



# SAMHSA's Strategic



# Prevention Framework (SPF)



Prevention professionals face the urgent task of addressing substance misuse and behavioral health challenges in their communities. Research and experience indicate that effective prevention begins with thoroughly understanding these complex issues within their intricate environmental contexts. Only then can communities develop and implement effective plans and strategies. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) developed the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to support this effort.

## 5 Steps

<b>Assessment</b>	Identify local prevention needs based on data (i.e. What is the problem?)
<b>Capacity</b>	Build local resources and readiness to address prevention needs (i.e. What do you have to work with?)
<b>Planning</b>	Find out what works to address prevention needs and how to do it well (i.e. What should you do and how should you do it?)
<b>Implementation</b>	Deliver evidence-based programs and practices as intended (i.e. How can you put your plan into action?)
<b>Evaluation</b>	Examine the process and outcomes of programs and practices (i.e. Is your plan succeeding?)

## Principles

<b>Cultural Competence</b>	The ability of an individual or organization to understand and interact effectively with people who have different values, lifestyles, and traditions based on their distinctive heritage and social relationships.
<b>Sustainability</b>	The process of building an adaptive and effective system that achieves and maintains desired long-term results.



# Prevention Framework (SPF)

## Defining Characteristics

### Dynamic and Iterative

The assessment serves as the starting point for practitioners, but they will revisit it regularly as their community's substance misuse issues and capacities evolve. Communities may also engage in activities related to multiple steps simultaneously. Consequently, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a circular model rather than a linear one.

### Data-Informed

The SPF is designed to help practitioners gather and use data to guide all prevention decisions. This includes identifying which substance misuse problems to address in their communities, selecting the most effective interventions, and evaluating progress.

### Collaborative and Inclusive

Each step of the SPF necessitates—and greatly benefits from—the involvement of diverse community partners. While the specific individuals and institutions involved in prevention efforts may change as the initiative progresses, the need for prevention partners who understand and embrace the SPF remains constant. These partners should represent the community's diversity, including traditionally marginalized and underserved sub-populations.

## Ensuring A Comprehensive Approach

### Levels of Risk

To stop the progression of substance misuse, effective prevention efforts include those programs and practices that are directed toward individuals or groups who are not yet engaging in risky behaviors. These efforts also include interventions for individuals or groups who are more likely to engage in these risky behaviors or who have already begun doing so.

### Multiple Social Contexts

The socio-ecological model illustrates how risk and protective factors influence individuals within various social contexts: family, friends, schools, communities, and broader societal norms and laws. Effective prevention plans integrate diverse programs across these settings and domains.

### Cultural Relevance

Programs and practices must be responsive to and appropriate for the different cultural groups that comprise a focus population. Throughout the SPF process, planners must take steps to ensure the cultural relevance of prevention efforts.