

Developing a State Epi Profile

Purpose

Bring systematic analytical thinking to the causes and consequences of the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (first box below) in order to effectively and efficiently utilize prevention resources. The Epi Profile serves as the first step in promoting data-driven decision-making throughout the substance abuse prevention system.

Types of Data and Organizing Structure

Population based substance-related consequences and use data can be organized as simply as...

A. Consequences

1. Alcohol-related death
 - a. Alcohol-related chronic disease death
 - b. Alcohol-related injury death
2. Smoking-related death
3. Drug-related death

B. Consumption

1. Alcohol
 - a. Binge drinking
 - b. Chronic/Heavy drinking
 - c. Drinking and driving
2. Tobacco
3. Illicit drugs

Steps

1. Begin with consequences.
2. Organize consequences and consumption into constructs. Explore the relationships between consequences and consumption.
3. Identify key indicators that are adequate for decision-making.
4. Examine data from different perspectives:
 - a. Size/magnitude of the problem
 - b. Trend and other relative comparisons
 - c. Severity
 - d. Economic costs/social impact
5. Start with state-level profile then consider looking at age/other demographic groups only then consider sub-state level analysis.
6. Communicate data in a manner that describes implications clearly, facilitates data interpretation and application.

SPF Needs Assessment Model

