

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

Annual Report



2022



The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



Arizona
Substance Abuse
Partnership

SubstanceAbuse.AZ.gov



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

MARIA CRISTINA FUENTES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 31, 2022

Governor Doug A. Ducey
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor,

It has been an honor to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP). We would like to acknowledge the work of ASAP members and its workgroups over the past year. Their dedication and commitment to address the pervasive issue of substance abuse has made this work possible. The following report includes an overview of activities, goals, outcomes and future work.

During this last year, ASAP received presentations highlighting the efforts taking place across the state to support the prevention of substance use and support individuals diagnosed with a substance use disorder. ASAP has continued to promote the expansion of substance use prevention programming, discussed best practices for expanding substance use disorder treatment, and encouraged multi-pronged recovery efforts throughout Arizona.

Since its creation, ASAP has sought to support evidence-based research, prevention, enforcement and treatment practices by establishing activities aligned with [Executive Order 2013-05](#). With the ongoing support of the Arizona National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Outreach, ASAP has continued to:

- Track and evaluate current substance use data trends;
- Educate the public on emerging substance use issues;
- Engage in shared planning to build the capacity of local communities to respond to substance use; and
- Evaluate targeted strategies to address public health and safety issues secondary to substance use.

Through these efforts, and in collaboration with partners across Arizona, we can better serve communities statewide as they work to combat this formidable challenge.

Sincerely,

Sheila Polk, Chair

Sara Salek, Vice-Chair

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OVERVIEW

The Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) is authorized under [Executive Order 2013-05](#) to collaboratively address substance abuse related issues in Arizona. ASAP serves as a statewide council on substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment and recovery efforts.

ASAP evaluates and supports improvements in substance abuse policy, develops dynamic partnerships and participates in informed planning processes. ASAP has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Compile and summarize information and data on substance misuse and abuse and associated consequences and correlates, including mental illness and emerging trends, through a collaborative and cooperative data-sharing process.
- Identify and address data gaps in order to provide Arizona with a comprehensive picture of substance misuse and abuse.
- Utilize evaluation and research reports to promote the most effective and evidence-based programs, policies and practices across the state and make recommendations for modifications as needed.
- Encourage state and local partnerships to engage in shared planning processes and build the capacity of local communities to meet identified needs and maximize resources.
- Identify and share effective practices to integrate strategies across systems that leverage existing funding and increase access to services at the community level.
- Analyze current state and federal laws and programs governing substance misuse and abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement, recommending any changes that would enhance the effectiveness of these laws and programs.
- Recommend specific drug and alcohol related policy and budget line-items for consideration by Arizona state agencies and/or the Arizona legislature.

GOALS

The following goals guide the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership and its workgroups:

GOAL 1: Track and evaluate current substance use data trends in Arizona.

GOAL 2: Educate the public on emerging substance use issues in Arizona and related strategies to address these issues.

GOAL 3: Support anti-substance abuse coalitions across the state to prevent substance abuse through shared planning to build capacity and meet identified needs.

MEMBERSHIP

The ASAP consists of 23 active members who are appointed by the Governor. ASAP includes representatives from a broad spectrum of stakeholders across the state, including law enforcement, service providers, state agency leaders, and behavioral health, among others.

Sheila Polk, Chair

Yavapai County Attorney

Alberto Gutier

Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Zora Manjencich

Arizona Attorney General's Office

Sheila Sjolander

Arizona Department of Health Services

David Klein

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Shanda Breed

Arizona Department of Adult Probation

Douglas Sargent

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Kathleen Grimes

Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition

Lawrence LaVeque

Cisco Systems

Lee Pioske

Crossroads Inc.

Merilee Fowler

MATFORCE

Tobi Zavala

Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Sara Salek, Vice-Chair

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Andrew LeFevre

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Wanda Wright

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Dawn Mertz

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

David Shinn

Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry

Heston Silbert

Arizona Department of Public Safety

Vanessa Bustos

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Kathy Hoffman

Arizona Department of Education

Leah Landrum-Taylor

Arizona Department of Economic Security

Maria Cristina Fuentes

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Michael Faust

Arizona Department of Child Safety

MEETING PRESENTATIONS

During the past year, the ASAP received presentations from issue-area experts on topics related to substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment, and recovery efforts. The ASAP continues to learn and evaluate strategies to support substance abuse related work throughout the state. All presentation materials can be found [here](#). The following are summaries of presentations heard throughout the year.

Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control Role in Prevention

Detective Dan Webb, Prevention Unit Coordinator

September 2, 2021

The Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (DLLC) is a law enforcement agency responsible for licensing and regulating over 14,000 liquor licensed establishments at the state level. The Divisions within the DLLC include investigations, licensing, compliance, auditing, administration, trade practice and the Prevention Unit.

