## PREVENTION AND SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY

## A TIMELINE

| **DATE** | **NATIONAL SITUATION** | **SUBSTANCE MISUSE HISTORY** | **PREVENTION STRATEGY** | **ATTENTION TO HEALTH EQUITY** |
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| **1950s** | Brown vs Board of Education legally ends school segregation  Emmett Till is murdered.  Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat.  Little Rock 9 stopped from entering school.  MLK begins his mission. | Drug misuse intensifies. Heroin addiction alone hits an all-time high, particularly in urban areas. | Scare tactics through films and speakers  One time presentations focusing on the process of addiction | None  Grants given to organizations proposing what was perceived to be the best ideas.  Needs assessments never done. |
| **1960s** | Freedom Riders  March on Washington  President Lyndon Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964 (non-discrimination) & Fair Housing Act of 1968 & Voting Rights Act of 1965.  Black Power Movement emerges.  Malcolm X and Martin Luther King are murdered. | People begin using drugs to have psychedelic experiences.  Drug misuse is associated with the counter culture or racial/ethnic minorities.  By the end of the decade, drug misuse is considered a national epidemic.  Federal actions focus on incarceration not prevention. | Prevention strategies focus on information about substance misuse through scare tactics and one time speakers about addiction. | None  Grants given to organizations proposing what was perceived to be the best ideas.  Needs assessments never done. |
| **1970s** | Focus shifts to women’s rights, gay rights, and opposition to Vietnam War.  Blacks, Latinos and Asian Americans joined forces to form *Third World Coalitions* advocating for ethnic studies, affirmative action or open admissions.  Real estate “red lining” is commonplace.  Discrimination in the workplace continued.  Harsh drug laws resulted in surging black incarceration. | Controlled Substances Act of 1970 classifies cannabis a Schedule 1 drug.  SAMHSA began requiring 20% of Block Grant be spent on prevention.  Alcohol and drug misuse recognized as major public health problems.  “War on Drugs” campaign is developed to reduce illegal drug trade focused on eradication, interdiction and incarceration.  Throughout the decade, society grow more tolerant of drug misuse. | Drug education using curricula based on factual information.  Affective education using curricula based on communication, decision-making, values clarification and self-esteem. | None  Grants given to organizations proposing what was perceived to be the best ideas  Needs assessments never done. |
| **1980s** | Jesse Jackson runs for president.  Reagan signs bill for Martin Luther King federal holiday  Alice Walker wins the Pulitzer Prize for *The Color Purple.*  Crack cocaine devastates Black community. Punishment for its use much harsher than for cocaine powder use.  Suicides and homicides among black males double. | “Just Say No” campaign, part of the War on Drug effort, encourages youth to resist peer pressure by saying “no.”  Partnerships develop as the public became increasingly involved in addressing the problems of substance misuse.  MADD, SADD is formed. | Parents-formed organizations to combat drug misuse; social skills curricula; refusal skill training; and parenting education.  Just Say No! championed by Nancy Reagan  DARE program developed and required to be implemented across US. | None  Grants given to organizations proposing what was perceived to be the best ideas  Needs assessments never done  Cultural competency trainings offered at state level. |
| **1990s** | Clarence Thomas is appointed to the Supreme Court.  Million Men March organized by L. Farrakhan and J. Bevel.  Million Women March occurs.  Disabilities Movement first uses the phrase, “Nothing About Us Without Us!” | Research examined the factors that protect people or put them at risk for a variety of problems, including alcohol and other drug abuse.  The value of professionalism and training grew.  Prevention certification is established by International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC).  Community collaborations receive funding to address alcohol and other drug problems.  CADCA is established  SAMHSA begins focusing on implementing evidence based programs and practices  Increased prescribing of opioids encouraged by Big Pharma  Youth generated TRUTH campaign started in FL  CA became first state to legalize medical cannabis use in 1996. | Community-based approaches to prevention provide environmental approaches; media campaigns; culturally sensitive programs; evaluation of prevention programs; professional training programs.  DARE is defunded.  SAPST developed by Western CAPT.  Focus on universal interventions | Needs assessments identify populations in most need.  Coalitions often overlook including focus populations in their planning.  Funds focus on use of EBIs, not always on culturally appropriate interventions |
| **2000–2010** | Barack Obama is elected president  US Supreme Court strikes down racial balancing for school districts | Understanding of the connections between substance misuse and mental illness/health evolved. “Behavioral health” encompassed both substance misuse and mental health problems.  Opioid epidemic continued with rapid increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids | Strategic Prevention Framework introduced.  NREPP established  Application of evidence-based models; comprehensive programs targeting many contexts (family, community, school); data-driven decision-making through a strategic planning process  SAPST revised as a SAMHSA product | Cultural competence is placed at center of SPF.  Needs assessments identify populations in most need.  Coalitions often overlook including focus populations in their planning.  Cultural competence is at the center of the SPF.  Coalitions often overlooked inclusion of focus populations in their planning.  Funds focus on use of EBIs, not always on culturally appropriate interventions |
| **2010– present** | Affordable Care Act: (ACA) improves access to health insurance with better benefits for mental health and substance misuse services and support. Behavioral health is integrated with primary care.  Trayvon Martin, George Floyd, Michael Brown, South Carolina black churchgoers are murdered.  Big Pharma sued over its promotion of opioid usage. | CO and WA became first states to legalize recreational use of cannabis  Opioid epidemic grew. | Use of evidence-based practices and strategic planning process (SPF) required of funded organizations.  NREPP eliminated.  Prevention Technology Transfer Center established. National American Indian and Alaska Native PTTC and National Hispanic and Latino PTTC are established.  SAPST is revised (2023) and includes sections on proficiency section and health equity. | Needs assessments identify populations in most need.  Coalitions often overlook including focus populations in their planning.  SAPST adds slides on health equity  Multiple webinars and trainings on health equity in region. |