

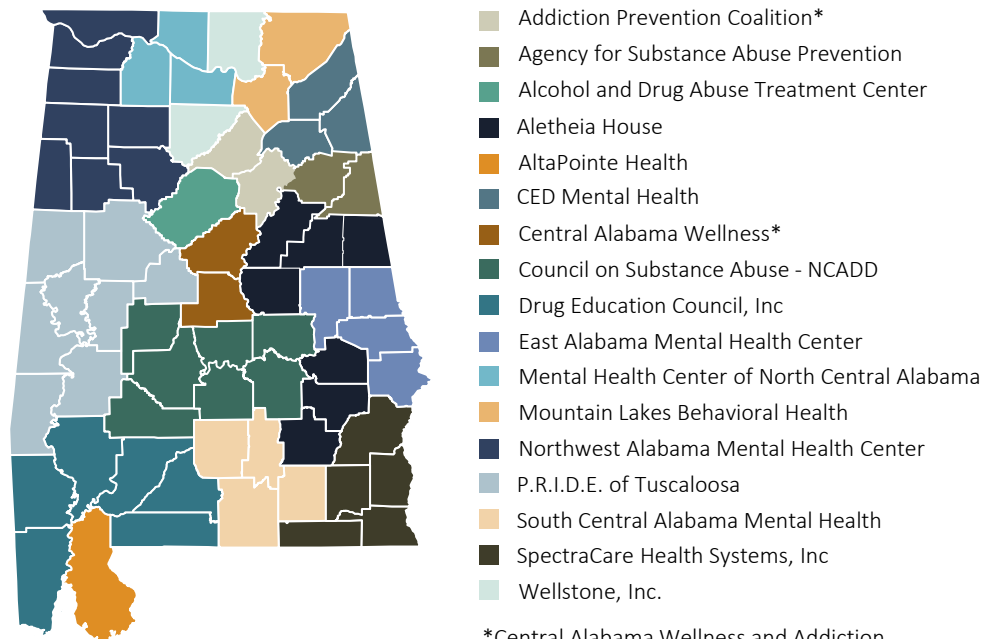
Alabama Substance Use Block Grant 2022-23 Annual Report: Executive Summary

The Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant or SUBG for short, (formerly the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment [SAPT] Block Grant) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Alabama’s Department of Mental Health (ADMH) Office of Prevention distributes funds to 16 prevention providers within 22 catchment areas who serve all 67 counties across the state. Providers use these funds to plan, implement, and evaluate prevention strategies and activities aimed at preventing and/or decreasing substance use.

This report, prepared by OMNI Institute (OMNI), provides an overview of Block Grant (BG) prevention activities during the 2023 fiscal year (October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023). OMNI has served as the evaluator of Alabama’s BG funds since January 2021. OMNI is a nonprofit social science consultancy that provides integrated research and evaluation, capacity building, and data utilization services to accelerate positive social change.

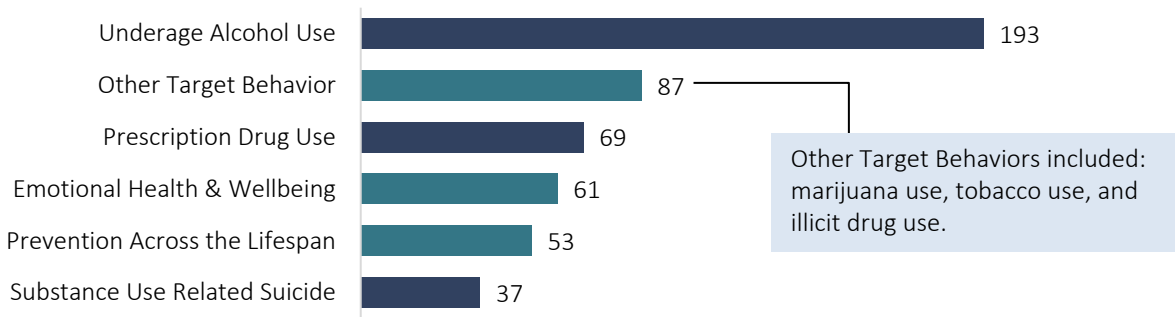
Alabama’s Block Grant activities are selected and implemented by providers through a data-driven approach based on the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) developed by SAMHSA. The SPF is made up of a set of steps and guiding principles designed to ensure effective substance use prevention services.

