

State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)

Tennessee's SEOW

A closer look at Tennessee's State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

BACKGROUND

SAMHSA funds State Epidemiological Outcome Workgroups (SEOW) to assist states and communities in adopting and implementing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The SPF provides a structure for the selection, funding, implementation, and evaluation of substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery programming.



MISSION

The SEOW mission is to use data to inform decisions about prevention, treatment, and recovery programming. This mission is accomplished by integrating data about the nature and distribution of substance use and related consequences into ongoing assessment, planning, and monitoring decisions at state and community levels.

Key Principles

1. *Outcomes:* Emphasize outcomes-based substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery
2. *Population:* Adopt a public health approach to preventing and reducing substance misuse and abuse, and related problems, including co-occurring mental illness
3. *Data:* Use of epidemiological data as a primary foundation for all planning and decision-making

Goals & Benefits

1. *Standardize and share data*
 - Standardize substance use data indicators, definitions, and reporting
 - Provide data in formats useful in guiding effective and efficient use of prevention, treatment, and recovery resources
 - Understand the causes and consequences of substance use disorders
2. *Identify and monitor data trends*
 - Build state- and local-level monitoring and surveillance systems
 - Organize and profile data from existing state and local sources
 - Train communities in understanding, using, and presenting data
3. *Provide data for decision-making*
 - Promote SEOW sustainability within the overall prevention, treatment, and recovery infrastructure
 - Create data-guided information to inform prevention, treatment, and recovery planning and policies

Work Products & Uses

1. *Delineation of key indicators to be used in the epidemiological profile and other reports and products*
 - Create common language for the topic of substance use disorder
 - Update standardized indicators
2. *Data dissemination plan*
 - Efficiently share data with a variety of entities
 - Inform prevention policies and strategies
3. *Monitoring system to track/monitor key indicators and emerging priorities*
 - Track progress on prevention, treatment, and recovery priorities
 - Detect new, emerging, and existing trends
4. *State & community epidemiological profiles*
 - Inform policymakers and decision makers so that they can develop programs, practices, and policies that are evidence-based and more likely to be effective in reducing specific problems
 - Raise awareness and building capacity to understand and use data
5. *List of priority populations*
 - Build capacity of prevention, treatment, and recovery programs to use data
 - Identify priority populations that are in need to use data so that resources can be directed to address needs

State and government agency members:

- Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Tennessee Department of Health
- Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security
- Tennessee Department of Correction
- Tennessee Department of Military
- Tennessee Division of Health Care Finance and Administration
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services
- Tennessee Department of Education

Community members:

- East Tennessee State University
- Oasis Center, Inc.
- Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention of Anderson County