

Statewide Epidemiological Workgroup Wednesday, April 29, 2020

This document outlines the priorities established for substance misuse prevention by the Multidisciplinary Prevention Advisory Committee (MPAC) at the February 27, 2020 meeting.

It was guided by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention – Epidemiological Workgroup Technical Assistance Toolkit. The toolkit offers guidance for the development of the State Epidemiological Profile. It presents technical information focusing on four issues:

1. Identifying appropriate constructs and indicators
2. Developing an Epi Profile
3. Addressing technical challenges with epidemiological data
4. *Summarizing and presenting epidemiological data for ease of use in decision-making*

Guidance for #4 was used to create this prioritization process. Specifically, the document states it may be useful for members who are *“charged to collect and analyze data on substance use and related consequences.”* The document suggested mechanisms to promote use of data in prevention decision-making.

Two domains were used to organize the data:

1. Consumption: Defined as the use and high-risk use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Consumption includes patterns of use of these substances, including initiation of use, regular or typical use, and high-risk use.
2. Consequences: Defined as adverse social, health, and safety consequences associated with alcohol, tobacco, or drug use. Consequences include mortality, morbidity, and other undesired events for which these substances clearly and consistently are involved.

Reference Documents

- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency 2019 Epidemiologic Profile
- 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- 2017 – 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Substance Use Trend Analysis – Draft
- 1993 – 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Substance Use Trend Analysis – Draft
- Community Coalition Presentations on Local Substance Use Trends/Data

Priority: Level of Importance

1. Of the utmost importance, priority should be given to addressing this issue over others
2. Very important, this issue creates significant issues in communities and/or state
3. Somewhat important, impact of this issue is lower in communities/state than others

Observations/Comments of Reviewers

- All current use of marijuana and vaping/electronic cigarettes should be a high priority regardless of trend.
- High School marijuana use is stable but may be because they are changing how they use.
- Would like to know what ages are using emergency room and needing marijuana treatment.
- Perception of harm across all substances should be a high priority. Request for SEW to do a comparison across all drugs.
- Would like to see data specific to edible marijuana.
- Alcohol use among middle school youth is higher, even though national trends are lowering.
- Alcohol data is not conclusive, some indicating binge drinking among women is quickly increasing and some saying binge drinking among men is much higher.
- Vape products don't specify the substance being vaped.
- Because of poly drug use, reporting may not be accurate as people don't know what drug they are getting.
- Would be interesting to know how much of the increase of "other drug consequences" can be attributed to the supply of fentanyl.
- DUI data is questionable as alcohol is tested first, and if positive, other tests aren't conducted.
- Noted LGBT data across all substances as important to address, but may be urban area specific.
- Would like a better definition of what marijuana birthrates mean.
- Would like better death data. May need a BDR to obtain coroner data for cause of death.
- Would like data on dispensary locations compared to consumption and consequences data.
- Some priorities rated as high may need to be lowered for specific areas of the state based on local data and readiness.
- Consequence data sources should be greatly increased.

- Recommend SEW dive deeper into cross analysis of data.
- Recommend the Epi Profile be completed every two (2) years, directly after the release of new data.

Marijuana					
Domain	Construct	Indicator	Significant Change	Priority	
Consumption	Current Use	High School – 30 day use	/	1	
		High School – 30 day use by vaping	↑↑		
		High School - 30 day use by smoking	↓↓		
		High School – 30 day use in some other way	↑↑		
		Middle School – 30 day use	↑↑		
		Middle School – 30 day use by vaping	↑↑		
		Middle School – 30 day use by smoking	↓↓		
		Middle School – 30 day use in some other way	/		
		Adults – 30 day use	↑↑		1 (may be down graded based on community)
		LGBT – 30 day use compared to non-LGBT	↑↑		
	Prenatal marijuana use – Black non-Hispanic	↑↑			
	Age of Initial Use		High School – Used before age 13	/	2
			Middle School – Used before age 11	/	

