

# Vision

Lowest addiction and drug related crime rates in Montana

# Mission

Uniting Yellowstone County to substantially reduce drug related crime and addiction through effective prevention, treatment, and diversion

# Goal

Substantially reduce drug related crime and addiction through effective prevention, treatment, and diversion

## Priority 1: System Capacity

### Goal

Increase the ability of our community to work collectively to address and prevent substance abuse

**Lead: Executive Committee**

### Strategy 1

Build capacity of Substance Abuse Connect (SAC) to sustain progress

### Activities

1. Formalize governance structure/secure champions (subject matter experts, work group leads, lived experience, policy/funder decision makers)
2. Establish data dashboard and feedback loops for continuous quality improvement
3. Establish effective communication tools/relationships for ongoing engagement and education of stakeholders: replication toolkit, website, media relations, newsletter
4. Ensure coalition structure/leadership provides sustainability for the work

## Priority 2: Diversion and Treatment

### Goal

Divert people from drug related crime through access to effective and appropriate level of care/treatment

**Lead: Diversion and Treatment Task Force**

### Strategy 2

Increase capacity of crisis support and criminal justice system to effectively prevent and/or manage drug-related crisis with the intention of jail diversion and prevention of recidivism

### Strategy 3

Advocate for expanded and effective treatment

### Activities

5. Create a community crisis line to make it easy to get help early before law enforcement has to get involved
6. Create a Mobile Crisis Response team to send an officer and a behavioral health professional to a possible crime involving substance use or mental health issues
7. Train law enforcement and first responders on de-escalation strategies and available placement options for people using substances and/or suffering acute mental health issues
8. Create a joint task force with the Continuum of Care task force to improve transition of substance users to shelter/housing
9. Explore opportunities to increase capacity of law enforcement, the jail and drug courts to support successful interdiction and treatment of drug users
10. Start a pilot project to provide better substance abuse treatment to prisoners and/or probationers
11. Identify challenges to probation and parole officers from increased caseloads and new revocation standards. Work with the Department of Corrections to address them
12. Advocate for reimbursement of evidence based-meth treatment
13. Study treatment funding mechanisms not currently accessed and address any barriers blocking access
14. Educate on the benefit of providing Medication Assisted Treatment in jails and prisons
15. Develop evidence-based guidelines for screening and managing risk of violence among methamphetamine users. Ensure these guidelines are pertinent and accessible to both criminal justice and public health efforts

## Priority 3: Prevention

### Goal

Increase access to effective substance abuse prevention for all youth and adults and for those at high risk for methamphetamine initiation

**Lead: Prevention Task Force**

### Strategy 4

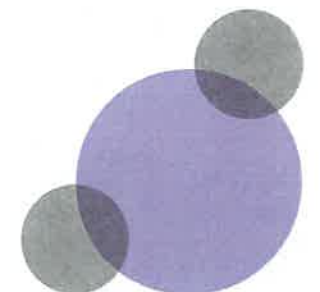
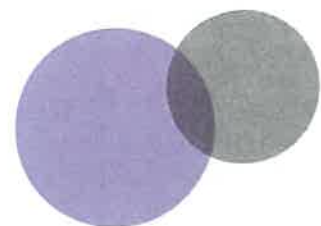
Increase protective factors and decrease risk factors for all children and adults (universal & environmental strategies)

### Strategy 5

Increase access to help for youth (prenatal to age 26) at high risk for methamphetamine initiation (targeted/indicated strategies)

### Activities

16. Unite existing prevention funding streams and stakeholders in a shared plan through the Substance Abuse Connect Task Force
17. Develop an inventory of what exists for prevention in Yellowstone County
18. Support the implementation of the evidence-based PAX Good Behavior Game for all elementary schools in Yellowstone County and identify similar middle and high school programs
19. Create a suite of tools to inform, educate and connect students and adults with resources to build protection and mitigate risk
20. Educate businesses through a Wake Up Call Event and increase effective business policies to support treatment and recovery
21. Identify crisis referral pathways for ages prenatal to 26 – make it easy for everyone to know where to go for help or where to refer for help
22. Improve early identification and referral to treatment or services for:
  - A) Pregnant women in collaboration with the Best Beginnings coalition
  - B) K-12 students
  - C) 18-26 year olds currently misusing substances who are at high risk for initiating methamphetamine use





## Why Collective Impact?

Collective Impact is a widely-regarded framework for addressing complex social problems through multi-sector collaboration. SAC has chosen to use this framework to ensure that the work is informed by data, leverages existing resources, and builds the capacity of Yellowstone County to have a real impact on issues that matter. This framework has enabled many other cities and regions to make substantial improvements in seemingly intractable issues such as poverty, homelessness, and graduation achievement gaps.

