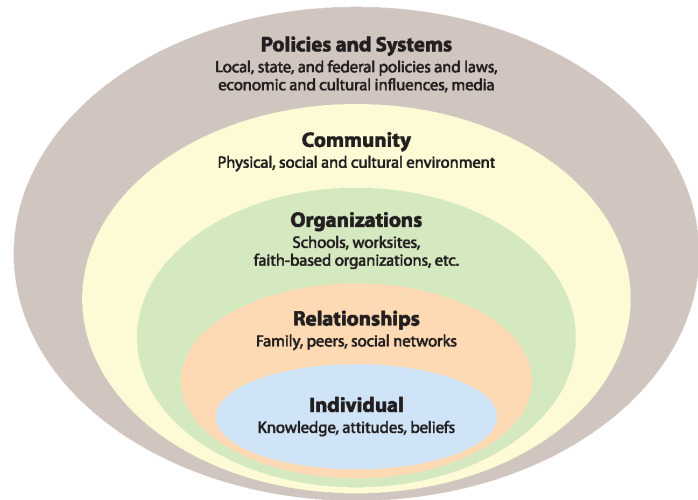


Substance use among youth is influenced at the individual, peer, family, school, community and societal levels. School communities increase the likelihood of positive outcomes when multiple levels of influence are addressed using evidence-based prevention programs and practices. To promote a safe and healthy school environment, substance use prevention and early intervention work best when they are robust and integrated into the school's whole approach.



## Goal

Successful substance use prevention among youth significantly decreases the likelihood of substance misuse and dependence in adulthood. The “Substance Misuse Prevention & Early Intervention in VT Schools” grants are focused on the following [Healthy Vermonter](#) 2023 objectives:

- Decrease percent of youth who binge drink
- Decrease percent of youth who used cannabis in the past 30 days
- Reduce the percent of people who need and do not receive treatment for alcohol use
- Decrease percent of young people that feel sad or hopeless in the last 30 days

## Grants Program

Between July 2022 – June 2023, 22 of Vermont’s Supervisory Unions/School Districts were awarded between \$25,000-\$60,000 each to provide and enhance substance use prevention and early intervention services, an increase of 8 new locations from the prior grant period. A 10% match in funds or in-kind services was required. These are 1-year grants with the opportunity to continue for an additional year or two contingent on satisfactory performance and the availability of funds. Training and evaluation services are also supported.

All grantees are required to conduct the following activities:

- Screening, referral and educational support groups
- Integration of substance use prevention into the coordinated school health initiatives
- Assess and provide school staff training
- Advising and training peer leadership groups
- Evidence-based curricula

# School Prevention Grants

## Summary of activities and outcomes

Screening, referral and educational support Groups	<p>A total of 630 students screened positive for a possible substance use issue. Of those, 64% were referred to additional services.</p> <p>A total of 624 students screened positive for a potential mental health disorder. Of those, 54% were referred to additional services.</p>
Integration of substance use prevention into the coordinated school health initiatives	53 meetings on coordinated school health initiatives were held.
Assess and provide school staff training	Alcohol and other drug trainings were provided to over 1,800 school staff.
Advising and training peer leadership groups	486 students participated in these groups.
Evidence-based curricula	Over 5,200 students participated in evidence-based curricula with a primary focus of substance misuse education

For more information, contact [ahs.vdhdsu@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.vdhdsu@vermont.gov), with subject line “2024 Annual Overview: Prevention in Schools.”