	Lifetime Use	High School – Ever used	/	2
		Middle School – Ever Used	↑↑	1
	Driving Under the Influence	High School – 30 day drove a car while using	↓	2
		High School – 30 day rode in car with someone who was using	/	
		Middle School – Ever rode in car with someone who was using	↑↑	1
	Perception of Harm	High School – No risk from smoking marijuana once or twice a week	27.3% 2019	1
		High School – Parents perceive smoking marijuana is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	17.3% 2019	
		High School – Peers perceive smoking marijuana is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	52.0% 2019	
		Middle School – No risk from smoking marijuana once or twice a week	19.6% 2019	1
		Middle School – Parents perceive smoking marijuana is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	8.6% 2019	
		Middle School – Peers perceive smoking marijuana is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	28.5% 2019	
		Aged 12 – 17 – Perceptions of great risk from smoking marijuana once a month	↓ than US	2
		Aged 18 – 25 – Perceptions of great risk from smoking marijuana once a month	↓ than US	

	Availability	High School – Perceived availability of marijuana is very easy or fairly easy	49.8% 2019	1
Consequences	Medical Assistance	Emergency room encounters	↑↑	3
		Inpatient admissions	↑↑	
	Treatment	Primary substance at treatment centers	↑↑	
	Birth Rates	Prenatal birth rates – self reported by mother	↑↑	

Epi Profile Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana use among adults aged 25-34 was higher than overall reported use among adults in Nevada • Emergency department encounters and inpatient admissions due to marijuana use increased significantly since 2011 • Since marijuana has been legalized in 2017, reported marijuana use during pregnancy has more than doubled and has surpassed all other substances • The adult LGBT community has a higher percentage of current marijuana use • 30 day marijuana use by adults has more than doubled since 2011 • Clark, Nye, Lincoln, Esmeralda, Elko, White Pine, Eureka Counties and Carson City had the highest marijuana use • Marijuana was the highest self-reported substance used during pregnancy • Marijuana use among pregnant women was highest in the 20-24 age group and among those black non-Hispanic • Clark County saw the largest increase in marijuana use by pregnant women 		
Coalition Findings/ Priorities	Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50.8% of adults of adults who vape do so with THC concentrate oil or wax • Increased youth and adult use of edibles • Limit youth access to marijuana • Increase perception of harm around marijuana • Increase parental and peer disapproval around marijuana use • Increase knowledge around edibles and oils 	
	Churchill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention efforts and campaigns related to 4 core measures: perceptions of risk, perceptions of parental disapproval, perceptions of peer disapproval, past 30-day use 	
	Humboldt Lander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception among parents that it is “safer” for youth to use marijuana at home 	

	Pershing	
	Washoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of High School students who ever used marijuana and who used marijuana before age 13 have been higher than the state since 2007 • ¼ of High School students have ridden in a car by someone using marijuana in the past 30 days • Local school climate survey indicates perceived parental disapproval and peer disapproval have consistently declined from 2014 to 2018 • 1 in 3 high school students thought there was no risk for other people using marijuana once or twice a week • Reduce marijuana use by high school and middle school youth • Reduce the percentage of youth who use marijuana before the age of 13 • Increase perceived parental disapproval of using marijuana
	Nye Lincoln Esmeralda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83% of surveyed community members believe an educational campaign regarding the risks/dangers of youth marijuana use would benefit the community
	Elko White Pine Eureka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in suspensions for marijuana use/possession on school campuses in last two years • Reduce marijuana use by High School and Middle School students • Reduce percentage of youth who use marijuana before age 13 • Increase parental knowledge of effects of marijuana and disapproval of youth/adults using recreational marijuana
	Carson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman survey indicates 43% have tried marijuana and 23% believe it is more acceptable to use since legalized for recreational use • One middle school alone had 10 suspensions for marijuana during the 2019 fall semester • Juvenile probation report 100% of their drug offenses include marijuana • Work with families to increase awareness of dangers of marijuana use among youth • Provide education in the schools • Continue random drug testing in schools • Work with dispensaries to ensure regulations are being followed • Work with juvenile probation on early intervention programs

	Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local High School Statistics class survey indicates past 30 day marijuana use has increased from 17.0% to 27.2% from 2016 – 2018 Survey also indicates that perceived risk of marijuana use has decreased from 25.6% to 18.2% from 2016 – 2018 Legalization of marijuana is negatively impacting community efforts to reduce substance misuse
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Alcohol				
Domain	Construct	Indicator	Significant Change	Priority
Consumption	Current Use	High School – 30 day use	↓	2
		High School – 30 day binge drinking	↓	
		Middle School – 30 day use	↑	
		Adults – Binge or heavy drinkers	/	
	Age of Initial Use	High School – Drank before age 13	/	2
		Middle School – Drank before age 11	/	
	Lifetime Use	High School – Ever drank	↓	2
		Middle School – Every drank	/	
	Driving Under the Influence	High School – 30 day rode in a car with someone who was drinking	↓	2
		High School – 30 day drove a car while drinking	↓	
		Middle School – Ever rode in a car with someone who was drinking	↑	1
	Perception of Harm	High School – No risk from binge drinking once or twice a week	11.4% 2019	

