



National Prevention Week 2018

WHAT IS NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK?

National Prevention Week (NPW) is a SAMHSA-sponsored annual health observance dedicated to increasing the prevention of substance use and promotion of mental health. The observance brings individuals, organizations, coalitions, states, and communities together through local events to raise awareness about the importance of preventing substance use and mental disorders.

WHEN IS NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK?

NPW takes place **May 13–19, 2018**. Near the kickoff of summer, this is an ideal time for communities to come together and rally around prevention. NPW is also timed to allow schools to take part in a prevention-themed event before the school year ends, raising awareness among students of all ages.

WHAT'S THE THEME OF NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK 2018?

The NPW 2018 theme is “Action Today. Healthier Tomorrow.” This theme reminds us that simple, daily acts of prevention, like helping a friend make positive choices or supporting a family member in need, can lead to healthier lives for each of us today, and stronger, happier communities tomorrow.

WHAT TOPICS DOES NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK ADDRESS?

Six of the seven days during NPW have a suggested health topic that organizations and coalitions can use to guide the focus of community events:

- Promotion of Mental Health & Wellness (Monday, May 14)
- Prevention of Underage Drinking & Alcohol Misuse (Tuesday, May 15)
- Prevention of Prescription & Opioid Drug Misuse (Wednesday, May 16)
- Prevention of Illicit Drug Use & Youth Marijuana Use (Thursday, May 17)
- Prevention of Suicide (Friday, May 18)
- Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use (Saturday, May 19)

WHO GETS INVOLVED IN THIS OBSERVANCE?

Community-based organizations, schools, community leaders, and behavioral health coalitions are the primary hosts of local NPW events. However, everyone can take part in NPW and plan events around one or all of the NPW topics.

WHAT TYPES OF EVENTS DO ORGANIZATIONS HOST DURING NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK?

Since the first observance of NPW in 2012, hundreds of community events have been held in nearly all U.S. states and territories. Events may include, but are not limited to:

- School assemblies featuring guest speakers,
- Health fairs,
- Community fun runs,
- Television and radio public service announcements,
- Media campaigns to raise awareness about behavioral health issues and local resources, and
- Twitter chats with key community leaders.

You can submit your event details on the [NPW Community Events](#) page to share your NPW event with others. Many communities also involve their local leaders and state policymakers in NPW by asking them to issue a proclamation recognizing NPW in their state or community and informing others about the observance on social media.

WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP ME PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK?

- SAMHSA has a suite of tools and resources available to help organizations plan, promote, and carry out prevention-themed events. Visit www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week to access these resources.
- Stay connected through the Prevention Works email distribution list on the [NPW home page](#) for NPW Challenge news and general NPW updates.
- The [NPW Challenge](#) provides an opportunity for communities and individuals to participate in promotional efforts through social media. Learn more at www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week/prevention-challenge and receive Challenge updates through the [Prevention Works email distribution](#) list.