

Regional Prevention Coalitions and Needs Assessment

Donald K. Hallcom, Ph.D.

Director of Prevention and Early
Intervention, DMHAS

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DMHAS Prevention Strategic Plan

The Plan was:

- Developed jointly by DMHAS staff and stakeholders who participated in the Addiction Prevention Strategic Planning Committee and/or its work groups
- Utilized data to determine the substance abuse prevention needs in New Jersey
- Indicated the types of prevention services to be offered in New Jersey
- Estimated New Jersey's capacity to provide these services and specify capacity gaps, where identified
- Identified planning principles that were used in the planning process
- Offer an implementation plan to realize the recommendations in the Plan
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan in meeting its goals, objectives, activities key products, and outcomes.

DMHAS Prevention Strategic Plan

Strategic Prevention Framework

- Step 1: Assessment - Profile population needs, resources, and readiness to address needs and gaps
- Step 2: Capacity - Mobilize and/or build capacity to address needs
- Step 3: Planning - Develop a comprehensive strategic plan
- Step 4 Implementation - Implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and/or practices
- Step 5: Evaluation – Monitor, evaluate, sustain, and improve or replace those components that fail

Data Analyzed in Developing Plan

- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- New Jersey Risk and Protective Factor Survey (for middle schools) (NJ MS RPFS)
- New Jersey Risk and Protective Factor Survey (for high schools) (NJ HS RPFS)
- New Jersey Health Survey
- New Jersey Survey on Drug Use and Health
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
- County Prevention Plans, including Municipal Alliance Plans and 2008 updates
- New Jersey Substance Abuse Treatment Admission trends
- New Jersey SPF-SIG Grantee Strategic Plans
- The President's National Drug Control Strategy (2011)
- SAMHSA Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2006-2011
- Strategic Plans from other States



More about Needs Assessment

Following the SPF model, the Assessment Work Group analyzed data in three categories:

- Consequences and social costs of substance use and addictions
- Consumption levels and prevalence of substance use
- Causal factors (i.e., risk and protective factors) that predict population prevalence.

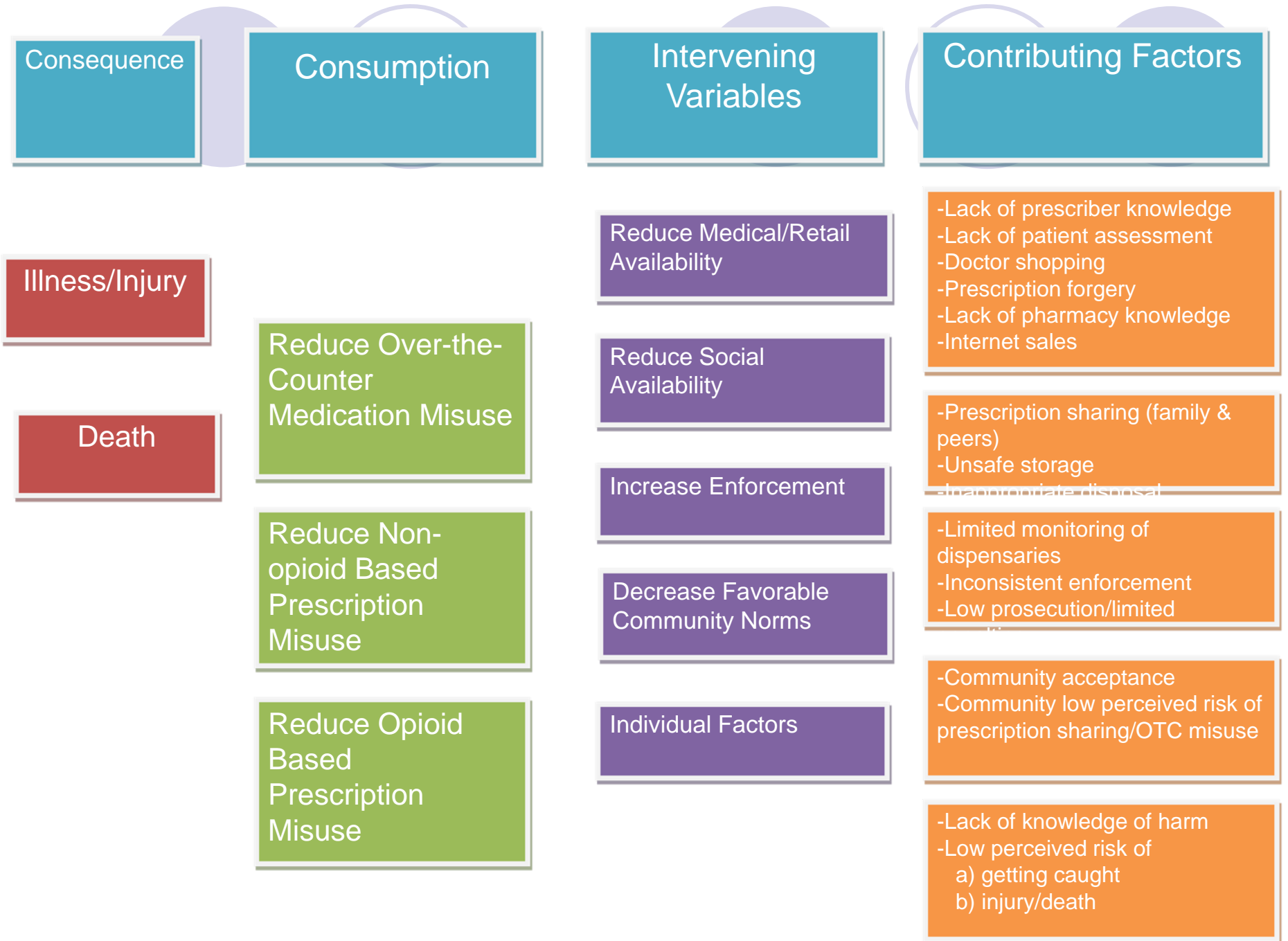
For each of the three categories above, criteria were applied to guide the decision making process and establish the statewide priorities. These rating criteria included:

- Frequency/rates of consumption
- Severity of consequences
- Data trends
- Prevalence of risk & protective factors
- Other recent research

Priorities Identified by Planning Group

- Reduce Underage Drinking
- Reduce Binge Drinking
- Reduce the Use of Illegal Substances
- Reduce Medication Misuse
- Reduce the Use of New and Emerging Drugs of Abuse

Priority 4 – Prescription Drugs



Priority 4A – Heroin and Other Opioids

Consequence

Consumption

Intervening Variables

Contributing Factors

Contextual Conditions: Inexpensive, pure, and readily available. New Jersey has limited data to support the selection of intervening variables & contributing factors.

Heroin-related Deaths

Reduce Opioid Based Prescription Misuse that Leads to Heroin Use

Increase Community Knowledge and Understanding

- Lack of perceived risk for “their children”
- parents
- professionals
- community

Increase Enforcement

- Risk takers
- Subculture – peer approval
- Lack of knowledge of harm
- Low perceived risk of
 - a) getting caught
 - b) injury/death

Individual Factors

- Limited monitoring of dispensaries
- Inconsistent enforcement
- Low prosecution/limited penalties

What is a Regional Coalition?

A regional prevention coalition is an association of organizations that collaborate in the delivery of environmental strategies to address and reduce substance misuse and abuse in a specific geographical area.

Specifically, a regional coalition is:

- A nonprofit legal entity, aimed at serving the public good in its region through the improvement of health that occurs as a result of the decrease in substance misuse and abuse in the region.
- A standing organization rather than a series of projects.
- Limited to the regional geographical area defined by DMHAS. The local nature of coalitions maximizes the ability of its member organizations to identify with one another, to come together around issues, and, when necessary, to challenge each other as peers.
- Organized around a defined and coordinated program of action for delivering prevention programming in its region.
- Made up of voluntary members who are representative of sectors or organizations, not persons.

Regional Coalitions



- **Atlantic and Cape May Counties – Cape Assist**
- **Bergen County – The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources**
- **Burlington County – Prevention Plus**
- **Camden County – The Camden County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**
- **Cumberland and Salem Counties – The Southwest Council**
- **Essex County – Family Connections**
- **Gloucester County – The Southwest Council**
- **Hudson County – NCADD Hudson/Partners in Prevention**
- **Hunterdon and Somerset Counties – Hunterdon Prevention Resources**
- **Mercer County – The Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction**
- **Middlesex County – NCADD Middlesex**
- **Monmouth County – Prevention First**
- **Morris County – Morris County Prevention is Key**
- **Ocean County – Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention**
- **Passaic County – William Paterson University**
- **Sussex and Warren Counties – The Center for Prevention and Counseling**
- **Union County – Prevention Links**

Coalition Membership



Coalitions must include representation from:

- Youth (must be under the age of 18)
- Parents
- Business
- Media
- School
- Youth-serving organization
- Law Enforcement
- Religious/Fraternal organization
- Civic/Volunteer group
- Healthcare Field (doctor, nurse, dentist, pharmacists, etc.)
- State/Local/Tribal Government agency with expertise in substance abuse (County Alcohol and Drug Director and the Municipal Alliance Coordinator)
- Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse - including Municipal Alliances within the region



Environmental Strategies

- Environmental strategies are programs and initiatives focused on changing aspects of the environment that contribute to the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Specifically, environmental strategies aim to decrease the social and health consequences of substance abuse by limiting access to substances and changing social norms that are accepting and permissive of substance abuse.
- They can change public laws, policies and practices to create environments that decrease the probability of substance abuse.