



Data-Informed Cannabis Lock Bag Pilot Project

A Division of Substance Use Programs and Cannabis Control Board Collaboration

November 20, 2023

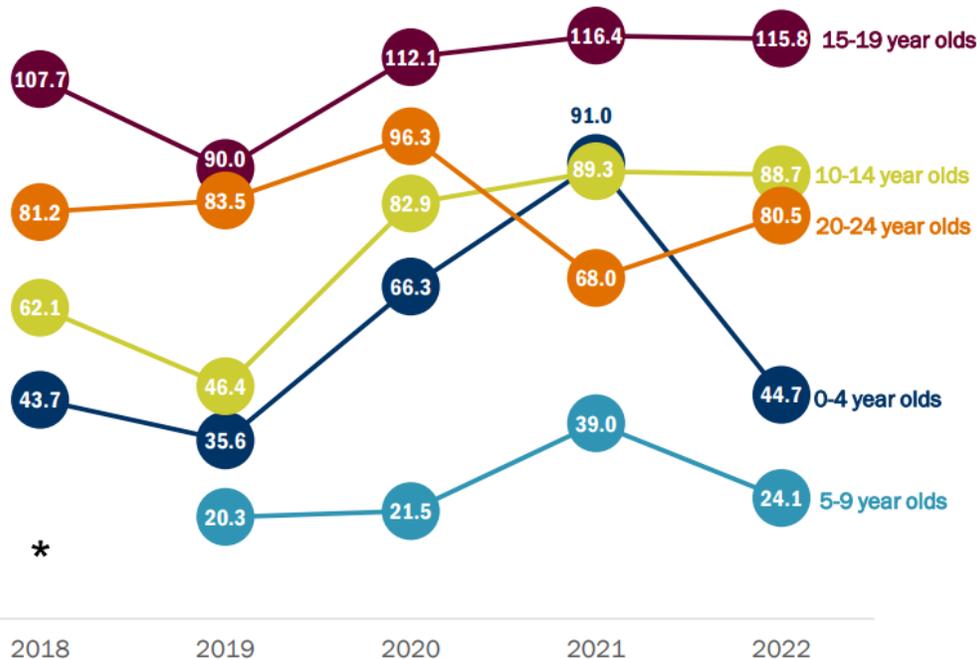
Report: “Unintentional Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Vermonters Under 25”

- [Unintentional Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Vermonters Under 25 released](#) October 31, 2023.
- Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) data were used to identify unintentional non-fatal overdoses involving cannabis, prescription medication, over the counter (OTC) medication, illicit opioids, and stimulants among Vermont youth under 25.
- Classified as non-fatal overdoses because they are poisonings caused by drugs rather than any potentially toxic substance (e.g., cleaning agents and pesticides).
- Analysis reflect increases in unintentional non-fatal overdose ED visits among Vermonters under 25 between 2018 and 2022.



Report: “Unintentional Nonfatal Drug Overdose Emergency Department Visits: Vermonters Under 25”

The rate of unintentional nonfatal overdoses per 10,000 ED visits was highest among 15-19 year olds and lowest among 5-9 year olds.



* The suppressed rate, indicated by the asterisk, was omitted and reflects a rate that was calculated from a count (number of people who had a nonfatal overdose) that is higher than zero but lower than six.†

The three most common substances involved in unintentional nonfatal overdoses in 2022 by age:

| Age | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0 to 4 | OTC Meds | Prescription Meds | Cannabis |
| 5 to 9 | Stimulant Drugs | Cannabis | Prescription Meds |
| 10-14 | OTC Meds | Prescription Meds | Stimulant Drugs |
| 15-19 | Prescription Meds | OTC Meds | Stimulant Drugs |
| 20-24 | Opioids | Stimulant Drugs | Prescription Meds |

Safe Storage Collaboration

DSU and CCB support safe storage pilot

- DSU identified \$20k in marketing contract
- 3,000 bags ordered under Healthy at Home
- CCB identified retail partners willing make bags available, free of charge
- Bags are promoted to cannabis retail customers who have young children or pets



KEEP KIDS & PETS
SAFE



Cannabis lock bag

Take this anonymous survey & let us know what you think of the bag.



tinyurl.com/CanLockBag



LOCK UP YOUR STASH

Use this lock bag to safely store your cannabis and cannabis products. Store your weed out of sight and reach of children and pets.

