

# Bringing Data to Prevention Planning: State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroups

## Background

State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroups (SEOWs) are groups of data experts and prevention stakeholders responsible for bringing data on substance abuse and related behavioral problems to the forefront of the prevention planning process. To achieve their mission, SEOWs are charged with four core tasks:

- Identify, analyze, profile, and share data from existing state and local sources
- Create data-guided products that inform prevention planning and policies
- Train communities in understanding, using, and presenting data in an effective manner
- Build state- and local-level monitoring and surveillance systems

Following SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), SEOWs use a data-driven, outcomes-based approach to identify priority problems and recommend strategies that address these priorities. Starting with a solid understanding of those substance abuse and behavioral outcomes that warrant further attention, they then use data to identify risk and protective factors related to these outcomes, and align strategies to impact these factors (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Outcomes-based prevention approach**



SEOWs are responsible for completing specific tasks, and developing specific products, to support implementation of each of the SPF’s five steps. Table 1 below lists SEOW tasks and products for each SPF step.

**Table 1: SPF Steps and SEOW tasks**

| SPF Step                  | SEOW Task  | SEOW Products  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Assessing Needs        | Identify key data sources; collect and analyze data to identify needs  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State epidemiological profile</li> <li>• Community epidemiological profile</li> </ul> |
| 2. Building Capacity      | Bring data gatekeepers together to share data; train communities to understand and use data                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEOW charter</li> <li>• Community data trainings</li> </ul>                           |
| 3. Planning               | Identify priorities and inform policy makers   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factsheets for decision makers</li> <li>• Dissemination plan</li> </ul>               |
| 4. Implementation         | Allocate resources based on priorities; ensure understanding and application of SPF’s data-guided process in communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State prevention plan</li> <li>• Community SPF/data trainings</li> </ul>              |
| 5. Monitoring/ Evaluation | Build community-level monitoring system by monitoring trends, creating networks, and enhancing capacity                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data/Monitoring system</li> </ul>   |

## National Data Sources Used by SEOWs

Table 2 below lists key national data sources that provide state-level data. SEOWs frequently use these sources to inform their epidemiological profiles, products, and planning processes.

**Table 2: National Datasets Used by SEOWs**

| National Datasets                           | Host Agency                                      | How to Access   | Indicators Used in Profiles and Products                          | Demographic Information   |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| National Survey on Drug Use and Health      | SAMHSA   | <a href="http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9State/appB.htm">http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9State/appB.htm</a>                     | Substance use, mental health and risk factors (ages 12 and above) | Age                       |
| Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System   | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) | <a href="http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx">http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx</a> | Substance use and risk factors (youth 9-12 <sup>th</sup> grades)  | Grade, Gender, Race       |
| Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System  | CDC  | <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_data.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_data.htm</a>   | Substance use (ages 18 and above)                                 | Age, Gender, Race         |
| Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System | CDC  | <a href="http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/cPONDER/">http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/cPONDER/</a>   | Substance use (during pregnancy)                                  | Age                       |
| Fatality Analysis Reporting System          | National Highway Traffic Safety Administration   | <a href="ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/">ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/fars/</a>   | Fatal traffic crashes and deaths involving alcohol                | Age, Gender, County       |
| Multiple Causes of Death                    | CDC  | Multiple Causes of Death Public Use File CD from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics                              | Substance-related causes of death                                 | Age, Gender, Race, County |
| Uniform Crime Reports                       | Federal Bureau of Investigation                  | <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/ucr.html">http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/ucr.html</a>                         | Police-reported crimes  | County                    |

## Sample Epidemiological Profiles and Data Systems

All SEOWs are responsible for developing epidemiological profiles that describe the prevalence (i.e., how many individuals are affected) and impact of substance abuse and related behavioral health problems in their states, tribes, and jurisdictions. While these profiles vary in detail and scope, depending on the availability of data, context, and prevention priorities and needs, below are some examples:

- [New Mexico Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile](#)
- [Illicit Drug Consumption and Consequences in Oregon](#)
- [South Carolina Profile on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Substance Related Indicators](#)

Some SEOWs have also built interactive data systems to support community-level monitoring and surveillance. Below are some examples:

- [Arizona Community Data Project](#)
- [Kentucky's Data Warehouse for Substance Abuse Prevention](#)
- [Substance Use in Minnesota](#)

To learn more about state epidemiological outcomes, visit the Epidemiological Workgroup page of the SAMHSA website.