



# Opiate Prevention Strategies in Vermont

# State Health Improvement Plan • 2013-2017



# State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)



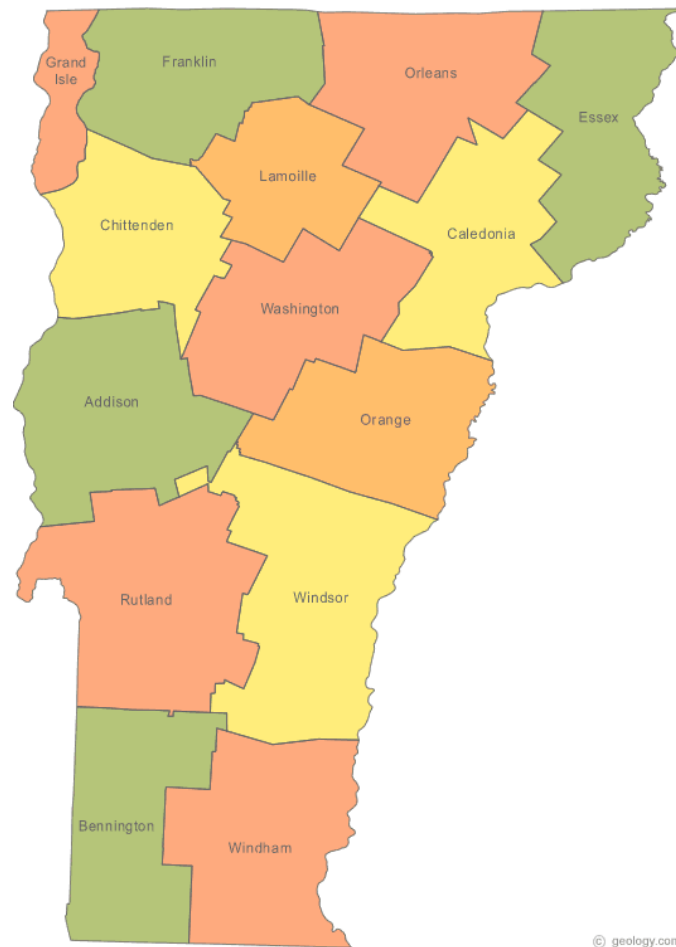
## The Health Department's priorities:

