New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

Public-private partnership to reduce substance use among New Hampshire's youth

New Hampshire

Challenge

New Hampshire's young people have some of the highest rates of substance use in the country. The state is first in the nation for young adult drinking, third for youth drinking and binge drinking, and in the top 10 for other drug use.

Innovation

In 2012, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation forged a new public-private partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAS) to reduce substance use among New Hampshire's youth. The Foundation committed $12 million over 10 years to the partnership.

Overview

The Foundation and BDAS have focused their efforts on implementing the state's comprehensive substance misuse strategy—Collective Action, Collective Impact—established by the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery to "improve our collective action through expanded leadership, resourcing, best practices, training, monitoring, and other strategic activities." The funding was used to support the state's newly expanded regional public health networks, to develop and implement evidence based prevention strategies, and to support three prevention initiatives targeting youth—The Partnership for a Drug Free New Hampshire, Youth Leadership Through Adventure, and Life of an Athlete. The Foundation and BDAS also co-fund the New Hampshire Center for Excellence in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, a hub for training, technical assistance, and information dissemination to support communities, practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders. After 5 years, the state is seeing positive results. There have been significant declines in all rates of youth substance abuse since the Foundation's funding was brought into the system.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services.

COUNCIL on FOUNDATIONS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT