

PREVENTION FIRST 

# **SUPP PREVENTION PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery through a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# Introduction

Each year Prevention First conducts a SUPP provider survey to obtain information about the prevention workforce in Illinois. The data helps gauge the state of the funded prevention workforce; discuss workforce issues and needs at a state and national level; plan and adjust training, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities for the coming year; support efforts to continue building the best substance use prevention workforce; and support prevention funded organizations in their workforce needs.

The information in this profile was obtained from the 2024 SUPP Provider Survey. The survey was conducted online in February 2024 via Survey Monkey. An initial email was sent to all SUPP prevention staff, agency executive directors, supervisors and grant contacts. The survey was open for six business days and several reminders or announcements were provided via email and Groupsite.

One hundred fifty-one (151) professionals participated in the survey. At the time of the survey, there were an estimated 325 providers (201 SUPS providers, 49 CSUPS providers, and 75 SRSUPS providers), indicating that 46% of providers completed the survey (55% of SUPS providers; 41% of CSUPS providers; and 29% of SRSUPS providers).

## Age

37% of prevention professionals are between ages 25 and 35. 13% are between ages 18 and 24, 22% between ages 36 and 45, 22% between ages 46 and 64, and 6% are 65 or older.

## Gender

A vast majority of prevention professionals are female (82%).

## Education

Eighty-six percent of respondents have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. This percentage has been slightly decreasing since FY21 (91% in FY21, 89% in FY22, 87% in FY23). 86% of SRSUPS, 87% of SUPS and 60% of CSUPS providers that responded have a bachelor's degree or higher. The percentage of respondents who have a high school degree or GED as their highest level of education increased this year (5% in FY22 and FY23 to 10% in FY24) while the percentage of respondents who have an associate degree decreased slightly (8% in FY23 to 6% in FY24).

## Certification

Most respondents (68%) are not certified prevention specialists. The number of respondents who responded "Yes" (13%) decreased from FY23 (20%). The percentage of respondents that

are currently pursuing the credential increased to 15%, in comparison to FY21-FY23, where it had remained around 8-9%.

## Staff Turnover

34% of prevention professionals are “veteran” staff who have been in the prevention field for six or more years, while 24% of prevention professionals have been in the prevention field for less than a year.

## Job/Career Satisfaction

Most prevention professionals (83%) are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their current position. However, 8% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their current position. A significant 97% of prevention professionals feel prepared to do their jobs; 87% feel prevention is valued at their workplace; and 87% feel valued at their workplace. 90% feel there is adequate training for prevention professionals. However, many (38%) feel there are not opportunities for advancement for prevention within their organization; 23% feel that their salary is not comparable to other prevention professionals; and 36% feel that their salary is not comparable to the work required of them.

## Salary

Of those who responded, 39% of respondents with full-time employment make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 (52% make more than \$45,000 while 8% make less than \$35,000). This includes all job types, including managers, directors and supervisors.

### Salary by Years of Experience

- 46% of full-time **new prevention staff (in the field less than one year)** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 9% make less than \$35,000 and 46% make more than \$45,000.
- 51% of full-time **prevention staff who have been in the field one to five years** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 7% make less than \$35,000 and 42% make more than \$45,000.
- 73% of full-time **veteran prevention staff (in the field six or more years)** make over \$45,000, while 18% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 and 10% make less than \$35,000.

### Salary by IDHS Region

- 29% of full-time **Region 1** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 7% make less than \$35,000 and 64% make more than \$45,000.
- 39% of full-time **Region 2** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 7% make less than \$35,000 and 53% make more than \$45,000.
- 36% of full-time **Region 3** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 23% make less than \$35,000 and 41% make more than \$45,000.
- 67% of full-time **Region 4** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 6% made less than \$35,000 and 28% make more than \$45,000.

- 40% of full-time **Region 5** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 4% make less than \$35,000 and 56% make more than \$45,000.
- 22% of full-time **multi-region/statewide** prevention professionals make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 78% make more than \$45,000.

### Salary by Job Title

- 53% of full-time **prevention specialists** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 14% make less than \$35,000 and 33% make more than \$45,000.
- 80% of full-time **coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors** make \$45,000 or more, 18% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 and 2% make less than \$35,000.

### Salary by Job Title and Years of Experience

- 56% of full-time **prevention specialists who have been in the field less than one year** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 11% make less than \$35,000 and 33% respondents make more than \$45,000.
- 57% of full-time **prevention specialists who have been in the field one to five years** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 11% make less than \$35,000 and 32% make more than \$45,000.
- 33% of full-time **prevention specialists who have been in the field six or more years** make less than \$35,000, while 33% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 and 33% make more than \$45,000.
- 50% of full-time **coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors who have been in the field less than one year** make between \$45,000 and \$54,999, while 50% make more than \$55,000.
- 29% of full-time **coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors who have been in the field one to five years** make between \$35,000 and \$44,999, while 71% make more than \$45,000.
- 81% of full-time **coordinators, managers, supervisors or directors who have been in the field six or more years** make more than \$45,000, while 15% make between \$35,000 and \$44,999 and 4% make less than \$35,000.