

## What People Say About Second Chance

*"Second Chance was honestly one of the best things that happened to me."* – Student Participant

*"Second Chance provided valuable information about how to communicate with our kids."*

– Parent Participant

*"They made me recognize that I made a mistake but they weren't making me feel like scum about it."*

– Student Participant

*"The program has given me 'permission' to hold my teen accountable for his/her actions and whereabouts."* – Parent Participant

*"... there were significant [Second Chance] program effects in reducing alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use.... [Its] intervention also significantly increased participants' awareness of the dangers of early and present alcohol and drug use."*

– University of Texas-Arlington (2015)



THINK.LEARN.DECIDE.

Second Chance is provided by Northern Virginia Family Service under contract from the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families Foundation.

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Northern Virginia  
Family Service

Funding for Second Chance is provided by Arlington County Schools.



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A collaborative community effort

INCLUDING

- students
- parents/guardians
- school administrators
- police
- juvenile justice system
- non-profit partners

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## WHAT IS SECOND CHANCE?

Second Chance is an educational program for Arlington middle and high school students who are caught for the first time in possession, or under the influence, of alcohol, marijuana, or certain other substances. This free, early intervention program allows Arlington Public Schools and the Juvenile Court to offer students a one-time diversion from court proceedings or school suspension. Students or their parents may also ask for a referral to the program.

### Our History

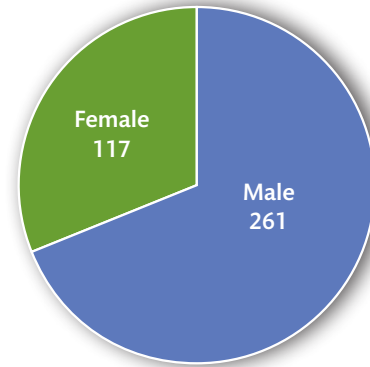
The origin of Second Chance dates back to 2007 and the community's response to the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered by the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families. The 2007 results were particularly troubling: data showed that the percentage of Arlington students who were binge drinking was equal to or slightly higher than the national numbers. Even more disturbing was that, while the national numbers were falling, the numbers in Arlington were on the rise. In addition, the percentage of Arlington young people who reported alcohol use in the past 30 days (15% of 8th graders, 37% of 10th graders, and 54% of 12th graders) exceeded that of all the surrounding jurisdictions.

Also in 2007, the Public Health Division of the Department of Human Services created Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). Based on the YRBS data, it identified teen binge drinking as one of five major strategic issues that needed to be addressed in Arlington. After nearly four years of planning and development by a committee of key stakeholders from the county, schools, juvenile courts, non-profits, and police, as well as parents and substance abuse professionals, Second Chance was officially launched during the 2011-2012 school year and, in its first four years, has served 378 Arlington students.

### Program Benefits

Students who participate in Second Chance learn skills to deal with peer pressure, learn about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol, and develop action plans to help them make healthy choices. As part of the three-day program, they have the benefit of talking with the police, as well as representatives from the public defender's office and Commonwealth Attorney's office. Among many other drug and alcohol specifics, parents/guardians of students in the program will learn how to communicate effectively with their children and set clear limits and expectations for them.

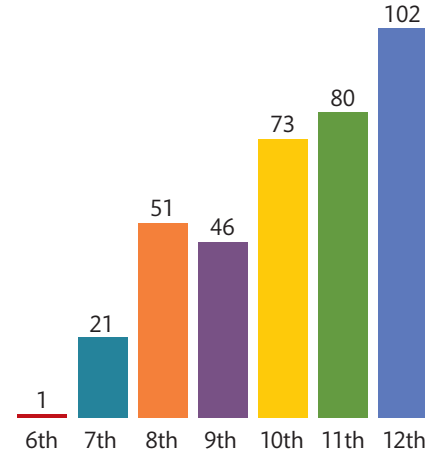
## Second Chance by the Numbers



### NUMBER OF STUDENTS\*

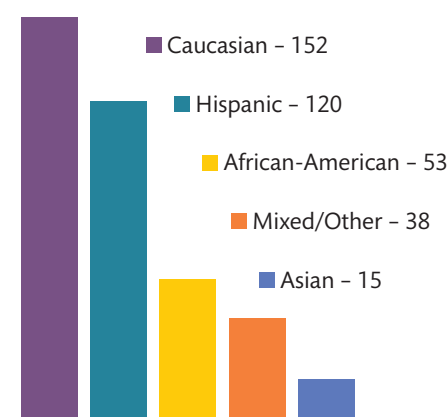
TOTAL: 378

### GRADE LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS\*

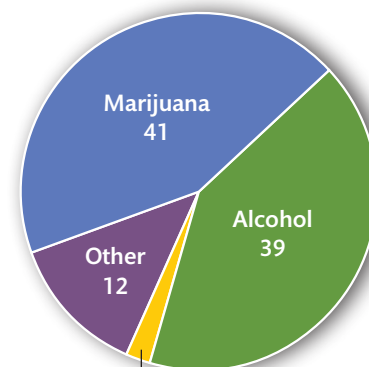


Plus three students whose grades were not reported; and one teen who had finished grade 12.

### ETHNICITY OF PARTICIPANTS\*



### REASON FOR REFERRAL†



Alcohol and Marijuana: 2

### REFERRAL SOURCE\*

SCHOOLS: 191  
COURT: 138  
SELF/FAMILY: 49

\* (2011-2015) † (2014-2015)

## Observations

### GRADE LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS

- More 9th and 10th grade students and fewer 12th grade students participated in the program last year than in previous years..

### REFERRAL RATES

- Court referrals dropped in 2013-2014, but increased significantly in 2014-2015.
- Self/family referrals have remained generally similar from year to year.
- APS referrals have gradually dropped over the past four years.

### REASON FOR REFERRALS

- Half of students referred from APS were for marijuana possession; one-quarter were for alcohol; one-quarter were unspecified or "other."
- 40% of Court referrals were for marijuana possession; 50% for alcohol possession; 10% were unspecified.

## Finances

Second Chance was supported financially by Arlington County Government during its first two years of operation under contract with Phoenix House of the Mid-Atlantic. In year three, it received one-time additional funding from the County to support on-going outreach/marketing efforts and operational costs. The program has subsequently received full funding from Arlington Public Schools. During its first two years, Second Chance also received financial assistance from the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (formerly the Century Council) and several contributions from individuals and organizations. The development of the Second Chance curriculum was paid for with funding from the Arlington READY Coalition.

### For more information:

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