

Sustainability and Alignment



Long-term success comes from connecting overdose prevention with broader substance prevention work.

Municipal leaders can make overdose prevention stronger and more sustainable when they align it with existing work on alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and other drugs. This helps communities use resources wisely, keep messages consistent, build on existing partnerships, and create a prevention system that lasts over time.



Key Questions and Helpful Tips

How can opioid overdose prevention connect with other substance prevention efforts?

- Review where current efforts already address alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, or other drug use.
- Look for shared goals such as prevention, early support, public education, and safer communities.
- Add opioid-specific strategies without starting from scratch.



How can the work be sustained over time?

- Build the work into regular budgets, staffing, and work plans.
- Use opioid settlement funds strategically while planning for long-term support.
- Keep leadership, data review, and community accountability in place.



How can messages, training, and programs reinforce one another?

- Use clear, consistent public messages across departments and partners.
- Align training for schools, healthcare, public safety, and community groups.
- Connect education, overdose prevention, substance use health services, and recovery supports.



How can partners track progress and keep improving?

- Share data on trends, reach, and service connection.
- Review what is working for different populations and settings.
- Update strategies as community needs and substance trends change.



Evidence of Success

These examples show what strong sustainability and alignment look like in practice:

Shared prevention goals

Opioid prevention is linked with broader substance prevention priorities.

Stable leadership and staffing

Clear responsibility exists for keeping the work moving.

Coordinated messages and training

Partners use consistent language, education, and protocols.

Blended resources

Funding, partnerships, and programs are aligned across efforts.

Continuous improvement

Data and community feedback are used to refine the work over time.