		High School – Parents perceive having one or two drinks a day is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	13.0% 2019	1
		High School – Peers perceive having one or two drinks a day is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	33.3% 2019	
		Middle School – No risk from binge drinking once or twice a week	14.7% 2019	
		Middle School – Parents perceive having one or two drinks a day is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	9.6% 2019	
		Middle School – Peers perceive having one or two drinks a day is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	24% 2019	
	Availability	High School – Perceived availability of alcohol is very easy or fairly easy	54.1% 2019	1
Consequences	Medical Assistance	Emergency room encounters	↑↑	3
		Inpatient admissions	↑↑	
	Treatment	Primary substance at treatment centers	↓↓	
	Deaths	Alcohol related deaths	↑↑	
	Birth Rates	Prenatal birth rates	/	

Epi Profile Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binge drinking is higher among those aged 18-54 • Adult binge drinking is higher in Washoe County • Adult males are higher in both heavy and binge drinking • Douglas County had a higher percentage of high school students who ever drank alcohol
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churchill, Humboldt, Pershing, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey counties had a higher percentage of Middle School students who ever drank alcohol • Treatment episodes for males were highest for alcohol
Coalition Findings/ Priorities	Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol compliance rates have plummeted – 42% in 2018 • Limit youth access to alcohol • Increase parental and peer disapproval for alcohol use • Increase knowledge of laws associated with providing alcohol to minors • Reduce prevalence of binge drinking • Reduce impaired driving incidents by addressing social norms
	Churchill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention efforts and campaigns related to 4 core measures: perceptions of risk, perceptions of parental disapproval, perceptions of peer disapproval, past 30-day use
	Humboldt Lander Pershing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community reluctance to change their behaviors around alcohol use • No perceived threat that underage drinkers will be caught • Increase positive interactions with neighbors and more alcohol-free community events
	Lyon Storey Mineral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol prevention and education
	Washoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local school climate survey indicates perceived parental disapproval has consistently decline from 2014 to 2018 • Percentages of UNR students using alcohol in past 30 days and binge drinking are higher than the national average • Reduce alcohol use by High School students • Reduce the percentage of youth who use alcohol before age 13 • Decrease the percentage of college students who binge drink
	Nye Lincoln Esmeralda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81% of surveyed community members see underage drinking as a problem • 85% if surveyed community members favor implementing a Social Host campaign • 82% of surveyed community members see a need for education about the dangers/illegality of underage drinking

	Elko White Pine Eureka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol dependence in those aged 18-25 has increased over the past 3 years • Those indicating they need treatment for alcoholism has increased the past 3 years • Reduce alcohol use by Middle and High School students • Reduce the percentage of youth who use alcohol before age 13
	Carson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue compliance checks • Implement in-school detention program for underage use • Inform community about Social Host laws • Conduct party dispersals • Provide retailer education
	Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth focus groups and environmental scans indicate alcohol is the 2nd top issue (after bullying/shaming/peer pressure) that teens report impact them • Local High School Statistics class survey indicates past 30 day alcohol use has increased from 28.5% to 35.2% from 2016 – 2018

Tobacco/Vaping				
Domain	Construct	Indicator	Significant Change	Priority
Consumption	Current Use	High School – 30 day smoked cigarettes	↓	3
		High School – 30 day electronic vapor products	↑	1
		High School – 30 day smokeless tobacco	/	2
		Middle School – 30 day smoked cigarettes	/	3
		Middle School – 30 day electronic vapor products	↑	1
		Middle School – 30 day smokeless tobacco	/	2
		Adults – Current cigarette smokers	↓	3
		Adults – Current e-cigarette smokers	/	1
		LGBT – current cigarette smoker compared to non-LGBT	↑	1
		LGBT – current e-cigarette user compared to non LGBT	↑	1
	Age of Initial Use	High School – Smoked cigarettes before age 13	↓	3
		High School – Used electronic vapor products before age 13	/	1
		Middle School – Smoked cigarettes before age 11	/	3
		Middle School – Used electronic vapor products before age 11	↓	1

