

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

Annual Report



2024



Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



Arizona
Substance Abuse
Partnership

[SubstanceAbuse.AZ.gov](https://www.SubstanceAbuse.AZ.gov)



KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TONYA HAMILTON
CABINET EXECUTIVE OFFICER

July 31, 2024

Governor Katie Hobbs
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Vice-Chair. I would like to acknowledge the work of ASAP members and its workgroups over the past year. Their dedication and commitment to addressing the pervasive substance abuse issues across our state have made this work possible. The following report includes an overview of activities, goals, outcomes, and future work.

During this last year, the ASAP received presentations highlighting efforts across the state to support the prevention of substance use and individuals diagnosed with a substance use disorder. The 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. With the ongoing support of the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, the 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara Salek".

Sara Salek, Vice-Chair

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PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The [Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership](#) (the “ASAP”) is administered by the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) and authorized under [Executive Order 2023-17](#). The ASAP serves as the statewide council on addressing issues related to substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment, and recovery efforts. Members work to evaluate and support improvements in Arizona substance-abuse policies, develop dynamic partnerships between local and state stakeholders, and participate in informed planning processes to identify drug threats with multi-source data on substance use-related morbidity to determine emerging trends that improve gaps in data. Additionally, ASAP supports agencies in implementing key substance use prevention initiatives and developing a research-based approach to the identified drug threats.

In addition to holding quarterly meetings, and with support from the [Arizona Criminal Justice Commission \(ACJC\)](#) and the [Arizona National Guard Counter Drug Task Force \(CDTF\)](#) Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach (DDRO), ASAP members serve on workgroups to further facilitate discussions around community needs, address systemic challenges to identify best practices and provide evidence-based solutions that support substance use prevention efforts.

Prevention Workgroup

The Prevention Workgroup collaborates with the Arizona National Guard CDTF DDRO to identify and assist in establishing coalitions in Arizona communities.

Substance Abuse Epidemiology Workgroup

The Substance Abuse Epidemiology (Epi) Workgroup gathers and analyzes data on substance abuse and its impacts to inform evidence-based decision-making.

MEMBERSHIP

The ASAP comprises individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at her pleasure, without compensation. The following members served on the ASAP over the past year.

Sara Salek, Vice-Chair

AZ Health Care Cost Containment System

Andrew LeFevre

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Jesse Torrez

Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Tobi Zavala

Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Kris Mayes

Arizona Attorney General's Office

Dana Allmond

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Sheila Sjolander

Arizona Department of Health Services

Dawn Mertz

High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

David Klein

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Ryan Thornell

Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry

Shanda Breed

Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Merilee Fowler

MATFORCE

Douglas Sargent

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Vanessa Bustos

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Kathleen Grimes

Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition

Tonya Hamilton

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Jeremy Bloom

NorthSight Recovery

Leah Landrum-Taylor

Arizona Department of Economic Security

Lindsey Cantelme

Recovery Community

David Lujan

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Jeffrey Glover

Arizona Department of Public Safety

Ben Henry

Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

Shannon Scheel

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

MEETING PRESENTATIONS

During the past year, the ASAP received presentations from issue-area experts on 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. Find presentation materials [here](#). Presentations included the following:

Youth Marijuana Use, Violence, and Other Trends

Shelly Mowrey, Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

September 5, 2023

Established in 1990, the [Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\)](#) collaborates with law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) to enhance drug control efforts. Using data from the [2022 Arizona Youth Survey \(AYS\)](#), HIDTA focuses on the connection between youth violence and marijuana use. They emphasize the importance of educating youth about the risks of marijuana use to prevent youth violence and advocate for further research and innovative solutions to address data trends.

Healing the Body to Save the Mind

Rob Best and Amanda Hoskin, Barbell Saves Project

September 5, 2023

The [Barbell Saves Project](#) aims to promote physical and mental well-being during substance use recovery through community-based exercise programs such as fitness, yoga, and weight training. In partnership with the Arizona National Guard CDTF DDRO, the organization has expanded its focus to include youth substance use prevention by offering fitness-driven drug prevention classes twice weekly for six weeks via the Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) Program. To ensure program alignment with Arizona's education standards, the organization collaborates with Arizona State University (ASU) to study and evaluate its initiatives. Operating seven days a week, they offer 36 classes weekly and have served over 1,000 individuals since 2021.

Community Empowering Youth

Jamal Givens, Liberty Partnership Kino Neighborhoods Coalition

September 5, 2023

The [Liberty Partnership Kino Neighborhoods Coalition \(LPKNC\)](#) supports and enhances education, training, and services for youth, families, and communities in the Southside of Tucson. They achieve this through workshops and evidence-based programs that focus on mental health, social justice, leadership, and the prevention of opioid, marijuana, and alcohol misuse among young people. LPKNC collaborates with five youth groups through its EMPOWERED for Success Program, a student-led group that amplifies young voices and meets after school and on weekends.

