

# Harm Reduction Fentanyl Test Strips

**Total OSAF Appropriation SFY 24-26: \$200,000.00**

Funding supported the purchase of Fentanyl Test Strips

**Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS)** are inexpensive, small paper strips used to detect the presence of fentanyl in unregulated drugs.

# FTS Distribution Strategies – Harm Reduction Packs – Standalone Test Strips

Vermont Health Department Harm Reduction Packs (HRPs) are free, anonymous kits distributed statewide to help prevent opioid overdoses and reduce the transmission of blood-borne infections. They are openly available to people who use drugs, their loved ones, and community members.

Contents vary slightly depending on the outreach group the packs typically include:

- **Overdose Reversal Medication:** Two doses of nasal naloxone (Narcan®).
- **Drug Checking Supplies:** Fentanyl and xylazine test strips to check for contaminants.
- **Education & Resources:** Fact sheets on HIV/Hepatitis C, safety information, and guides on accessing local substance use treatment, recovery, and support services.
- **Self-care/Safety Products:** Condoms, basic wound care supplies, or other harm reduction tools.

In addition, organizations were able to bulk order additional FTS directly.

# FTS Distribution Strategies – Leave Behind Kits

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and local law enforcement are equipped with "Leave Behind Kits." EMS is required to offer these to individuals following an overdose or in situations where opioid use is indicated.

## Kits include:

- **Two doses** of 4 mg intranasal naloxone (Narcan®)
- **Fentanyl test strips** to test substances before use
- **Official instructions** from the Department of Health on how to administer the nasal spray
- **Educational resources** covering harm reduction, treatment services, recovery options, and information on Vermont 211.

# VDH – Outcomes and Monthly Overdose Dashboard

**Governor Phil Scott Announces Overdose Deaths Decline for Third Consecutive Year**  
[Press Release](#) (May 7, 2026), excerpts:

“The newly released [2025 Fatal Overdose Report](#) shows that 170 Vermonters died from a drug overdose in 2025 which is a 37% decrease in overdose deaths following a historic peak in 2022 with 269 deaths.”

“Opioid-involved overdoses continue to account for a significant share of drug-related fatalities, with 121 deaths recorded in 2025 compared to 183 in 2024. Fentanyl and cocaine remain the number one and number two substances involved in overdose deaths, often in combination.”

**VDH Monthly Overdose Dashboard**

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/data-reporting-topic/overdose-dashboard>

# School Based Substance Use Services

**90%**

of those with substance use disorders nationally started using drugs and alcohol before age 18\*

Total OSAF Appropriation SFY 24-26: \$714,481.00

Funding supported new programming in the following school districts/supervisory unions:

- Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union (via The Collaborative)
- Burlington School District (via Burlington Partnership for a Health Community)
- Franklin West Supervisory Union
- Harwood Unified Union School District
- Mt Abraham Unified School District- partnering with Addison Northwest School District
- Rutland City School District
- South Burlington School District
- Twinfield School District
- Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (Great Falls)
- Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (via Second Growth)

# Vermont Prevention Model

## Organizational Highlights



Personal

Social

**Organizational**

Community

Systems

**29 Supervisory Unions/School Districts receive funding for School-based Substance Misuse Prevention Services.**

All grantees are required to:



Screen students & hold support groups



Integrate prevention in school health



Provide training to school staff

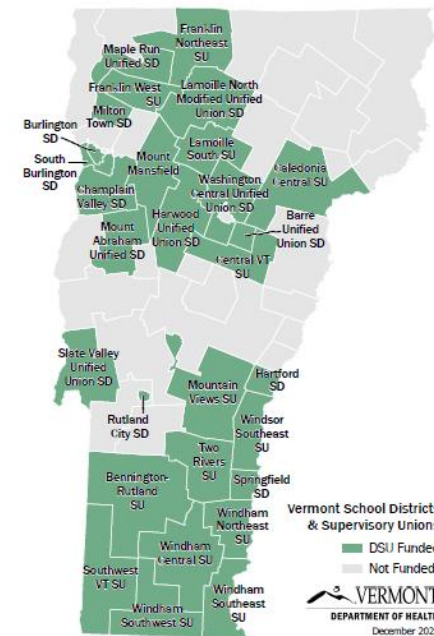


Train peer leaders



Follow evidence-based curricula

FY26 School-Based Substance Use Prevention Services Grant



# School-Based Initiatives



Screening



Capacity Building



Staff Training



Educational Support Groups

Student assistant professionals (SAPs) often coordinate prevention initiatives in schools. Looking ahead: VDH will continue to standardize the SAP role.

# Prevention requires continuously and consistently funded programs over many years to make impacts.

## 2030 Goals:



**64%**

Middle and high school students receiving school-based prevention services



Outreach & education serves 100% of middle school and high school students



Increase the number of high school students that don't use alcohol



Increase the number of high school students that don't use cannabis



Increase the number of adults age 21+ that don't binge drink



Increase the number of adults age 18+ who perceive a great risk from cocaine usage once per month

Continued stable funding will support these prevention goals