

The Strategic Prevention Framework

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a five-step process developed by SAMHSA to support the identification and implementation of evidence-based prevention policies and programs. The SPF also includes three overarching principles. Notably, in practice, components of the five steps occur in sequence and in parallel. More detailed information is available in [A Guide to SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework](#).

Five SPF Steps

Step 1—Needs Assessment

- Obtain data on substance use prevalence in the community
- Analyze prevalence data and understand the risk and protective factors causing use
- Identify existing prevention programs and resources and learn about gaps in services
- Assess community readiness for new action

Step 2—Build Capacity

- Identify existing and potential collaborative partners and other stakeholders
- Establish or strengthen relationships with partners and stakeholders
- Raise community readiness for action
- Build the prevention workforce

Step 3—Planning

- Prioritize risk and protective factors
- Research interventions that can address these factors
- Develop a logic model that visualizes your problems, goals, inputs, outputs, and outcomes
- Select interventions that conceptually and practically fit for your needs

Step 4—Implementation

- Create an action plan derived from the logic model
- Follow best practices on ensuring fidelity to an intervention model vs. adapting for local circumstances
- Use available resources to implement the action plan

Step 5—Evaluation

- Work with internal or outside evaluators to assess processes and outcomes
- Communicate findings internally and externally
- Ensure a feedback loop mechanism exists to adjust ongoing prevention work, if warranted by findings

Three SPF Principles

Plan for Sustainability

- Have plans in place to support your interventions over the long-term

Practice Cultural Competence

- Respect and incorporate the beliefs, values, and attitudes of the populations that you serve

Engage in Ethical Behavior

- Have a formalized system of accountability that protects the safety and wellbeing of all