

# ERADICATING SUBSTANCE ABUSE THROUGH STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Understand whether programs and policies for prevention and treatment work



Evaluating programs is an essential component of preventing and treating substance use disorders. It allows organizations to determine whether their programs, policies, and practices are implemented as intended; whether these efforts have the expected impact on target populations; and whether there are opportunities to improve programs.

RTI International collaborates with state and local government agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations to evaluate their intervention efforts. These interventions have a variety of targeted outcomes, including those related to substance use, mental health, and HIV.

RTI works with clients on all phases of the evaluation research process to ensure that programs are compliant with federal grant guidelines, an essential part of winning and maintaining funding.

# 948,000

**Number of Americans, aged 12 or older, who use heroin.**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2017). *Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (HHS Publication No. SMA 17-5044, NSDUH Series H-52). Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/>



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **The opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania.**

As part of the Pennsylvania Heroin Overdose Prevention Technical Assistance Center, we work with the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy to develop forecasts of opioid use disorder treatment need by county. The forecasts will be used for planning purposes and are designed to be continually updated.

### **The impact of safe injection facilities in California.**

To determine whether there are cost benefits associated with opening a safe injection facility in San Francisco for people who inject drugs, we analyzed mathematical models that combined local public health data with previous research on the effects of existing safe injection facilities. Our research showed that a single facility would not only save lives by reducing overdoses, but could also save the city \$3.5 million annually.

### **HIV and substance abuse prevention in the Bronx.**

The Bronx Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities program is a court- and community-based case management diversion program serving substance-abusing offenders and offenders with co-occurring substance use and

mental health disorders. We evaluated the implementation and outcomes of the program's HIV/AIDS education, testing, counseling, and treatment resources using surveys, interviews, and administrative data.

### **Mecklenburg County's jail diversion program.**

Operation Recovery is a comprehensive, trauma-integrated jail diversion and support system designed to address the needs of people with mental illness, substance abuse, and traumatic brain injury who are involved with the criminal justice system. We evaluate the support infrastructure, implementation, and participant outcomes of this program.

### **Underage drinking and substance abuse in Georgia.**

We evaluate initiatives, funded by Georgia's Office of Behavioral Health Prevention, to support providers around the state in implementing evidence-based programs and environmental strategies to reduce underage drinking and other substance abuse. We scanned and analyzed more than 15,000 participant surveys, developed online data collection tools, and provided recommendations for implementation improvements.

### **Prevention efforts for youth marijuana and alcohol use in the District of Columbia (DC).**

We work with DC's Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success project to evaluate its programs for preventing marijuana and alcohol use among local children and teens. We provide evaluation training and technical assistance, develop a data dashboard, and develop user-friendly dissemination products.

### **The risk of HIV among substance-using women in North Carolina.**

In collaboration with local health departments, we develop and test the efficacy of a mobile health application of an HIV risk reduction intervention compared with face-to-face delivery to reduce substance use and sexual risk among young African American women in North Carolina. The study aims to reach African American women aged 18 to 25 from three counties who use alcohol and other drugs and have not recently been tested for HIV.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE CAN HELP EVALUATE YOUR PROGRAMS TODAY.

### CONTACT

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