



### **Improving Health Professional Education in Substance Abuse: Project Mainstream**

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Project Mainstream is a federally-funded, multidisciplinary project that included a team of academic physicians, pharmacists, and other allied health faculty who collaborated to improve health professional education in

substance abuse. An electronic, web-based curricular unit was developed and implemented by the team. The unit was designed to enhance the skills of trainees in identifying, screening, and assisting children and adolescents living in homes where adults are substance abusers. The main goals of the project are to ensure that pharmacy students are

1. Able to assist these children with their medical, psychiatric and behavioral symptoms;
2. Capable of identifying the potential benefits of timely interventions;
3. Being taught the necessary skills to be part of the general health assessment of the children, including appropriate screening for family history/current use of alcohol and other drugs;
4. Able to counsel the children and their families, based on screening results, on treatment, resources, and services currently being provided, so that an appropriate level of care and follow-up can be recommended.
5. Able to communicate an appropriate level of concern, and offer information, support and follow-up.

*This initiative addresses Goal 6, Objective 1 of the ASHP 2015 Initiative.*