HAWAI'I STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PREVENTION (SKELETON PLAN 2025-2026)

THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION

MISSION

"Provide the leadership necessary for the development and delivery of quality substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services for the residents of the State of Hawai'i."

OVERARCHING MISSION

"To prevent or reduce the severity and disabling effects related to alcohol and other drug use, abuse, and dependence by assuring an effective, accessible, public and private community-based system of prevention strategies and treatment services designed to empower individuals and communities to make health-enhancing choices regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs."

ADAD is tasked with coordinating all substance use programs including research, treatment, recovery, and prevention activities for the State of Hawai'i. Its efforts are designed to promote a statewide culturally appropriate, comprehensive system of substance use services to meet the treatment and recovery needs of individuals and families, as well as prevention needs of the community.

ADAD is the designated agency to receive and administer all available substance use funds provided by the state and federal government. ADAD is also the Single State Agency to receive and administer the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) funds administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

As the lead agency, ADAD is tasked with providing the leadership and procurement of services necessary for the development and delivery of quality substance abuse prevention for the residents of the State of Hawai'i. ADAD's vision is for a Hawai'i where every community is free from the challenges of substance use, creating a healthier environment for all residents. Through prevention efforts, Hawai'i's families will thrive and be supported by comprehensive, culturally responsive, and evidence-based prevention programs that promote lifelong well-being.

This Skeleton Plan was developed in coordination with providers, stakeholders, and community partners. The foundation of the plan was laid at the 2022 ADAD Prevention Conference, held in partnership with the <u>Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC)</u>. The event brought together prevention professionals from across all islands to collaborate on a five-year vision and prevention action plan.

Building on the conference outcomes, the ADAD Prevention Advisory Council, with support from the <u>Strategic Prevention Technical Assistance Center (SPTAC)</u>, identified statewide priorities through structured planning sessions. The Council's work focused on refining strategic goals and outlining steps to strengthen prevention systems.

In parallel, the 2023 <u>Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success (HI-SPF-PFS) project</u> advanced efforts to apply data-driven planning and implement evidence-based programs in high-need communities. This work developed a strategic plan that prioritized the use of local data to guide program selection, ensure fit, and measure effectiveness, reinforcing accountability and relevance in prevention strategies.

These efforts inform the Skeleton Plan as an initial framework for the Hawai'i Statewide Strategic Plan for Prevention that outlines priority areas and objectives based on current input from stakeholders, providers, and community data. This serves as a working draft intended to evolve through continued engagement and additional community sessions to gather broader feedback and finalize the comprehensive plan by October 2026 (See Statewide Strategic Plan Goals, p. 12), ensuring it reflects the voices and needs of communities across Hawai'i to support quality prevention services and improve health outcomes across Hawai'i.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Hawai'i Statewide Strategic Plan for Prevention aligns with the 2022 Substance Use State Plan and the overall Hawai'i State Plan, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §321, Part XVI, Substance Abuse, the Department's mission and goals, and the Department's Strategic Plan.

HRS §226, The Hawai'i State Plan Act

The Hawai'i State Plan is a long-range comprehensive plan that sets forth the goals, objectives, policies, priorities, and implementation measures for the long-term development of the State of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Statewide Strategic Plan for Prevention is consistent with the following objectives and policies:

HRS §226-20 Objectives and Policies for Socio-Cultural Advancement – Health.

- (a) Planning for the State's socio-cultural advancement with regard to health shall be directed towards achievement of the following objectives:
 - (3) Eliminate health disparities by identifying and addressing social determinants of health.
- (b) To achieve the health objectives, it shall be the policy of the State to:
 - (1) Provide adequate and accessible services and facilities for the prevention and treatment of physical and mental health problems, including substance abuse.

HRS §321, Part XVI, Substance Abuse

The Substance Abuse program is codified in HRS §321-191 through §321-198. The Hawai'i Statewide Strategic Plan for Prevention is prepared pursuant to HRS §321-193(2) which requires the preparation of a state plan for substance abuse which may consist of a plan for alcohol abuse prevention and a plan for drug abuse. Additionally, HRS §321-194 requires the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS) to advise the Director of Health on all matters relating to substance abuse including but not limited to the preparation of the state plan for substance abuse.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health

The mission of the Hawai'i State Department of Health is "to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawai'i." The goals are to:

- Promote health and well being
- Prevent injury and disease
- Promote healthy lifestyles and workplaces

