

PLANNING TOOL 5: SETTING PRIORITIES

SETTING PRIORITIES¹

Once communities have completed data collection and review, they need to develop a process for setting prevention priorities. Criteria for analyzing and prioritizing assessment data include:

- *Magnitude*, which describes the number of people affected by a problem.
- *Changeability*, which describes how easily a problem can be changed.
- *Impact*, which describes the depth of a problem across a variety of dimensions, such as health, economic or criminal.
- *Concentration*, which describes how concentrated the problem is in a specific population.
- *Time lapse*, which describes the amount of time that elapses between consumption and consequence. This is important to consider if a community wants to show that it is having an impact within a set timeframe.

For more information:

SAMHSA. (2015, October 2). *Prioritizing risk and protective factors*. Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/capt/applying-strategic-prevention-framework/step3-plan/prioritizing-risk-protective-factors>

¹ This planning tool was originally borrowed directly from a 2013 SAMHSA document entitled, “About the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF).” However, this document is no longer available on the SAMHSA website in its original form. Please see the following site for a similar presentation of this information: <http://www.samhsa.gov/capt/applying-strategic-prevention-framework/step3-plan/prioritizing-risk-protective-factors>