

## *The Strategic Prevention Framework*

Based on the success of the Federal Drug-Free Communities Support Program, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) adopted these five steps as illustrated in the chart below:

1. Assessment of the problem and resources to address it,
2. Building the community's capacity to address the problem by linking diverse partners united by common goals,
3. Strategic planning as an ongoing process,
4. Implementing the plan with programs and activities, and
5. Tracking implemented activities and evaluating their outcomes.

## **SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework Steps**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

The Framework is composed of five steps in a logical sequences beginning and ending with assessment. Yet it is important to view the process in totality working on the five steps simultaneously and not waiting to complete one before beginning the next. Thus while assessment identifies problems and resources (both available and lacking) it is linked to whom else is needed to be engaged in capacity building and what contributing factors need be addressed in planning, implementation, and evaluation. By example, the tools used to measure the nature and extent of the problem may also serve as tools to measure the impact and outcomes of plan's programs and activities. Thus, assessment is the foundation of the community prevention process for developing local solutions.