

Six Domains of Prevention: A Practical Overview

Prevention work is guided by a set of core competencies known as the **Six Domains of Prevention**. These domains were developed by the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) to standardize and professionalize prevention efforts across the field. They serve as a framework for prevention professionals, ensuring consistency, quality, and effectiveness in addressing complex public health issues like substance misuse, mental health challenges, and other behavioral health concerns.

The Six Domains represent different aspects of prevention work, from planning and delivering educational programs to fostering community collaboration and influencing public policy. By incorporating these domains into their work, prevention professionals can:

- Develop targeted, data-driven strategies to address specific community needs.
- Build partnerships and engage stakeholders to create sustainable change.
- Maintain ethical and professional standards while growing their skills.
- Advocate for systemic changes that support healthier communities.

This document provides a concise overview of the Six Domains of Prevention, with practical examples to illustrate how each domain can be applied in real-world settings. Use it as a guide to enhance your understanding of the framework and its importance in creating comprehensive prevention strategies.

Domain 1: Planning and Evaluation

Definition:

This domain focuses on gathering data, identifying community needs, setting priorities, and evaluating prevention efforts to ensure effectiveness.

Examples:

- Conducting a community needs assessment to determine the prevalence of substance use among youth.
 - Analyzing data on risk and protective factors to prioritize interventions.
 - Evaluating the effectiveness of a school-based prevention program by tracking attendance and behavior changes.
 - Identifying gaps in resources and proposing solutions to address them.
-

Domain 2: Prevention Education and Service Delivery

Definition:

This domain involves implementing educational programs and services that build skills and knowledge to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors.

Examples:

- Delivering workshops to parents on how to talk to their children about substance use.
 - Training educators to implement evidence-based prevention curricula in classrooms.
 - Hosting community events to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping.
 - Adapting an existing program to better meet the cultural needs of a specific population.
-

Domain 3: Communication

Definition:

This domain emphasizes creating and sharing clear, impactful messages to engage stakeholders and promote prevention efforts.

Examples:

- Designing a social media campaign to inform teens about the risks of underage drinking.
 - Facilitating a community forum to discuss prevention strategies with local leaders.
 - Writing a newsletter to share program updates and success stories with stakeholders.
 - Creating infographics to simplify complex prevention data for the general public.
-

Domain 4: Community Organization

Definition:

This domain focuses on engaging stakeholders, building coalitions, and fostering community ownership to achieve prevention goals.

Examples:

- Forming a coalition of parents, schools, and law enforcement to address teen substance use.
 - Organizing a town hall meeting to gather input on community prevention priorities.
 - Training local leaders to advocate for prevention initiatives.
 - Collaborating with local businesses to fund and support prevention programs.
-

Domain 5: Public Policy and Environmental Change

Definition:

This domain involves influencing policies and creating environmental changes to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors.

Examples:

- Advocating for local ordinances to limit the sale of alcohol near schools.
 - Promoting policies to ban smoking in public parks.
 - Collaborating with schools to implement drug-free zones.
 - Educating policymakers on the importance of funding prevention programs.
-

Domain 6: Professional Growth and Responsibility

Definition:

This domain focuses on maintaining ethical standards, pursuing professional development, and promoting personal wellness to sustain effective prevention work.

Examples:

- Attending training sessions on emerging trends in substance use prevention.
 - Adhering to the Prevention Code of Ethics in all program activities.
 - Practicing self-care strategies to manage stress and avoid burnout.
 - Joining professional organizations to stay connected with other prevention professionals.
-

Why These Domains Matter

The Six Domains of Prevention provide a framework for creating comprehensive and effective prevention strategies. They ensure that prevention professionals have the skills and knowledge to:

- Assess and address community needs effectively.
- Deliver high-quality education and services.
- Foster collaboration and build strong community networks.
- Advocate for policies that support healthy environments.
- Uphold professional standards and continue learning.

Use these domains as a guide to structure your prevention efforts and build a healthier community.