

EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES

The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) identified six strategies for implementing prevention activities: community-based process, environmental, prevention education, information dissemination, alternative activities, and problem identification and referral.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROCESS

Community-based processes (CBP) focus on “enhancing the ability of the community to provide prevention services through organizing, training, planning, interagency collaboration, coalition building and/or networking” (OhioMHAS, 2016, p. 4). Data-driven organizing, planning, collaboration, and implementation are core to community-based processes.

CBP are essential to comprehensive prevention efforts; it is the foundation through which all other CSAP strategies are selected and implemented. Importantly, in Ohio, youth-led programs are defined as community-based processes.

Only two of the CSAP strategies are known to be effective at creating behavior change when implemented alone: **environmental strategies** and **prevention education**.

Each of the **other strategies** should not be implemented alone. These strategies are designed to complement environmental strategies and/or prevention education efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

Environmental strategies look to identify, establish, or change written and unwritten community standards, codes, and attitudes. Some environmental strategies focus on policy and regulatory activities. Others focus on a variety of media activities with the intent to change norms and behaviors.

HOW? Policy initiatives and enforcement, social marketing and/or community norms campaigns.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

One-way communication that brings awareness and knowledge of the problem and available prevention programs and services. There is limited contact between those who provide the message and those who receive it.

HOW? Awareness walks, speeches, and brochures or flyers with the sole purpose of sharing information.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION & REFERRAL

The identification of illegal/age-inappropriate risk-taking behavior and first use of illicit drugs. Note: this does not include any activity designed to determine if a young person is in need of mental or behavioral health treatment.

HOW? Identifying who may benefit from intervention, determining the individual's specific needs, and providing referrals.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

Activities that exclude risk-taking behaviors demonstrating that youth can have fun while making healthy choices.

HOW? Drug-free events (after-proms/lock-ins), community service activities, youth sports

PREVENTION EDUCATION

Employs two-way communication between facilitator and participants, affecting life and social skills through interactive activities. The interaction between facilitator and participant is the basis for activities and distinguishes this strategy from information dissemination.

HOW? In small group, classroom or peer-to-peer settings.

SUPPORTED BY



For more information, go to www.ohioadultallies.com
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). (2016). OhioMHAS Prevention Services Guidance Document. Retrieved from <https://mha.ohio.gov/Portals/0/assets/Prevention/MHAPrevention-Services-Guidance.pdf>