



ARKANSAS

STATE PREVENTION SYSTEM

Structure and Organization

The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (BADAP) of the Arkansas Department of Health is the lead State agency in the fight against substance abuse. Within BADAP is the Division of Prevention Services, which has the responsibility for managing the prevention set-aside portion of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, the Governor's portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds (SDFSC),* and all State general funds allocated to BADAP for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) abuse prevention. Arkansas is divided into eight regions for prevention programming, serving the State's 75 counties.

A major portion of the 20% prevention set-aside of the SAPT Block Grant is used to support a statewide prevention infrastructure, which, in turn, has a primary role in the development of prevention services and providers. The two major components of this infrastructure include grants to eleven Regional Prevention Centers (RPCs) and a statewide prevention training and technical assistance contract. BADAP provides direction, guidance and oversight to these efforts.

The eleven regional RPCs (along with six satellite offices) blanket the State to offer community-based ATOD primary prevention and education programs designed to facilitate community empowerment. The RPC Coordinators unite various segments of local communities around substance abuse issues. The Centers provide technical assistance and impactor training to private non-profit agency staff members who directly deliver prevention services.

The training contract provides professional development training for the RPC's and offers additional training opportunities for RPC's to promote to communities in their regions. Additionally, courses offered support the Prevention Certification Standards and are open to community leaders and other professionals whose roles have impact potential on ATOD prevention (e.g., teachers, youth service workers, law enforcement, faith community, parents, etc.).

Other efforts supported by the set-aside monies include the Delta Initiative and the Martin Luther King Youth Assembly. The Delta Initiative is a collection of nine programs, which offer primary prevention programming in southeastern Arkansas, an area of socioeconomic distress with few resources and services. A contract offers specialized technical assistance to these programs to help further their programming abilities. The Martin Luther King Youth Assembly is a youth empowerment effort that provides nationally recognized motivational speakers, community leaders, educational workshops as well as those that deal with culturally sensitive issues to youth from all across Arkansas. Emphasis is also placed on the importance of involvement in community service.

In addition, the set-aside supports two other statewide efforts. One provides minigrants to colleges throughout the state for AOD education to college students. The other provides a college level course to train elementary school teachers in a specialized drug education curriculum.

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Three other agencies are important components of the State prevention system. These include:

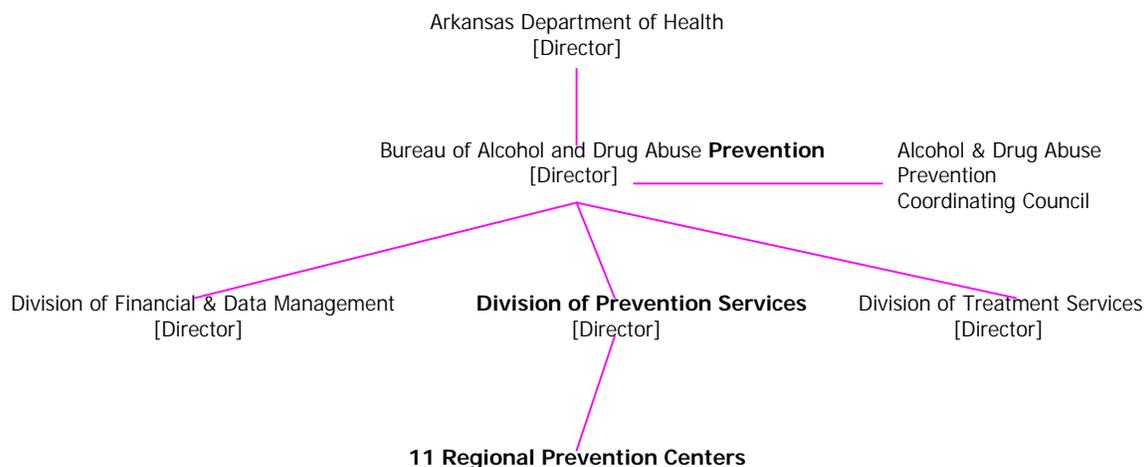
- The Arkansas Substance Abuse Certification Board
- The Arkansas College Personnel Association's Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drug Education Programs
- The Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council, which serves as a board of review for policy/program and allocation review.

