Improving Access to Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment Services for Adolescents

The Center for Health Care Strategies, along with the Association for Community Affiliated Plans, is conducting a three-year learning collaborative of Medicaid-focused health plans and providers to advance prevention and early intervention for adolescent substance use disorders.

The Need

In 2014, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated that 1.3 million adolescents aged 12 to 17 had substance use disorders.

- Americans die from overdoses every day, with 46 of those deaths coming from prescription opioid abuse.
- 49% of surveyed high school seniors have used an illicit drug at least once.

The Goals

Medicaid health plans, in collaboration with their provider networks, have an important role to play in prevention and intervention of substance use disorders. The seven plans participating in the collaborative enroll more than 460,000 adolescents, aged 12 to 21.

- Develop plans’ capacity to support strong primary care networks to identify adolescent substance use disorders
- Invest in quality improvement strategies and plan process changes
- Train more providers in effective prevention models, like SBIRT
- Reduce emergency department visits for drug overdose or drug poisoning among adolescents

The Plans

UPMC Health Plan, Pennsylvania
Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, Massachusetts
Passport Health Plan, Kentucky
HealthChoice, Florida
YourCare, New York
VA Premier Health Plan, Inc., Virginia
Texas Children’s Health Plan, Texas