

Alaska's SPF SIG Strategic Plan

Summary

(Source: State of Alaska, "Moving Prevention Upstream: A Plan to Implement a Comprehensive Approach to Substance Abuse Prevention in Alaska." Full document available online at:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/prevention/programs/spfsig/pdfs/SPFSIG_AlaskaStrategicPlan.pdf)



Assessment

1. Three primary groups provided key expertise and leadership:
 - a. **SPF SIG Advisory Council:** includes broad, multidisciplinary, cross-departmental representation, and a commitment to developing a plan to prevent the consequences of alcohol use in Alaska
 - b. **SPF SIG Epidemiology Workgroup:** a group of statistical and prevention program experts who use a systematic approach to evaluate data and scientifically valid evidence related to substance use and its consequences
 - c. **SPF SIG Evidence Based Interventions Workgroup:** a group of experts who develop a guidance document for the selection of evidence based interventions, and who will review all proposed strategies and interventions to determine their compliance with the guidance document
2. Formed workgroups to (1) gather and review consumption and consequence indicators, and (2) focus on influences that impact/lead to substance use consumption and consequences.
3. Conducted discovery process to identify known and as well as new data resources.
4. Assigned preliminary scores for all indicators based on five data quality criteria and select top indicators for further consideration.
5. Scored selected indicators based on four relevance criteria.
6. Group selected indicators into consumption/consequence constructs.
7. Advisory Council selected final set of constructs and associated indicators to focus on through three-tiered selection process in partnership with Advisory Council.

Selected Priorities

Population	Focus Areas
Youth 12-20 years of age	Youth alcohol use: lifetime, current, binge, and heavy drinking
Adults 21-44 years of age	Adult heavy and binge drinking

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Statewide Consequences

The following consequences are those selected for statewide focus. Individual SPF SIG grantees are not required to select from this list of consequences:

- Interpersonal violence (domestic violence, sexual assault)
- Intentional self-harm (suicide)
- Alcohol-related mortality
- Driving under the influence of alcohol
- Minor consuming alcohol citations
- Alcohol crashes/collisions

Capacity Building

Steps underway or in planning stages

- Informal survey of current Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) prevention grantees related to education and experience, as well as interest in a prevention certification for Alaska
- Partnerships with UAF:
 - Rural Human Services program: “growing our own” and a “counselor in every village”
 - School of Social Work: distance delivery coursework
- Trust Training Cooperative: develop leadership program for prevention staff/managers and a possible certification program
- International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC+RC): Review steps Alaska will need to develop an agreement with this national accreditation program
- Establish process/timeline for DBH prevention staff to become certified as Prevention Specialists

Planning

State goal

Fund six proposals, with a minimum of two urban and two rural recipients.

Funding allocation plan

Selected the Equity Model, whereby funding would be available to all parts of the State. Additional parameters:

- Grantees are required to address both of the priority consumption patterns (youth alcohol use and adult heavy and binge drinking) and their associated indicators
- Grantees will select at least one priority consequence that results from the selected consumption pattern for their project area
- Following assessment and capacity building, each grantee will develop a strategic plan
 - Grantees will choose strategies that will result in population-level change
 - Any proposed intervention/strategy must clearly indicate a plan for sustainability
 - Once finalized, the Strategic Plan and identified strategies/interventions must be reviewed and approved by the state before implementation.
- Grantees will develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with their local school district(s) indicating a willingness to participate in the bi-annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Grantees must include any Alternative High Schools in their project area in defined strategy

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Implementation

Four key strategies selected by the State for state-level action and implementation:

1. Enhance Alaska's prevention workforce (established Prevention Workforce subcommittee)
2. Develop regional/community capacity to promote prevention principles and strategies (selected contractor to provide training, technical assistance and support)
3. Increase understanding and use of community coalitions and environmental strategies to accomplish sustainable community change (community grantees)
4. Increase regional/community understanding and use of data to drive decisions, implementation, evaluation and continuous quality improvement of strategies and interventions (community grantees)

Statewide Evaluation (to be conducted by UAA Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services)

Outcome evaluation

Four questions to answer regarding meaningful, measurable results of the statewide SPF SIG project:

1. Effect on proportion of adults reporting binge and heavy drinking, and on proportion of youth reporting alcohol consumption
2. Impact on reducing alcohol-related consequences identified as priorities for Alaska
3. Program/contextual factors associated with outcomes (meaningful, measurable results)
4. Individual factors associated with outcomes (meaningful, measurable results)

Process Evaluation.

Four questions to answer regarding the extent to which proposed tasks and activities were achieved in the Alaska SPF SIG process:

1. How closely implementation matched the State strategic plan
2. Types of deviation from the State strategic plan that occurred
3. What led to any deviations from the strategic plan
4. Impact of the deviations from the strategic plan on interventions and evaluation