	Lifetime Use	High School – Ever smoked cigarettes	↓	3	
		High School – Ever used electronic vapor products	/	1	
		Middle School – Ever smoked cigarettes	/	3	
		Middle School – Ever used electronic vapor products	↑	1	
	Perception of Harm	High School – No risk from smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day	14.5% 2019	1	
			7.6% 2019		
		High School – Peers perceive smoking tobacco is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	23.3% 2019	1	
			Middle School – No risk from smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day		16.3% 2019
		Middle School – Parents perceive smoking tobacco is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	5.5% 2019		
		Middle School – Peers perceive smoking tobacco is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	18.6% 2019		
	Availability	High School – Perceived availability of cigarettes is very easy or fairly easy	44.1% 2019	1	
		High School – Perceived availability of e-vapor products is very easy or fairly easy	58.6% 2019		
	Consequences	Medical Assistance	Emergency room encounters	/	3
			Inpatient admissions	/	
Treatment		Primary substance at treatment centers	↓		
Deaths		Alcohol related deaths	↑		

	Birth Rates	Prenatal birth rates	/	
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Epi Profile Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School students from Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties have higher reports of using e-cigarettes Adult e-cigarette use is higher among those never married and young adults aged 18-24 Adult e-cigarette use was highest in the region covering Elko, White Pine and Eureka Counties 		
Coalition Findings/ Priorities	Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 cases of lung injury associated with e-cigarettes/vaping Top environmental issue is secondhand smoke exposure 77.1% of adults favor raising the minimum purchase age of tobacco products to 21 74% of adults favor making it illegal to purchase or possess vapor products if under 21 74.3% of adults favor prohibiting smoking in outdoor public places Increase perception of harm around e-cigarettes and vaping Limit youth access to e-cigarettes/vape and tobacco Collaborate with Retailers Association to increase awareness and training Reduce sales to underage persons 	
	Churchill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention efforts and campaigns related to 4 core measures: perceptions of risk, perceptions of parental disapproval, perceptions of peer disapproval, past 30-day use 	
	Humboldt, Lander, Pershing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce all measures of tobacco and e-cigarette/vaping use Vaping rates and use of e-cigarettes in rural areas of state are higher than state rate 	
	Lyon Storey Mineral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaping and tobacco prevention and education 	
	Washoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth focus groups indicate the need to create vaping lessons for elementary age youth Reduce the use of e-cigarettes/vaping products among youth 	
	Elko White Pine Eureka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been an increase in school disciplinary actions due to vaping on campuses in the past two years Reduce the use of e-cigarette/vaping products among youth/adults 	

	Carson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average of 2 vaping devices collected per week at Middle Schools and 10 per week at High School • 3 hospital admissions of minors due to vaping products in the first 3 months of the 2019 school year • Create school policy to make vaping products contraband • Social media campaigns • Support Tobacco 21 • Partner with health authority on prevention programming • Implement in-school programs for offenders
	Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth focus groups and environmental scans indicate vaping is the 3rd top issue (after bullying/shaming/peer pressure) that teens report impact them • Local High School Statistics class survey indicates past 30 day tobacco use has increased from 13.9% to 21.1% from 2016 – 2018

Other Drug Use				
Domain	Construct	Indicator	Significant Change	Priority
Consumption	Current Use	High School – 30 day took prescription drugs without a	/	

		prescription or differently than prescribed		2
		High School – Attended school under the influence during past 12 months	/	
		LGBT – 30 days used other illegal drugs compared to non-LGBT	↑↑	2 (may be upgraded based on community)
Lifetime Use		High School – Ever used cocaine	/	2
		High School – Ever used heroin	/	
		High School – Ever used methamphetamines	/	
		High School – Ever used ecstasy	/	
		High School – Ever used synthetic marijuana	/	
		High School – Ever took prescription drugs without a prescription or differently than prescribed	↑↑	1
		Middle School – Ever used cocaine	↓↓	2
		Middle School – Ever used heroin	/	
		Middle School – Ever used methamphetamines	/	
		Middle School – Ever used ecstasy	/	
		Middle School – Ever used synthetic marijuana	/	
		Middle School – Ever took prescription drugs without a prescription or differently than prescribed	↑↑	1
Perception of Harm		High School – No risk from using prescription drugs not prescribed to them	9.3% 2019	

