



## The Prevention Coalition's Role In Addressing Health Disparities

The prevention coalition has a specialized role in helping a community to achieve health equity. This handout is designed to assist both newly formed and seasoned coalitions to determine the who, what, and how to reduce health disparities as they implement substance misuse prevention programs. This handout can be used as an organizing and/or training resource for coalitions.

### THE DIVERSE PREVENTION COALITION

A prevention coalition is a diverse group of individuals and organizations with deep connections to the local community and vulnerable populations with a shared commitment to reducing substance misuse. Consider:

<b>TRADITIONAL PARTNERS:</b>	<b>NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERS:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth</li><li>• Schools</li><li>• Youth Serving Orgs</li><li>• Healthcare Orgs</li><li>• State, local, or tribal agencies with expertise in the field of substance abuse</li><li>• Parents</li><li>• Law Enforcement</li><li>• Civic/Volunteer Orgs</li><li>• Religious / Fraternal Orgs</li><li>• Businesses</li><li>• Media</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Colleges</li><li>• Substance Users</li><li>• LGBTQ Groups</li><li>• Parole Officers</li><li>• Urban League</li><li>• Building Trades</li><li>• Homeless Shelters</li><li>• Food Pantries</li><li>• Job Corps</li><li>• After-School Programs</li><li>• Policy Makers</li><li>• Others!</li></ul>

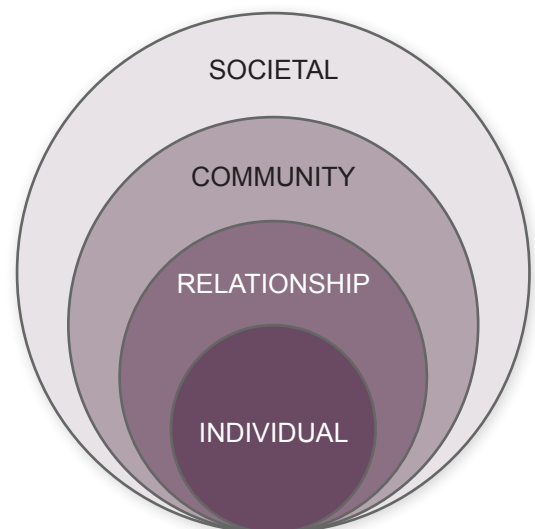
### UPSTREAM WORK WITHIN SYSTEMS

Effective Coalitions: Address risk and protective factors for substance misuse at each level or domain of the socio-ecological model. Use multiple prevention strategies across multiple sectors of the community. Solve problems collaboratively and develop a strong community. Use resources and form partnerships upstream (primary prevention) to lower and eliminate substance misuse while improving health outcomes of disparate populations.

The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) contribute to health and behavioral health disparities, such as:

- Neighborhood and Built Environment (Physical parts of where people live and work: homes, buildings, streets, and open spaces.)
- Health and Health Care
- Social and Community Context
- Education
- Economic Stability

Many of the systems that impact the SDOH are rooted in biases and discriminatory practices, negatively impacting poor health and behavioral health outcomes for vulnerable populations.





## TRANSFORM SYSTEMS THROUGH CULTURAL COMPETENCE

A coalition can hold institutions and systems accountable to create health equity by:

1. Assessing a coalition's readiness to address health disparities and its level of cultural competence. Have individual members and the organizations they represent consider taking the assessment below.

Take the Assessment



2. Aligning all parts of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) using a Cultural Competence Lens and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards.

Learn the Standards

3. Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) as a method of addressing systems that influence SDOH that are having negative impacts on the health of vulnerable populations within communities.

Learn About MAPP

