

SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework is a dynamic, data-driven planning process that prevention practitioners can use to understand and more effectively address the substance abuse and related mental health problems facing their communities.



Understanding the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

Throughout all five steps remember . . .

There are many ways to view the world, so make sure that your plan values, respects, and accepts the differences of all people in the community.

Also, work toward maintaining not only effective interventions, but also the planning processes that contribute to their success.

Step 1. Assessment—*Discover what your community needs*

- What substance use and related problems are occurring in your community?
- How often and where are these problems occurring?
- Who are these problems affecting the most?
- Is your community ready to do something about it?

Step 2. Capacity Building—*Find out what your community needs to address identified problems*

- Who are the people whose help you need? How can you engage them in your prevention efforts?
- What types of knowledge and skills does your prevention team need to work together effectively?
- How can you raise community awareness of the problems you hope to address? Don’t forget to think outside the box!

Step 3. Planning—*Develop a detailed plan that links desired outcomes to identified needs.*

- What are the underlying factors that contribute to your community’s problems? How will you prioritize these factors?
- Where will you go to find interventions that address your priority factors? Are they a good fit for your community?
- How will you communicate your plans to key stakeholders?

Step 4. Implementation—*Put your plan into action by delivering evidence-based interventions, as intended.*

- Have you built the infrastructure you need to support effective implementation of your plan?
- How will you know if your plan is being implemented as intended?

Step 5. Evaluation—*Assess the effectiveness of your prevention efforts. Evaluation can help you:*

- Document and describe your prevention activities
- Meet the diverse information needs of your stakeholders
- Continuously improve your prevention activities
- Demonstrate the impact of your efforts
- Identify which elements of your plan are working well
- Build credibility and support for prevention in your community