

State of Alaska SPF SIG Project

Glossary of Terms

ATOD: Alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs

Binge Drinking: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) defines binge alcohol use as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion (i.e., at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other) on at least 1 day in the past 30 days.

Coalition: A coalition is a group of people with a diverse representation (i.e. law enforcement, businesses, faith-based, schools, health and social service providers, and youth) who come together to promote and support change.

Community Readiness: The degree of support for, or resistance to, identifying and addressing key problems in the community. This includes the current success the community is experiencing in planning, implementing, and sustaining effective prevention and early intervention strategies.

Consequence: The social, economic, and health problems associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs (ATOD) Any social, economic, or health problem can be defined as a substance use problem if the use of ATOD increases the likelihood of the problem occurring.

Consumption: The way in which people drink, smoke, and use drugs. Consumption is linked to substance-related consequences.

Contributing Factors: The specific issues in a community that make up an intervening variable. They are identified locally through focus groups, surveys, observation, and other data gathering processes and are the key link to the identification of programs, policies, and practices prevention efforts will address.

Environmental Strategies: Environmental strategies/approaches are the intentional efforts to change the conditions around people to ensure greater health, safety and wellness. Specific environmental strategies seek to change community social norms, practices, policies or laws.

Heavy Drinking: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) defines heavy alcohol use as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion on each of 5 or more days in the past 30 days.

Indicator: A way to measure (quantify) an outcome. Your prevention efforts must lead to measureable short-term outcomes. Indicators are way of measuring your success. (e.g. Percent of students who graduate; Percent of workshop participants who score 90% or more; rate of out-of-home placements).

Intervening Variable: Factors that have been identified as being strongly related to and influence the occurrence and magnitude of substance use and related risk behaviors and their consequences; the underlying conditions that contribute to substance use. For example: Retail Availability.

Logic Model: A flowchart or graphic display of your prevention efforts. It identifies your strategies, target population, outputs, and measureable short-term outcomes that lead to long-term outcomes.

Needs Assessment: A process by which the community collects data and examines its needs in specific areas. The assessment identifies the severity of problems, the strengths of a community, and the resources available (and gaps) to address the issues.

Outcomes: Short-term outcomes let you know if anyone is better off because of your prevention efforts. They are measureable changes in attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, skills, and behavior. Long-term outcomes are usually a result of multiple strategies over time, and the measure is usually population-based.

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Outputs: The number of activities, events, or participants served, and may include duration of events.

Example: 20 students receive 1 hour session, weekly.

Population Level Change: Focuses on change for entire populations meaning collections of individuals who have one or more personal or environmental characteristics in common. Public health models affect whole populations or communities of people rather than focusing on individual change as is the practice of programs.

Program: A planned set of activities for a specific population, for a measureable purpose. Examples: service learning, mentoring, or life skills programs.

Project: A specific plan or undertaking to address a problem for a target population.

Strategy: A method or plan chosen to bring about a desired future, such as achievement of a goal or solution to a problem.

Sustainability: SPF SIG sustainability is defined as the process of ensuring the continuance of a strategic planning prevention effort that achieves long-term substance abuse prevention results for a target community even after the funding is gone.