



ANNUAL Report FY15



Who We Are

Prevention First is dedicated to preventing teen drug use before it starts. Founded in 1980, we reach thousands of youth, parents, educators and others each year through our specialized services. We provide information, education and support to those working to keep our communities healthy and our children drug-free.

Our Purpose

Prevention First's purpose is to inspire, motivate and prepare communities to create healthy environments.

Our Vision

Healthy communities that encourage drug-free youth.

Our Mission

To build community capacity to prevent substance abuse by providing training and technical assistance and raising public awareness.

Core Values

Respect: We are sensitive to and appreciate the differences of individuals we encounter in our work.

Integrity: We are committed to honorable behavior in our work, even at the sacrifice of personal advantage. (IAODAPCA Code Ethics)

Collaboration: We honor and recognize the power of the collective.

Effectiveness: We are dedicated to professionalism, quality and responsiveness in performing rewarding and purposeful work.



"In the military, the concept of "force multiplier" is used to describe units that don't count as combat units but that use special expertise and equipment to make combat forces much more effective in what they do. Prevention First is a force multiplier for the prevention of youth substance use in Illinois."

- Alan Markwood, Chestnut Health Systems





"The training our coalition members have received through Prevention First has allowed us to efficiently and effectively apply national, evidence-based best practices to our multi-strategy approach to underage drinking prevention on Chicago's southwest side community of the Back of the Yards, New City."

*- Joseph Lopez, Peace and Education Coalition
Be-United Multi-Neighborhood Chicago Collaborative*



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Karel Homrig

Executive Director, Prevention First

A Message from our Board Chair, James McLean

I have been associated with Prevention First for the past seven years, first as a board member, and for the past three years, I've had the honor of serving as board chairperson. Prevention First's board and staff remain dedicated to fulfilling its mission to build community capacity to prevent substance abuse and related issues. Through Prevention First's training, technical assistance and online resources, community-based organizations, schools, healthcare professionals and others are able to implement effective programs and strategies that reduce underage drinking and other drug use, promote mental health, and encourage women to abstain from alcohol use during pregnancy.



With Illinois facing a significant prescription drug and heroin crisis, Prevention First's expertise, programs and services are increasingly important for those who are new to the science behind substance abuse prevention and how that science is applied in working with youth, families, schools and communities.

We know that substance abuse disorders are preventable. By enlisting Prevention First's programs and services, there can be a positive impact on young people's lives, which long-term will have a positive impact on overall health and well-being.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jim McLean



"The training and technical assistance provided by Prevention First has been vital in building the capacity of our organization and coalition to prevent substance use among youth and reach community level outcomes."

- Alia Ryan, MPH, Asian Health Coalition





"Prevention First is essential to effective prevention efforts among youth and enabling the ability to reach community level outcomes. As a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, I would not have the technical skills nor the resources necessary to accomplish the county-level goals of my work without Prevention First."

- Matt Miller, Ben Gordon Center



A Message from our Executive Director, Karel Homrig

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present this annual report that highlights Prevention First's numerous accomplishments.

Prevention First continued to coach, support and inform communities, schools, healthcare providers and youth leaders in their efforts to create and support healthy, drug free environments, using the best prevention science and research available.

We launched a new virtual clearinghouse, providing access to a wide range of free or low-cost resources and materials and piloted a new approach to providing coaching and support to community coalitions and organizations working to prevent underage drinking.

As the report shows, we served thousands of individuals through our website, and almost 1,000 community members, school personnel and youth through classroom-based instruction, online training, webinars and special events.

All this was accomplished with an average of 15 staff members, and in spite of a three-week period when our contract was suspended due to the state budget crisis.

We remain fully committed to doing all we can to help Illinois schools and communities prevent youth substance abuse. We invite you to join us on Facebook, visit our website and the virtual clearinghouse, and greatly appreciate your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Karel Homrig, Executive Director



Key Accomplishments

Substance Abuse Prevention Program

Prevention First provided **48** trainings to Substance Abuse Professionals throughout Illinois.

Nearly **750** individuals received SAPP training.

More than **200** unduplicated personnel received technical assistance from Prevention First.

Prevention First developed new curricula for **7** online or classroom trainings and **6** webinars covering aspects of substance abuse prevention.

Student Assistance Center

The Student Assistance Center (SAC) provided **25** training programs (**8** webinars) to **37** schools, while resources and technical assistance were provided to **224** schools.

More than **200** schools received initial presentations on the Student Assistance Program.

Students Against Destructive Decisions

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) program provided **19** trainings and **67** presentations.

Approximately **9,500** Illinois students attended SADD trainings and presentations.

Key Accomplishments

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

In the last two fiscal years, Prevention First trained nearly **600** WIC Certified Health Professionals in educating women about the dangers of drinking while pregnant.

To accommodate the limited travel budgets of local WIC clinics, last year Prevention First created an online training for newly-hired WIC certified health professionals.

Illinois Department of Corrections

Six trainings were provided to **238** IDOC correctional counselors, casework supervisors, parole agents and wardens.

Prevention First provided financial and administrative support to **70** certified IDOC staff who maintained their CADC credentials by attending two annual conferences.

Communication Department

The Prevention First website, www.prevention.org, hosted more than **13,000** users and nearly **81,000** page views.

In March 2015, the Prevention First Virtual Clearinghouse, providing links to materials that can be used in prevention strategies, was launched. In the four remaining months of the fiscal year, the page had **505** views.