In 2016, DLLC and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) entered into an innovative and collaborative effort to create a Prevention Unit focused on reducing underage drinking in Arizona. The Prevention Unit seeks to connect with Arizona youth, liquor licensed establishments and parents alike to educate them about the dangers of underage drinking, as well as the legal consequences and the possible physiological effects. This effort not only seeks to bring awareness to the public about the dangers of underage drinking, but also to discuss steps the public can take to reduce underage drinking.

DLLC assisted in enacting the Social Host Ordinance ([ARS 4-241.Q](#)). This statute states that a person who is at least eighteen years of age and who is an occupant of an unlicensed premises is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor if the person knowingly hosts on the unlicensed premises a gathering of two or more persons who are under the legal drinking age and if the person knows that one or more of the persons under the legal drinking age are in possession of or consuming spirituous liquor on the unlicensed premises.

DLLC continues to expand its alcohol awareness and liquor law education to officers, community coalitions and youth. At the time of the presentation, DLLC had facilitated a total of 69 classes, educating 3,075 adults and youth and 494 licensed establishments.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Arizona Department of Liquor Prevention Unit.

Yavapai County Attorney Office Role in Prevention

Sheila Polk, Chairperson, Yavapai County Attorney's Office

September 2, 2021

Sheila Polk, County Attorney for the Yavapai County Attorney's Office, provided an overview of the office's role in substance misuse, diversion and justice. The County Attorney is responsible for prosecuting all felonies that occur throughout Yavapai County, all misdemeanors that occur in the unincorporated areas of the county, and all crimes committed by juveniles. The Yavapai County Attorney's Office has established a [Pretrial Diversion Program](#) to provide an alternative method of holding low level offenders, whose offense has a nexus to substance abuse, accountable for violations of the law through participation in an evidence-based education or treatment program that targets factors related to recidivism. The Program effectively redirects limited criminal justice resources, supports participant rehabilitation, and gives rise to safer communities. The Program diverts criminal cases from formal court proceedings and allows for the dismissal of charges if the program is completed.

To reduce recidivism, improve individual lives, and promote a safer community for all residents of Yavapai County, a group of non-profit organizations, government offices, and motivated community members came together to form the [Yavapai Reentry Project](#) (YRP). The program provides supportive services, information referrals, and mentor pairing for individuals returning to the community from incarceration. Providing these supportive services gives individuals the guidance they need to empower themselves to achieve their goals. YRP also provides classes for families, friends, and community members.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.

Opioid Overdose Data Trends Update

Sheila Sjolander, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Health Services, Prevention Services

December 2, 2021

Following an increase in opioid related deaths in Arizona and across the nation, Governor Doug Ducey issued the first [public health emergency declaration](#) to enhance opioid overdose surveillance in June 2017. As the state's public health agency, the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#) has the responsibility of tracking suspected opioid overdoses, deaths, neonatal abstinence syndrome, naloxone dispensed by pharmacists and naloxone administered by first responders.

Sheila Sjolander, Assistant Director of ADHS Prevention Services Division, offered an update on current surveillance data. The opioid overdose data for 2020 included a 45% increase in opioid deaths compared to 2019. As of April 2021, there have been more than 2,000 deaths involving opioids in the state. Two-thirds of verified fatal and non-fatal opioid overdose events were among people aged 15-44, with 30% of overdose events occurring among 25-34 year-olds. Additionally, the death rate per 100,000 residents was higher in 2020 than in 2019 for all counties except for Yuma County, which has the lowest in the state. The highest rates reported are in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai counties.

A summary of all related activities and current surveillance data can be found on the [ADHS Opioid Dashboard](#).

Way Out West Coalition's Role in Prevention

Larry Tracey, Program Director, Way Out West Coalition

December 2, 2021

Formed in 2009, the Way Out West Coalition (WOW) is a community-based coalition that promotes safe and healthy choices through education and environmental strategies to help ensure that youth in Buckeye, Arizona live a drug and alcohol-free life.

WOW works closely with schools in providing prevention education. The Coalition holds events that include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training, social-emotional learning, resilience and coping skills for youth. Additionally, WOW was involved in creating the first Social Host Ordinance in Maricopa County, and established Party Patrols to reduce youth access to alcohol as well as a community education campaign to raise awareness about the risks of underage drinking in the Buckeye community. WOW continues to engage students throughout school districts with the "GET IN THE WAY" campaign where the prevention messaging is student-driven, providing students with leadership development and a sense of ownership and purpose.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Way Out West Coalition.

