

Priority Area 2:

Behavioral Health

Intended Result

All people in South Carolina experience mental wellness and reduce substance misuse.

Why is This Important?

Behavioral health encompasses both mental health disorders and substance use disorders (SUD), including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. These conditions affect emotional, psychological, and social well-being across all life stages. Behavioral health challenges in South Carolina reflect broader national patterns, with differences in access to care and outcomes across different groups, highlighting the need for culturally responsive, early, and comprehensive support for all South Carolinians.

Headline Indicators

► **Alcohol Misuse**

Percentage of adults reporting binge drinking.

► **Drug Overdose**

Rate of South Carolinians who died by overdose per 100,000 population.

► **Suicide**

Rate of South Carolinians who died by suicide per 100,000 population.

► **Behavioral Health-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits & Hospitalizations**

Rate of ED visits and hospitalizations related to behavioral health per 100,000 population.

Strategies & Opportunities for Collaborative Action

2.1

Integrate alcohol misuse prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services into the public health and healthcare systems.

2.2

Promote overdose education, risk reduction efforts, and evidence-based treatment and prevention services.

2.3

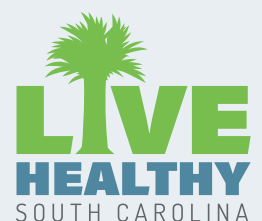
Improve suicide prevention and postvention initiatives.

2.4

Integrate behavioral health care into primary and specialty medical care.



Scan the QR Code for the full SHIP report and details on all nine priority areas, with access to the full SHA report.



SC State Health Improvement Plan: 2025-2030

The **State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)** serves as a statewide strategic roadmap to improve population health and address South Carolina's most pressing health challenges. It reflects intentional and robust collaboration among state agencies, public health entities, health care providers, community-based organizations, and other key partners to develop and implement sustainable, data-driven solutions that achieve collective impact. The SHIP contains nine priority areas that were developed using analytic insights from the comprehensive health data in the State Health Assessment and cross-sector partner input. The SHIP provides a strategic framework for multisector partners to align resources and guide collective action to improve health outcomes across South Carolina.

