

Sharon Substance Prevention and Resource Coalition (SSPARC) Town Behavioral Health Needs Assessment: Key Takeaways

Sharon Public Safety Building, Training Room
213 South Main Street, Sharon, MA 02067
10.18.18, 6-8pm

Key Needs Assessment Results						
Category	Lower than		Comparable to		Higher than	
	MA	U.S.	MA	U.S.	MA	U.S.
Adult smoking rates in the local area*...	✓	✓				
Adult E-cigarette and vapor product use in the local area...	✓	✓				
Adult alcohol use in the local area...			✓			✓
Youth Tobacco and vapor product use rates in the local area...	✓	✓				
Youth in the local area that have tried alcohol in their lives...					✓	✓
Youth chronic or regular drinking in the local area	✓	✓				
Youth marijuana use in the local area...					✓	✓
Youth trying marijuana before age 13 in the local area					✓	✓
Use rates for all other substances (cocaine, heroin, etc.) in the local area...	✓	✓				
Opioid-related EMS calls and overdose deaths in Sharon (compared to nearby towns)	✓					

**"Local area" is the term used in some cases because some nationally-representative survey data are only available for the Boston area. When data supports Sharon-specific results, the word "Sharon" is used instead of "local area."*

Other Notable Needs Assessment Results:

- ✓ The Sharon community generally believes that youth deal with issues related to alcohol and marijuana, while adults are **more likely** to use prescription medications and other opioids.
- ✓ The Sharon community believes that **anxiety** is the primary behavioral health issue for youth, while adults deal with **depression** more regularly.
- ✓ Among those Sharon residents who tried to access mental health services in the past year, they had the most difficulty accessing psychiatry and outpatient counseling services.
- ✓ Most residents believe the Sharon school system is "**somewhat successful**" in addressing the mental health needs of the students.
 - More resources for depression screening and mental health education are desired.
- ✓ The majority of residents in Sharon are white, non-Hispanic, age 35-64, have a graduate or professional degree, and live in a household with an annual income of \$200,000 or more.
 - All of these demographic characteristics are **similar to or higher than** Boston and MA.