

# Amherst Youth & Community Coalition invites you to a Data Walk

In case you are wondering, a Data Walk is a unique, fun way to engage the community in an interactive way of sharing data. In this case the data being shared comes from the 2022 Search Institute Survey of Student Attitudes and Behaviors Report given to hundreds of eighth, 10th, and 12th graders in the Amherst, Sweet Home, and Williamsville school districts.

Particular data regarding the use of alcohol, marijuana and vape devices by youth will be shared. As you walk around the football-themed venue, you will have an opportunity to discuss the issues with adults from the Amherst Youth and Community Coalition and youth from the Amherst Youth Consortium. Included at the event will be a mini health fair with prevention and service providers and give-a-ways (as supplies last) for all who attend.

You may also be wondering why it is so important for you to attend. A few youths were asked how they would answer that question and below are their responses.

Johnny (age 18) responded, "I have worked on the planning of the Amherst Data Walk. As there can be a lot of misconception about youth in our community, this Data Walk will give factual information as to what is really happening in our community."

Parisa (age 16) answered, "I am one of the planners of the Amherst Data Walk. By presenting statistics on both the good and the bad behaviors of young people in the Amherst area, I believe the Data Walk is a great way to show adults and youth

what they are succeeding in. It may prompt action toward making a healthier community."

Maddie (age 16) explained, "Amherst is an ever-changing place that has provided numerous opportunities for teens like me to succeed. Through the Data Walk, the significance of general knowledge, based off our town's

statistics, is vital for a better understanding of what goes on in the youth population. As someone who has worked on planning for the Data Walk, I am hopeful that those who attend will benefit."

Salil (age 14) responded, "I want to help people in my community and have worked on the planning of the Amherst Data Walk. This is an im-

portant event for both parents and children to attend. It will inform parents on what they need to be mindful of and inform kids of many good behaviors that they can develop."

And lastly, Jolynda (age 15), expressed, "I wanted to work on the planning of the Data Walk because I wanted to provide insight to the public about the everyday experiences of youth that my peers and I go through. I wanted to take part in an opportunity that educates the community, creates an open platform for progressive discussions, and provides an outlet for youth voices. I think it is important for community members to attend the Data Walk to listen to, and learn from, youth experiences."

The Data Walk takes place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 31 at Bassett Park in Amherst.