SEEK EMERGENCY HELP

If you think a child may have ingested cannabis, call the local Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222. If you think a child needs immediate medical help, call 9-1-1. If you think a pet may have ingested cannabis, call your vet.

STAY HEALTHY AT HOME

Learn more ways to keep your home, and everyone in it, healthy and safe.

healthvermont.gov/healthyathome



Distribution by the Numbers

- CCB identified a cross-section of 10 retailers that were geographically diverse, with two retailers in the most densely populated area.
- DSU leveraged regional prevention staff to deliver 100 bags per retailer for a total of 1,000 initial distribution.
- 2 retailers requested restock within first week.
- 1,200 distributed to date, 2,800 remaining.
- 11 organizations have reached out to request to be distributors.

Distribution Locations

Vermont Bud Barn – Brattleboro

The Hight Country – Derby

Northeast Kannabis – St. Johnsbury

FLORA – Middlebury

Capital Cannabis Company – Berlin

Mountain Girl Cannabis – Rutland

MothaPlant – St. Albans

The Tea House – White River Junction

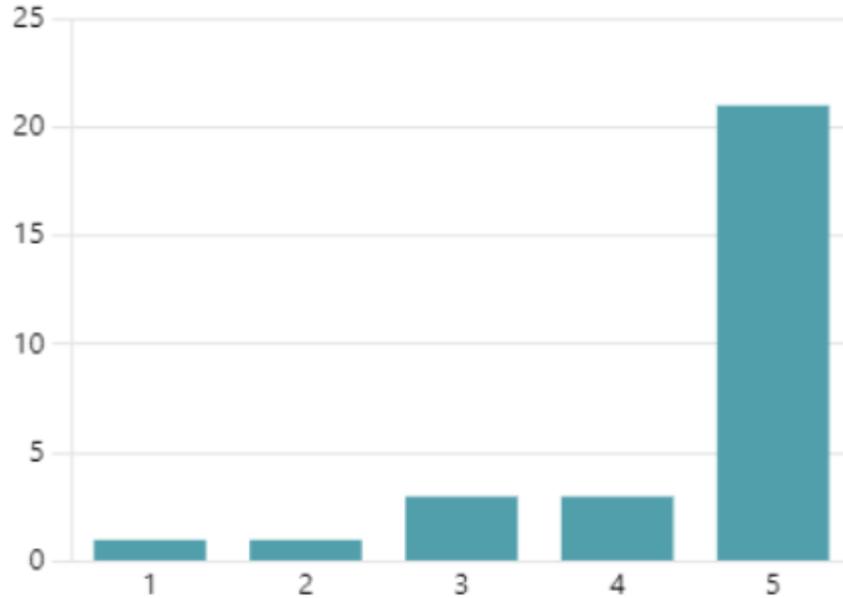
Euphoria Cannabis - Burlington

Magic Mann, Essex

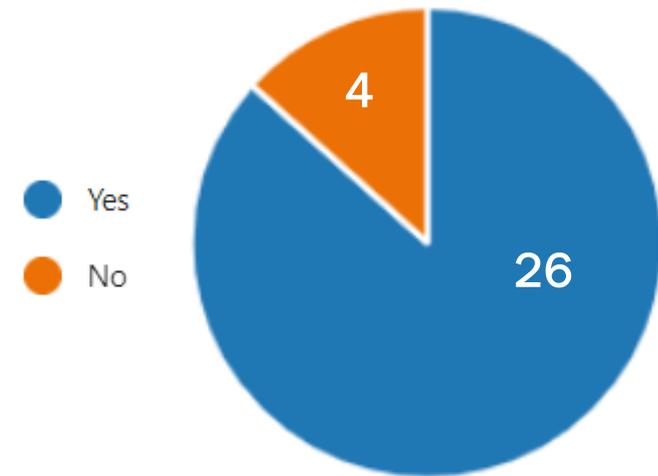
Initial Survey Results: 30

On a scale of 1-5, how likely do you think you are to use this bag:

