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## DRUG USE

### **Drug use is a health priority in Eau Claire County because...**

Use of substances like methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, fentanyl, and the misuse of prescription drugs has devastating health and social effects on the lives of individuals, their families, and the community. Health consequences of using illegal drugs and misuse of prescription drugs can include infection, injuries, mental health effects, overdose, and death. Social consequences of drug use include increased risk of poor performance or lost productivity in school or the workplace, and the spread of crime, violence, or hazardous conditions that impact community safety<sup>4</sup>. These consequences can strain associated community agencies and organizations, including law enforcement and healthcare systems. These impacts are also felt throughout our community, as 74% of Eau Claire County residents surveyed in the community health assessment believe that drug use is a major or moderate problem locally, and 72% reported concern that drugs are easily available<sup>5</sup>.

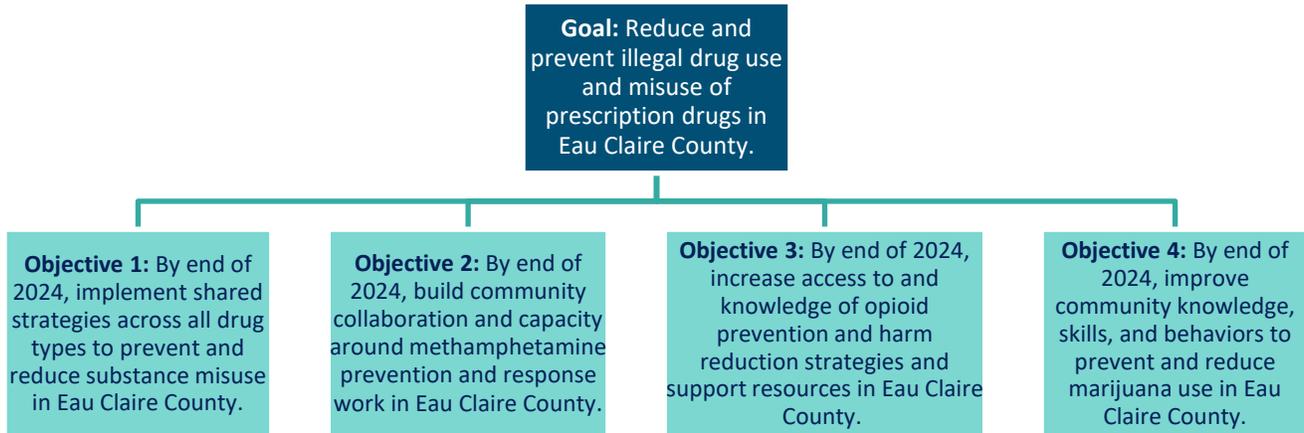
### **Prevention of drug use is important to Eau Claire County.**

Use of illegal drugs and misuse of prescription drugs and associated negative outcomes contribute to significant morbidity, mortality, and economic costs to society. Substance use disorder is among the most common conditions that cause disability and carry a high burden of disease in the United States. This results in substantial costs to families, employers, and healthcare systems. Preventing substance use disorders and related problems in children, adolescents, and adults is critical to physical, mental, and community health. Preventing or delaying substance use initiation among youths can reduce later risk for substance use and substance use disorders in adulthood. Thus, it is important to look at the impact of substance use at the local level and identify prevention and reduction efforts to move towards a healthier community. Mobilizing the community, raising awareness that substance use disorder is a disease, encouraging safe behaviors, and enhancing access to available treatment are all essential.<sup>3</sup> Prevention and harm reduction of drug use in the community requires a multi-faceted approach aimed at the various stages of the life span, from youth to adults of all ages, with involvement from many sectors across the continuum of care.



## Goal and Objectives

The following goal and objectives were identified at a meeting of Alliance members and community partners based on several factors: root cause, evidence, community input, [assets](#) (located in the appendix of the CHA), alignment with [state](#) and [national](#) plans, and community readiness. See [www.getinvolvedasap.org](http://www.getinvolvedasap.org) for more information.



## How We Know We are Making a Difference

Data indicators that will be used to measure success over time.

Key: ✓ or ✗ indicates whether Eau Claire County did better or worse compared to Wisconsin or the nation.

