

ADPC Prevention Committee

Strategic Priorities 2026-2030

Draft

Background/Mission

The ADPC Prevention Committee collaborates closely with ADPC staff and other partners to prevent and reduce substance use disorder and related harms in Oregon. The committee defines prevention as “practices, programs, and policies designed to prevent and reduce the incidence and prevalence of alcohol and other drug use and consequent health, behavioral health, and social problems (National Academy of Medicine (NAM) - formerly Institute of Medicine).” To do so, the committee will support the timely development, implementation, and maintenance of prevention strategies to grow a statewide, comprehensive approach for prevention programs, policies, and systems change.

Comprehensive Plan Priorities

The Prevention Committee proposes to reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders, reduce substance use-related deaths, and reduce substance use-related disparities and inequities by focusing on the following priorities:

1. **Clarifying regulations and fiscal strategies to prioritize and fill gaps in the delivery of primary prevention services.** Primary prevention focuses on preventing the onset of substance use disorders and can be targeted across the lifespan. Primary prevention services can occur at three levels, as defined by the National Academy of Medicine:
 - a. Universal Prevention – these are strategies that target the entire population. Examples include public awareness and education strategies, universal screening for substance use among youth, or regulations and laws that reduce substance misuse and promote avoidance of substance use.
 - b. Selected Prevention – these are strategies that remain focused on substance use avoidance but target populations that are known to be more at risk of the harm caused by substance misuse and disorders. Examples could include youth development programs targeting youth with parents known to have a substance use disorder.

- c. Indicated Prevention – these are interventions with identified individuals who are misusing substances but have not developed a diagnosable substance use disorder. Examples of indicated prevention strategies may include juvenile court diversion or similar programs.

With this priority, the Prevention Committee affirms this definition and proposes expanding equitable access to primary prevention services across the lifespan, ensuring resources are leveraged to fill gaps in services, and supporting the expansion of programs, policies, and strategies that align with best practices in primary prevention. This will include efforts to address fiscal and regulatory opportunities that can increase the capacity and sustainability of evidence-based primary prevention strategies.

2. Establish a Prevention Center of Excellence to expand the implementation of best practices and support the growth of the primary prevention workforce.

Schools, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and local leaders are more likely to implement best practices when there is technical and other support to bolster implementation. In addition, Oregon faces a significant workforce shortage of Certified Prevention Specialists. Several states have created technical assistance and resource centers to provide low-cost support to partners committed to expanding services. This center would serve as a one-stop shop, providing partners with access to data, evaluation tools, and assistance to strengthen data-driven decision-making, program effectiveness, and support for the prevention workforce. The Prevention Committee views the development of a center as a foundational step needed to expand access to evidence-based primary prevention services in Oregon.

3. Expand access to primary prevention activities in K-12 schools. Sixty percent of Oregon schools do not use evidence-based prevention curricula or programs. Reducing risk among Oregonian youth requires a more comprehensive approach to school-based policies, practices, and programs to promote well-being and foster opportunities to intervene early for youth at particular risk for substance misuse and its associated consequences. The Prevention Committee will work with school districts, associated state agencies, and policymakers to ensure expanded resources and opportunities to improve support for school-based approaches that reduce substance misuse.

- 4. Expand access to primary prevention programs and strategies on college campuses.** Though prevention programs and strategies often focus on K-12 schools, institutions of higher learning can play a critical role in promoting well-being and reducing problem use among young adults. Much like the importance of collegiate recovery, expanded prevention efforts can play a significant role in reducing risk and improving overall health and well-being on college campuses. The Prevention Committee will focus on efforts to expand the delivery of evidence-based primary prevention policies and strategies on college campuses throughout Oregon.

- 5. Expand community-based prevention efforts focused on children, transition-aged youth/young adults, and families.** Though K-12 schools and college campuses play a critical role, prevention requires a “whole of community” and a “healthier, earlier” approach to reduce risk and foster well-being across the lifespan. In addition to solutions that positively impact children 0-5 and their parents, including prenatal and early childhood support practices known to strengthen families and reduce lifetime risk of use. Communities must be more responsive to the prevention needs of transition-aged youth /young adults who may not be on college campuses but are participating in the workforce or attending trade schools and/or community colleges. The Prevention Committee will work with local leaders to ensure community leaders, youth, and family-serving organizations foster prevention-prepared communities by developing comprehensive strategies to address the root causes and proliferate evidence-based knowledge of substance use disorders at the individual, family, and community levels.

Outcomes Anticipated

The Prevention Committee believes these priority areas can help drive increased exposure to prevention programs and messaging, creating conditions for the state to achieve meaningful reductions in youth substance misuse.