• Promote the strength and integrity of families and communities

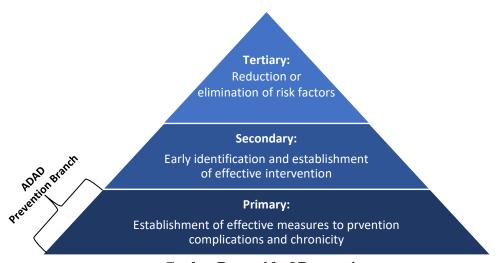
The Hawai'i State Department of Health Strategic Plan: 2015-2018

The Hawai'i Statewide Strategic Plan for Prevention is consistent with the following priorities and objectives from The Hawai'i State Department of Health Strategic Plan: 2015-2018 (now expired):

- Strategic Priority A: Invest in Healthy Babies and Families
 - Objective 1: Reduce substance use and exposure for pregnant mothers.
 - Objective 7: Plan for a system of care for children that addresses physical and emotional health.
- Strategic Priority B: Take Health to Where People Live, Work, Learn, and Play
 - Objective 3: Improve connections between primary care and behavioral health.
 - Objective 4: Improve life trajectories for vulnerable persons.
 - Objective 5: Partner with communities to identify their needs.
- Strategic Priority C: Create a Culture of Health Throughout Hawai'i
 - Objective 1: Invest in better mental health.
 - Objective 6: Enhance public health communication to influence, educate, and motivate.
- Strategic Priority D: Address the Social Determinants of Health
- Strategic Priority E: Use Evidence-based Practices and Make Data-Driven Decisions
- Strategic Priority F: Improve Core Business Services and Customer Satisfaction

SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The goal of the substance use disorder prevention system is to reduce the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by addressing community conditions that promote substance misuse and by enhancing community conditions that buffer individuals from the consequences of substance use disorder. The State Prevention establishes evidence-based and cost-effective models, programs, and policies to prevent substance use in young people, and contracts with grantees for direct services to engage schools, workplaces, and communities across the state. These services address risk and protective factors that influence the likelihood of substance use, misuse, or abuse and related behaviors.



Caplan Pyramid of Prevention
Gerard Caplan, Principles of Preventive Psychiatry, 1964

The SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) has identified six strategies to decrease alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use: information dissemination, education, problem identification and referral, community-based programming, environmental strategies, and alternative activities.



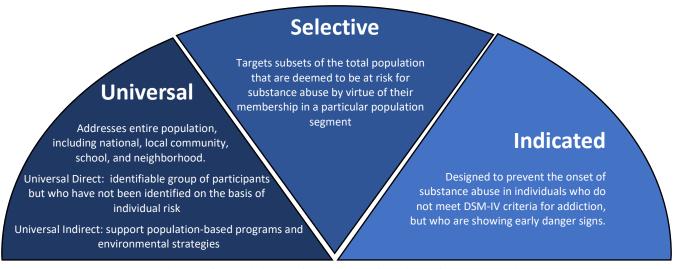
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Strategies

Additionally, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is central to ADAD's approach to prevention, as it offers a structured planning process that can be applied to prevention systems. It is focused on systematic development reflecting a public health, or community-based, data driven approach to selecting and delivering effective and appropriate intervention for the community and identified target population.



Strategic Prevention Framework

Programs provided by ADAD-contracted service providers incorporate at least one of the six CSAP prevention strategies and the SPF for universal, selected and/or indicated populations.



Institute of Medicine (IOM) Classifications for Prevention

ASSESSMENT

The 2024 *Hawai'i Substance Use Epidemiologic Profile Report* (HI-SEOW, 2024) served as the basis for assessing community needs by identifying priority substances, target populations, and risk and protective factors, supplemented by updated analyses from available datasets. Led by the University of Hawai'i Department of Public Health Sciences Epidemiology Team, the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) produces and updates epidemiologic profiles, conducting regular descriptive and inferential analyses. The profile draws on data from the Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey (HI-YRBS), the Hawai'i Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (HI-BRFSS), and the Hawai'i Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Survey (HI-ATODS). These identified populations, substances of concern, and risk and protective factors that will guide the development of targeted prevention interventions aimed at reducing substance use.

Based on HI-YRBS and HI-BRFSS, the assessment highlighted elevated use rates based on 1) substances used, 2) use by subgroups, and 3) regional use. First, the assessment identified alcohol, nicotine/tobacco, and cannabis as priority substances in Hawai'i, along with their co-and poly-substance use, with a primary focus on reducing substance use among underage youth and problematic use among emerging adults based on prevalence of use. Second, significantly higher prevalence of ATOD use were observed among individuals of underserved communities, such as Native Hawaiians, the LGBTQ+ community, emerging adults aged 18–25, and residents of rural areas. Third, the profile further explores substance use trends by community of residence among adults across the state, highlighting areas where youth and emerging adults may have greater or lesser exposure to adult use in these communities. The highest prevalences of co- and poly-substance use were particularly elevated in Hawai'i County, including the communities of Honoka'a, Leilehua, and Ka'ū.

