

SEOW:

All States, Jurisdictions, and several Tribal Entities (hereafter referred to as States) have received Federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) to establish an epidemiological workgroup. These epidemiological workgroups are a network of people and organizations that bring analytical and other data competencies to substance abuse prevention. Their mission is to integrate data about the nature and distribution of substance use and related consequences into ongoing assessment, planning, and monitoring decisions at State and community levels. Their deliberate focus is on using data to inform and enhance prevention practice.

In some cases, the epidemiological workgroup is part of a broader Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) funded by CSAP. CSAP has also made funds available to support an epidemiological workgroup in all other States and Jurisdictions not receiving SPF SIG funds. In both cases, the epidemiological workgroup promotes data driven decision-making in the State substance abuse prevention system by bringing systematic data-driven thinking to guide effective and efficient use of prevention resources.

Such data driven decision-making necessitates the development of a State monitoring system for substance abuse. Such a system can help inform assessment ("What do substance use and related consequences look like in the State?"), planning ("What are the current prevention priorities that emerge after needs assessment?"), and monitoring/evaluation activities ("How are we doing in our efforts to address these issues?") to enhance substance abuse prevention.

Within the State Epidemiological Outcome Workgroup (SEOW) effort, CSAP has defined a series of data driven activities to assist States further develop their State monitoring systems by:

- * Developing a key set of indicators to describe the magnitude and distribution of substance related consequences and consumption patterns across the State (i.e., an epidemiological profile of the State).

- * Collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and communicating these data through the development of an epidemiological profile

* Establishing prevention priorities for State resources based on data analyzed and interpreted through the profiling process

* Allocating resources to populations in need for established priorities

* Developing a systematic, ongoing monitoring system of state substance-related consumption patterns consequences and to track progress on addressing prevention priorities, detect trends, and use such information to redirect resources if needed. Thus, the State epidemiological profile can become a "living document" rooted in the State's substance monitoring system.

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