Arizona Department of Corrections' Role in Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

Karen Hellman, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry

December 2, 2021

The Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry (ADCRR) is the statutory law enforcement agency responsible for the supervision of incarcerated inmates and those under community supervision in Arizona. The ADCRR currently houses more than 34,000 inmates and has more than 4,000 offenders under community supervision. According to ADCRR data, 5.8% of inmates have a commitment offense of drug possession, 11.6% have a commitment offense of drug sales/ trafficking, and 3.1% have a commitment offense of driving under the influence. The ADCRR offers various levels of substance abuse services, which include 12-step meetings, a psychoeducational peer-led Recovery Wellness program, outpatient treatment, inpatient therapeutic treatment and post-release community-based programming.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry.

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Role in Prevention, Recovery and Treatment **Dr. Raymonda Matheka, Clinical Services Director, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections**

February 3, 2022

Dr. Raymonda Matheka provided an overview of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections' youth facility, Adobe Mountain School. The facility has an onsite medical clinic and provides different treatment modalities and specialized trauma therapies. The two-week intake process at Adobe Mountain School, called RAC (Reception, Assessment, and Classification), helps mental health professionals and medical staff determine the individualized treatment needs of youth, utilizing a trauma-informed approach. The program uses The Seven Challenges evidence-based treatment program that was designed specifically for adolescents and helps to address the needs of youth who abuse substances.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition, Agency Update

Kathy Grimes, Director, Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition

February 3, 2022

Established in 2003, the Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition is a cross-system substance abuse coalition providing community resources and education focused on reducing youth substance use. Through a partnership with the Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona ([SACLAZ](#)), the coalition provides Narcan and fentanyl training to youth and adults.

Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition continues to expand its programming to support criminal justice involved individuals who are re-entering society. The Coalition successfully launched a sober living home called "House of Hope" in April 2021 to help provide support and resources to those going through rehabilitation. This project was established through funding that was awarded to the coalition by the [Graham County United Way](#). This project continues to support the work of the Gila Valley Coalition in partnership with Graham and Greenlee Counties. Through funding from the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, Graham County

Substance Abuse Coalition has provided additional Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training and resources throughout the community, along with youth focused programming.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition.

2021 Arizona Drug Threat Assessment

Al Laurita, Investigative Support Center Manager, Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

May 5, 2022

Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (Arizona HIDTA) was established in 1990. The agency works to facilitate, support and enhance collaborative drug control efforts among law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations. Together, these partners collaborate to significantly reduce the impact of illegal trafficking and the use of drugs throughout Arizona. The agency has evolved into a trusted counter-drug program, which supports the assessment of regional drug threats, facilitates the creation of cooperative strategies to address drug threats, and provides law enforcement agencies with the necessary resources to enhance their efficiency in counter-drug strategy implementation.

Al Laurita, Investigative Support Center Manager, reviewed the top five substances identified as drug threats in Arizona according to data collected for 2020 and 2021: #1 Fentanyl, #2 Methamphetamine, #3 Cocaine, #4 Heroin, #5 Marijuana/THC.

The components of Arizona HIDTA include an intelligence support center, overdose response strategies, training department and demand reduction program. The agency also manages the [HIDTA Resource Center](#) as a support to community organizations.

[Click here](#) for more information on Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

Proposition 207 Smart and Safe Arizona Act, Justice Reinvestment Program

Siman Qaasim, Health Equity Administrator, Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Equity

May 5, 2022

Passed by Arizona Voters in November 2020, [Proposition 207](#) allows legalization, taxation, and recreational use of marijuana for adults aged 21 and over. The proposition placed a 16% excise tax on marijuana sales. The revenue from the tax is divided between public programs in Arizona, including community college districts, municipal police and fire districts, the Highway User Fund, the Justice Reinvestment Fund and the Attorney General.

Siman Qaasim provided an overview of the Justice Reinvestment Programs and how the Arizona Department of Health Services is utilizing funding to support non-profit organizations that provide services to members of the community with justice-related issues around marijuana. This program has specified that its initiatives or programs focus on any of the following:

- Public and behavioral health, including evidence-based and evidence-informed substance use prevention and treatment and substance use early intervention services
- Restorative justice, jail diversion, workforce development, industry-specific technical assistance or mentoring services for economically disadvantaged persons in communities disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration
- Addressing the underlying causes of crime, reducing drug-related arrests and reducing the prison population in this state
- Creating or developing technology and programs to assist with the restoration of civil rights and the expungement of criminal records.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Arizona Department of Health Services.