**GOAL 1:** Reduce prevalence of smoking & obesity

**GOAL 2:** Reduce the prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness

**GOAL 3:** Improve childhood immunization rates

Population: 625,827; 75% forest; 97.9% white

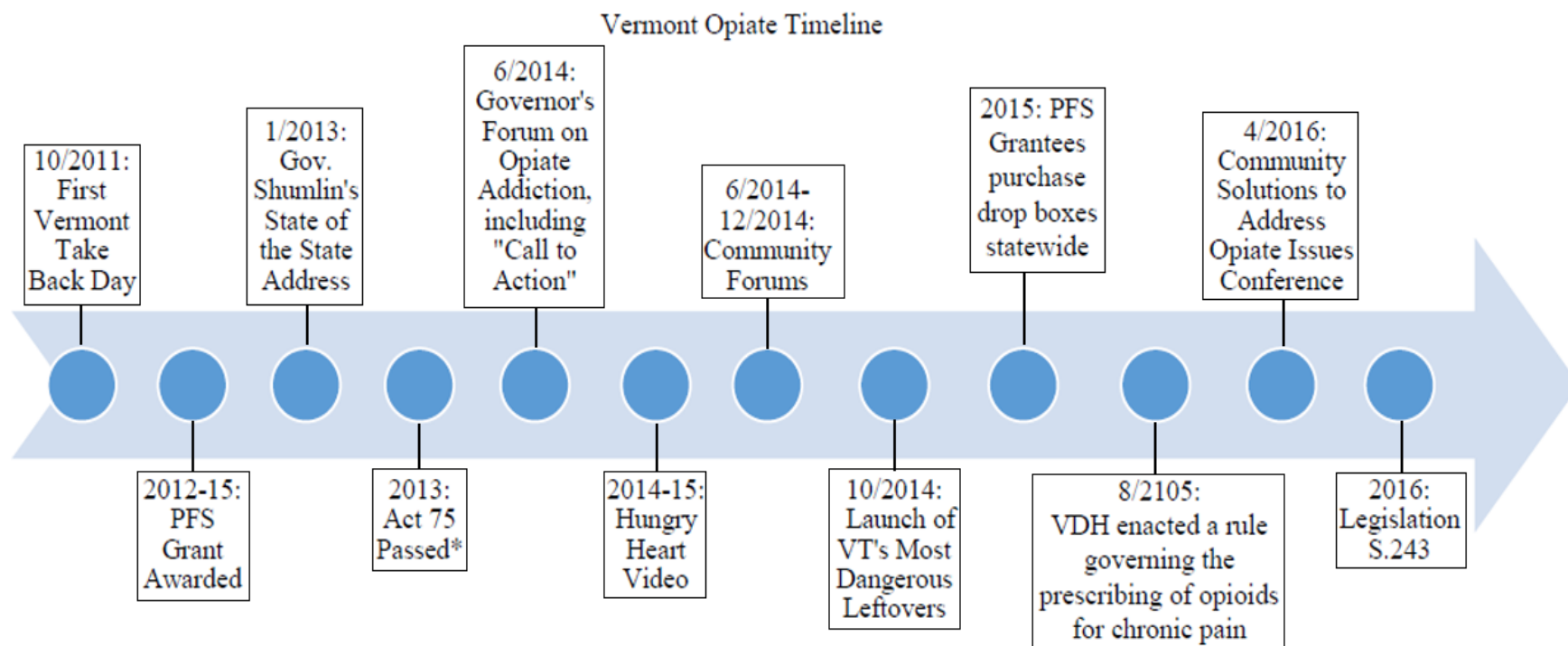


© geology.com

Vermont Department of Health



# Timeline of Events



\*"An Act Relating to Strengthening VT's Response to Opiate Addiction & Methamphetamine Abuse"

# When life gives you lemons ....

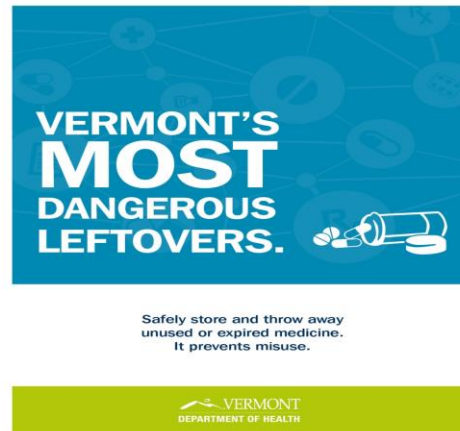


Vermont Department of Health

# From Policy to practice

- Gov. Shumlin invited to the White House to speak about VT's path and progress
- Hosted a meeting of governors/staffs from New England and NY producing 5 priorities
- Co-chaired National Gov. Association Drug Abuse Academy
- Call for action via VHD's 12 District Offices

# Prevention Activities





## Hartford Regional Report

*The Governor's Opiate Forum*

### Coalitions and Community Partnerships:

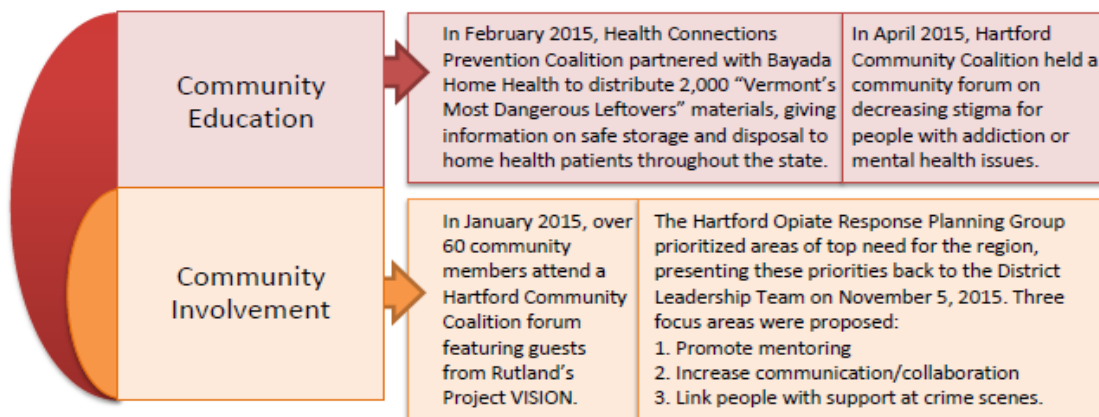


- Hartford Opiate Planning Group
  - Second Growth
  - ALLTogether (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Substance Abuse Prevention)
  - Upper Valley Turning Point
  - The Haven
  - Health Connections of the Upper Valley (HC)
  - Ottauquechee Community Partnership (OCP), Woodstock
  - Hartford Community Coalition (HCC)
  - Granite United Way
  - Clara Martin Center
  - Ottauquechee Health Foundation
  - Hartford Police Department
  - Headrest
  - Probation and Parole
  - Department of Children and Families
  - Reach Up
  - Department of Health White River Junction District Office