4.45
Average Rating



Will this bag help you store your cannabis safely away from children and pets?



Initial Survey Results

If no, how could it be improved?

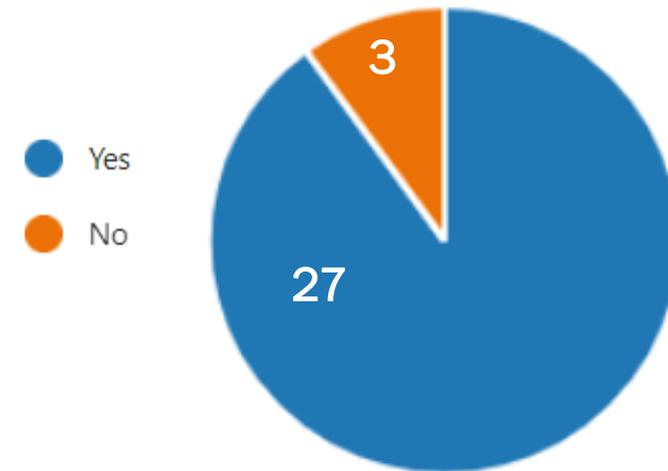
Make it pink.

It's too small

Not big enough, any dog could easily tear this to pieces also. Waste of tax payers money

Overall privacy

Should the Vermont Department of Health continue to make safe storage tools, like this bag, available to cannabis retail customers?



Initial Survey Results

Is there anything else you would like to share? (Example: reason for using the bag, location for distribution, other approaches to supporting safe storage, etc)

If your pet is a shark, this is not pet-proof.

Wish I could set the lock combo

This is helpful for my other meditation as well as cannabis to keep my children and pets safe. Thank you

Safe effective way to keep my kids out of my marijuana.

Smell proof to be respectful to anyone you live with who might not like the smell. Locks so children or anyone can't steal from it

Awell there junk got mine wont even work and my wife locked and will not unlock no matter how hard we try strait junk

I love this! Great idea for storing small cannabis and other small items!

If this is truly for the safety of children and pets in this new world of legalization, please keep these free to all adults! These are amazing!! Thank you!

Very responsible. It starts from the top. Thank you.

Education is needed, not small lock pouches

I think having little locked canisters would be great too!

I got this at the Bud Barn in Brattleboro and am excited to have this to keep my gummies away from the kids!!

This is awesome thank you for doing this. Should continue promoting proper use and safety using free products as dispersment. Maybe should make people more aware of it in the shops themselves

Waste of money, adults know how to properly store their products and have been for years. Unless you're offering free lock box safes, don't waste your time or efforts.

Thanks for supplying these, and free of charge!

You should recommend shops sell the larger version. (Of course, the smaller size is perfect for my needs.)

I'm very happy that these safe bags are being given away to keep all forms of cannabis away from pets and children

I love this idea



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

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Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations/Regional Funding Structure Update

