

# HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE

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May 18, 2005

## Vision

**A County Free of Substance Abuse.**

## Mission

**Foster, promote and facilitate a collaborative effort among entities in education/prevention, treatment/rehabilitation and law enforcement/criminal justice to reduce substance abuse in Howard County.**

**Goal I:** Educate and assist individuals, families, organizations, and communities to live healthy lives free of substance abuse.

Objective 1: Promote effective substance abuse prevention strategies for Howard County consistent with DiClemente's "Stages of Becoming Addicted" philosophy.

Objective 2: Integrate substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Objective 3: Develop safe supervised places for teens to interact and build developmental assets in supportive environments.

Objective 4: Advocate public policies that ensure greater protection of children and teens from engaging in substance use and abuse.

Performance Target: Increase the number of individuals not abusing drugs.

Measure: Number of individuals in need of treatment.

**Goal II:** Reduce the demand for abusable substances.

Objective 1: Increase the number of patients that access treatment earlier in the progression of the disease.

Objective.2: Reduce entry barriers to improve access to treatment

Objective 3: Increase the number of Howard County residents who access treatment.

Objective 4: Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of treatment services to Howard County residents.

Objective 5: Decrease the number of individuals in the “Preparation”, “Action”, and “Maintenance” stages of becoming addicted.

Performance Target: Increase the number of patients who successfully complete treatment.

Measure: Number and percent of patients who successfully complete treatment, and length of stay in treatment.

**Goal III:** Improve and expand infrastructure to sustain an efficient and effective system.

Objective 1: Increase technical assistance and training to agencies and organizations that interact with substance abusing individuals.

Objective 2: Increase the collaboration among County agencies and organizations.

Objective 3: Develop a mechanism for agencies and organizations to improve and expand their data gathering capabilities.

Objective 4: Assess the “Stage of Change” individuals in Howard County are in with regard to substance abusing behaviors.

Performance Target: Increase the ability of agencies and organizations to help substance abusing individuals.

Measure: Number of agencies and organizations having “stage” specific interventions for substance abusing individuals.