

PSR | 2013 Prevention Status Reports 2013: Overview



The Prevention Status Reports (PSRs) highlight—for all 50 states and the District of Columbia—the status of public health policies and practices designed to prevent or reduce the following important public health problems and concerns:

- Excessive alcohol use
- Food safety
- Healthcare-associated infections
- Heart disease and stroke
- HIV
- Motor vehicle injuries
- Nutrition, physical activity, and obesity
- Prescription drug overdose
- Teen pregnancy
- Tobacco use

Although information about state public health policies and practices is publicly available in various locations, this information is widely dispersed and can be hard for decision makers to find and understand. The PSRs pull together this information in a simple, easy-to-use format that decision makers and other stakeholders can use to examine their state's status and identify areas for improvement.

How the Reports Are Organized

Each report follows a simple framework:

- Describe the public health **problem** using public health data
- Identify potential **solutions** to the problem drawn from research and expert recommendations
- Report the **status** of those solutions for each state and the District of Columbia

How the PSR Policies and Practices Were Selected

The policies and practices reported in the PSRs were selected because they

- Can be monitored using state-level data that are readily available for most states and the District of Columbia, and
- Meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Supported by systematic review(s) of scientific evidence of effectiveness (e.g., *The Guide to Community Preventive Services*)
 - Explicitly cited in a national strategy or national action plan (e.g., *Healthy People 2020*)
 - Recommended by a recognized expert body, panel, organization, study, or report with an evidence-based focus (e.g., Institute of Medicine)

Ratings

The reports use a simple, three-level rating scale—green, yellow, or red—to provide a practical assessment of the status of policies and practices in each state and the District of Columbia.

- A green rating indicates that the policy or practice is established in accordance with supporting evidence and/or expert recommendations.
- A yellow rating indicates that the policy or practice is established in partial accordance with supporting evidence and/or expert recommendations.
- A red rating indicates that the policy or practice is either absent or not established in accordance with supporting evidence and/or expert recommendations.

It is important to note that the ratings reflect the *status of policies and practices* and do not reflect the *status of efforts* of state health departments, other state agencies, or any other organization to establish or strengthen those policies or practices. Strategies for improving public health vary by contextual factors in each state, such as public health priorities, disease burden, resources, and other challenges.

For More Information

Visit the PSR website at www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/psr. If you have a question or need more information, please contact us at psrinfo@cdc.gov.