The Hawai'i Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Survey (HI-ATODS) was instrumental in identifying problem substance use categories and examining risk and protective factors linked to probable substance use disorders (SUDs). Consequently, prevention interventions will be designed to strengthen protective factors and build resilience against identified risks. The HI-ATODS highlighted various risk factors, including ease of access to substances, peer influence, family rejection of sexual orientation or gender identity, family history of substance use, favorable parental attitudes toward substance use, lack of supervision, adverse childhood experiences, antisocial behavior, academic problems, and impulsivity. Protective factors identified include supportive local and state policies, strong connections to family and school, positive parenting, and the development of life skills and social competencies.

During a set of RFI sessions conducted between February through May 2025 across all counties, feedback from providers underscored a need for early intervention with elementary-aged youth, particularly those under nine, and a focus on 5th and 6th graders. They noted a significant gap in serving this population, despite research indicating prevention efforts should begin by 4th grade. Additionally, providers emphasized the vital role of engaging parents, grandparents, and other family members. This family involvement is crucial for reinforcing

prevention lessons at home and standardizing positive community norms, which can support environmental initiatives. Without this continued reinforcement, the impact of prevention education on youth may diminish over time.

CAPACITY

The ADAD Prevention Branch plays a central role in managing federal and state resources dedicated to substance use prevention in Hawai'i. ADAD is the single state authority designated recipient for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant and other federal and state resources. The Prevention Branch administers programs statewide that promote access to effective and cost-efficient substance use prevention services; develops, implements, and monitors service contracts; and provides technical assistance and training on substance use prevention strategies and issues.

The Prevention Branch includes the Branch Chief, one SPF-PFS Project Coordinator, one SPF-PFS Project Specialist, one FDA Tobacco Project Coordinator and Backup Project Coordinator, two Program Specialists (Substance Abuse), and one Administrative Assistant. The Branch Chief is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the Prevention Branch, including planning, directing, monitoring, evaluating, and supervising the branch's programs, services, and initiatives. This position ensures that all activities comply with federal and state rules and regulations while advancing the goals of the statewide substance abuse prevention system. The SPF-PFS Project Coordinator oversees the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) project, aligning efforts with the state's substance abuse prevention plan. This position manages day-to-day grant-related progress and ensures compliance with performance and reporting requirements. The SPF-PFS Project Specialist also actively assists in developing, implementing the SPF-PFS components, engaging directly with subrecipient communities to evaluate and sustain evidence-based prevention strategies. The FDA Tobacco Project Coordinator and Backup Project Coordinator serve as the primary liaisons with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), managing contracts and coordinating the monitoring and enforcement of federal regulations prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors. This position ensures compliance with FDA mandates and oversees subcontracted field inspections statewide. The two Program Specialists (Substance Abuse) contribute to the statewide prevention system by coordinating the development, implementation and evaluation of substance abuse prevention and early intervention strategies. They provide technical expertise, oversee contract management, and ensure that all activities align with the state's prevention plan. The Administrative Assistant supports the Branch, performing essential coordination and complex clerical duties. This position serves as a link between the branch, contractors, and external agencies, ensuring effective communication and providing clerical support to the entire team as needed.

<u>SEOW/Evaluation</u>: The Prevention Branch contracts for epidemiological data needs (SEOW) and evaluation needs (Evaluation Team). The SEOW is responsible for secondary data collection and analysis, project reports, presenting findings to community partners, working with prevention grantees, and researching and summarizing the epidemiological research literature on public health topics. The Evaluation Team is responsible for collecting program and policy data and reporting on the progress being made to achieve the goals and objectives of the various Branch projects.

ADAD Prevention Advisory Council: To engage community stakeholders and raise community awareness, ADAD initiated the creation of a prevention advisory council, which is made up of diverse stakeholders from across the state and representing each county. By working collaboratively with subcontractors, community stakeholders, and an advisory group, the Prevention Branch ensures the strategic delivery and evaluation of grant objectives as well as prevention services across the state.