November 20, 2023

Regional Prevention Lead Model

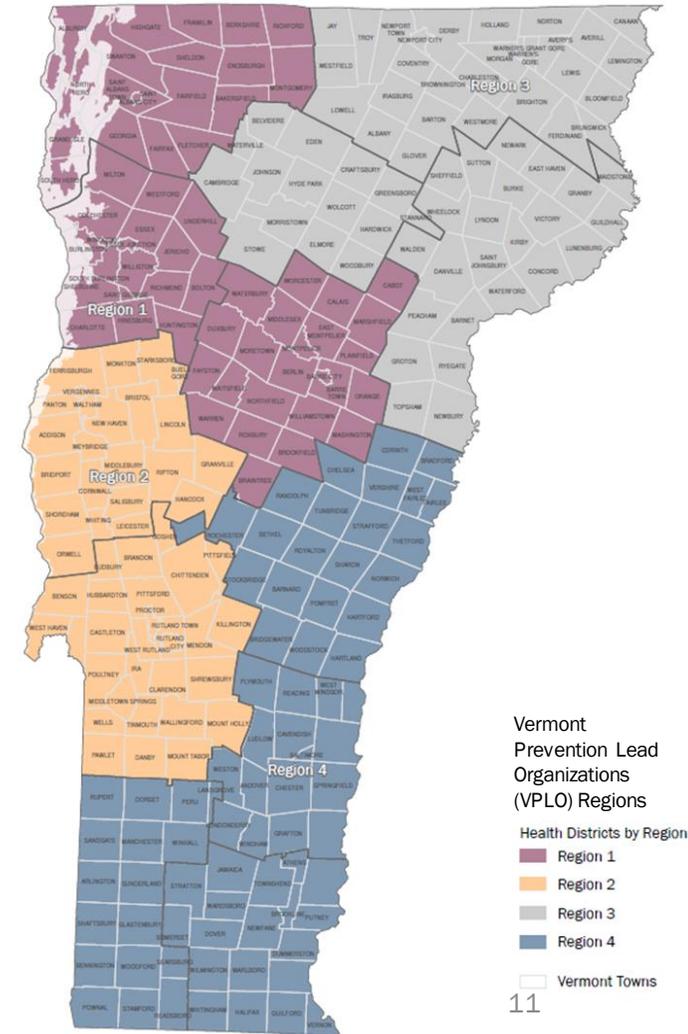
Four regional **Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations (VPLO)** established covering the state that lead broader prevention efforts and allocate prevention funding in the region.

Model informed by a 12-month planning process with significant stakeholder input.

Key elements of the VPLO structure include regional assessments/strategic planning and fiscal management/subgranting.

An overarching goal of this funding is to **sustain existing substance misuse prevention coalitions, build additional prevention capacity, and reach gap areas to ensure statewide prevention coverage** in all 12 health districts.

Began July 1, 2023 with a **six-month start-up** and VPLOs will begin broader subgranting in their region starting 1/1/24.



Benefits of the Approach

The regional funding structure and approach expands and strengthens Vermont's substance misuse prevention system with flexible, increased, and sustainable dollars that allows for more access, equity, innovation, and reach.

The focus is to:

- Sustain and grow existing prevention partners (largely coalitions doing primary prevention)
- Build additional capacity in both primary and secondary prevention and engage un-tapped partners (universal prevention and identifying some at-risk and special populations that need a more targeted approach)
- Address gap areas to ensure baseline primary prevention is happening while also building capacity described above

Advantages of regional funding structure include:

- Funds are close to communities which allows for local decision making at the community-level
- Allows more flexibility to fund prevention activities according to need and impact and to consider and fund innovative approaches
- Allows for smaller grants
- Aligning funding with regional needs vs state needs

High-level Goals

1. Prevent and reduce substance use/misuse across **all ages and substances**.
2. Ensure all Vermonters have access to substance misuse prevention statewide that allows for and **optimizes regional assets and variability**.
3. **Decrease geographic and other health disparities**.
4. **Increase efficiency and collaboration** on prevention efforts across all state, public, and private entities through a consolidated and holistic approach to prevention that is sustainable, scalable, and equitable (SMPC goal #3).

Vision

DSU envisions a substance misuse prevention system in Vermont that is **sustainable, scalable, and equitable**.

A system that uses **evidence-based/informed/best practice programs, policies and innovative approaches** to prevent the onset of substance misuse disorder, delay initiation of use, promote healthy lifestyles and optimize well-being **among individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan**.

