



2025 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN)

We are a statewide coalition of the five Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAs) focusing on prevention and wellness efforts. We address addiction, reduce suicide deaths, and promote mental health in the diverse Connecticut communities. We urge legislators, policymakers, and advocates to prioritize funding for prevention. Prevention funding can have a significant positive effect on health outcomes and health costs. According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), **for every \$1 spent on prevention, up to \$18 can be saved in medical, criminal justice, and other costs.**

It is important that prevention dollars continue to focus on the following: marijuana/cannabis, mental health promotion and suicide prevention, funding 988, opioid use and overdose, gambling, gaming and sports betting, tobacco, electronic cigarettes and vaping, and continued funding for the RBHAs.

One Year's Impact Across Connecticut

11,000

Community Members Trained to use Naloxone, mental health screenings, and prevention in suicide, gambling, and tobacco use

24

Coalitions managed to unite partners, manage resources, and communicate shared objectives

4,357

Naloxone kits distributed

\$864,805

Prevention dollars given to local communities

For More Information, Please Contact

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2025 Public Policy Priorities

State RBHAs

Support the continued funding of the five RBHAs, through DMHAS. These dollars support the overall operations of the RBHA including the underserved and unfunded areas of prevention work.

Marijuana/Cannabis Prevention

As the Connecticut legalization market takes form, it is imperative that the state prioritize prevention, through appropriate packaging, labeling and monitoring, while protecting our youth. Commit 5% of Cannabis tax revenue to local prevention work.

Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention

A multi-tiered approach that addresses individual, family, and environmental factors will strengthen mental wellness across a person's lifespan. Extend prevention activities to deepen family and community programs and practices. Identify funding to support 988 while continuing to provide consistent dollars to address the issues of mental health stigma and suicide at \$100,000 per RBHA.

Opioid Use and Overdose Prevention

Connecticut must be bolder in preventing opioid overdose. The increase in access to naloxone and naloxone training has had a direct impact on the number of overdose deaths in CT. The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee provides significant support to local communities addressing opioid use. Continue to support the Committees work moving dollars into the hands of local communities.

Gambling, Gaming and Sports Betting Prevention

With the expansion of gambling, gaming and sports betting, Connecticut needs to focus efforts on working collaboratively within local communities on prevention initiatives that will protect youth and prevent problem gambling behavior. Commit at least 2% of revenue from sports gambling to local prevention work.

Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping Prevention

Connecticut must continue to protect our youth from the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. Ensure that Tobacco Trust and Juul settlement dollars go towards youth smoking and vaping prevention and cessation programs in local communities.

Connecticut's RBHAs:



Catalyst CT
The Hub

Alliance
for Prevention & Wellness
A program of BHcare



SERAC

Amplify



WCTC