Prevention Networks: The Hui (aka Hawai'i Prevention Network) and the Kaua'i County Prevention Network were established following the 2022 Statewide Hawai'i Prevention Conference to address the critical need for unified collaboration among substance use prevention stakeholders. The Hui serves as a centralized platform for prevention professionals, policymakers, community leaders, and organizations to share resources, strategies, and best practices aimed at reducing substance misuse in Hawai'i. Its primary focus is on fostering statewide collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of prevention initiatives, increase resource efficiency, and create a cohesive prevention framework that aligns with state and federal goals. Kaua'i County Prevention Network operates with a localized focus, bringing together community organizations, schools, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and local government to coordinate and implement prevention strategies that align with the unique needs of Kaua'i's County.

<u>County Contracts</u> aim to enhance the state's substance use disorder (SUD) prevention system. These contracts are focused on building the capacity of both county and state prevention systems to address underage drinking and prevent the severity and disabling effects of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) use. Each county's contractor is tasked with implementing the Strategic Prevention Framework to ensure a strategic, data-driven approach to prevention while aligning with the state's overarching goals.

<u>Grantees</u> must demonstrate proven experience in managing contracts and delivering prevention services to be eligible for a contract. Such requirements ensure that grantees are capable of handling the administrative and programmatic demands of this project; thus, they must have at least one year of experience in managing government or foundation-funded contracts or projects of a similar size and complexity. Additionally, applicants must have at least one year of experience in providing or coordinating prevention services, substance use-specific prevention services, and/or services to the target populations within their specified service area. Applicants shall also use facilities that are adequate for the delivery of their proposed services. These requirements

ensure that grantees are well-equipped to effectively deliver prevention services to the target populations in their respective service areas and provides workforce development training for the prevention field.

GOALS

The following goals represent an approach to strengthening substance use prevention across the State of Hawai'i. The goals are divided into three sections: Statewide Strategic Plan, Statewide Agency Goals, and Provider Community Goals.

STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN

These goals will lead to the completion of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Prevention by October 2026. These activities are designed to build on the current Skeleton Plan, which establishes priority areas and initial objectives.

- 1. **Listening Sessions:** By May 2026, coordinate with other information gathering initiatives to complete at least 6 community sessions to gather feedback from stakeholders in all counties, with findings compiled into a summary report by June 2026.
- 2. Statewide Prevention Plan: By October 2026, develop and finalize a comprehensive statewide substance use prevention plan incorporating data, stakeholder input, and evidence-informed strategies, ensuring alignment with state and federal prevention goals and submitting the plan for approval for public dissemination.

STATEWIDE AGENCY GOALS

These substance use prevention goals were developed to address current and emerging trends affecting communities across Hawai'i. To achieve these goals, grantees will reduce risk factors, strengthen protective factors, and promote healthier behaviors among youth and adults statewide.

- 1. **Prevent Underage Drinking:** Implement evidence-informed substance use prevention strategies to address underage drinking by increasing perceived risk/harm of alcohol, decreasing peer approval of alcohol use, and enhancing life skills and social competencies as protective factors.
- 2. **Prevent Intoxicated Driving:** Reduce DUI fatalities through substance use prevention strategies, including the promotion of state alcohol policies and disseminating information via media campaigns and community events, while increasing the perception of great risk from binge drinking.

- 3. **Prevent Youth Vaping:** Implement evidence-informed substance use prevention strategies to address middle and high school youth vaping by increasing perceived risk/harm of use, while enhancing life skills and social competencies as protective factors.
- 4. **Prevent Marijuana Use through Public Awareness:** Reduce marijuana use among Hawai'i residents and increase the perception of risk from smoking/consuming marijuana, by disseminating information through media campaigns, PSAs, health fairs, and providing information to policy makers on the nature and extent of marijuana use, its effect on individuals, families, and communities, and the importance of reducing marijuana promotion, high-risk products, and availability of those products to youth.

COMMUNITY GOALS

To advance substance use prevention efforts statewide, ADAD is committed to supporting provider community initiatives. The following community goals are organized around three areas: Workforce, Data, and Provider Network. These goals respond to input from the prevention field.

WORKFORCE

To strengthen Hawai'i's prevention workforce, ADAD has identified key strategies focused on expanding and supporting the Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) pipeline. These respond to stakeholder input regarding certification, onboarding, and staff retention.

- 1. **Workforce Retention Incentive:** Develop a plan with contracted organizations to financially incentivize Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS), along with a justification grounded in CPS contributions to service quality, fidelity, and long-term prevention outcomes.
- 2. **CPS Pathway:** Advocate for the streamlining of the Certified Prevention Specialist process by outlining required courses, recording an on-demand certification orientation, access points for CPS domains (e.g., ATOD), and onboarding for new professionals.

