

The Vermont State Epidemiological Work (Handout 7)

Overview of SEW's

The SEW is an active working group that reviews information and data to help inform planning. The SEW has been in existence for the duration of the SPF SIG grant and will provide support to the SPF Advisory Council.

Utilization of the SPF SIG requires that there is a review and recommendations for data-driven decision making. This will include the creation of clear problem statements that indicate what the consumption patterns and consequences are throughout the state.

The SEW Prioritization Process:

The SEW first identified the data that will be used.

They then looked at the data in terms of:

1) Size/Magnitude = numbers/frequencies, rates (answers the question: How large is the problem?) and

2) Impact – Looks at what is the depth of the problem, such as economic cost.

For example: If we compare the magnitude of alcohol consumption to heroin consumption, we will find that there is a larger magnitude of alcohol consumption than heroin. But the impact of heroin may be greater due to heroin overdoses.

Vermont SEW Recommendations:

The most influential criteria used by the SEW to identify statewide priorities were:

- Vermont's ranking relative to other states
- Relative prevalence within Vermont
- Trends

Process for Priority Decision Making: Multiple Levels of Input:

There were three levels of input in the SEW decision making process.

The SEW made Preliminary Recommendations that included:

- Alcohol misuse across the lifespan
- Driving under the influence of marijuana

A Bridge Group then reviewed the recommendation and discuss the preventability/changeability of these indicators. The group then develop a strategy for communicating these recommendations to the Advisory Council on June 19th

Lastly the Advisory Council reviewed the recommendations and discussed the preventability/changeability of these indicators

Final Recommendations

The final recommendations consisted of:

- Reduce underage drinking
- Reduce high-risk drinking among persons under 25
- Reduce marijuana use among persons under age 25
- Build prevention capacity and infrastructure at the state and community levels, including a sustainable evaluation system for prevention grantees.