BADAP is accountable to the last entity listed above, the Prevention Coordinating Council. This Council, consisting of 25 members, has the responsibility for overseeing all planning, budgeting, and spending of State and Federal funds allocated for alcohol and drug education, prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. Approximately half the members are gubernatorial appointees; the remainder include a prosecuting attorney, a school drug counselor, a county sheriff, a DWI program director, and a private citizen.

* Initiatives receiving set-aside monies from the SDFSC include:

- Prevention Services Programs (PSPs) – Twenty-seven of these programs exist throughout the state. Priority is given to programs that serve children not normally served by state and local education agencies or who need special services and additional resources (e.g., preschoolers, youth in detention facilities, runaways, homeless youth, pregnant youth, school dropouts)
- The Law Enforcement Education Partnership Program (LEEP) – This program consists of law enforcement working with local education agencies that provide drug and violence prevention activities
- Early Childhood Initiative – This initiative is responsible for training, teaching, motivating and informing persons in early childhood education on current pre-school issues relevant to alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention.

Organizational Chart



STATE PREVENTION INVENTORY - ARKANSAS PROFILE

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Year (FFY)	State Funding	SAPT Funding	20% Set-aside
1993	\$75,000	\$5,738,000	\$1,149,000
1994	0*	7,450,981	1,490,196
1995	0*	8,250,119	1,650,024

* See Endnotes.

Allocation of Funds

CSAP Strategy	FFY 1993*	FFY 1994	FFY 1995
Information Dissemination	\$208,000	\$510,196	\$535,000
Education	412,000	326,000	432,125
Alternatives	169,000	192,000	271,362
Problem Identification and Referral	41,000	79,000	95,291
Environmental	183,000	53,000	38,308
Community-based Process	184,000	208,000	250,194
Other**	0	122,000	27,744

*In FFY 1993, expenditures in the CSAP strategies added to \$1,197,000. The State reported a total of \$1,149,000 in its Block Grant application.

**A portion of the State's expenditures in the "other" category included Resource Development activities and Synar Amendment compliance.

Resource Spending	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995
Planning, Coordination, and Needs Assessment	\$0	\$43,166	\$50,000
Quality Assurance	0	0	0
Training (post-employment)	0	0	50,000
Education (pre-employment)	0	0	0
Program Development	0	0	0
Research and Evaluation	0	0	0
Information Systems	0	10,858	0

Substate entities receiving set-aside funds for prevention service delivery

- 8 substate regions
- 12 private, non-profit agencies
- 11 Regional Prevention Centers
- 16 Community Coalitions
- 75 counties

Average amount of grant/contract:

- FFY 1993 - \$29,462
- FFY 1994 - \$59,600
- FFY 1995 - \$44,595

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

- FFY 1993 - \$0.47
- FFY 1994 - \$0.61
- FFY 1995 - \$0.67

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

- FFY 1993 -
 - State: 3 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Regional: 22 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Local: N/A*
- FFY 1994 -
 - State: 4 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Regional: 22 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Local: N/A*
- FFY 1995 -
 - State: 5 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Regional: 22 FTE/0 Volunteers
 - Local: N/A*

*Data not available from State.

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Definition of Prevention:

The State of Arkansas recognizes that prevention is a positive, pro-active approach to helping children and youth develop and maintain healthy lifestyles and attitudes, without the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Prevention is targeted to non-users and includes the referral of a person in need of treatment to an appropriate agency when identified through primary prevention activities. The global goal of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention is healthy, responsible youth capable of resisting these substances and reaching their academic potential.

The State defines prevention as "the use of planned activities to reduce the risk that individuals will experience alcohol or drug-related problems in their lives. It is a positive, proactive approach that attempts to influence individuals before the earliest onset of such problems."*

*Adapted from the philosophy statement of the Southwest Regional Center for Drug-Free Schools and Communities.