- Includes all age groups
- Addresses disparities
- Follows the Vermont Prevention Model
- Focuses on all substances
- Built upon the Strategic Prevention Framework and other research-based prevention principles while allowing for flexibility and innovation
- Supports and sustains substance misuse prevention coalitions
- Is embedded in other organizations and systems such as schools, third spaces, higher education
- Engages untapped groups and partners
- Is coordinated and cost effective
- Includes and values primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
- Is continually evolving

What success looks like

A sustainable, scalable, and equitable statewide system in Vermont that prevents or reduces substance use/misuse across all ages and substances that includes and reflects:

- Relevant and effective substance misuse prevention efforts statewide
- Collaborative efforts driven by reliable and timely data, that address contributing factors that lead to use and includes participation from priority populations, including, but not limited to, youth
- An increase in substance misuse coalitions that are sustained and thriving
- Inclusion of innovation and untapped prevention partners in this work
- An understanding by communities and stakeholders about what substance misuse prevention is and its impact

Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

VPLO work is guided by the SPF

- 1 . Assessment: Identify local prevention needs based on data
- 2 . Capacity: Build local resources and readiness to address prevention needs
- 3 . Planning: Find out what works to address prevention needs and how to do it well
- 4 . Implementation: Deliver evidence-based programs and practices as intended
- 5 . Evaluation: Examine the process and outcomes of programs and practices

Two cross-cutting principles

Cultural competence. The ability of an individual or organization to understand and interact effectively with people who have different values, lifestyles, and traditions based on their distinctive heritage and social relationships.

Sustainability. The process of building an adaptive and effective system that achieves and maintains desired long-term results.

