

FACT SHEET: Regional Substance Use Council (RSAC)

June 2017

PURPOSE

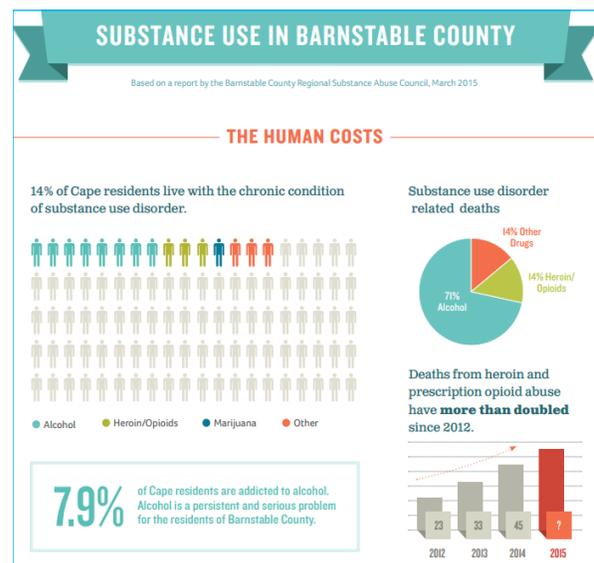
The purpose of the Barnstable County Regional Substance Use Council (RSAC) is to establish a coordinated and comprehensive regional approach to substance use across the continuum of prevention, treatment, intervention, and recovery. By establishing a communication infrastructure across towns, providers, organizations, and individuals on Cape Cod, RSAC is able to identify and address gaps and disparities in the service system, maximize inter-agency collaboration and funding opportunities.

DESCRIPTION

The Regional Substance Use Council (RSAC) was organized by the Barnstable County Department of Human Services in 2014 and is comprised of town coalitions, elected officials from the local, state, and federal levels, the Sheriff and District Attorney's offices, police, first responders, probation, drug court, school nurses, school superintendents, and drug treatment, recovery, and healthcare providers.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

RSAC issued its *Baseline Assessment* in 2015. The purpose of the *Assessment* is to provide a snapshot of substance dependency and the related costs for Barnstable County to inform policy and programming recommendations. The *Assessment* utilizes a public health approach in our work – focusing on policy



and community strategies rather than on individual behavior. The *Assessment* includes a scan of existing resources, epidemiological data, and estimates of the costs of substance use in Barnstable County (including local, state, and federal direct costs).

ACTION PLAN (2015 - 2020)

Based upon the *Baseline Assessment's* preliminary recommendations and the results of focus groups held during April and May of 2015, RSAC published an *Action Plan* to address substance use on Cape Cod, covering the period 2015 to 2020. The *Action Plan* describes the strategic priorities for RSAC's Cape-wide effort along the following five domains :

RSAC Core Functions | Prevention | Intervention | Treatment | Recovery

RSAC work groups in each domain are now carrying forward the work for these initiatives. Visit www.bchumanservices.net for work group descriptions and meeting information.

MY CHOICE MATTERS



Through the Barnstable County Department of Human Services, RSAC launched a regional public media campaign entitled “My Choice Matters” in October 2016 and its innovative website in June 2017. The campaign is designed to demonstrate that when it comes to substance use, choice matters - both individual choices and community choices. “My Choice Matters” seeks to empower individuals to make decisions that have a positive impact on their life and the lives of those around them. No one chooses to become addicted to alcohol and drugs. Addiction is not a choice and Cape Cod is united in its choice to do something about it.

CONTACT

For more information about the Regional Substance Use Council, contact Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Department of Human Services at 508-375-6626 or balbert@barnstablecounty.org.