STATE PREVENTION SYSTEM

Structure and Organization

The lead State agency combating substance abuse in Alabama is the Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS) of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. DSAS has five offices:

- Office of Information Resources/Administration
- Office of Program Development
- Office of Contracts and Grants
- Office of Prevention
- Office of Training

The Office of Prevention is staffed by the State Substance Abuse Coordinator, and clerical support staff.

Alabama’s prevention system is divided into four regions and 21 multi-county catchment areas governed by planning boards. One of the major responsibilities of the boards is to operate Alabama’s 21 Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), which deliver alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) prevention services. A subset of these CMHCs contract directly with DSAS and receive Federal Block Grant prevention funds. These planning boards can either use the CMHCs for the delivery of substance abuse services or subcontract with private, non-profit agencies. Proposals are received from non-profit community mental health centers, private non-profit substance abuse treatment/prevention agencies, and prevention-only agencies.

Organizational Chart

![Organizational Chart Image]
### FUNDING AND RESOURCES

#### Allocation of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Dissemination</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$233,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,392,210</td>
<td>1,391,190</td>
<td>2,159,473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternatives</td>
<td>448,794</td>
<td>442,365</td>
<td>694,290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Identification and Referral</td>
<td>39,180</td>
<td>31,590</td>
<td>22,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based Process</td>
<td>36,060</td>
<td>55,770</td>
<td>130,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>563,444</td>
<td>695,763</td>
<td>66,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other expenditures included continuous education scholarships to State and regional AOD schools for DMH/MR service providers, Governor’s conference, training contracts, Synar Amendment compliance, and funding for the Peers for Life programs.

#### Resource Spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning, Coordination, and Needs Assessment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Assurance</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training (post-employment)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>66,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (pre-employment)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Systems</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Average amount of grant/contract:

- FFY 1993 - $61,992
- FFY 1994 - $67,094
- FFY 1995 - $82,667

#### Per-capita 20% set-aside spending (population):

- FFY 1993 - $0.59
- FFY 1994 - $0.62
- FFY 1995 - $0.78

#### Staff/ Volunteers designated and supported by set-aside funding and level:

- FFY 1993 -
  - State: 1 FTE/0 Volunteers
  - Regional: N/A*
  - Local: N/A

- FFY 1994 -
  - State: 1 FTE/0 Volunteers
  - Regional: N/A
  - Local: N/A

- FFY 1995 -
  - State: 1 FTE/0 Volunteers
  - Regional: N/A
  - Local: N/A

*Data not available from State.

#### Substate entities receiving set-aside funds for prevention service delivery

- 4 substate regions
- 9 substance abuse prevention-only agencies
- 8 freestanding substance abuse treatment/prevention agencies
- 21 community mental health centers

### STATE CONTACT

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STATE PREVENTION INVENTORY - ALABAMA PROFILE

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Definition of Prevention:

Alabama defines prevention as “strategies developed to limit substance experimentation/use from the beginning, or the identification and education in the earliest stages of alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use/abuse to preclude the onset of detrimental effects.”

In addition, the State’s mission is to develop, implement, maintain, and evaluate programs that address ATOD issues. This mission includes reducing the high-risk behavior associated with ATOD use and increasing the availability and effectiveness of general health promotion and education messages to improve the skills of at-risk individuals.

Does the State have prevention plan?  
Yes; the plan is specific to the Block Grant’s set-aside portion only.

Target populations for prevention services:

- High-risk youth
- High-risk adults
- Families
- Primary care givers
- Pregnant women
- High-risk populations for HIV/AIDS

Total Number served:

- FFY 1993 - N/A*
- FFY 1994 - N/A
- FFY 1995 - 75,000-90,000**

*Data not available from State.
**Estimate, provided by Chief, Office of Prevention.

Programs funded:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number of Programs/ Number Served</th>
<th>Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FFY 1993</td>
<td>FFY 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternatives</td>
<td>43/♦️</td>
<td>38/♦️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>362/♦️</td>
<td>518/♦️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification of high-risk youth</td>
<td>3/♦️</td>
<td>4/♦️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Number of Programs/ Number Served</td>
<td>Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FFY 1993</td>
<td>FFY 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information dissemination</td>
<td>6,000/50,000 *</td>
<td>7,000/56,000 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,000/63,000 *</td>
<td>8,000/63,000 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based processes</td>
<td>NA***</td>
<td>15/♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prevention workshops for professionals, teachers, parents, and volunteers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Formation of regional and local initiatives**: impact evaluations to assess relative success of regional/local initiatives);</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures represent (1) the number of walk-ins, telephone calls, and mail requests; and (2) the number of pieces of literature distributed. These estimates have been provided by the Chief, Office of Prevention, and are based on random monthly reports.

**Specifically, these regional and local environmental initiatives include media presentations which address the misleading messages contained within alcohol/tobacco advertisements.

***Not applicable. No programs were funded with Federal Block Grant funds.

♦ In general, the State of Alabama did not track the number of individuals served.

DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

Results currently available on prevention programs funded by the 20% set-aside:

As of late 1996, Alabama lacked a statewide outcomes- or performance-based system to evaluate the effectiveness of its prevention services. Nevertheless, all prevention providers must incorporate outcome measurement criteria into the planning and design of each prevention objective within their respective proposals to the State.

Needs assessment

At present, Alabama lacks a statewide needs assessment plan. Technical assistance for a statewide needs assessment plan has been requested.

Data Collection

Data are collected from statewide prevention programs, based on CSAP's six primary prevention strategies. At the provider level, these data are usually collected by prevention specialists, utilizing a computer-based format. Data are collected, compiled, and reported monthly, while the data are analyzed on an annual basis. Technical assistance has been requested for a statewide outcomes evaluation system.
To date, only prevention expenditures – categorized by strategy – are compiled and reported statewide.

**Evaluation**

The Chief of the Office of Prevention performs site visits annually to all prevention programs statewide to assure compliance with Federal and State regulations.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Training and Technical Assistance:**

Prevention training events have been sponsored and coordinated by an Area Advisory Council. This Council is comprised of representatives from various State agencies/organizations, including the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Governor’s Advisory Council on Substance Abuse.

Overall, prevention workshops are provided for training professionals, teachers, and volunteers. These training sessions deal directly with substance abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, parenting, family strengthening, and violence prevention.

The Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS) offers HIV/AIDS training to its prevention workforce; this training is broken out as follows:

- Counselor training
- Cross-training
- Provider training
- Regional training
- Staff training
- Train-the-trainers

Technical assistance is available by telephone or on-site throughout the fiscal year.

**Certification Activities:**

Alabama presently has a certification process for substance abuse prevention professionals, which is carried out by an independent State Certification Board. Three levels of certification are offered:

- Associate prevention specialist
- Certified prevention specialist
- Certified prevention manager

Prevention certification is performed in a written format, and re-certification is required annually.