DATA

These data goals seek to improve the use and understanding of data to strengthening prevention efforts across Hawai'i. These goals respond to priorities around 1) the need for comprehensive data training for prevention professionals, and 2) the development of a robust prevention data infrastructure to support informed decision-making at the state, county, and community levels. They build workforce capacity informed by data and support the ethical collection, integration, and application of both quantitative and qualitative data to guide prevention planning, funding, and evaluation.

- 3. **Data Training:** Enhance data knowledge and proficiency of prevention professionals statewide by developing and implementing a statewide training framework that includes required and recommended modules on foundational data concepts.
- 4. **Prevention Data Infrastructure:** Strengthen the prevention data infrastructure statewide by supporting the ongoing collection, integration, and use of quantitative and qualitative data at the state, county, and community levels through investments in surveys, development of data scans, and dissemination of best practices for ethical and effective data collection.

NETWORK

The prevention community is committed to building a strong, inclusive network across Hawai'i to increase local ownership and broad representation. Stakeholders have prioritized inclusive engagement that encompasses youth, community leaders, and representatives from all 12 community sectors in local coalitions and statewide initiatives. By promoting collaboration through county-level hui, statewide gatherings, and targeted training and technical assistance, we aim to strengthen prevention partnerships, expand access to funding, and ensure that prevention strategies are rooted in the diverse voices and needs across the state.

- 5. **Diverse Community Representation:** Increase diverse community representation in the prevention field by promoting coalition initiatives, convening statewide and county-level summits and gatherings and strengthening engagement across all community sectors.
- 6. **Support for Small and Grassroots Providers:** Enhance the capabilities of small and grassroots organizations by providing targeted training, technical assistance, and facilitating access to prevention funding opportunities, thereby strengthening their ability to implement culturally-recognized and community-led prevention strategies.

EVALUATION

The evaluation process for the Strategic Plan will ensure that the performance of the State and its selected grantees align with the project's intended goals and objectives, and it will assist in communicating findings with stakeholders regarding program progress, outcomes, and service quality. The Strategic Plan will use a mixed methods approach to evaluation, which includes self-administered questionnaires/forms to track project's direct outcomes, and population-based surveillance and administrative data to track the project's impact on larger communities. In-depth interviews with key stakeholders will also provide contextual understandings and multi-level perspectives on the process and outcome data collected via other means. Grantees are required to submit data reports and evaluations to track their progress, adherence to program requirements, challenges and successes associated with the Strategic Prevention Framework, and overall impact. This approach ensures that the Strategic Plan remains on track to meet its objectives of reducing substance use and enhancing prevention efforts throughout Hawai'i.

Each grantee is required to adhere to a comprehensive data reporting and evaluation process that assesses the implementation and outcome of their prevention strategies. A data report via ADAD's management information system (e.g., HI-WITS or INSPIRE+) is due monthly (on the 15th of the following month), which includes the unduplicated count of individuals served, the number of prevention strategies implemented, the number of training and meetings attended by staff, and the number of meetings facilitated by staff. Grantees will collect indicator data from their participants including 30-day alcohol use, 30-day nicotine/tobacco use, 30-day marijuana use, and perception of risk or harm surrounding alcohol, nicotine/tobacco, and marijuana use. Grantees will receive details (e.g., timelines, templates, resources) of the data reporting requirements at the contract orientation meeting and will be trained in using the information system for data entry. To ensure data quality and accuracy, all data submitted via the information system will be monitored and verified by the evaluation team before approving the data for submission. Grantees will also submit narrative quarterly reports summarizing their accomplishments and challenges in each step of the SPF (Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation, Cultural Competence, Sustainability) as it relates to their prevention strategies. Quarterly reports are due (on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15) each contract year. A narrative yearend report will be due (on October 30) each contract year. Each grantee must also subcontract with an experienced external evaluator to complete a progress evaluation report and an annual evaluation report due (on April 30 and September 30) of each contract year. The evaluation reports will assess the grantee's performance and impacts.

The Prevention Branch's Evaluation Team will oversee the comprehensive analysis and evaluation of all funded projects, ensuring that data collection and reporting align with the measures and outcomes established in the logic models. The short-term and long-term outcome results will be presented in the annual Report to Legislature, disseminated to stakeholders, and used to inform ongoing improvements and ensure transparency.

ACRONYMS

CSAP	
CPS	
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HACDACS	Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
HI-ATODS	
HRS	
IOM	
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Non-cisgender
PFS	Partnerships for Success
	Prevention Technology Transfer Center
RFP	
SEOW	
SPF	Strategic Prevention Framework
	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SABG	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
UCR	

REFERENCES

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