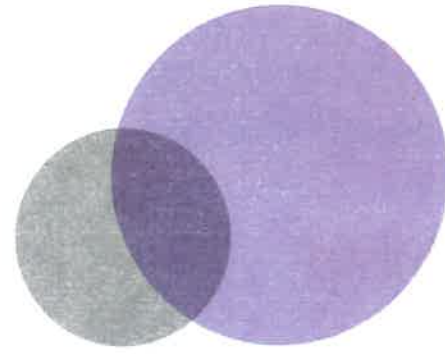
## Our Coalition

In the fall of 2017 leaders in Yellowstone County joined forces to:

1. Form an effective, vision-driven, action-oriented substance abuse coalition, inclusive of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement
2. Through the coalition plan and membership, position our community to secure additional resources
3. Substantially reduce drug-related crime and addiction

This plan is the product of these dedicated leaders and was supported by funding from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area through the Billings Police Department.

The plan will be revisited and refined on a regular basis by the coalition Executive Committee using a continuous quality improvement approach.



***Getting access to treatment is hard for many people. If you want to get help on your own, you often can't afford to get in or can't find a place that will treat you. You shouldn't have to commit a crime to get help.***

**-Former methamphetamine user in Billings**



***"Meth is causing violent crime and many other serious problems in Yellowstone County. We are all paying the price. We need to attack this crisis on all fronts: aggressively taking dealers off our streets, getting users into effective treatment, and preventing our kids from moving down the path toward addiction. Now is the time to work together to get this done."***

**-US Attorney Kurt Alme**

### Additional Information

[www.unitedwayyellowstone.org/substance-abuse-connect](http://www.unitedwayyellowstone.org/substance-abuse-connect)

**Kristin Lundgren, United Way of Yellowstone County**  
[klundgren@uwyellowstone.org](mailto:klundgren@uwyellowstone.org)



## 2020-2023 Action Plan

The Substance Abuse Connect (SAC) coalition, with funding from Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, created the Substance Abuse Connect 2020-2023 Plan to substantially reduce drug-related crime and addiction in Yellowstone County. Over two hundred individuals and eighty organizations were engaged in the planning process, including issue experts by profession and by lived experience, policy and budget makers, and front line workers in prevention, diversion, treatment, and law enforcement.

## The Problem

The impacts of Substance Use Disorders reverberate throughout our community. Fifty percent of Yellowstone County residents say their life has been negatively impacted by SUDs. An estimated 4,000 adolescents and adults are dependent on or abusing illicit drugs and more than 9,500 are dependent on or abusing alcohol in our community. Methamphetamine is the #1 illicit drug of choice for patients in treatment and is contributing to a rise in violent crime and child welfare cases. The violent crime rate grew 81% in Yellowstone County from 2010-2017 and child neglect cases in Yellowstone County grew 149% from 2014-2018. Eighty percent of neglect cases are due to substance use, and eighty percent of those are related to methamphetamine.

## Our Areas of Work

### Overall Goal

Substantially reduce drug related crime and addiction through effective prevention, treatment, and diversion

### System Capacity

Increase the ability of our community to work collectively to address and prevent substance use

### Diversion and Treatment

Divert people from drug related crime through access to effective and appropriate level of care/treatment

### Prevention

Increase access to effective substance abuse prevention for all youth and adults and for those at high risk for methamphetamine initiation



***"In Billings, meth is cheap and the high lasts for a long time...The meth available on the streets today is more powerful than the drug used to be 10 years ago. Many people will sell meth just to get their own amount to use; or you can trade pills for meth and then sell it. If you want meth you can get it; meth is so easily available that it's hard not to use it...Crime and meth go hand in hand. I wasn't in trouble for the first 24 years of life, but soon after starting meth, I got 10 felonies and 32 misdemeanors...Once you start using meth it will take everything from you. You need help but it is hard to build trust with the system when you are scared of punishment"***

**-Quotes from Billings Felony Drug Treatment Court Graduates**

