INVESTING IN PREVENTION FOR A HEALTHIER IDAHO

WHY INVEST IN PRIMARY PREVENTION?

The Governor’s Idaho Office of Drug Policy (ODP) envisions a safe & healthy Idaho free from the devastating impact of substance misuse on our youth, families, and communities. Alcohol and drug misuse erode the well-being and security of our state and demand effective mechanisms for deterrence.

Substance misuse is one of the most costly health problems in the United States. Nationwide, the misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs exacts more than $740 billion annually in costs related to crime, lost work productivity, and health care. However, human and financial costs of substance misuse can be offset by the implementation of effective primary prevention policies and programs.

When we prevent the early use of alcohol and other drugs, we also prevent the far-reaching and high costs of substance use disorders and addiction. As part of our mission to transform lives, ODP works with partners across Idaho to leverage limited resources to help at-risk youth and communities. By investing in evidence-based practices and building our state’s prevention workforce, we support communities in creating sustainable, healthy change.

PREVENTION PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAMMING IN IDAHO

Substance Use Prevention providers in Idaho have initiated favorable reductions in adolescent substance use over the past decade. The work of prevention providers in Idaho includes strengthening collaboration among community sectors by working at the grassroots level & utilizing environmental strategies to achieve population-level reductions in youth substance use. Based on the Strategic Prevention Framework model of change, prevention providers have proven to utilize funds effectively, producing a tremendous return on investment.

The work of prevention providers implementing comprehensive, multi-faceted strategies to affect youth substance use has proven to be effective in utilizing public funds to reduce youth substance use. Sustainability, however, is integral to the success of maintaining these significant reductions. Prevention providers continue to face challenges in securing funding to help their community identify local solutions to address their unique substance use challenges.

Since ODP began prevention efforts in 2012, our programming has reached an average of 25,000 Idaho youth and 300 parents and caregivers annually.

4. What You Need to Know About Marijuana Use in Teens. 2017. CDC.
5. Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) & Partnerships for Success Strategic Prevention Framework (PFS SFP) Grant Statewide Evaluation. 2021. Pacific Research Institute of Evaluation (PIRE) ODP.

For every $1.00 invested in substance use prevention in Idaho, $20.63 of savings in public burden spending is realized.
**ODP STATEWIDE PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Idaho Healthy Youth Survey (IHYS)**
  The IHYS is administered in schools every two years to collect data from students about their alcohol, drug use, and other behaviors that may impact their health, safety, and success. The IHYS allows us to track alcohol, tobacco, vaping/e-cigarette, marijuana, and prescription medication misuse trends among Idaho 6th, 8th, 10th, & 12th graders.

- **Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) Primary Prevention**
  Provides funding for substance misuse services for youth, families, and other at-risk individuals, and/or community coalitions to employ environmental strategies designed to reduce the impact of substance misuse at the community level.

- **Partnerships for Success (PFS) Grant**
  Provides funding to build capacity and prevent underage drinking, marijuana use, and methamphetamine. Funds are sub-granted to public health departments and law enforcement agencies to implement local substance use prevention programs.

- **COVID-19 Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Grant**
  Provides funding to help eligible public and non-profit organizations prepare and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. Grantees include schools, youth groups, mental health services, and other youth support organizations.

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**ODP FY2021 PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

- Youth participants have reported positive outcomes, including improved refusal skills, increased bonding, reduction in favorable attitudes towards drug and alcohol use, and increased life skills.
- Parents and caregivers have reported significant improvements in communication skills, family management skills, & family cohesion.

To ensure that our funded programs are effective, ODP evaluates the effectiveness of each grantee and direct service programs as part of an annual evaluation of our statewide prevention programming.

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**ODP FY2022 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

**IDAHO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REGIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Funding Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region I</td>
<td>$468,682.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region II</td>
<td>$430,057.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region III</td>
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<td>Region IV</td>
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<td>Region V</td>
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<td>Region VI</td>
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<td>Region VII</td>
<td>$742,754.83</td>
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**Past Month Substance Use of FY21 Program Participants**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Pre-Survey</th>
<th>Post-Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaping</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statewide results for 4 grant funded evidence-based programs: LifeSkills, Project Towards No Drug Abuse, Project Towards No Drug Abuse +, and eCHUG*