

# Developing the 2018 State Health Improvement Plan

The State Health Improvement Plan (2018-2023) will be used to set direction for the next 5 years for budgets, policies and programs across the health system and by partners from the variety of sectors that contribute to health and equity. The State Health Improvement Plan is the strategic plan for partners to align efforts to address the selected high priorities for reducing inequities; it does not represent the totality of the work for improving each of the health outcomes for all Vermonters.

## Commitment to Health Equity

To ensure that health equity is at the forefront, the following provides guidance for the workgroups in developing strategies for improving health and equity:

- The health improvement goals/outcomes will be broadly stated to include the whole population
- Indicators will be selected to measure progress on reducing disparities/inequities rather than changing the curve for the whole population
- Individuals affected by inequity will be engaged in developing the strategies for improvement by reviewing the potential strategies, offering suggestions based on local knowledge, and identifying options for mobilizing partners

## Outcomes and Indicators

Work groups will draft outcome statements which focus on the positive future state for all Vermonters. Data collected in the State Health Assessment will be reviewed to determine populations experiencing inequities. The workgroup will recommend indicators and measurable and time-framed targets for improvement among those particular populations.

## Strategy Selection

Work groups will identify a range of potential strategies within the different prevention and intervention levels (see graphic of model below. The following criteria will be used to identify core strategies:

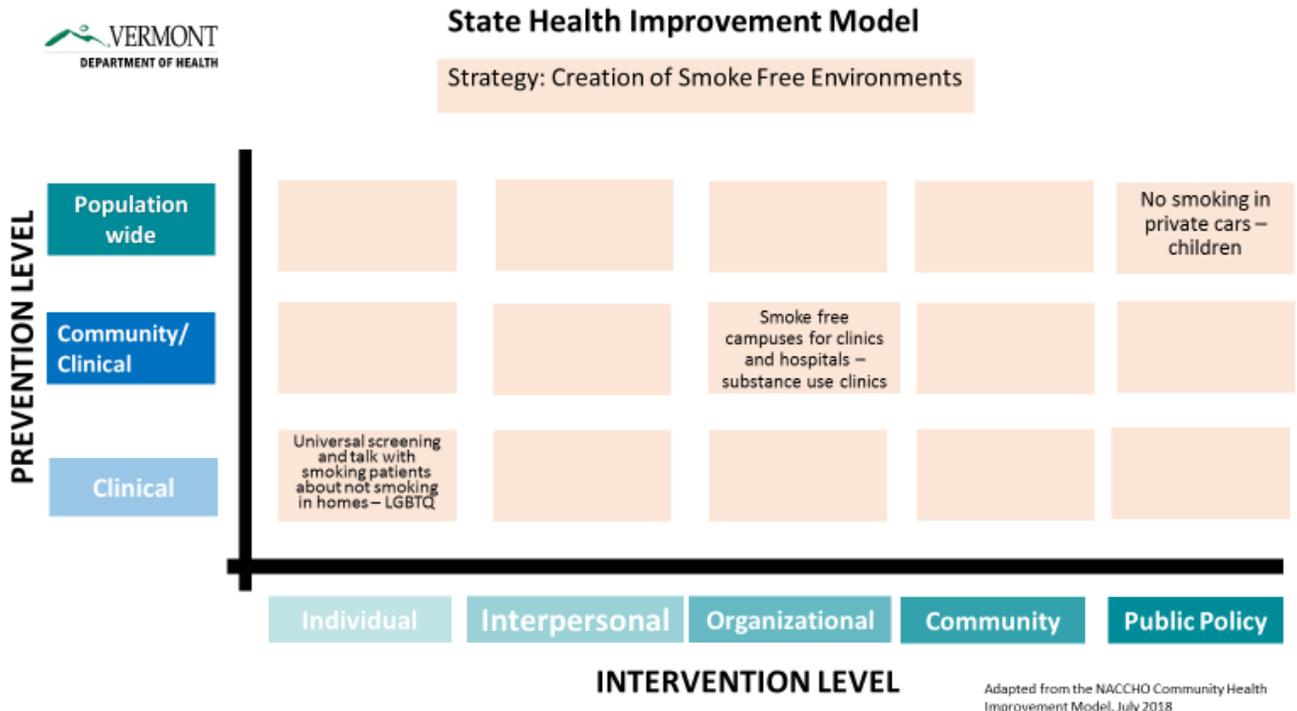
- Closes the health equity gap among population groups;
- Focuses on prevention as the highest priority for improving population health;
- Addresses social determinants of health;
- Addresses root causes which could impact multiple health outcomes;
- Utilizes evidence-based practice-based, or promising practices and/or innovative strategies with practical history/application in VT
- Includes policy changes to alleviate the identified causes of health inequity

The full Advisory Committee, and others connected to the five topics, will meet to review the identified strategies. They will also consider information previously collected on the [Forces of Change](#) and [Community Assets](#) which will impact the opportunities and resources for change. Ultimately, the group will recommend the strategies which best reflect the needs and opportunities for change in Vermont.

## Finalize Strategies and Plan

The Plan will designate individuals and organizations that have accepted responsibility for implementing strategies outlined in the state health improvement plan.

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## Using the State Health Improvement Model

**Prevention Levels:** *Prevention aims to minimize the occurrence of disease or its consequences.*

<b>Population Wide:</b>	Changes in policies and infrastructure to reduce susceptibility or exposure to health threats for all people. Creates environments for healthy living. Addresses root causes of health inequity.
<b>Clinical/Community:</b>	Policies and practices to integrate care (physical, mental health, substance use) and connect individuals to necessary social services
<b>Clinical:</b>	Practices and policies to increase the use of prevention and screening activities, and conforming with CLAS standards, that are routinely conducted by clinical providers.

**Intervention Levels:** *Intervention levels are built on a socio-ecological model of health.*

<b>Individual:</b>	Characteristics of the individual such as knowledge, attitudes, behavior, self-concept, skills, etc. Includes the individual’s developmental history.
<b>Interpersonal:</b>	Formal and informal social network and social support systems, including family, work group, and friendship networks.
<b>Organizational:</b>	Institutions with organizational characteristics, including formal (and informal) rules and regulations for operation.
<b>Community:</b>	Relationships among organizations, institutions, and informal networks within defined boundaries.
<b>Public Policy:</b>	Local, state, and national laws and policies.