



## Building Bright Futures

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### **Mind the Gap: Data Assets and Gap Analysis on Substance Use Disorder<sup>i</sup> and Its Impact on Young Children (Birth-8 Years) and Families** **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Overview:** As part of its [Vermont Insights](http://vermontinsights.org) program, Building Bright Futures is developing a series of “Mind the Gap” reports that start with essential early childhood policy questions and analyze the strengths and limitations of data that would help answer those questions. These reports do not attempt to answer the policy questions themselves, but rather to highlight data assets and data gaps and offer strategies for moving forward.

The Building Bright Futures (BBF) Data and Evaluation Committee proposed the development of this 2<sup>nd</sup> report in the Mind the Gap series, which will focus on data related to the impact of substance use disorder on young children and families, and it was approved by the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council on 01-25-16. For more information on the Mind the Gap series, including its 1<sup>st</sup> report go to <http://vermontinsights.org/resources/data-gap-analysis>

An Ad-Hoc Committee of the BBF D&E Committee was formed to implement the work plan and includes of Carolyn Wesley (co-chair), Kathleen Paterson (co-chair), Ann Dillenbeck, Dru Roessle, Ben Allen, Mark Sustic and James Wood (BBF-VI staff). For more information about the BBF Data and Evaluation Committee go to <http://buildingbrightfutures.org/about/committees/>

**Purpose:** This report will help Building Bright Futures:

- Discover data that are available to answer key questions surrounding Substance Use Disorder, identify their strengths and limitations, and determine what data are important but not available.
- Offer realistic strategies (within and across agencies) to bridge these data gaps and sustain data assets.
- Provide a tool for BBF to monitor the early childhood system’s progress in implementing the recommendations.

**Timeline:** January to December 2016

**Process and Progress:** Vermont Insights, has developed a six-step process to guide the development of a data asset and data gap analysis. The involvement of key stakeholders and data stewards is included in each step.

- Step 1: Confirm the question(s) asked (these may be expressed as results expected)
- Step 2: Determine what types of data and at what level are needed to answer the questions (unpacking the question)
- Step 3: Search existing data systems and sources that may have the necessary data elements and identify new data developments under development
- Step 4: Identify and analyze data assets and gaps
- Step 5: Propose strategies to bridge data gaps and sustain data assets
- Step 6: Communicate report findings and support strategy planning and implementation. Evaluate if data gap is addressed (annually.)

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#### **Building Bright Futures statewide network:**

**Addison** Building Bright Futures, **Bennington** Building Bright Futures, **Caledonia and Southern Essex** Building Bright Futures, **Central Vermont** Building Bright Futures, **Chittenden** Building Bright Futures, **Franklin Grand Isle** Building Bright Futures, **Lamoille Valley** Building Bright Futures, **Northern Windsor and Orange** Building Bright Futures, **Orleans and Northern Essex** Building Bright Futures, **Rutland** Building Bright Futures, **Southeast Vermont** Building Bright Futures and **Springfield Area** Building Bright Futures

## Key Questions for this Mind the Gap Analysis (Step 1)

<b>A. Population, Surveillance and Relationship Data</b>	
1. What is the trend over time of substance use disorders in Vermont for the following populations:	
	• General population
	• Youth (Middle school, high school & young adult (18-25))
	• Pregnant women
	• Families
2. What is the relationship between substance use disorders of parents and families and children's well-being in the following areas:	
	• Health (including diagnoses of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome)
	• Early childhood development
	• Safety
	• Family risk and protective factors (Strengthening Families)
<b>B. Services, Treatment and Outcomes Data</b>	
3. Are pregnant women and parents with substance use disorders able to do the following:	
	• Access treatment services
	• Continue substance treatment after birth
	• Access treatment services in a timely way
	• Continue substance treatment into recovery
4. What is the trend in outcomes for families in substance use disorder recovery in the following areas:	
	• Housing
	• Employment
	• Temporary Care & Reunification
5. What support services do parents/families with substance use disorders receive and are they effective?	
	• Multi-systems coordinated services
	• Effectiveness of services

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<sup>1</sup> Substance use disorders can refer to substance use or substance dependence. Drugs of substance use are generally classified within three major groupings: (a) depressants, such as alcohol and opioids (for example heroin and prescription pain relievers like OxyContin); (b) stimulants, such as nicotine, amphetamines and cocaine; and (c) hallucinogens, such as LSD and peyote. This report's primary focus will be on alcohol, opioids, and tobacco substances.