



Prevention Newslink

June 2026

WPRC

Youth and Family Services

Rapid City, SD

Bill Elger

welger@youthandfamilyservices.org

(605) 342-1593

SEPRC

Volunteers of America-Dakotas

Sioux Falls, SD

Kerri Cox

Danielle Bourgerie

prc@voa-dakotas.org

(605) 444-6333

NEPRC

Human Service Agency

Watertown, SD

Dodi Haug

dodih@humanserviceagency.org

Stephanie Kinnander

stephaniek@humanserviceagency.org

(605) 884-3516

CPRC

Capital Area Counseling Service

Pierre, SD

Jana Boocock

jana.boocock@cacsnet.org

Amy Hansen

amy.hansen@cacsnet.org

(605) 224-5811

Click [HERE](#) to determine your region's Prevention Resource Center

New Mental Health Promotion Programs

A new mental health promotion program is being implemented in several Minnehaha and Lincoln County school districts to increase mental health awareness, reduce stigma, and promote resilience. This program is funded by new Partnership for Success funding through the SD Department of Social Services: Division of Behavioral Health.

The Project Awareness Program at Carroll Institute provides prevention education and counseling services to several rural schools near Sioux Falls. Adolescent Program Manager, Kristi VanDeRostyne, said that school staff in multiple districts had been requesting content beyond substance use prevention to address mental/behavioral health. The annual survey Carroll Institute administers for needs assessment and evaluation purposes showed an increasing number of students report struggling with feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and thoughts of suicide. These survey results were similar to those reported in the 2023 SD Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS). Using this data, Carroll Institute applied to have a new program approved as an Evidence-Based Program through DSS and wrote a mini-grant proposal to fund curriculum and training costs, as well as staff time to implement the program.

To increase resilience in K-12 grades, the WhyTry program was selected. WhyTry is a curriculum and toolkit for K-12 teachers and counselors that provides hands-on strategies and resources to support students with trauma, improve engagement, and increase both motivation and resilience. A series of 10 visual analogies are used to teach essential life skills such as improved decision-making, impulse control, accessing support systems, and envisioning the future. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the WhyTry program.



WHYTRY

If your school or organization is interested in expanding mental/behavioral health programming for students, we encourage you to reach out to your local SD Prevention Resource Center (SDPRC). The SDPRC's can provide resources, training, and support the implementation of evidence-based programs to address behavioral health needs.

UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

June 16-17 | Sioux Falls
Learn more and register [HERE](#)

Youth Mental Health First Aid

June 18 | Brookings
Find more information and register [HERE](#)

SD Behavioral Health Conference

August 11-12 | Sioux Falls
Learn more and register [HERE](#)

SPF Application for Prevention Success Training (SAPST)

Learn more and register with the
QR code.



NEED A SUMMER READ?

Did you know each PRC has a physical library filled with books, curricula, displays, games and other prevention materials available for check out!? Not near a PRC? No Worries! We can mail materials your way. We also have an online digital library through the Libby app with audiobooks & ebooks relating to mental health, addiction, and other prevention topics. Use the QR code below to get signed up today!



MISSION: POSSIBLE

ADVANCING ACTION AGAINST SUBSTANCE USE TOGETHER

The South Dakota Area Health Education Center will host the seventh annual Mission: Possible | Advancing Action Against Substance Use Together conference. This in-person, full-day event will take place on Thursday, June 25, 2026 in Sioux Falls. This conference brings together professionals, educators, healthcare providers, and community leaders from across South Dakota to explore substance use trends, best practices, and innovative solutions.

We've refreshed the conference format to better meet your needs:

- A one-day, action-packed schedule (7:15 AM – 5:00 PM)
 - The ability to earn up to eight CME/CEU credit hours
 - There is a registration fee of \$65 will help to cover meals
- Click [HERE](#) to register

National Marijuana Facts Week: July 4-10

National Marijuana Facts Week (NMFW) is an annual, week-long health observance established in 2021 by Johnny's Ambassadors. The campaign aims to increase public awareness about the potential risks of today's high-potency THC products, particularly for adolescents, and to promote science-based education on youth substance use.

NMFW highlights research related to adolescent brain development, cannabis use disorder, and associations between heavy THC use and mental health concerns. The observance encourages communities to provide educational opportunities that help young people and families make informed decisions about THC use. The week begins on Friday, July 4 and concludes on Thursday, July 10, recognized by organizers as 710 Anti-Dab Day. Throughout the week, parents, students, educators, healthcare professionals, researchers, and community partners are encouraged to participate in awareness and prevention activities.

National Marijuana Facts Week seeks to:

- Increase awareness of the effects of THC on developing brains
- Educate youth and families about substance use risks
- Share current scientific research and prevention resources
- Support healthy choices and informed decision-making among young people.

For additional information, educational materials, and event resources, visit the official website [HERE](#).

SOUTH DAKOTA SUICIDE PREVENTION



RESOURCES

STATEWIDE WEBSITE
SDSUICIDEPREVENTION.ORG

THE HELPLINE CENTER
HELPLINECENTER.ORG

If you or someone you know needs help with:

- Depression
- Grief
- Relationship Conflicts
- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Suicidal Thoughts

Call/text 988 or [chat online](#)



988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month

Every June, PTSD Awareness Month shines a light on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a mental health condition that can develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event. While many people associate PTSD with military service, it can affect anyone, including survivors of accidents, abuse, natural disasters, violence, medical trauma, or the unexpected loss of a loved one, especially if by suicide.