Does the State have prevention plan?

Yes; each Annual Plan must be approved by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council.

- High-risk minority youth in the State's Delta region
- At-risk population*

*Includes children of substance abusers, pregnant women/teens, drop-outs, youths displaying violent/delinquent behavior and/or mental health problems, persons who are economically disadvantaged and/or physically disabled, abuse victims, homeless/runaway youth.

Target populations for prevention services:

- Children -Preschool-Grade 8
-Grades 9-12
-Age 18-21
- Parents, teachers, youth service leaders, student leaders
- Community coalitions and task forces
- Pregnant and parenting women

Total Number served:

- FFY 1993 – 126,141
- FFY 1994 – 103,559
- FFY 1995 – 147,717

Programs funded:

Type	Number of Programs*/Number Served			Programs
	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995	
High-risk youth**	4/800	10/1,800	10/1,800	Vocational/educational counseling; job skills training; Delta Initiative Program; Workforce Development Initiative
Community development/professional mobilization	923/16,031	1,018/14,758	1,519/18,966	Volunteer training; systematic planning; advocacy; neighborhood action training; multi-agency collaboration programs; community team-building

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Type	Number of Programs*/Number Served			Programs
	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995	
Information services	1,267/41,366	1,094/31,236	1,235/71,489	Clearinghouse; Prevention Resource Center; RADAR Centers; resource directories; media campaigns; brochures; radio/TV public service announcements; speaking engagements; health fair/health promotion; curricula design
Education	1,284/37,202	1,229/27,267	1,256/31,995	Drugs Don't Work; promotion of school-based K-12 curricula/programming; on-going classroom and/or small group sessions; parenting and family management classes; peer leader/helper programs; preschool programs; education programs for youth groups; COA/FAS/FAE trainings; alcoholism and the elderly; in-service
Alternatives	433/23,009	574/19,406	397/18,954	Afterschool, weekend, and summer enrichment program; juvenile offender diversion programs; drug-free dances and parties; peer leader/helper retreats; "fun night" at local schools and religious institutions; youth/adult leadership retreats; community drop-in centers; drug-free youth groups/organizations
Environmental	122/3,255	140/3,008	185/2,181	Assisting the change of laws, regulations, and enforcement procedures; assisting the change of taxation policies; promoting the establishment of review of ATOD policies in schools, businesses, and community organizations; enforcement procedures governing availability and distribution of drugs; modifying alcohol and tobacco advertising practices; product pricing strategies
Problem identification and referral	296/5,278	477/7,884	418/4,132	COA group; diversion classes; individual referral assistance; EAP; intervention teams; student assistance program; DWI programs; hot lines; health professionals training; youth support groups

*Data presented represent State Fiscal Years 1994 (July 1, 1993-June 30, 1994), 1995 (July 1, 1994-June 30, 1995), and 1996 (July 1, 1995-June 30, 1996). The State of Arkansas reports "total activities" in lieu of total number of programs.

**Number of programs and number of individuals served, respectively, in the State's Delta Initiative Program.

DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

Results currently available on prevention programs funded by the 20% set-aside (including needs assessments and data collection):

All prevention programs are required to submit both process and outcome evaluations of their activities. These data are compiled into a summary report for each initiative. The Bureau utilizes invoices, progress reports, and work plans submitted by its providers to inventory prevention activities. A publication on risk factor data for all 75 counties is published annually and is available to providers (see below).

In early 1995, the Bureau received a grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) to conduct community needs assessments on a statewide basis, with the ultimate goal of compiling four to five years' worth of data among the four risk factor categories of family, school, individual/peer, and community. The results of this statewide needs assessment were published in the 1996 edition in the Bureau's annual *Risk Factors for Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Arkansas*. This annual report, published by the Institute for Economic Advancement, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, contains approximately 50 indicators that measure various factors that are predictive of substance abuse risk.

