

# 5 STEPS FOR PREVENTION STRATEGIES

With the support of key stakeholders, you can take 5 steps to move your prevention strategies from vision to practice.

**GATHER DATA**  
Profile population needs, resources, and readiness to address problems and gaps in service delivery.

STEP 01

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A substance use issue must be assessed correctly through the collection and analysis of data that show the extent and location of a problem, risk and protective factors associated with it, community assets and resources, gaps in services and capacity, and readiness to act.

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STEP 02

**MOBILIZE**  
Build capacity to address needs.

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Key tasks include convening leaders and stakeholders, building coalitions, and training community stakeholders to help keep activities going.

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**PLAN**  
Develop a prevention plan.

STEP 03

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The strategic plan expresses a vision for prevention activities and a roadmap for conducting them. It describes policies and relationships, incentives for groups to work together, and evidence-based actions that will be taken. The plan also identifies milestones and outcomes for gauging performance.

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STEP 04

**ACTIVATE**  
Conduct prevention activities.

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Supported by training and technical assistance, local stakeholders select programs, policies, and practices proven to be effective in research settings and in communities. Culturally competent revisions are made without sacrificing core elements of the program.

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**EVALUATE**  
Monitor and evaluate results and the ability to continue.

STEP 05

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Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are vital to determining whether the desired outcomes are achieved, assessing the quality of service delivery, and identifying improvements needed. Sustaining what has worked well should be an ongoing process.

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Source: SAMHSA - Focus on Prevention