Vermont's Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG)

A Statewide Approach through Community Solutions

Substance Abuse in Vermont

ALCOHOL USE

- 36% of all students (8th–12th grade) reported drinking alcohol during the past 30 days, down from a high of 53% in 1995.
- Alcohol use increases across grades—more 12th graders than 8th graders drank alcohol (52% versus 17%).
- Children who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol problems than those who start after age 21.
- Binge drinking increases significantly among young adults compared to teens.
- 30% of 18–20 year-olds binged, compared to nearly 39% of 21–25 year-olds in the past 30 days.
- 20% of all 8th–12th grade students binged on alcohol (had 5 or more drinks within a couple of hours) during the past 30 days.

MARIJUANA USE

- Overall, 22% of students used marijuana during the past 30 days, down from 32% in 1997.
- More older students use marijuana than younger students—34% of 12th grade students used marijuana, compared to 9% of 8th grade students.
- 24% of students have ridden with someone who was using marijuana.
- 29% of 18–25 year-olds used marijuana in the past month.

Sources
Vermont Department of Health
National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH)

The Strategic Prevention Framework
Supports Accountability, Capacity, and Effectiveness

In 2005 the Vermont Department of Health was awarded a five-year grant for $2.3 million per year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to strengthen the state's drug and alcohol abuse prevention system.

The Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) will continue to build upon the current prevention system to create a more widespread network in Vermont, and further empower Vermont communities to become the agents of their own change. SPF SIG will also enhance and build on the progress of Governor Jim Douglas' Drug Education, Treatment, Enforcement and Recovery (DETER) initiative.

A Statewide Approach

Based on a comprehensive review of Vermont's substance-related problems, the SPF SIG will tackle three major goals:

- **Reduce underage drinking**
- **Reduce high-risk drinking by Vermonters under 25**
- **Reduce marijuana use by Vermonters under 25**

Prevalence rates among 18 to 25 year-olds for alcohol consumption, binge drinking, and marijuana use in Vermont have declined in the past 10 years, but continue to be well above national averages.

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Community Solutions

Prevention must be designed and operated at the community level because communities differ from one another. Different communities have different populations, and those populations are exposed to different risk and protective factors.

SPF SIG will support communities with a clear overarching substance abuse prevention strategy—the Strategic Prevention Framework:

1. **Assessment–**profile population needs, resources and readiness to address needs and gaps
2. **Capacity–**mobilize and build capacity to address needs
3. **Planning–**develop a comprehensive strategic plan
4. **Implementation–**implement evidence-based prevention programs and activities
5. **Evaluation–**monitor, evaluate, sustain and improve or replace things that fail

SPF SIG Grant Recipients

The Vermont Department of Health awarded drug and alcohol prevention grants to 23 communities to develop, strengthen and maintain substance abuse prevention services throughout the state. Each community received up to $68,000 for planning. Annual continuation funds are based on achievement of project milestones. Grantees are eligible for up to $120,000 to implement prevention and education strategies, once their action plan is approved.

In addition to a clear strategic approach to substance abuse prevention and funding at the community level, the grant will support public information efforts, workforce development opportunities, performance standards and evaluation resources.

The grant will allow for a renewed focus on educating, engaging and motivating action by youth, young adults, their parents and the community about alcohol and drug issues before substance abuse becomes a life-long problem.

Strategic Prevention Framework Grantees

Greater Falls Prevention Coalition, ***Bellows Falls***
Southshire Partnership for Health, ***Bennington***
Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition, ***Brattleboro***
Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community, ***Burlington***
Hardwick Area Community Coalition, ***Hardwick***
Hartford Prevention Coalition, ***Hartford***
Lamoille Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, ***Hyde Park***
Grand Isle County Clean Team & Franklin County Caring Communities, ***Isle La Motte***
The Collaborative, ***Manchester***
Addison County Prevention Partnership, ***Middlebury***
Community Connections, ***Montpelier***
Orleans Northern Essex Wide Open Futures Coalition, ***Newport***
Prevention Partnership of Braintree, Brookfield & Randolph, ***Randolph***
Rural Partnerships, ***Richford***
Chittenden East Community Partnership, ***Richmond***
Quintown Prevention Partnership, Inc., ***Rochester***
Rutland Community Programs, Inc., ***Rutland***
Connecting Youth in Chittenden South, ***Shelburne***
Springfield Prevention Coalition, ***Springfield***
Together Works, ***St. Johnsbury***
Boy & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes, ***Vergennes***
Deerfield Valley Community Partnership, ***Wilmington***
Windsor Area Community Partnership, ***Windsor***

For more information about the Strategic Prevention Framework grant, and information about Vermont's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program, visit healthvermont.gov.

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