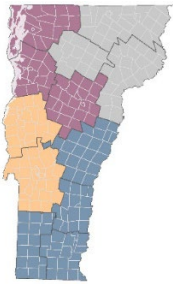


Four Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations (VPLO) were established in July 2023 to ensure coordinated prevention work statewide. They serve as fiscal agents to community organizations, coordinate through a regional advisory structure and work with district partners to allocate substance misuse prevention funding in their region. Allocations are based on community assessments, risk and protective factors, and community readiness.

The VPLOs are funded by the \$3 million per year state appropriation for substance misuse prevention in Vermont, which is subgranted to substance misuse coalitions and other partners based on data and regional needs.

## Goals

- **Prevent or reduce substance use and misuse across all age groups and substances**
- **Optimize regional assets and variability**
- **Ensure substance misuse prevention efforts statewide that are sustainable, scalable and equitable**



## VPLOs by Health Department district:

**Region 1 (Burlington, St. Albans, Barre)** – United Way of Northwestern Vermont

**Region 2 (Middlebury, Rutland)** – Rutland Regional Medical Center

**Region 3 (Newport, St. Johnsbury, Morrisville)** – Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital

**Region 4 (Bennington, Brattleboro, Springfield, White River Junction)** – Mt. Ascutney Hospital

The regional funding structure expands and strengthens Vermont’s substance misuse prevention system with flexible, increased and sustainable dollars that allows for more access, equity, innovation and reach.

## What is the focus?

- Sustain and grow existing prevention partners;
- Build additional capacity in both primary and secondary prevention and engage non-traditional partners (universal prevention and identifying populations at higher risk); and
- Address gap areas to ensure baseline primary prevention while also building capacity.

## What is the funding and structure?

- Addresses disparities in Vermont’s substance misuse prevention system that include geographical gaps and populations that are underserved;
- Leverages state and federal funding to fill gaps and expand access to prevention statewide; and
- Coordinates, supports and leverages substance misuse prevention efforts at the community, regional and state levels.

# Prevention System Enhancements

## What are the high-level goals?

1. Prevent and reduce substance use and misuse across all ages and all substances;
2. Ensure all Vermonters have access to substance misuse prevention strategies statewide that allows for and optimizes regional assets and variability;
3. Decrease geographic and other health disparities;
4. Increase efficiency and collaboration on prevention efforts across all state, public and private entities through a consolidated and holistic approach to prevention that is sustainable, scalable, and equitable - Vermont Substance Misuse and Prevention Council (SMPC) Goal #3.

## What will success look like?

A sustainable, scalable, and equitable statewide system in Vermont that prevents or reduces substance use/misuse across all ages and substances that includes and reflects:

- Relevant and effective substance misuse prevention efforts statewide;
- Collaborative efforts driven by reliable and timely data, that address contributing factors that lead to use and includes participation from priority populations, including, but not limited to, youth;
- An increase in substance misuse coalitions that are sustained and thriving;
- Inclusion of innovation and non-traditional prevention partners in this work;
- An understanding by communities and stakeholders about what substance misuse prevention is and its impact.

**For more information,** contact [ahs.vdhdsu@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.vdhdsu@vermont.gov), with subject line “Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations.”

### Substance Misuse Prevention in Vermont:

- **Focuses on all substances and age groups;**
- **Uses a public health approach focused on addressing risk and protective factors;**
- **Follows the Vermont Prevention Model;**
- **Is built upon the Strategic Prevention Framework and other research-based prevention principles while allowing for flexibility and innovation;**
- **Supports and sustains substance misuse prevention coalitions;**
- **Is embedded in other organizations and systems such as schools, third spaces and higher education;**
- **Engages non-traditional groups and partners;**
- **Is coordinated and cost effective;**
- **Includes and values primary, secondary and tertiary prevention; and**
- **Is continually evolving.**