



New Hampshire's System for Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts and Services

“Alcohol flows through my courtroom like a river.”

– District Court Judge

“By not asking questions about alcohol and other drug use, we had become part of the problem.”

– Community Health Center Staff

The prevention of alcohol and other drug misuse is a high priority in New Hampshire, with many partners, stakeholders, and investors supporting community-based efforts to prevent substance misuse. The New Hampshire Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services is the state’s leader in many of these efforts and manages funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant to support prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery support services.

NH GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

In New Hampshire, a Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse was established by legislation in 2000. The Commission oversees the distribution of funds from a set-aside of state funds generated by the state’s sale of alcohol; advises the Governor on policy and resources to improve prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support efforts; and develops and oversees a state-wide strategy to prevent substance misuse and promote recovery. The Commission meets bi-monthly, and its membership includes representation from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, eight other state agencies and divisions, the Attorney General’s office, the Adjutant General, the Liquor Commission, the Legislature and Senate, and representatives from primary care, business, prevention, treatment and the general public.

PRIORITIES AND POPULATIONS

The Governor’s Commission’s most recent state strategy, **Collective Action – Collective Impact**¹ was formally endorsed and disseminated in March of 2013. The following problem areas and populations are the current priorities of the Commission and of state efforts to prevent substance misuse.

PRIORITY PROBLEM AREAS

ALCOHOL MISUSE
MARIJUANA USE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

YOUTH
YOUNG ADULTS
PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN
MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES
JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH AND ADULTS
INDIVIDUALS NEEDING BUT NOT RECEIVING TREATMENT
INDIVIDUALS WITH CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The current state system goals are to reduce the percentage of residents misusing of alcohol or other drugs and to increase the number of residents with substance use disorders receiving treatment and recovery support.

These goals are being met through a collective effort across multiple state agencies and community sectors to increase leadership; financial resourcing; public education; training and professional development; data utilization; and effective policies, practices and programs in multiple sectors.

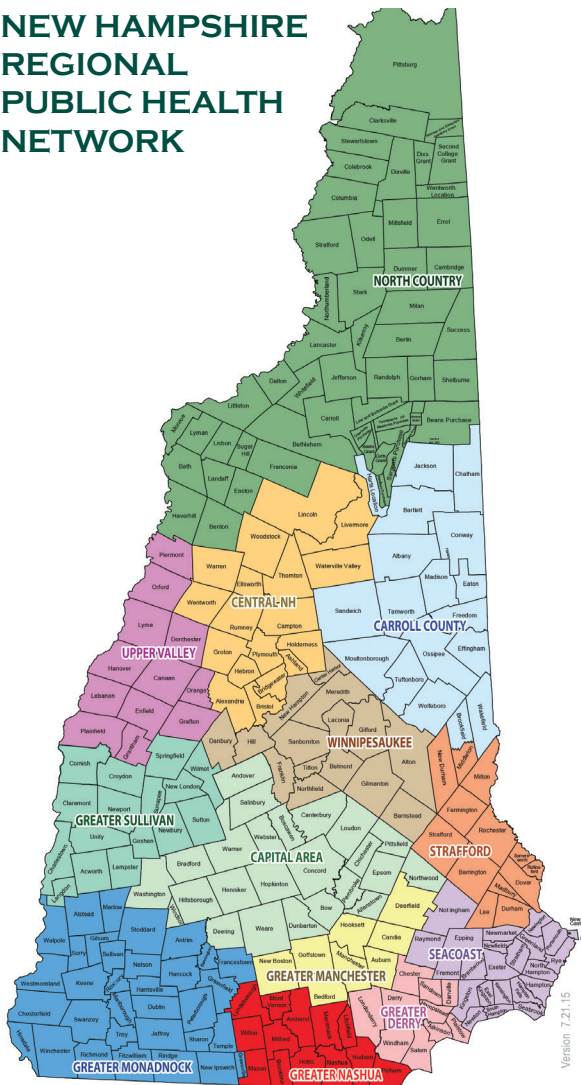
¹ <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/plan.htm>

THE SIX SECTORS

The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services developed a six-sector model for state and community application that serves as the foundation for building readiness, promoting best practices, and leveraging resources in a comprehensive and collective manner.



NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK



THE REGIONAL NETWORK SYSTEM

The state’s substance misuse prevention strategies rely on the Regional Public Health Network System as its primary prevention delivery system. This system aligns the Bureau’s regional network system for substance misuse prevention with the state’s Division of Public Health Services’ regional public health emergency preparedness system. The two functions of the system (substance misuse prevention and emergency preparedness) are linked through shared contracts with the state and shared public health advisory council in each of the system’s 13 geographies. Regional Public Health Advisory Councils represent the communities, cultures and sectors of a defined region, including key organizations involved in public health activities that assess needs, guide decision-making, and encourage shared resources and investments in positive health outcomes.

For alcohol and other drug prevention efforts, the regional networks each have a full-time substance misuse prevention coordinator and content expert panel at the community level that carries out a regional strategic plan developed using the evidence-based federal Strategic Prevention Framework for assessment, capacity building, planning, implementation and evaluation. Regional strategic plans align with the state-wide strategy and are designed to leverage resources and promote best practices with partners and stakeholders from the six sectors.