PAX Good Behavior Game

Carmen Irving, PAXIS Institute

December 14, 2023

[PAXIS Institute](#) develops, implements, and supports evidence-based, solution-focused strategies with real-world outcomes for children and the adults who care for them in partnership with communities to reduce historical disparities and improve overall well-being. Previously funded through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and currently by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the PAX Good Behavior Games (GBG) is used across care systems to teach self-regulation and positive behavior as a skill set. Between 2019 and 2023, 3,599 Arizona educators have received PAX GBG training, impacting 89,657 students in all 15 counties.

Program Implementation and Dually Adjudicated Youth

Raymonda Matheka and Angela Fischer, Adobe Mountain School

December 14, 2023

The [Adobe Mountain School](#), a youth facility under the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), includes an onsite medical clinic and provides various treatment modalities and specialized trauma therapies. The two-week intake process, known as RAC (Reception, Assessment, and Classification) at the Adobe Mountain School, allows mental health professionals and medical staff to determine the specific treatment needs of each youth using a trauma-informed approach. The program utilizes PAX GBG to teach youth how to regulate emotions through various strategies and practical tools, leading to favorable behavior changes and nurturing relationships with the child and their parents/caregivers.

Addressing Trauma Through Traditional Methodologies

Maria Alvidrez and Maciel Moreno, Amistades, Inc.

December 14, 2023

[Amistades, Inc.](#) is a Latino-led, Latino-serving organization in Southern Arizona that focuses on addressing issues of race and equity, empowering communities for cultural preservation and self-sufficiency. Amistades, Inc. offers community-based prevention education programs and services to address substance misuse, trauma, adversity, and stress for individuals, families, and organizations in Pinal County. The programs include:

- Familia Adelante (for parents and youth aged 10 to 14)
- El Renacimiento (for middle school youth)
- Caras de Esperanza (for middle school youth)
- Por Vida (for youth and adults)
- Padres Comprometidos (for parents with middle and high school students)

Arizona Opioid Litigation Settlement Updates

Leslie Cooper, Arizona Attorney General's Office

December 14, 2023

As opioid use disorder and overdose rates have risen since the 1990s, state attorney generals started investigating major opioid distributors, manufacturers, and marketers, leading to over 4,000 state and local governments in the US filing lawsuits in state and federal courts, including the [Arizona Attorney General's Office](#). In August 2021, 90 cities and towns across all 15 counties in Arizona agreed to a framework called the [One Arizona Memorandum of Understanding](#) (now known as the "One Arizona Agreement"). This agreement aims to distribute funds from national opioid settlements across Arizona. As part of the \$26 billion national settlement agreement, Arizona will receive \$542 million over 18 years to fund programs that aim to prevent overdose deaths and reduce other harms caused by substance use. The funds will also be for Naloxone distribution, payments to defendants, resolution of matters in bankruptcy, compliance with annual reporting obligations, and development of plans representing demonstrated needs and available resources.

Facilitating Change Through Community Collaboration

Jamal Givens, Liberty Partnership Kino Neighborhoods Coalition

February 8, 2024

After the passing of [Proposition 207](#) in 2020, the South Tucson Community faced challenges when local law enforcement discovered that smoke shops were selling to minors and local schools were confiscating large numbers of vaping devices. In response, LPKNC staff and youth group members collaborated with the Tucson Police Department (TPD) and City of Tucson council members to change smoke shop ordinances successfully. The changes included limiting shop hours from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, requiring smoke shops to be 1,000 feet away from schools, parks, and churches, mandating that smoke shops be half a mile apart, and implementing stricter review plans and applications for new smoke shops.

Cultivating Healthy Foundations to Build Stronger Families

Gauri Gladish, Arizona Youth Partnership

February 8, 2024

The [Arizona Youth Partnership \(AZYPA\)](#) offers a range of programs across 13 Arizona counties to reduce and prevent substance use/abuse by promoting healthy families and strong community connections.

- [Youth and Family Division](#): Provides the Strengthening Families Program to parents and youth at juvenile detention centers, elementary schools, and military bases.
- [Community Initiatives Division](#): Delivers evidence-based curriculum in the City of Ajo and Pinal, Pima, and Navajo counties, using programs like Too Good For Drugs, Mind Matters, and Botvin LifeSkills to address protective factors and provide support systems for youth.
- [Youth Wellness Division](#): Employs the Wake Up! Program to educate young people aged 12-22 about the consequences of impaired decision-making related to drug and alcohol use.

- [Youth Services Division](#): Supports young people aged 11-24 who were previously involved with substance use, experienced domestic violence/trafficking, faced homelessness, or are part of other high-risk youth populations.

