

Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) Prevention Definition:

“Alcohol and other drug [AOD] prevention focuses on preventing the onset of AOD use, abuse and addiction. AOD prevention includes addressing problems associated with AOD use and abuse up to, but not including assessment and treatment for substance abuse and dependence.”¹

“AOD prevention is a proactive multifaceted, multi - community sector process involving a continuum of culturally appropriate prevention services which empowers individuals, families and communities to meet the challenges of life events and transitions by creating and reinforcing conditions that impact physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive well-being and promote safe and healthy behaviors and lifestyles.”¹

“AOD prevention is a planned sequence of activities that, through the practice and application of evidence based prevention principles, policies, practices, strategies and programs, is intended to inform, educate, develop skills, alter risk behaviors, affect environmental factors and/or provide referrals to other services.”¹

According to the *National Institute of Drug Addiction*, there are three types of prevention programs and/or strategies that either target communities-at-large, groups, or individuals: these are considered universal, selective, or indicated prevention programs or strategies.

- “The risk and protective factors are the primary targets of effective prevention programs used in family, school, and community settings. The goal of these programs is to build new and strengthen existing protective factors and reverse or reduce risk factors in youth.”²
- “Prevention programs are usually designed to reach target populations in their primary setting. However, in recent years it has become more common to find programs for any given target group in a variety of settings, such as holding a family-based program in a school or a church.”²
- “In addition to setting, prevention programs can also be described by the audience for which they are designed:
 - **Universal** programs are designed for the general population, such as all students in a school.

- **Selective** programs target groups at risk or subsets of the general population, such as poor school achievers or children of drug abusers.
- **Indicated** programs are designed for people already experimenting with drugs.”²

REFERENCES:

¹ Ohio.gov website Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
Accessed on 2/11/11 at 6:50pm EST.

Link: <http://www.odadas.state.oh.us/public/ContentPage.aspx?ContentID=eebd0287-9894-409b-bcdb-57a2811f12aa>

² National Institute on Drug Addiction (NIDA) website
Accessed on 2/11/11 at 7:00pm EST.

Link: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Prevention/index.html>