

PREVENTION FIRST 

SUPP PREVENTION PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Introduction

Each year Prevention First conducts a SUPP provider survey to obtain information about the prevention workforce in Illinois. The data helps gauge the state of the funded prevention workforce; discuss workforce issues and needs at a state and national level; plan and adjust training, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities for the coming year; support efforts to continue building the best substance use prevention workforce; and support prevention-funded organizations in their workforce needs.

The information in this profile was obtained from the 2026 SUPP Provider Survey. The survey was conducted online in February/March 2026 via Survey Monkey. An initial email was sent to all SUPP prevention staff, agency executive directors, supervisors, and grant contacts. The survey was open for 14 business days, and several reminders or announcements were provided via email and Groupsie.

One hundred fifteen (115) professionals participated in the survey. At the time of the survey, there were an estimated 314 prevention professionals (202 SUPS, 56 CSUPS, and 70 SRSUPS) representing 62 SUPP-funded programs, indicating that 37% of professionals completed the survey (43% of SUPS professionals; 36% of CSUPS professionals, and 18% of SRSUPS professionals). Note: The estimated total of 314 represents unique prevention professionals and excludes 14 individuals who worked across multiple grant types at the time of the survey. These individuals are included in the grant-specific counts, so category totals are not mutually exclusive.

Age

41% of prevention professionals are between the ages of 25 and 35. 5% are between ages 18 and 24, 24% between ages 36 and 45, 26% between ages 46 and 64, and 4% are 65 or older.

Gender

A vast majority of prevention professionals are female (77%).

Education

Eighty-five percent of respondents have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. This percentage has been slightly decreasing since FY21 (91% in FY21, 89% in FY22, 87% in FY23, 86% in FY24). 92% of SRSUPS, 89% of SUPS, and 60% of CSUPS providers that responded have a bachelor's degree or higher.

The percentage of respondents who have a high school degree or GED as their highest level of education decreased this year (10% in FY24 to 6% in FY26) while the percentage of respondents who have an associate degree decreased slightly (6% in FY24 to 9% in FY26).

Certification

Most respondents (66%) are not certified prevention specialists. The number of respondents who responded “Yes” (15%) increased from FY24 (13%). The percentage of respondents currently pursuing the credential (14%) remained near FY24 rates (15%), compared with FY21-FY23, when it had remained around 8-9%. This question was not asked on the FY25 survey.

Staff Turnover

40% of prevention professionals are “veteran” staff with 6 or more years in the field, while 14% have been in the field for less than a year.

Job/Career Satisfaction

Most prevention professionals (81%) are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their current position. However, 11% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their current position. A significant 97% of prevention professionals feel prepared to do their jobs; 88% feel prevention is valued at their workplace; and 85% feel valued at their workplace. 91% feel there is adequate training for prevention professionals. However, many (31%) feel there are no opportunities for advancement in prevention within their organization; 19% feel their salary is not comparable to other prevention professionals; and 39% feel their salary is not comparable to the work required of them.

Salary

Of those who responded, 28% of respondents with full-time employment make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 (70% make more than \$45,000, while 2% make less than \$35,000). This includes all job types, including managers, directors, and supervisors.

Salary by Years of Experience

- 36% of full-time **new prevention staff (in the field less than one year)** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 0% make less than \$35,000 and 64% make more than \$45,000.
- 29% of full-time **prevention staff who have been in the field one to five years** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 4% make less than \$35,000 and 67% make more than \$45,000.
- 77% of full-time **veteran prevention staff (in the field six or more years)** make over \$45,000, while 23% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 and 0% make less than \$35,000.

Salary by IDHS Region

- 29% of full-time **Region 1** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 71% make more than \$45,000.

- 8% of full-time [Region 2](#) prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 4% make less than \$35,000 and 88% make more than \$45,000.
- 25% of full-time [Region 3](#) prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 6% make less than \$35,000 and 69% make more than \$45,000.
- 45% of full-time [Region 4](#) prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 55% make more than \$45,000.
- 71% of full-time [Region 5](#) prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 29% make more than \$45,000.
- 11% of full-time [multi-region/statewide](#) prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 89% make more than \$45,000.

Salary by Job Title

- 38% of full-time [prevention specialists](#) make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 3% make less than \$35,000 and 59% make more than \$45,000.
- 88% of full-time [coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors](#) make \$45,000 or more, while 12% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999.

Salary by Job Title and Years of Experience

- 36% of full-time [prevention specialists who have been in the field less than one year](#) make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 64% respondents make more than \$45,000.
- 35% of full-time [prevention specialists who have been in the field one to five years](#) make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 6% make less than \$35,000 and 59% make more than \$45,000.
- 46% of full-time [prevention specialists who have been in the field six or more years](#) make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 54% make more than \$45,000.
- 66% of full-time [coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors who have been in the field less than one year](#) make more than \$45,000, while 33% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999.
- 91% of full-time [coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors who have been in the field one to five years](#) make more than \$45,000, while 9% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999.
- 90% of full-time [coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors who have been in the field six or more years](#) make more than \$45,000, while 10% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999.