Primary Prevention Advanced Course

Deb Stoks, Arizona National Guard Counter Drug Task Force

February 8, 2024

The [Arizona National Guard CDTF](#) collaborates with the [HIDTA](#) to offer specialized substance use and misuse prevention training. The CDTF DDRO has established the Primary Prevention Advanced Course (PPAC) to enhance the capabilities of coalitions and CBOs. This 5-day, 40-hour course, hosted by the HIDTA, provides hands-on training, real-world case studies, and student-led facilitation using the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model. The goal is to ensure better outcomes and the long-term sustainability of prevention efforts in Arizona.

AHCCCS System of Care for Substance Use Disorder

Alisa Randall, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

May 8, 2024

The [Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#) is Arizona's largest insurer, with 2.2 million members. Funded by federal, state, and county funds to serve multiple functions, AHCCCS is the state agency for behavioral health, the State Mental Health Authority, and the State Opioid Response (SOR) Authority. It also houses the Opioid Use Disorder Services Locator for the public to access real-time information about the availability of opioid use disorder services throughout Arizona. AHCCCS' Care Delivery System supports Title 19 and non-Title 19 programs for preventative, early intervention, and treatment services. The programs focus on primary prevention, education, stigma reduction, harm reduction, and treatment services. AHCCCS substance use strategies include:

- Education for communities and providers
- Community-based organizing and planning
- Environmental strategies
- Education and referral for risk reduction and health promotion to empower people who use drugs to choose healthy, self-directed, and purpose-filled lives
- Naloxone distribution and education
- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
- Behavioral health supportive services, including but not limited to counseling, group therapy, and peer support

The Impact of Cross-Collaboration in Preventing Substance Use

Shannon Scheel, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

May 8, 2024

The [Maricopa County Sheriff's Office \(MCSO\)](#) Drug Prevention and Education Initiatives Program supports organizations that provide resources to individuals and families dealing with substance use

disorders. MCSO offers leadership and resources to county drug prevention coalitions that initiate prevention programs for county school districts and community organizations. The school-based prevention education program, Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE), has been updated to include awareness of bullying and social media, positive alternatives to substance use, wellness, resiliency, good decision-making skills, and other coordinated prevention approaches. MCSO's public safety initiatives include training deputies in overdose identification and Naloxone administration, fentanyl identification and safe processing, resource referral and pre-arrest diversion programming, community outreach, and prescription collection. The Drug Prevention and Education Initiatives Program focuses on preventing and treating substance use disorders to reduce recidivism and overdose rates through:

- Evidence-based, research-supported programming
- Opioid misuse and overdose prevention
- Substance use disorder screening and medically-assisted treatment
- Peer navigation program
- Naloxone distribution
- REDEEM Program

Equity Disparities and Social Determinants of Health

Michelle Sambrano, Southwest Behavioral & Health Services

May 8, 2024

The mission of [Southwest Behavioral & Health Services \(SB&H\)](#) is to provide compassionate care to enhance lives and improve communities. The organization offers various programs tailored to the specific needs of its communities that focus on building strengths, being culturally sensitive, understanding trauma, and emphasizing protective factors for prevention. The prevention programs prioritize establishing strong community relationships, understanding the unique needs of the population served, creating safe environments, and being mindful of family dynamics. SB&H operates four inpatient units and 16 outpatient clinics throughout Arizona, including an Autism Spectrum Disorder Center of Excellence. SB&H provides housing for more than 400 individuals with serious mental illness, services to over 200 schools in Central and Northern Arizona, and operates four Opioid Replacement Clinics throughout Central and Northern Arizona.

WORKGROUP REPORTS

Two workgroups regularly convene to support the goals of the ASAP.

Prevention Workgroup

The Prevention Workgroup, with support from the Arizona National Guard CDTF DDRO, concentrates on developing a detailed prevention plan, focusing on early prevention efforts and addressing the underlying causes of public health issues. This plan establishes a standardized process for integrating new organizations and a training program to ensure that CBOs comprehensively understand prevention and statewide objectives. The goal is to assist new CBOs during their startup phase and to help established CBOs expand their programs through knowledge and support. In FY2024, the Prevention Workgroup and the DDRO, collaborated with SACLAZ to establish ten new CBOs, bringing their reach to approximately 1.5 million Arizonans in 14 counties.



Substance Abuse Epidemiology Workgroup

The Substance Abuse Epidemiology (Epi) Workgroup, supported by the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant and led by ASU Professor Dr. George Runger and his team, analyzed data from multiple sources to study substance use-related morbidity across different substances. The team compared overdose rates among individuals receiving Medicaid with those not receiving Medicaid benefits and carried out other analyses. Additionally, under the Partnerships for Success (PFS) grant, ASU Professor Dr. Marisa Domino and her team have developed a data dashboard accessible to the public, launching in 2024 on the GOYFF website.