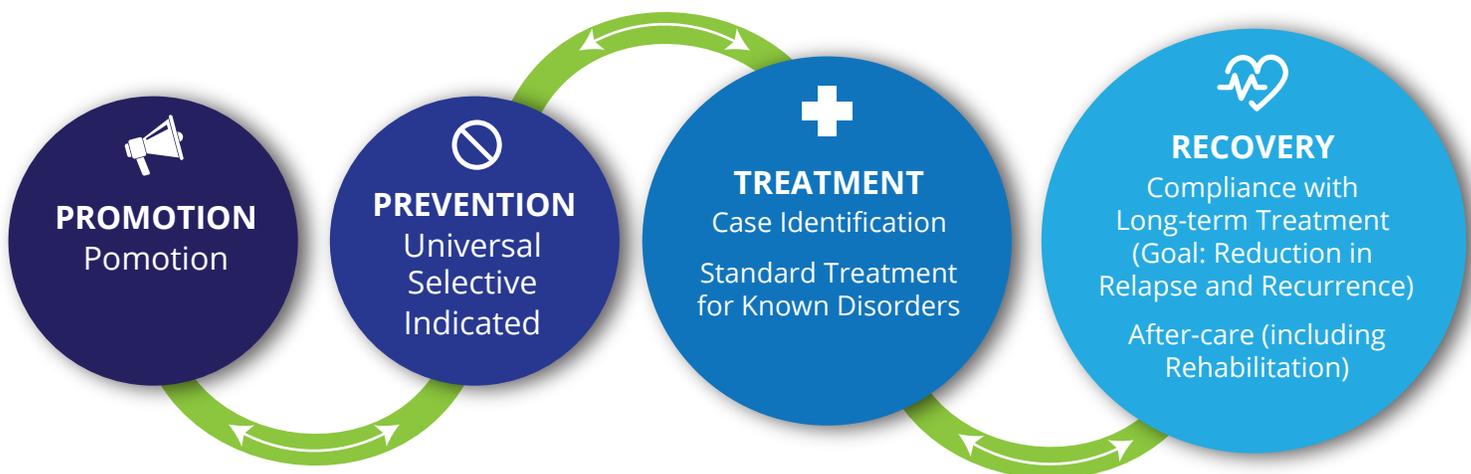


# SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

## CONTINUUM OF CARE MODEL

A comprehensive approach to addressing substance use within any community requires us to recognize and respond to a multitude of needs. By following Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Model, our division can support the entire range of needs related to responding to, reducing, and preventing substance Use Disorders in Lowell.



## PROMOTION



Promotion strategies help our community reinforce its residents' behavioral health and wellbeing, as well as their resilience in the face of challenges. By helping to reate an environment of safety and connectedness, we can mitigate the cycle of addiction and support a culture of change.

## PREVENTION

Our division coordinates two grants for the planning and implementation of universal prevention initiatives here in Lowell. These strategies aim to delay the age of first use, a known risk factor to develop Substance Use Disorder. While the majority of young people in Lowell under 18 report not using drugs or alcohol, prevention is an integral part of youth development and our nation's approach to the opioid crisis.

Selective and indicated prevention programs are developed for young people who have begun engaging in risk behaviors associated with or including early substance misuse. In our community, early substance misuse typically looks like experimentation with alcohol, cannabis, or nicotine via electronic vapor products and -- in some cases -- inhalants or over the counter drugs. While **90%** of middle school and **80%** of high school students in Lowell do not regularly engage in substance use, having a multitude of resources and programs to respond to the **10-20%** of students who do can go a long way in reducing their potential to develop Substance Use Disorders later in life.

## TREATMENT & RECOVERY

Substance Use Disorders are a chronic disease and relapse is often a part of recovery. Our interdisciplinary team of outreach specialists at the Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program are trained to identify client needs, build rapport, and utilize the Motivation to Change theory to promote safety and wellbeing for clients and their families.

The Lowell CO-OP is a team of resource navigators who work to connect individuals with problematic substance use or Substance Use Disorders to the appropriate treatment services for their unique needs. The Lowell CO-OP follows-up with overdose victims and their families 24-48 hours after an opioid overdose, and facilitates access to treatment and harm reduction services for the overdose survivor and supportive services for their families.