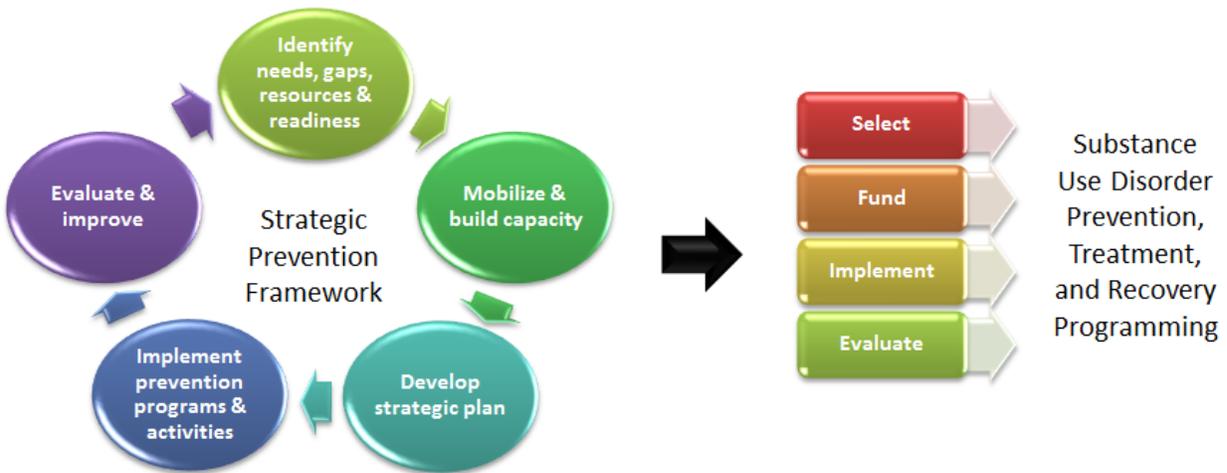


## TENNESSEE'S STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OUTCOMES WORKGROUP (SEOW) CHARTER

**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.

Determine the presence and magnitude of negative consequences associated with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental illness in order to identify prevention priorities and align effective strategies to address them.

**2. Population:** Adopt a public health approach to preventing and reducing substance misuse and abuse, and related problems, including co-occurring mental illness.

Focus on population-wide prevention of substance use disorder and promote healthy living. Prevention research has demonstrated that approaches that broadly target population-level change are effective in producing measurable improvements in harmful consumption patterns, negative consequences, and co-occurring mental illness in population groups.

**3. Data:** Use of epidemiological data as a primary foundation for all planning and decision-making.

Describe the extent and distribution of substance use disorders and co-occurring mental illness their adverse consequences within and across populations; answer basic questions: What are the consequences of substance use? What substances are being used? By whom? Where?

## Operating Principles

1. Maintain and update a clear purpose and set of goals and objectives through a formal charter.
2. Establish and keep regular working meetings and work plans.
3. Identify specific workgroup products, schedules, and milestones.
4. Establish and maintain regular contacts with the Tennessee Prevention Advisory Council (TN PAC), the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Planning and Policy Council, and other key decision makers.
5. Ensure an ongoing and meaningful exchange of data and information between the SEOW, state leaders and staff, and CSAP.
6. Make use of technology to optimize communication (e.g., listservs, teleconferencing).

## Definitions

*SEOWs*: are a network of people and organizations that bring analysis tools and skills to prevention

*Epidemiology*: the study of factors affecting the health and wellness of populations

*Behavioral health services*: include prevention, treatment, and recovery services to address substance use disorders and mental illness

*Population-wide*: refers to people who share a common characteristic such as residence in a common geographic region such as county, age group, or experience

*Surveillance*: an ongoing form of descriptive epidemiology characterized primarily by uniformity of methods for repeated observations over time; conducted to monitor change; and provide a means of evaluating the effectiveness of treatment and prevention programs, practices, and policies

*Descriptive studies*: characterize and describe the distribution of drug use and drug use disorders according to time, place, person, and groups of people

*Analytic studies*: test specific hypotheses linking drug use and drug use disorders to possible causes, such as exposure to drugs, opportunities for drug use, social-environmental risk factors, and individual characteristics

*Prevention*: a comprehensive, proactive, research-based, data-driven process using strategies and programs that are proven to reduce or prevent substance use disorder and co-occurring mental illness in individuals, families, and communities

*Treatment*: interventions to address a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental illness

*Recovery*: A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential

## Membership

Membership in the SEOW includes those who provide the necessary access to data, competencies, and skills for analyzing and communicating data implications. See Appendix A for specific names and contact information for members:

### TDMHSAS coordinating team

- SEOW Statistical Research Specialist
- Prevention Evaluator
- Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Substance Abuse Services
- Director of Substance Abuse Prevention
- Director of Research

### Community members

- East Tennessee State University
- Oasis Center, Inc.
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- University of Tennessee School of Social Work

### State and government agency members

- Governor's Highway Safety Office
- Health Care Finance and Administration
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services
- Tennessee Department of Correction
- Tennessee Department of Education
- Tennessee Department of Health
- Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security

## SEOW Data Analysis

### SEOW Data Analyst

- Has in-depth understanding of substance use disorder and co-occurring mental illness.
- Participates in the work of the SEOW.
- Works collaboratively with the Single State Agency (SSA) and National Prevention Network (NPN) representative in addition to public health and other related agencies in the operation of the SEOW.
- Helps facilitate data-driven decision-making across state and community organizations.
- Helps to assure the effective and efficient use of resources.

### SEOW Data Sources

- Public health agencies
- Medical and treatment facilities
- Ethnographic research
- Key informant discussions
- Criminal justice, correctional, and other law enforcement agencies
- Surveys
- Other sources unique to local areas

### Data Analysis

Prevention that focuses on risk and protective factors is grounded in the public health approach, which relies on data-based predictors of problem behaviors and positive outcomes. These underlying factors include the following:

- Risk and protective factors that present themselves across the course of human development and make individuals and groups either more or less prone to substance use disorder or co-occurring mental illness in certain social contexts.
- Contributing conditions and environmental factors implicated in the development of the problems and consequences associated with substance use disorder and co-occurring mental illness. Examples may include specific local policies and practices, community realities, or population shifts.