### How Did the Community Decide to Work on Opiate Issues?

Following the Governor's Forum in June 2014, the 12 Forum representatives from the Hartford region met with the Hartford Region District Leadership Team, resulting in the formation of The Hartford Opiate Planning Group. The Hartford community chose to make positive changes in their neighborhoods by focusing on Community Education and Community Involvement strategies.

### How Did the Community Make Positive Changes on Opiate Issues?





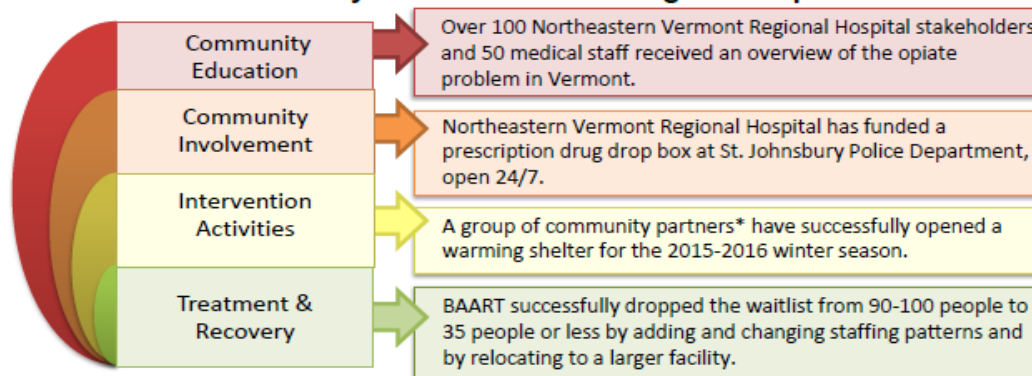
## Coalitions and Community Partnerships:

- Drug Abuse Resistance Team 2.0 (DART 2.0)
- Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital's (NVRH) Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drugs (ATOD) Prevention Task Force
- BAART
- Kingdom Recovery Center
- The Community Restorative Justice Center
- Northern Counties Health Care
- Department of Health St. Johnsbury District Office
- St. Johnsbury Police Department
- Agency of Human Services Field Services
- Department of Children & Families
- Department of Corrections
- Northeast Kingdom Human Services
- Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

## How Did the Community Decide to Work on Opiate Issues?

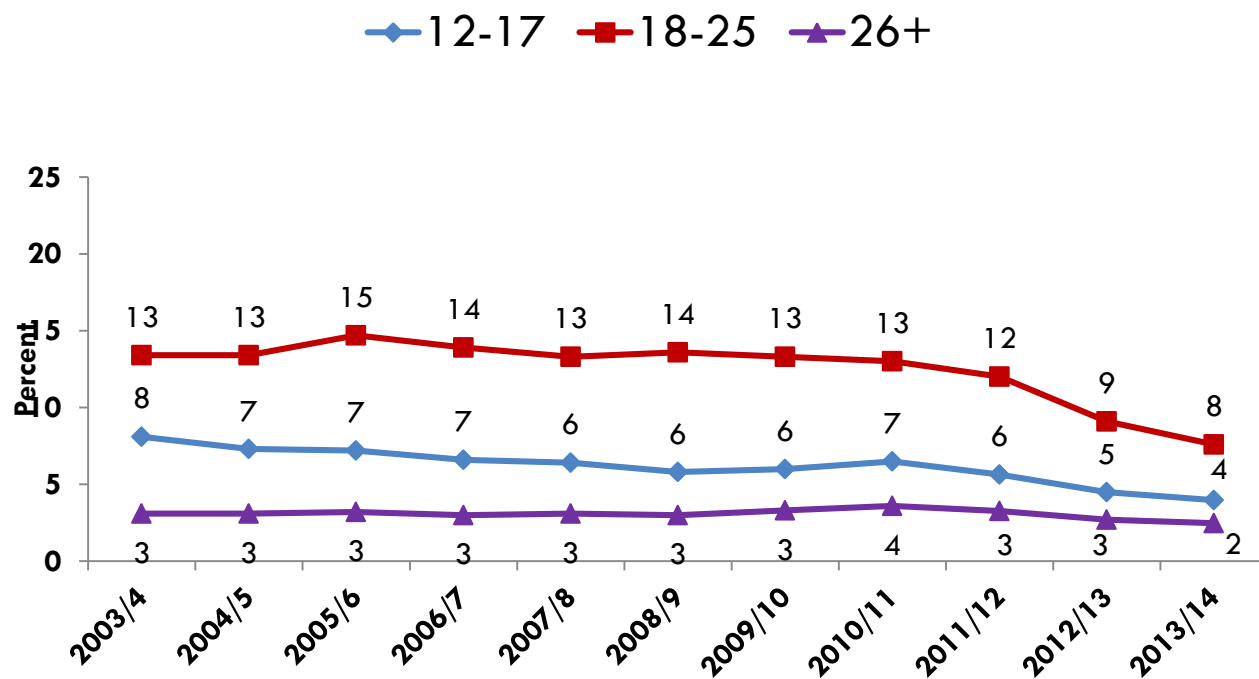
Following the Governor's Forum in June 2014, the Forum representatives from the St. Johnsbury region met with the community at a DART 2.0 meeting. The community chose to make positive changes in their neighborhoods by focusing on Community Education, Community Involvement, Intervention Activities, and Treatment & Recovery strategies.