PTSD can impact daily life in many ways. Common symptoms may include intrusive memories or flashbacks, nightmares, avoiding reminders of the trauma, feeling constantly on edge, difficulty sleeping, changes in mood, or feeling disconnected from others. Symptoms vary from person to person and may appear soon after a traumatic event or months or even years later. Family members, friends, and coworkers can play an important role in assisting with treating PTSD. Listening without judgment, encouraging professional support, and learning about PTSD can make a meaningful difference for someone who is struggling.

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress, support is available. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis, emotional distress, or thoughts of suicide.

At the Helpline Center, caring professionals answer 988 calls, texts, and chats for individuals across the region, connecting people with immediate support and local resources. Whether you or someone you know is facing a crisis or simply need someone to talk to, help is available 24/7.

Upcoming Events

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

June 16 & 17 | 8:30 am-4:30pm (CST)

The HUB at Southeast Technical College | 2001 N. Career Ave. | Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Registrants must attend both days.

Register [HERE](#)

SOUTH DAKOTA TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

Hilary Larsen

Tobacco Program Coordinator

Hilary.Larsen@state.sd.us

DOH Team:

DOHTobaccoControl@state.sd.us



Quittobaccosd.com

Click [here](#) to order our FREE materials and resources.

Men's Health Month & Tobacco Use

June is Men's Health Month, and according to the [Health Behaviors of South Dakota 2023 Report](#), a higher percentage of men in our state use some form of tobacco compared to women. Nationally, men use tobacco at nearly twice the rate of women. Research suggests these differences may be influenced by social, cultural, and biological factors.

While some studies indicate men may develop stronger physical dependence on nicotine, the tobacco industry has also historically targeted men with marketing that promotes tobacco as a symbol of independence, rebellion, and masculinity.

Men are already at higher risk than women for several serious health conditions, including heart disease and certain cancers. When tobacco use is added to the mix, those risks increase even more.

This Men's Health Month, consider taking time to talk with the young men in your life about the health risks associated with tobacco and the marketing tactics used to influence their choices. And for men you know who currently use tobacco, remind them: it's never too late to quit.

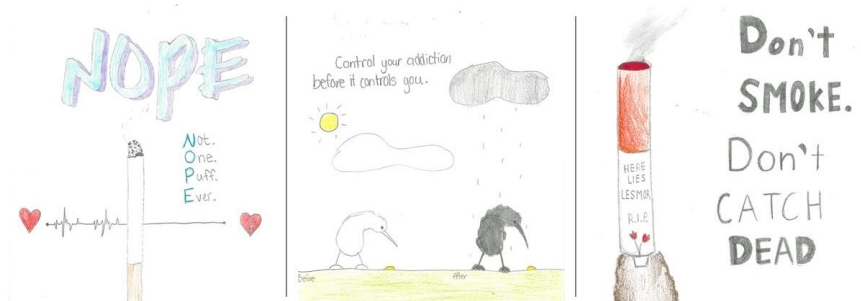
Here's what happens when someone stops using tobacco according to [ACS](#):

- **Within 20 minutes:** Blood pressure and heart rate begin to recover.
- **Within 2 weeks to 3 months:** Circulation improves and lung function increases.
- **Within 1 year:** Risk of heart disease and heart attack is cut in half.

It's never too late to protect your health. Contact the [SD QuitLine](#) to start your quit journey today.

Milbank Students Design Anti-Tobacco Ads

In Milbank, middle and high school students participated in an anti-tobacco ad-design project. In partnership with the middle school student council, students were invited to create an anti-tobacco/pro-health advertisement to be published in their local newspaper next year. Those who submitted an ad received a cookie from the student council. Students stepped up to the plate and delivered some outstanding ads showing some great inspiration for tobacco prevention messaging.





LOST & FOUND[®]

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM LOST&FOUND

After careful evaluation and thoughtful consideration, the Lost&Found Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to dissolve the organization. This decision was not made lightly—it comes after months of reflection and was driven by deep care for our mission, our staff, and the communities we serve. It has been shaped by a changing funding environment and broader uncertainty, despite the extraordinary support and partnerships we have received over the years.

We want to be clear: our work is not ending abruptly. **Throughout this transition, our programs will continue to operate** as we take deliberate steps to ensure their continuity. The Board is actively working with partner organizations to identify strong, mission-aligned homes where these programs can continue to grow and thrive. We see this not only as a transition, but also as an opportunity—one that allows our programs and staff to connect with expanded resources, new partnerships, and additional support to carry this work forward and deepen its impact.

We are profoundly grateful to our community. The generosity, trust, and partnership of our supporters have been foundational to everything we have accomplished. Together, we have built meaningful programs and made a lasting difference, and that impact will continue beyond the life of this organization.

The Board remains fully engaged in leading this process, with a focus on supporting staff, maintaining continuity of services, and preserving the strength of our relationships. We are committed to communicating openly and thoughtfully along the way. Additional updates regarding program transitions will be shared as information becomes available.

As we move forward, we welcome continued connection and collaboration. If you are interested in partnering with us to help sustain and advance this work, or if you have questions, we encourage you to reach out.

With sincere gratitude,

Lost&Found Board of Directors

If you have questions or wish to discuss partnership opportunities, please contact:

Carrie Jorgensen, Executive Director
cjorgensen@resilienttoday.org
(605) 607-5104