What is National Prevention Week?

Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Prevention Week is a national public education platform showcasing the work of communities and organizations across the country dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and positive mental health.

We recognize that the important work of prevention happens every day. We created National Prevention Week to celebrate these year-round initiatives and the possibilities prevention brings. This year, National Prevention Week will take place May 7 to 13.

What are the main goals of National Prevention Week?

• Involve communities in raising awareness of substance misuse and mental health issues, implementing prevention strategies, and showcasing effectiveness of evidence-based prevention programs;
• Foster partnerships and collaborations with federal agencies and national organizations dedicated to improving public health; and
• Promote and disseminate quality substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion resources and publications.

A New Tagline for National Prevention Week

While prevention works, we recognize that the term can be challenging to define. Our new National Prevention Week tagline, “A Celebration of Possibility,” is about communities coming together to celebrate the possibilities and brighter futures that exist thanks to the ongoing work of prevention happening across the country.

SAMHSA is working to change the prevention landscape by providing evidence-based and accessible resources to facilitate collective action and story-sharing. By showcasing the work of our partners in prevention, we can confront the societal challenges surrounding substance misuse together while celebrating stories of prevention.

How can I learn more about National Prevention Week and participate?

VISIT THE NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK WEBSITE

Be sure to check the website frequently for the latest prevention news, as well as resources for planning your events and activities: samhsa.gov/prevention-week.
SHARE YOUR #MYPREVENTIONSTORY

Substance use prevention and mental health promotion make a difference! To build excitement about and engagement in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Prevention Week in May, we invite you to join the online prevention conversation using the hashtags #NationalPreventionWeek23 and #MyPreventionStory.

In 2022, SAMHSA introduced #MyPreventionStory to capture the vast array of prevention experiences and stories. Through this effort, SAMHSA engaged individuals to explain the significance of substance misuse prevention in their lives.

We want to continue this conversation and reinforce why prevention is important. Share your unique perspective about why prevention is important to you and use the #MyPreventionStory hashtag across social media to join the storytelling movement!

Host a Community Event

Throughout the year, host a community event or activity to raise awareness about the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health.

Then, tell us about your event. We can help promote your community’s event in future promotional materials, and you might even find yourself spotlighted in the yearly National Prevention Week Outcomes Report.

To get started with planning your event, download materials from the National Prevention Week Planning Toolkit. The Planning Toolkit has all the information you need to jump-start your National Prevention Week event planning. Need resources about a specific topic? You can watch archived webinars on all daily health theme topics and more!

Where can I find more information?

Visit the National Prevention Week website to learn more about National Prevention Week and how you can participate: samhsa.gov/prevention-week.