## How Did the Community Make Positive Changes on Opiate Issues?



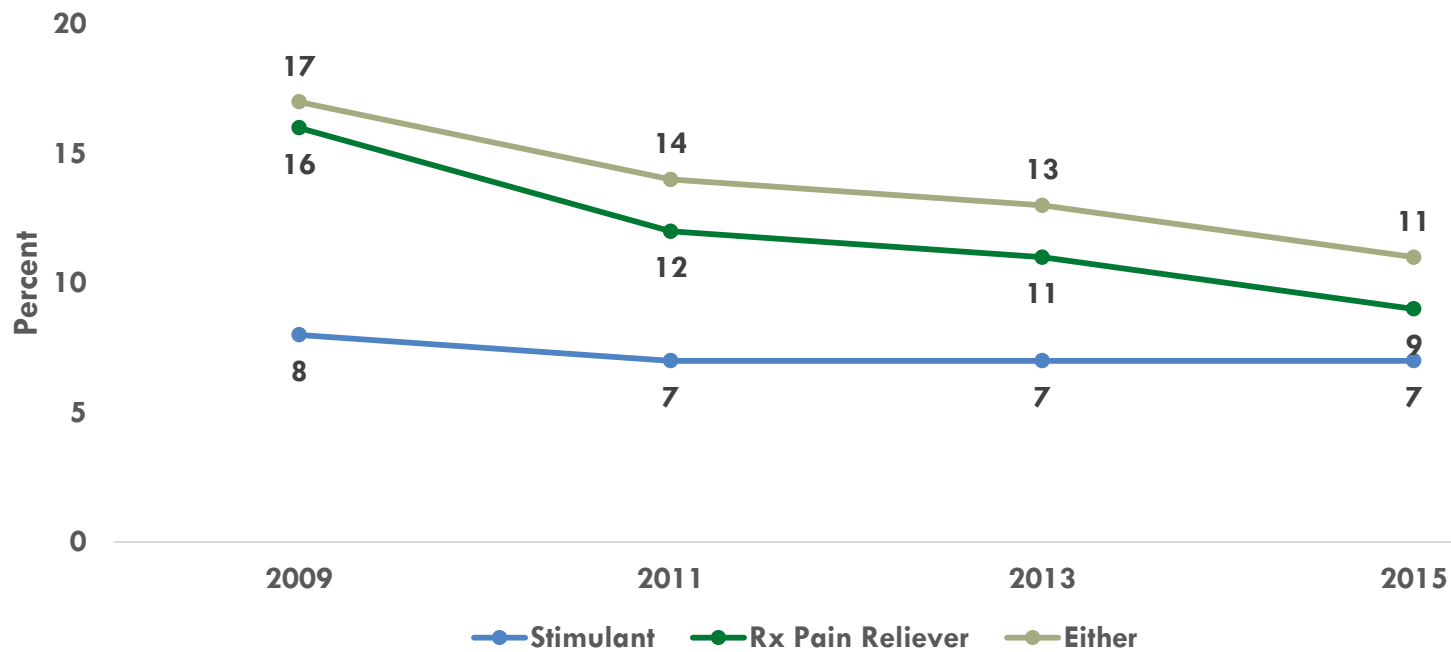
By focusing their efforts on these changes, communities were able to make improvements in addressing opiate issues in their region. Ongoing work continues to advance the health and wellness of Vermont's communities.