The Bureau also initiated a statewide student survey – funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) – that was conducted in the spring of 1998. The project intends to utilize a standardized classroom survey instrument and administration protocol to assess risk/protective factors and high-risk behaviors among students. Representative samples of 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade school classrooms within the State of Arkansas will be surveyed to assess community, school, peer, family, and individual risk and protective factors and drug use. The student surveys will allow measurement of all major risk factors (except extreme economic deprivation) and drug use behaviors and will provide indicators of risk and protective factors not available through archival data sources.

In 1999, the Bureau will undertake another CSAP-funded effort to assess community resources and readiness to implement alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention programming. The project will utilize the following sources of information on community prevention resources:

- A short, self-reported survey instrument assessing prevention resources appropriate for community services staff.
- A longer telephone-based survey designed to serve as a follow-up that will assess prevention resource information in greater detail, also designed for community service agency directors and staff.
- Three telephone survey interviews that assess prevention readiness designed for community adults, positional community leaders (e.g., government, social services, law enforcement, health, education, recreation, media, business leaders), and social, health, recreation, and educational service providers.

The needs assessment data from the studies described above will be used to identify elevated risk factors and depressed protective factors in each service region and in two pilot communities

to prioritize targets for prevention initiatives. The resource data will be used to identify gaps in resources and to identify available resources that have not been mobilized to reduce risk and enhance protection within the community. The readiness data will be used to identify appropriate approaches that match the attitudinal and organizational makeup of the community, and to identify training and technical assistance needs in the communities to enhance the community's capacity to implement prevention initiative successfully.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Training and Technical Assistance:

The Prevention Resource Centers provide technical assistance and training workshops in each service region. In addition, BADAP annually sponsors the Mid-South Summer School on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Problems (MSSS™). This week-long institute has been attended by more than 1,000 persons. MSSS™ also hosts a "sky-school" during this same period. MSSS™ workshops were down-linked by more than 140 sites in 37 States in 1997.

The Bureau also funds a "Delta Assessment Center for Drug and Alcohol Programs," housed at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. This center provides technical assistance and program monitoring primarily to the Delta Initiative programs, but also works with other programs.

In 1996, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education, Comprehensive School Health Programs, a Workforce Development Initiative was created. The scope of this effort included:

- A management system that defines the workforce and potential workforce, assessment of the learning needs of this workforce, and facilitating linkages between the initiative and related training systems such as the MSSS™, Arkansas Prevention Conference, and Arkansas Prevention Certification Board.
- Development of a skill/knowledge delivery component that is designed to encourage a shared responsibility for learning, motivate potential learners, self-facilitated learning opportunities, expand the use of technology and link higher education with other conferences and trainings.
- A mentor/supervisor/trainer development to provide for prevention interns, on-the-job training, and intentional mentoring system, the recruitment of people to serve as mentors, and the creation of learning groups.
- The promotion of prevention theory, research, and best practices.
- Curriculum development of materials that are grounded in theory, research, and best practices, and that enhance and build cultural competence.
- Quality assurance through the use of outcome-focused approaches, use of evaluation findings to improve programming and measure the impact of workforce development on State efforts.

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Certification Activities:

The State currently has a certification process for substance abuse prevention professionals. This process is carried out by an independent State Certification Board. The State also participates with the International Certification Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) for Alcohol and Other Drugs. Two levels of certification are provided:

- Certified prevention specialist – The individual provides knowledge and skills, as well as promotes the development of healthy attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent the use, misuse, and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and prevent other behaviors harmful to human beings.
- Certified prevention consultant – The individual designs and supervises programming which provides the knowledge and skills needed to promote the development of healthy attitudes and behaviors to prevent the use, misuse, and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and other behaviors unsafe for human beings.

Recertification is required every two years.

Endnotes

With regard to State expenditures in FFY 1994 and 1995, the State reported that the Arkansas Sheriffs Association received approximately \$375,000 per year from the State Legislature to spend on primary AOD prevention. Denoted "Project ARK," the program is targeted at grades K-6. Students receive education regarding drug and crime prevention, and refusal skills are practiced.