				1
		High School – Parents perceive using prescription drugs not prescribed to them is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	9.8% 2019	
		High School – Peers perceive using prescription drugs not prescribed to them is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	20.6% 2019	
		Middle School – No risk from using prescription drugs not prescribed to them	12.6% 2019	
		Middle School – Parents perceive using prescription drugs not prescribed to them is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	7.9% 2019	1
		Middle School – Peers perceive using prescription drugs not prescribed to them is not at all wrong or just a little bit wrong	16% 2019	
Consequences	Medical Assistance	Emergency room encounters – opioids	↑↑	3
		Emergency room encounters – cocaine	/	
		Emergency room encounters - heroin	/	
		Emergency room encounters – methamphetamines	↑↑	
		Emergency room encounters – hallucinogens	↑↑	
		Inpatient admissions – opioids	↑↑	
		Inpatient admissions – cocaine	/	
		Inpatient admissions – heroin	/	
		Inpatient admissions – methamphetamines	↑↑	
	Inpatient admissions - hallucinogens	↑↑		
	Treatment	Primary substance at treatment centers – opioids	↓↓	

		Primary substance at treatment centers – cocaine	/	3
		Primary substance at treatment centers – methamphetamines	↓	
		Primary substance at treatment centers – other substances	↑	
	Deaths	Drug related deaths	/	3
	Birth Rates	Prenatal birth rates – opioids	/	3
		Prenatal birth rates – heroin	/	
		Prenatal birth rates – methamphetamines	↑	
		Prenatal birth rates – polysubstance	↑	
	Newborn Exposure	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome	↑	2
		Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome – White non-Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic	↑	2

Epi Profile Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug related visits to the emergency department have surpassed alcohol visits since 2014 • Drug related inpatient admissions have surpassed alcohol admissions since 2011 • Carson City had higher inpatient admission rates for opioids, methamphetamine and marijuana use • Washoe County had higher inpatient admission rates for opioids, heroin and methamphetamine • Lyon, Storey and Mineral Counties had higher inpatient admission rates for opioid and heroin • Clark County had higher inpatient admission rates for cocaine use • Carson City and Clark County had the highest hallucinogens use • Washoe County had the highest opioid use • Clark County had the highest cocaine use • Treatment episodes for females was methamphetamines • Males have a higher death rate from alcohol and/or drugs • Neonatal inpatient admissions for NAS doubled since 2011 	
Coalition Findings/Priorities	Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQ+ community demonstrating polysubstance use starting earlier • Limit youth perception of harm related to prescription drugs • Support and maintain harm reduction efforts around IV drug use to reduce risk of infectious disease • Increase collaboration with prevention and mental health to address co-occurring disorders

	Churchill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address connection between substance use, mental health and trauma • Prevention efforts and campaigns related to 4 core measures: perceptions of risk, perceptions of parental disapproval, perceptions of peer disapproval, past 30-day use
	Lyon Storey Mineral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methamphetamine and heroin prevention and education • Mental health/trauma prevention education • Local experts identified trauma as a root cause of emerging and re-occurring substance use and mental health issues
	Washoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018 7,129 grams of methamphetamine were seized compared to 1,066 grams of heroin and 512 grams of cocaine • Through Sept. 2019, 9,865 grams of methamphetamine, 421 grams of heroin and 1,214 grams of cocaine were seized • Methamphetamine deaths were higher than opioid deaths in 7 of the last 8 quarters • In 2019 there were 8 deaths related to mitragynine (kratom) compared to 3 in 2018 • Reduce the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use among women under age 44 • Reduce the number of High School students who use pain medications not prescribed to them
	Nye Lincoln Esmeralda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88% of surveyed community members believe an educational campaign regarding the risks/dangers of youth amphetamine use would benefit the community
	Elko White Pine Eureka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 drug seizures include 149 grams of heroin, 7,620 grams of methamphetamine, 20 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of mushrooms, and 1,337 dosage units of prescription drugs • There has been a 26% increase in referrals for drug/alcohol offenses from 2018 to 2019 • Reduce the use of pain medications not prescribed and misuse of prescriptions • Increase collaborations related to substance use and mental health issues
	Carson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth focus groups indicate prescription drugs are being used with anti anxiety and sleeping medications, as well as other stimulants • Youth focus groups indicate 45% know of people using opioids at parties

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move focus to education on all prescription drugs, not just opioids • Programming for youth ages 11 – 18 • Media campaigns • Advocate for resources to integrate mental health and substance misuse
	Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local High School Statistics class survey indicates past 30 day prescription drug use has increased from 9.0% to 15.7% from 2016 – 2018 • Destigmatization of substance abuse and mental health issues