## Making Progress: Non-medical use of Prescription Pain Relievers in Vermont

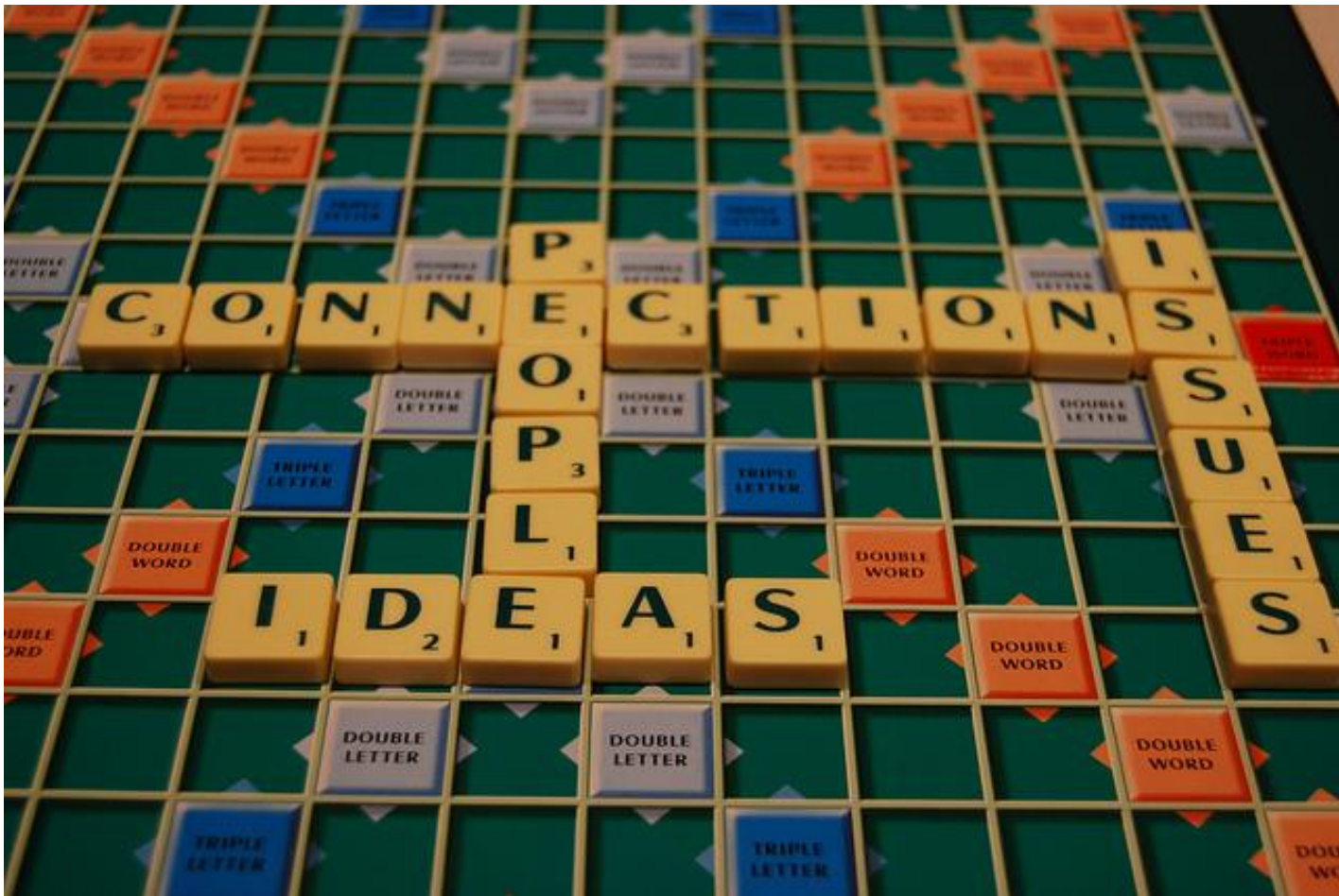


Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002-2014

# Making Progress: VT Youth Risk Behavior Lifetime Prevalence



# How do **you** keep the focus on prevention?





# Thank you for your time and attention!



For more information please contact me at:

Lori Tatsapaugh Uerz, MPH, NPN

Manager of Prevention Services

Vermont Department of Health,

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

802-652-4149

[Lori.uerz@Vermont.gov](mailto:Lori.uerz@Vermont.gov)