

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Department of Human Services conducting Statewide Community Readiness Survey**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division is partnering with the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center to conduct a statewide Community Readiness Survey beginning March 2019. The survey will gather information about public perceptions of alcohol and drug use and abuse, and prevention efforts in North Dakota communities. Community readiness surveys were last conducted in 2015 and 2017.

"North Dakota communities and tribes are coming together and investing in substance abuse prevention with a common goal to create safe and healthy individuals, families, businesses and communities," said Behavioral Health Division Assistant Director Laura Anderson. "The survey is a way to measure progress and areas needing more attention."

She said the division currently supports 27 community grantees led by tribes and local public health units, which are implementing evidence-based practices to prevent substance abuse and related consequences.

Survey results, she said, will help guide drug and alcohol prevention efforts by both the state and local health organizations to ensure these issues are being addressed effectively.

The Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division is responsible for reviewing and identifying service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system to ensure health and safety, access to services and quality services. It also establishes quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities and provides policy leadership in partnership with public and private entities.

For more information, visit [www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov](http://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov).

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