

# Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council Testimony

House Human Services

May 15, 2025

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# **The Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council was enacted through Act 82 in June 2019.**

- This council replaces the Opioid Coordination Council, Vermont Alcohol and Drug Advisory Council, and the Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board to move toward a consolidated approach to substance use prevention.
- The SMPC is charged with providing advice to the Governor and General Assembly for improving prevention policies and programming throughout the State and to ensure that population prevention measures are at the forefront of all policy determinations.

# **The SMPC has various requirements and responsibilities as described in Act 82.**

- **Review best practices, initiatives, and evaluations for youth and older adults, and existing state laws, rules, policies, and programs.**
- **Recommend best practices to reduce demand for substances and address gaps in services or populations, and strategies to integrate prevention initiatives across state and partnerships.**
- **Propose changes to state laws, rules, policies, and programs to address redundancy and eliminate barriers to coordinating prevention with State government.**
- **Advise the Health Department on their substance use prevention communications activities and plan to host 2 public comment sessions.**
- **Advise the Governor, General Assembly, and Community Programs in best practices for prevention.**

# SMPC required representation for the Executive Committee:

Commissioner of  
Health or  
delegate (Chair)

Community  
prevention  
partner (Vice  
chair)

Chief Prevention  
Officer

Commissioner of  
Public Safety or  
delegate

Secretary of  
Education or  
delegate

# SMPC required representation

1. Individual with lived substance use disorder experience as a person in recovery
2. Individual with lived substance use disorder experience as a person with a family member in recovery
3. Youth less than 18 years of age
4. Young adult between 18-25 years of age
5. Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development
6. An individual with expertise in substance misuse prevention in a professional setting
7. An individual with expertise in pediatric care specific to substance misuse prevention or substance use disorder
8. An individual with expertise in academic research pertaining to substance misuse prevention or behavioral addiction treatment
9. An individual with expertise in education in a public school setting specific to substance misuse prevention
10. An individual with expertise in law enforcement with expertise in drug enforcement, addressing impaired driving, and community policing

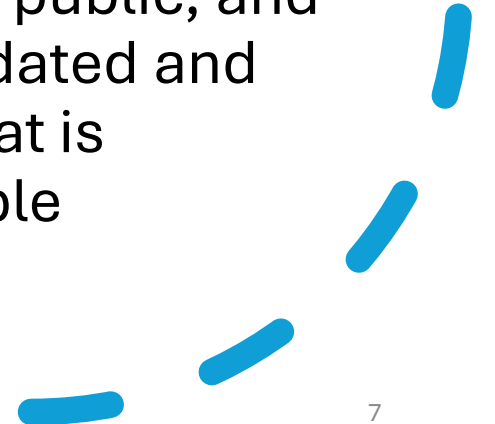
# SMPC required representation

- 11. An individual with expertise in community outreach or collaboration in the field of substance misuse prevention.
- 12. An individual with expertise in the criminal justice system
- 13. An individual with expertise in treatment of substance use disorder
- 14. An individual with expertise in recovery from substance use disorder in a community setting
- 15. An individual with expertise in municipalities
- 16. An individual with expertise in community-based, nonprofit youth services
- 17. An individual with expertise in substance use disorder or substance misuse prevention within the older Vermonter population
- 18. An individual with expertise in comprehensive communications and media campaigns
- 19. An individual from DMH or from the field of mental health (2020)



## The goals of the SMPC are to:

1. Increase protective factors and build resilience and feelings of connectedness in Vermont communities, across all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic conditions
2. Decrease risk factors for substance use in Vermont for individuals of all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic conditions
3. Increase efficiency and collaboration on prevention efforts across all state, public, and private entities, through a consolidated and holistic approach to prevention that is sustainable, scalable, and equitable



# Performance Measures (updated 2025)

1. Percent of high school and middle school students who believe they matter to their community. (Measures Goal #1 and is measured through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey).
2. Percent of high school and middle school students who perceive harm in using substances (marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco). (Measures Goal # 1 and is measured through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey).
3. Percent of Vermonters who used alcohol, cannabis, stimulants (prescription and illicit), opioids (prescription and illicit), tobacco/nicotine products in the last 30 days. (Measures Goal #2 and is measured through the National Survey on Drug Use and Health , YRBS, BRFSS).
4. Percentage of the cannabis excise tax, opioid settlement funds, Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, and other state revenue allocated to prevention programming (Measures Goal #3 and is measured through review of state and federal investments in prevention).
5. At least annually, the full SMPC will meet with the four Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations (VPLOs) and community-based organizations funded by the Vermont Tobacco Control Program or review their coalition needs assessments, strategic planning documentation, health equity plans, or workplans and utilize this information to identify continued challenges related to the work of prevention in Vermont.



# The SMPC has submitted six annual reports to the General Assembly

- [2020 Annual Report](#)
- [2021 Annual Report](#)
- [2022 Annual Report](#)
- [2023 Annual Report](#)
- [2024 Annual Report](#)
- [2025 Annual Report](#)

Each with recommendations to the  
Governor and General Assembly

# The SFY 2025 Report Included:

- Overall Policy Recommendations
- Recommendations Specifically for VDH
- Summary of Evaluation Results related to Prevention Programs
- Explanation of state-funded prevention programs
- And...appendices reviewing YRBS and BRFSS measures over their two most recent years