Financial Highlights

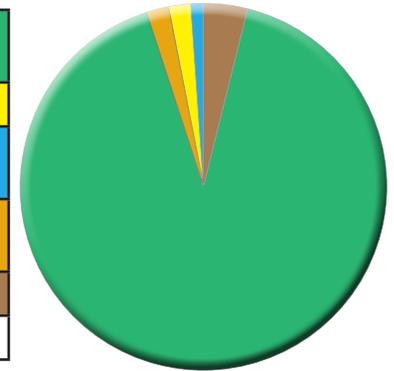
Prevention First is dedicated to providing the highest quality services while remaining fiscally responsible for the funds that we receive from both the private and public sectors. We are committed to balancing the needed services with prudent spending and leveraging limited resources.

During FY2015, Prevention First spent \$2,731,195 preventing alcohol and drug abuse in Illinois. Eighty-six cents of every dollar spent, or \$2,340,896, went towards program services, while the remainder was accounted for by management and general expenses of \$316,070, fundraising costs of \$9,909, and cost for other supporting activities of \$64,320.

Approximately 92 percent of these expenditures were funded by the government, with the remaining funding provided by private grants, public support and other revenue sources. Approximately two percent of these expenditures (\$41,459) were funded by a private grant from State Farm.

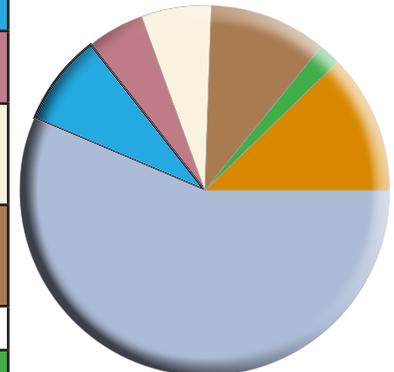
Income

Government Funds	\$ 2,465,770	92%
Private Grants	\$ 41,459	2%
Program Service Fees	\$ 16,552	1%
Direct Public Support	\$ 42,145	2%
Other Revenue	\$ 103,086	4%
	\$ 2,669,012	



Expenses

Substance Abuse Prevention Program Training and Technical Assistance	\$ 1,522,595	56%
Student Assistance Center	\$ 219,348	8%
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	\$ 149,463	5%
Substance Abuse Training to Dept. of Corrections	\$ 169,984	6%
Illinois Students Against Destructive Decisions	\$ 279,506	10%
Fundraising	\$ 9,909	0
Other Supporting Activities	\$ 64,320	2%
Management and General	\$ 316,070	12%
	\$ 2,731,195	





"Prevention First trains our staff and coalition members in strategies and practices that allow services to be provided in the effective, efficient and sustainable manner and youth alcohol use has declined by 30% and marijuana use by 8% among local 10th grade students over the past six years!"

- Elizabeth Nelson, Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center



The History of Prevention First

Prevention First was first known as the Illinois Prevention Resource Center, created in 1980 to address the alarming increase in youth drug use occurring at the time. In 1987, PRC incorporated as a non-profit organization and changed its name to Prevention First in 1994.

Since then, Prevention First has trained hundreds of schools and community groups in use of effective substance abuse prevention programs and practices, opened the state's first training and resource center to help schools establish effective Student Assistance Programs, and became the fiscal agent for Illinois' Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). We have also trained hundreds of healthcare professionals in educating women regarding the dangers of drinking alcohol while pregnant.

Today, Prevention First is Illinois' ONLY nonprofit resource center specializing in preventing alcohol and other drug use among youth and pregnant women.

Why Prevention

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, research has demonstrated that research-based drug abuse prevention programs are cost-effective. Each dollar invested in prevention achieves a savings of up to \$7 in areas such as substance abuse treatment and criminal justice system costs, not to mention their wider impact on the trajectory of young lives and their families. Each year, drug abuse and addiction cost taxpayers nearly \$534 billion in preventable health care, law enforcement, crime, and other costs.

Over 20 years of research demonstrates that prevention interventions designed and tested to reduce risk and enhance protective factors can help children at every step along their developmental path, from early childhood into young adulthood.

Our Programs and Services

Prevention First provides **Training and Technical Assistance** for community-based organizations, coalitions, schools, law enforcement and others working to prevent drug use in their communities. We are the training contractor for the Illinois Department of Human Services and our Professional Development Services Department works with the Department's local grantees throughout Illinois to ensure that their drug prevention programs use strategies that are proven through research to reduce youth drug use.

The Student Assistance Center (SAC) works with public and private schools to support their prevention, intervention and related programs that address non-academic barriers to student success such as violence, mental health issues, relationship issues and substance abuse. The mission of the Center is to develop capacity in schools to implement a systems approach to delivering non-academic services to students and improving school climate.

Our organization manages efforts in public awareness and education to prevent **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**. Prevention First provides WIC Certified Health Professionals training and technical assistance in the skills and knowledge they need to successfully prevent FASD among the women they serve.

The **Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)** has relied on the knowledge and experience of Prevention First for training its correctional staff in various substance abuse-related disciplines since 1989. The primary goals of the program are to develop a core group of trained professional staff who are able to identify offenders with substance abuse programming needs, provide drug education services to specified offenders, and make appropriate recommendations and referrals for offenders in need of substance abuse treatment.



"For both training and technical assistance, Prevention First is the glue that keeps the system functioning; the link between funders and service delivery. I don't see how the prevention system in Illinois could function without these vital services."

- Joanne Glancy, C.P.S., Project Oz





Our Programs and Services

Prevention First administers the **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** program. SADD is a peer-to-peer education, prevention and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions. SADD's mission is to provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, and other destructive decisions.

In addition to serving as a hub for training and professional development, our website, www.prevention.org, uses a Virtual Clearinghouse to provide information on the latest trends and education related to youth substance abuse and related issues, fact sheets, and links to important resources and related topics.

"Prevention First's training and technical assistance have been outstanding, in terms of providing prevention service staff with the necessary skills for the effective delivery of prevention services in the communities which we serve."

- Bruce Richards, Wells Center





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