AHCCCS Grant Funded Programming to Prevent and Treat Substance Use Disorders
Hazel Alveranga, Deputy Director, Division of Grants Administration, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

May 5, 2022

Founded in 1982, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) serves as Arizona's Medicaid agency, offering health care programs to serve all eligible Arizona residents. AHCCCS currently oversees over \$500 million in grant funding, which provides primary prevention and treatment services. As the single state agency for substance abuse treatment, AHCCCS received the [State Opioid Response II \(SOR II\)](#) award notice for \$63 million over two years to increase prevention programming, treatment activities and recovery support. These activities include support for substance use prevention coalitions statewide, expanding [24/7 Treatment Access Points](#), an updated [24/7 Opioid Assistance & Referral Line](#), and [Community Reentry Projects | MATFORCE Project](#), among many other projects.

AHCCCS receives additional funding under the [Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant](#) as awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration [SAMHSA](#). The block grant funding supports organizations specializing in primary prevention and treatment services for individuals without health insurance, or other resources, who seek specialty treatment and prevention services for substance use disorders, in addition to other populations. Additionally, SABG funding currently supports AHCCCS' youth marijuana prevention campaign targeting parents and caregivers at savethebrains.com, and youth at [Grow the Brains: Here's What Weed Does Inside Your Head](#), in addition to harm reduction programming [Sonoran Prevention Works – Building a healthy Arizona for people](#).

[Click here](#) for more information on the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

CURRENT WORKGROUPS

In addition to quarterly meetings, ASAP has issue-specific workgroups composed of state agency staff, issue-area experts and community stakeholders. Through the support of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Drug Demand Reduction Outreach, these workgroups meet regularly to support substance use prevention efforts.

ARIZONA SUBSTANCE ABUSE EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKGROUP

Established through [Executive Order 2013-05](#), the Arizona Substance Abuse Epidemiology Workgroup collects and reports on substance misuse and consequence-related data to help guide a data-driven decision-making process.

Over the past year, the epidemiology workgroup has continued to collect and develop a data inventory on substance use behaviors and complex trauma in Arizona. During FY 2023, the workgroup will continue to focus its efforts on analyzing multi-source data on substance use-related morbidity to improve data gaps and determine trends. The workgroup has partnered with a team from the [Arizona State University Biomedical Informatics Division](#) on the analysis of overdose data across substances, as well as comparing overdose rates of persons receiving Medicaid versus those that do not receive Medicaid benefits. The workgroup is in the process of reviewing the data to determine next steps. This work will continue to be supported by the [Partnership for Success Grant](#) and the [State Opioid Response Grant](#).

PROGRAM INVENTORY WORKGROUP

In 2021, the Program Inventory Workgroup conducted a prevention mapping inventory by geographic service area. With support from the Arizona National Guard Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach, this inventory identified service areas and specific populations being underserved in prevention efforts. The workgroup prioritized the identified areas utilizing Arizona Youth Survey data, Arizona Department of Health Services overdose data, population and growth rates. As part of the September 2021 ASAP meeting, the workgroup presented the prioritized prevention deserts. Through that work, the following substance use and misuse prevention coalitions have been established:

- **Southeast Valley Community Alliance - Queen Creek**
Amy Neville, Coalition Director
Formed in January 2022 and approved for funding in March 2022, the Coalition is dedicated to building resilience through outreach concerning harmful substances and behaviors by empowering the community to make a positive and measurable difference in their physical, emotional, and mental health for a brighter future.
- **United Prevention - Surprise/ El Mirage**
Jason Lobmeyer, Coalition Director
Formed in January 2022 and approved for funding in March 2022, the Coalition's mission is to unite Surprise and El Mirage in preventing adult and youth substance abuse while promoting strong, healthy, and safe communities through education, training, and collaboration.

In partnership with the Arizona National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Outreach, the workgroup will continue to focus on building coalitions in specified areas of need.

ASAP GOALS 2022/23

In State Fiscal Year 2023, ASAP will continue to fulfill the mission statement of raising awareness of substance abuse in Arizona. ASAP hopes to focus its efforts on Arizona's identified drug threats, analyzing multi-source data on substance use-related morbidity to improve data gaps and determine trends and the collection of substance abuse related consequences data. ASAP will continue to support agencies in key substance use prevention initiatives and the development of a research-based approach to emerging drug threats.

ASAP will establish workgroups as needed to support the following efforts:

- Collect and report on substance abuse and consequence-related data to help guide a data-informed decision-making process;
- Prioritize areas of need in Arizona through data analysis in prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services;
- Encourage state, local and community partners to engage in shared planning processes and build the capacity of local community coalitions to meet identified needs and maximize resources; and
- Identify and share effective practices to integrate strategies across systems that will leverage existing funding and increase access to services at the community level.