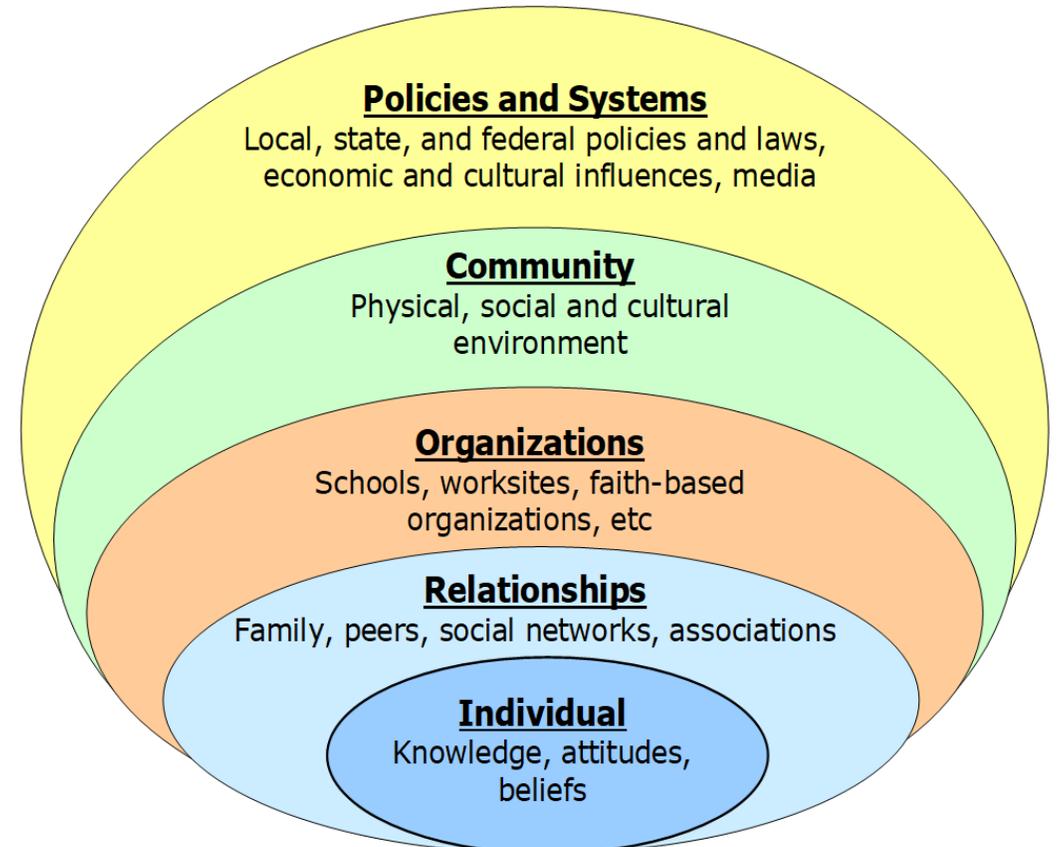


Vermont Prevention Model

The Vermont Prevention Model is a socioecological model that includes five levels of influence: Individual, Relationships, Organizations, Community and Policies and Systems. The overlapping rings in the model illustrate how **factors at one level influence factors at another level.**

The model also illustrates that **people do not act in isolation and in order to prevent behavior, it is necessary to act across multiple levels of the model at the same time.** This approach is more likely to sustain prevention efforts over time and achieve population-level impact.

Vermont Prevention Model



Work to Date

- Established regional advisory and coordination structures.
- Conducted assessment to identify strengths and gaps in each health district and region, determined regional priorities that serve as the basis for funding allocation.
 - VPLOs use the SPF process to identify and fund prevention work; this includes both use rates/trend assessment and capacity assessment.
- Released RFPs in October – currently reviewing proposals and ready to make decisions about first round of funding as of January 1.
- Planning for baseline prevention in gap areas – media messaging, community education, drug disposal promotion, training, and events.
- Developing a Health Disparities Impact statement (a compilation of data sources that outlines trends for different populations in the region).

VPLO Priorities for First Round Funding include:

- Reducing underage cannabis, tobacco, and alcohol use
- Increase supports for LGBTQ+ youth
- Respond to emerging substance abuse issues with innovative strategies
- Reduce adult high risk substance use
- Reduce older adult substance use
- Create a community where adults and youth feel valued
- Build primary and secondary prevention capacity at the community and regional levels
- Increase capacity within existing substance misuse coalitions and engage new prevention partners

DSU Work to Support Prevention Leads/Regional Structure

- Executing VPLO grants
- Providing guidance (definitions, answering questions, logic models, helping to problem-solve)
- Meeting monthly with each VPLO plus All-VPLO meeting once a month
- DSU Prevention Consultants support VPLOs in teams: serving on regional coordination teams, assisting with assessment, providing training and technical assistance to advisory boards, subgrantees and communities
- Communications and messaging around new structure
- Working on reporting and metrics

Q1 and Q2 Metrics

- Q1 and Q2 are part of the six-month start-up period where VPLOs are building the foundation to subgrant
- Metrics for this period captured building the foundation
 - Priorities identified and how priorities were identified
 - Capacity within the region to do prevention work and how that capacity was determined
 - What structures were established for new and continuing prevention work to be done
 - How community partners are being included in work
 - How DSU staff is being included in work
 - How health equity fits into the work and approach to building and broadening prevention work within the region
 - Approach to building a regional advisory board and does the board have representation from each health district within the region
 - What prevention trainings were done
 - Successes
 - Challenges and how they were addressed

Q3 and Forward

- In Q3 – January 2024 – VPLOs will begin subgranting out
- Quarterly reporting will expand to include information on the subgrants
- Working with Director of Performance and Evaluation and the Program Evaluator for DSU on what the final measures will be
- Draft measures include
 - Who the subgrantees are
 - How subgrantee work fit into region priorities
 - Number served and how this number was determined
 - Demographics of those served
- Other considerations for metrics: baseline prevention coverage; capturing work across the Vermont Prevention Model or tiers of primary and secondary prevention and more