Each provider receiving Block Grant funding provides services to counties in their area. Alabama providers and the counties they served for the 2023 fiscal year (FY23) are listed to the right.



FY23 Process Evaluation

Prevention providers selected interventions to align with statewide priority areas. The greatest number of implemented interventions targeted underage alcohol use. Providers were also able to implement other interventions that aligned with community needs, which included marijuana use, tobacco use, and illicit drug use.

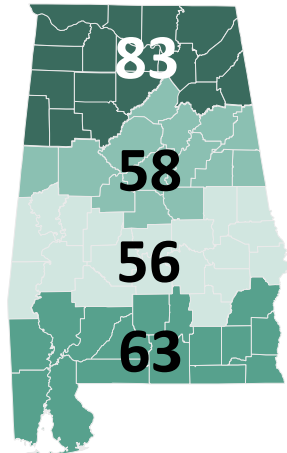


FY23 Process Evaluation

In fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23), providers implemented 260 interventions across Alabama's 67 counties, serving over 1.2 million people in Alabama.

The largest number of interventions were implemented in Region 1, followed by Region 4, Region 2, and Region 3, as shown in the map below. The number of people served by each provider is shown in the table below.

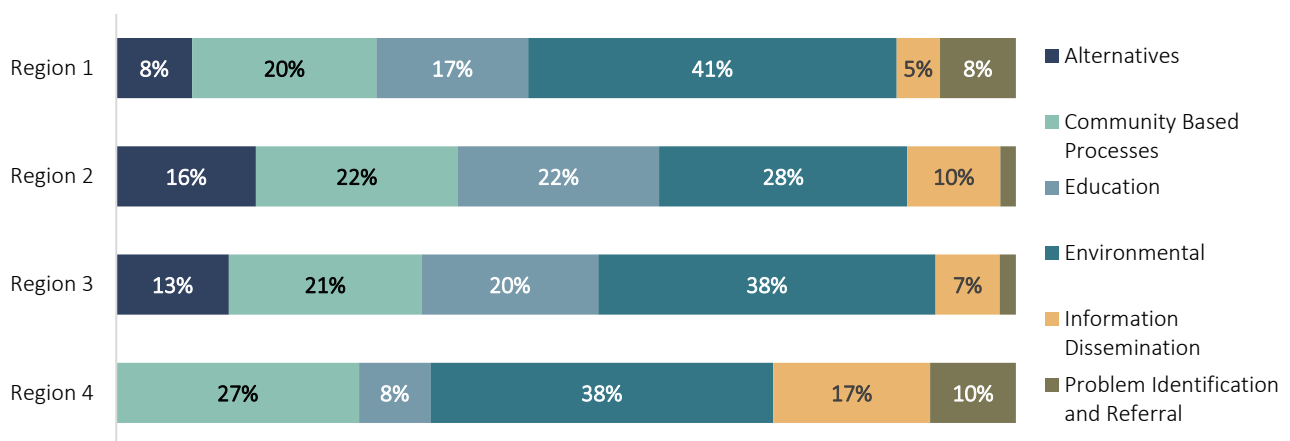
Total # of Interventions Implemented by Region



Block Grant Provider Agency	Numbers Served
AltaPointe Health Systems, Inc.	709,335
P.R.I.D.E. of Tuscaloosa	309,899
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center	160,873
Drug Education Council (DEC)	24,483
South Central Alabama Mental Health Center	13,403
Cherokee-Etowah-Dekalb (CED) Mental Health Center	9,827
Council on Substance Abuse (COSA)-NCADD	8,572
Central Alabama Wellness (CAW)	5,794
Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP)	4,618
SpectraCare Health Systems, Inc.	1,829
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center (ADATC)	1,462
East Alabama Mental Health Center	790
Wellstone, Inc.	690
Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health	456
Aletheia House	258
Addiction Prevention Coalition	20

Interventions fall under six Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) strategies: alternatives, community-based processes, education, information dissemination, problem identification and referral, and environmental.

Environmental strategies were the most commonly implemented strategies across all four regions.



Across Alabama the most people were served by environmental and information dissemination strategies.

