

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance

Youth Mental Health and Substance Use

PURCH Population Health Clerkship 2022

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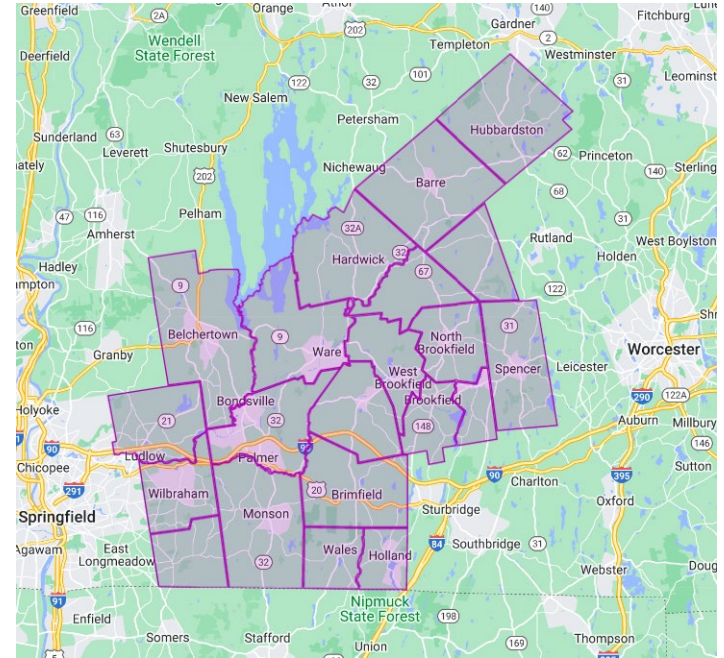


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Summary

- **Who are we?** A group of medical and pharmacy students.
- **Where are we?** We worked in the Quaboag Hills region.
- **Goal:** Learn about, promote, and improve access to resources and support services for patients with substance use disorder in the Quaboag Hills region.
- **Why addressing this issue is important?**
 - **Access To Care:** Rural areas between Worcester and Springfield have less healthcare facilities
 - **Vulnerable Populations:** Youth of color and LGBTQIA communities have worse mental health outcomes




Map courtesy Maegan Boutot

Experiential Learning

How?

- Meet with local providers and lawmakers
 - QHSUA
 - Griswold Center
 - Springfield Youth Mental Health Coalition
 - Senator Gobi and Representative Smola
- Research model practices and advocacy initiatives
- Review data and needs assessments
- Special focus on marginalized youth
 - LGBTQIA+
 - Youth of color

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2022
Community Health
Needs Assessment

Adopted by the Baystate Health Board
of Trustees on September 13, 2022



Advocacy Pitch

We are medical and pharmacy students working with the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance learning about the *barriers to healthcare access for patients with substance use disorder, particular LGBTQ+ youth of color.*

These barriers include:

- Lack of access to technology
 - 1 in 5 homes in Palmer and Ware do not have access to a computer
 - **Supporting legislature to expand access to the internet and technology** creates more equitable healthcare and education
- Limited Mental and Behavioural Health Access
 - Griswold Center:
 - lack of providers to fulfill case loads
 - Lack of funds to run programs and increase access to community
 - **Increase fund availability to BH/MH practices** to retain providers in underserved communities
- Acceptance of LGBTQIA+ youth
 - Fewer than 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth find their home to be gender affirming
 - Acceptance from at least 1 adult can decrease the risk of LGBTQ youth attempting suicide by 40%
 - **Supporting programs such as Springfield Mental Health Coalition**

Acknowledgments

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UMMS-Baystate Faculty Preceptor: Lauren Mansfield, Griswold Center

PURCH PHC Organizers & Facilitators: Sarah McAdoo, Latirah Cisero, Lisa Clinton



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