

IOM CATEGORIES

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) model, often referred to as a continuum of services, care, or prevention, classifies prevention interventions according to their target population. Classification by population provides clarity to differing objectives of various interventions and matches the objectives to the needs of the target population. The IOM identifies the following categories based on level of risk: Universal – Indirect, Universal – Direct, Selective, and Indicated.

Category	Definition/Description
<p>Universal - Indirect Targets the general population and are not directed at a specific risk group.</p>	<p>Interventions support environmental strategies. Universal direct activities include modifying policy related to alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, limiting advertising practices for alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, and coalition activities.</p>
<p>Universal – Direct Targets the general population and are not directed at a specific risk group.</p>	<p>Interventions directly serve a group of participants who have not been identified as having any risk factor for substance abuse.</p>
<p>Selective Targets those at higher-than-average risk for substance abuse; individuals are identified by the magnitude and nature of risk factors for substance abuse to which they are exposed.</p>	<p>Selective prevention measures target subsets of the total population that are considered at risk for substance abuse by virtue of their membership in a particular segment of the population. Selective prevention targets the entire subgroup, regardless of the degree of risk of any individual within the group.</p>
<p>Indicated Targets those already using or engaged in other high-risk behaviors to prevent heavy or chronic use.</p>	<p>Indicated prevention measures are designed to prevent the onset of substance abuse in individuals who do not meet the medical criteria for addiction, but who are showing early danger signs. The mission of indicated prevention is to identify individuals who are exhibiting problem behaviors and to involve them in special programs.</p>