877,446 served by environmental strategies

2,574 served by problem identification strategies

357,386 served by information dissemination strategies

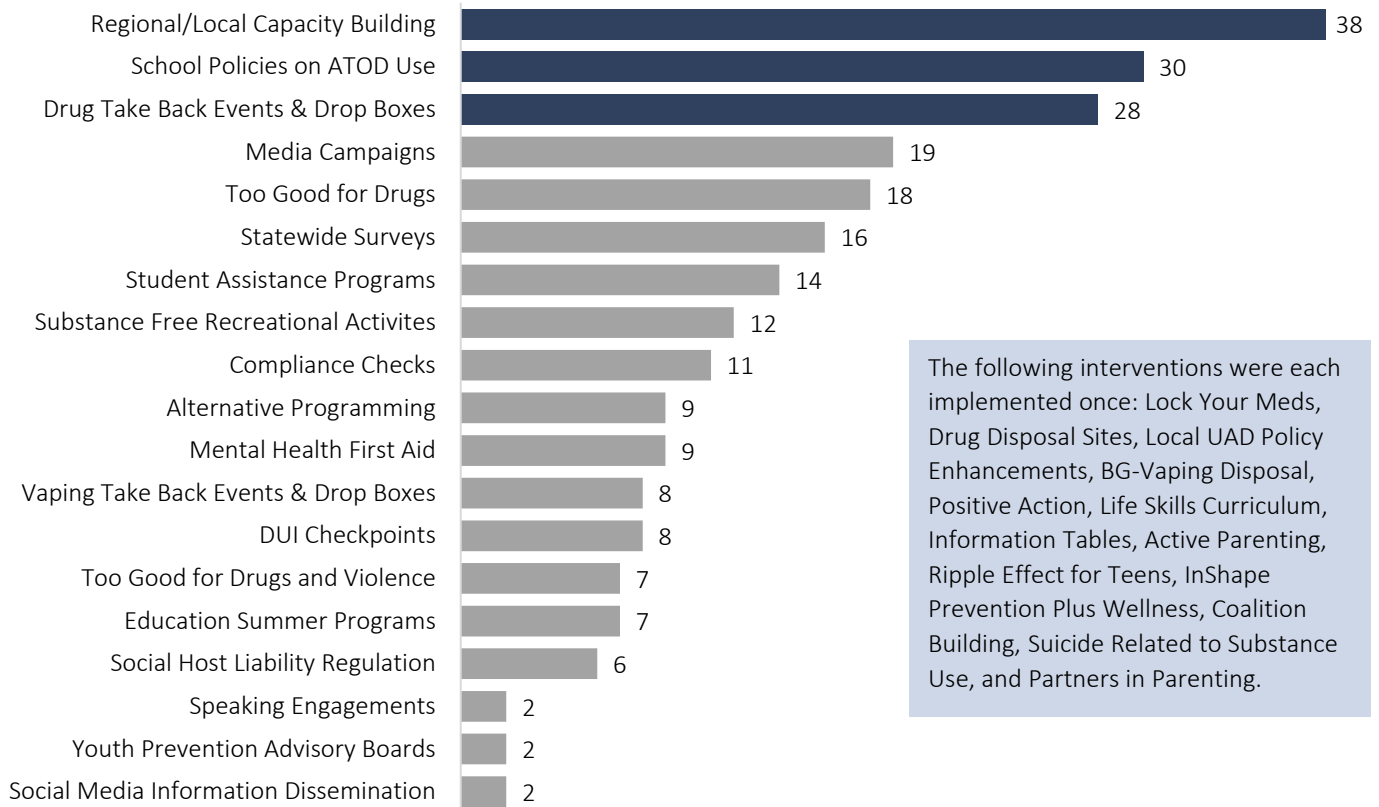
2,530 served by education strategies

12,242 served by community-based processes strategies

131 served by alternative strategies


FY23 Process Evaluation


Capacity building programs, school policies on ATOD Use, and drug take back events and drop boxes were the most commonly implemented interventions during FY23.





The following interventions were each implemented once: Lock Your Meds, Drug Disposal Sites, Local UAD Policy Enhancements, BG-Vaping Disposal, Positive Action, Life Skills Curriculum, Information Tables, Active Parenting, Ripple Effect for Teens, InShape Prevention Plus Wellness, Coalition Building, Suicide Related to Substance Use, and Partners in Parenting.


Providers shared the **successes** and **challenges** they experienced related to implementation of interventions in FY23. The themes below are listed from most to least frequently mentioned by providers.


 **Collaboration.** Provider collaboration with key community partners led to reported success not only in implementing interventions but in establishing new partnerships. This was measured in a greater number of meetings held, new connections made, and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) being established.

