming at DOH. The Council also serves as a platform for DOH to engage with young people regularly.

YAC members come together to discuss different health topics that are important to them. These discussions include identifying barriers, challenges, and youth-friendly solutions to improve health care for teens and young adults in Washington.

DOH uses the Council's feedback, recommendations, and insights to ensure that public health programming remains relevant and meaningful for all young people in Washington.



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Summary of Recommendations

The 2022 YAC cohort discussed various health-related topics. These included physical and behavioral health, youth-friendly care, confidentiality, minor consent, and more. Their conversations provided insightful recommendations to help improve young people's experience with health systems.

We invite you to read the full report at [YAC 2022 Cohort Report of Recommendations](#).

We learned from the YAC that young people need...

Easy access to accurate, high quality, and youth-friendly health information available online and mobile.

Adults to do more about barriers to care, including transportation, health care costs, stigma, and misinformation.

More youth-friendly communication directly from providers and health systems.

Support and encouragement from trusted and compassionate adults, and to learn how to support each other.

Safe, compassionate, welcoming, and non-judgmental health care and support environments, offered in convenient ways using electronic tools, telehealth, pop up clinics, and school-based health.

To understand their health care rights, including rights to consent to care and rights to confidentiality.

Health care services and providers they trust, who are inclusive, non-judgmental, and can answer their questions and give them facts.



Committed to Action

DOH is committed to incorporating the YAC's feedback and implementing their recommendations. The Council's contributions and ideas are shaping our adolescent health programs, including the Title V Maternal Child Health Block Grant.

We have already taken the following steps to respond to the YAC:

- Expand access to sexual and reproductive health care and education through the Washington Youth Sexual Health Innovation and Impact Network and the Washington Personal Responsibility Education Program.
- Teens and young adults can access health information through the [Teen Health Hub WA](#), a new webpage we co-created with the YAC.
- The DOH School-Based Health Center Grant program provides grants for school-based health care and behavioral health peer support services.
- In 2024, we'll partner with youth and providers to establish a Youth-Friendly Certification process, improving access to culturally relevant health care for teens and young adults.

For more information on the Youth Advisory Council and the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Unit, check out our webpage at: <https://waportal.org/partners/adolescent-health>

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