For regional information and coordinator contact information, visit <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/documents/rphncontactlist.pdf>.

SUPPORTING THE PREVENTION SYSTEM

There are many core pillars that provide the infrastructure to support the regional network system for substance misuse prevention.



New Hampshire Charitable Foundation – The foundation oversees a sizable substance abuse portfolio that is currently funding several state-wide prevention initiatives. In addition to investments in New Futures and the New Hampshire Center for Excellence (see below), the Foundation also supports several best practices in prevention in the state, including Life of an Athlete, Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment, and Partnership for a Drug Free New Hampshire. www.nhcf.org



New Hampshire Prevention Certification Board – Regional prevention coordinators must be Certified Prevention Specialists as articulated by the IC & RC credentialing organization. The required credentialing ensures a common knowledge and skill base within the regional system. www.nhpreventcert.org



New Futures – This alcohol and drug policy organization provides critical advocacy training, leadership opportunities, and legislative efforts that drive public policy priorities and that empower community leaders to influence state level policy. www.new-futures.org



New Hampshire Center for Excellence – The Center is the main hub for the technical assistance needs of substance misuse prevention efforts. In addition to regular meetings and learning collaboratives with those in the network system, the Center responds to a wide range of technical assistance needs from the field, including implementation science, assessment, strategic planning, evaluation, fidelity support, reporting, communications and other prevention activities. The Center also serves as the evaluator for the regional networks and specific best practices. www.nhcenterforexcellence.org



New Hampshire Training Institute on Addictive Disorders – the Training Institute offers low cost training to support prevention specialist programming and other training and professional development for priority programs and practices. www.nhadaca.org/training-events/



Drug Free Community Coalitions – Several federally funded coalitions exist across the state that provide more local support for substance misuse prevention. These coalitions receive federal funding directly from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to carry out locally developed, data-driven action plans. www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp



Partnership for a Drug Free NH – This non-profit organization works with prevention professionals and media partners to develop and disseminate effective media messages in support of state plan and regional network goals. www.drugfreenh.org



Prevention Task Force of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse – This task force meets bi-monthly, serving as an intermediary between the Commission and state and local prevention initiatives. The task force takes direction from the Commission and informs the Commission of prevention needs in the state. Their efforts have led to school alcohol and drug policy assessments and recommendations and assessments of training capacity to support prevention professionals. www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/commission.htm



New Hampshire Alcohol and Other Drug Service Providers Association – The state's association of service providers, including prevention providers, advocates, facilitates and enhances communication with funders, policy makers and the public to support the efforts of members to provide high quality substance abuse prevention, treatment, intervention, and recovery support services for the citizens of New Hampshire. <http://www.nhproviders.org/>



New Hampshire National Guard Counter Drug Task Force – The New Hampshire National Guard Counterdrug Task Force works to reduce the supply and demand for illegal drugs through partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as to provide technical support to community-based organizations in an effort to prevent substance abuse statewide. The Task Force also provides direct support to their own National Guard members to prevent, identify, and treat substance abuse through its Joint Substance Abuse program.

<https://www.nh.ngb.army.mil/community/counterdrug>



Service to Science Process and Expert Panel – Facilitated by the NH Center for Excellence, the NH Service to Science process allows locally developed programs and practices to be reviewed by an expert panel for endorsement as evidence-based. Typically, NH Service to Science applicants receive technical assistance in evaluation design and implementation fidelity for a year or more before expert panel endorsement. www.nhcenterforexcellence.org



State Epidemiological Outcome Workgroup – This work group is comprised of state level data analysts from a cross-section of state agencies who collect or manage large data sets, including arrest data, hospital data, risk behavior surveillance systems, service delivery, and other data. The work group provided the data analyses for the state-wide strategic plan and for the substance abuse module for the state’s new data portal, WISDOM. <https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/>



Effective Policies, Programs and Practices – There are several effective policies, practices or programs that are promoted by the Governor’s Commission, the Bureau and Drug and Alcohol Services, and the Regional Public Health Network. They include but are not limited to:

BEST PRACTICE PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- SCREENING BRIEF INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT) ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS
- LIFE OF AN ATHLETE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS
- PROJECT SUCCESS MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS
- 3 – IN – 1 HIGHER EDUCATION
- REAP OLDER ADULTS
- DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH COURTS ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS
- PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING ALL POPULATIONS



Federal, State, Local and Private Resources – Substance Misuse Prevention in New Hampshire is supported by several sources, including the Governor’s Commission Alcohol Fund, SAMHSA’s Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, SAMHSA’s Partnership For Success II grant program, local United Ways, and other local contributions.

PREVENTION OUTCOMES

New Hampshire and its many partners in prevention, including local communities, work together day in and day out to have a collective impact on substance misuse prevention in the state. The public-private partnerships inherent in the design of the prevention system leverage resources and promote best practices across the broadest of landscapes. These collective contributions are producing measurable changes in substance misuse indicators that will lead to increased safety and well being for our residents, children, families, and communities.



NEW HAMPSHIRE BUREAU OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

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