 **Diverse prevention activities.** Providers reported progress in reaching youth in schools and communities, implementing broad environmental strategies such as drug take backs and drop boxes, and reaching people with substance use prevention messaging through social media and via other materials.

 **Feedback and metrics.** Providers reported tangible outcomes such as increases in participant knowledge and satisfaction, merchants passing compliance checks, community readiness to engage in prevention, more drugs collected via events and drop boxes, and decreases in incidences of substance use.







 **Staffing.** Providers reported a general lack of staff needed to successfully implement their interventions. Internal challenges with hiring and capacity to train new staff were noted. A ripple effect was noted when similar issues affected partner agencies, such as school administrators or law enforcement changes.







 **Lack of Partner Commitment.** Though collaboration with partners was influential to successes, some providers mentioned a lack of support or full commitment, hesitation to engage with providers, and challenges with school partnerships that would not allow programming. Delays in MOUs and scheduling hindered activities as well.







 **Systemic / Situational Impediments.** Road closures, weather, busy schedules, or school vacations were just some of the systemic and unavoidable barriers providers mentioned as impacting interventions. Others noted a spread-out geography and limited communication channels in rural areas, recent tragedies in communities, and illness (including COVID-19 outbreaks) as challenges in their implementation.

FY23 Outcome Evaluation

In the tables below, problem area indicator data are presented along with the associated long-term outcomes desired. Changes in these key indicators from the prior year of data are discussed in more detail in the full report.

PROBLEM ALCOHOL USE		
Desired Outcomes	Current Indicators (latest data year)	Change from Prior Years
 Decrease in underage alcohol use  Decrease in underage binge drinking  Decrease in alcohol-related driving fatalities	<p>5.96% of Alabama youth ages 12-17 reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. Among those 18-25 it was 39.7%. (NSDUH, 2021)</p> <p>3.4% of Alabama youth ages 12-17 reported binge alcohol use in the past month. Among those 18-25 it was 23.4%. (NSDUH, 2021).</p> <p>33% of Alabama drivers involved in fatal crashes had a BAC of .01 or higher. (FARS, 2021)</p>	<p> Decrease from 8.2% for 12-17 in 2019; Decrease from 45.8% in 2019 for 18-25.</p> <p> Decrease from 4.32% for 12-17 in 2019; Decrease from 27.97% in 2019 for 18-25.</p> <p> Increase from 31% in 2020.</p>

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE AND OVERDOSES		
Desired Outcomes	Current Indicators (latest data year)	Change from Prior Years
 Decrease in prescription drug misuse among adults  Decrease in prescription drug misuse among youth  Decrease in prescription drug overdose deaths	<p>3.93% of Alabamians aged 18+ reported pain reliever misuse in the past month. (NSDUH, 2021)</p> <p>18.8% of Alabama youth reported ever having taken prescription pain medicine without a prescription, or differently than how a doctor told them to use it. (YRBS, 2021)</p> <p>30.1 per 100,000 was the rate of drug overdose deaths in Alabama in 2020. (CDC Wonder, 2021)</p>	<p> Decrease from 4.6% in 2018-19 reporting rate of misuse in past month. (NSDUH, 2019)*</p> <p> Decrease from 22.1% in 2019</p> <p> Increase from a rate of 22.3 in 2020 (CDC Wonder, 2020)</p>

SUBSTANCE-RELATED SUICIDE AND DEATHS BY SUICIDE		
Desired Outcomes	Current Indicators (latest data year)	Change from Prior Years
 Slight decrease in suicide deaths and attempts in adults  Decrease in suicide deaths and attempts in youth  Decrease in substance-related deaths by suicide	<p>15.8 per 100,000 rate of deaths by suicide in Alabama in 2020. (CDC Wonder, 2021) and 0.53% of Alabama adults reported a suicide attempt in the past year. (NSDUH, 2021)</p> <p>10.2% of Alabama youth reported a suicide attempt in the past year (YRBS, 2021)</p> <p>53 Alabamians died by suicide due to alcohol or drug poisonings in Alabama. (CDC Wonder, 2021)</p>	<p> Slight decrease from 16.0 in 2020 (CDC) and from 0.54% in 2019 (NSDUH)</p> <p> Slight decrease from 11.6% in 2019.</p> <p> Increase from 51 in 2020.</p>