Data indicator	Eau Claire County	Wisconsin	United States
Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people <sup>6</sup>	Methamphetamine: 2.6	Methamphetamine: 1.6 ✗	—
	All opioids: 7.3	All opioids: 13.8 ✓	—
Rate of emergency room visits for all opioid overdoses per 100,000 people <sup>7</sup>	53.1	51.9 ✗	—
Percentage of high school students who used methamphetamine one or more times <sup>8</sup>	2%	2% =	2% =
Percentage of high school/middle school students who ever misused prescription pain medication. <sup>8</sup>	HS: 9%	11% ✓	14% ✓
	MS: 3%	—	—
Percentage of high school/middle school students who used marijuana in the past month <sup>8</sup>	HS: 14%	20% ✓	22% ✓
	MS: 2%	—	—



## Current Stakeholders

*Stakeholders involved in Alliance's drug use prevention and reduction work.*

Altoona Police Department	Marshfield Clinic Health System
At The Roots, LLC	Mayo Clinic Health System
Augusta Area School District	Morning Rotary Club
Augusta Police Department	Neighbor to Neighbor
Criminal Justice Services	Northwoods Coalition
Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.	Prevea Health
Eau Claire Area School District	REALTORS Association of Northwestern WI
Eau Claire County Department of Human Services	Regis Catholic Schools
Eau Claire County Restorative Justice	School District of Altoona
Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office	State of WI Regional DHS
Eau Claire Fire Department	The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Chippewa Valley
Eau Claire Police Department	The Community Table
Fall Creek School District	UW-Eau Claire
Fall Creek Police Department	UW-Madison Division of Extension Eau Claire County
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital	Vivent Health
Lutheran Social Services	YMCA of the Chippewa Valley



## Strategies

*Some policies and practices considered by the Alliance and community partners to prevent, reduce, and increase awareness of drug use. (\* = **evidence-informed strategies**)*

- Early, targeted, education for youth\*, families, community members, and local officials
- Equip community professionals with the knowledge, skills, and tools to recognize, intervene, and support individuals with or at risk for substance misuse\*
- Increase awareness of how to access treatment, recovery, and support resources in the community
- Research and recommend policies in various settings (schools, workplace) to promote healthy behaviors and discourage unhealthy behaviors\*
- Increase access to harm reduction actions, (e.g., Narcan distribution\*, safe needle disposal\*, etc.)
- Research and recommend policies/strategies to address marijuana use from states where marijuana is legalized\*



## Alignment with State & National Plans

State and national plans were reviewed to help form health priority goals, objectives, and strategies that align with the vision of the state and nation that also consider disparate populations.

Below are some of the specific state or national goals and/or objectives that align with drug use prevention and reduction efforts included in the 2021-2024 Eau Claire County CHIP.

Drug Use
<p><b><u>Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Objectives:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce unhealthy and risky alcohol and other drug use by changing attitudes, knowledge, and policies, and by supporting services for prevention, screening, intervention, treatment, and recovery.</li> <li>• Assure access to culturally appropriate and comprehensive prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery support and ancillary services for underserved and socially disadvantaged populations who are at higher risk for unhealthy and risky alcohol and other drug use.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Healthy WI 2020</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Prevent harmful opioid use and reduce opioid-related consequences</li> <li>• Objective: Increase access to a full continuum of family-centered treatment services throughout Wisconsin, including in rural areas and within underserved populations.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Healthy People 2030 Objectives:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Reduce the proportion of adults who used drugs in the past month — SU-07</u></li> <li>• <u>Reduce the proportion of adolescents who used drugs in the past month — SU-05</u></li> <li>• <u>Reduce the proportion of adults who use marijuana daily or almost daily — SU-08</u></li> <li>• <u>Reduce the proportion of adolescents who used marijuana in the past month — SU-06</u></li> <li>• <u>Reduce the proportion of people who misused prescription drugs in the past year — SU-12</u></li> <li>• <u>Reduce the proportion of people who used heroin in the past year — SU-16</u></li> <li>• <u>Reduce drug overdose deaths — SU-03</u></li> <li>• <u>Increase the proportion of people with a substance use disorder who got treatment in the past year — SU-01</u></li> <li>• <u>Increase the proportion of adolescents who think substance abuse is risky — SU-R01</u></li> </ul>