

## **Topic DAT18-02: Drug Abuse Prevention Intervention Research (R01, R03, R21)**

### **Purpose**

To encourage the submission of research project applications for: 1) development and testing of interventions and strategies to prevent the initiation of substance use, the progression to substance use disorders, and the spread of substance use-related conditions such as HIV and viral hepatitis; 2) development and testing of processes or strategies for the adoption, sustainability, and scalability of science-based prevention in community, practice, and service systems; and, 3) development of methods to study complex aspects of prevention research.

### **Background**

Drug use, misuse, and addiction interfere with the healthy functioning of diverse individuals across the lifespan and are preventable causes of numerous medical, behavioral health, and societal problems. Both licit and illicit substance misuse are preceded by identifiable bio-psycho-social and environmental factors that originate as early as the prenatal period. The prevention field has made significant progress leading to the identification of effective approaches and strategies to prevent substance use and substance use disorders, but challenges remain for adoption and implementation in settings and systems. In addition, work is needed to identify novel, highly effective prevention strategies for understudied groups, such as young adults and aging adults, and emerging drug issues, such as the opioid epidemic and changing policies related to medical and adult marijuana use. NIDA is interested in prevention research that addresses current public health priorities and will lead to population level impacts.

### **Research Objectives**

NIDA seeks research to translate findings from basic sciences to develop novel interventions, in addition to research on the efficacy, effectiveness, implementation, adaptation, and dissemination of strategies to prevent substance use and substance use related conditions, particularly HIV infection. NIDA has a particular interest in strategies and approaches to prevent opioid and prescription drug misuse as well as substance use and substance use disorders more broadly (licit and illicit substances, including in combination with alcohol). NIDA is interested in prevention research that addresses the appropriate level of risk for the target population (universal, selective, indicated, as per IOM 2009).

NIDA strongly encourages investigators to identify likely end users of prevention interventions (e.g., public or private organizations or systems), create partnerships at relevant stages of the research, and include letters of support indicating involvement and commitment of end users to implement the intervention/strategies if the outcomes are favorable.

This DAT encourages, but is not limited to, research applications in the following areas:

- Translational research that applies findings from epidemiology, cognitive science, neuroscience, and other sciences to develop and test novel prevention interventions and better understand mechanisms of intervention effects.
- Innovative strategies, interventions, policies to prevent opioid and prescription drug misuse and use disorders, and related problems for populations across the lifespan and in settings most impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Testing of moderators and mediators of prevention interventions for tailoring and optimizing interventions, including for understudied vulnerable populations.
- Strategies to integrate sustainable, evidence-based prevention interventions and approaches into health care and other service systems and settings (e.g., juvenile justice, child welfare).
- Innovative prevention methodology research for testing and optimizing prevention interventions, and policies; novel analytic models and statistical techniques for testing mediation and moderation in complex longitudinal designs and analyzing complex datasets.

## Relevant Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities that can be used to pursue these and other research activities include, but are not limited to:

R01 NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [PA-18-484](#)

R01 NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required) [PA-18-345](#)

R03 NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [PA-18-488](#)

R21 NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) [PA-18-489](#)

R21 NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Required) [PA-18-344](#)

Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional) [PA-18-591](#)

## Scientific/Research (Program) Contact

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Prevention (basic/translational research)
- Prevention services
- Prevention implementation research
- Prevention methodology

## Reference

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. (2009). Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities. Committee on the Prevention of Mental Disorders and Substance Abuse Among Children, Youth, and Young Adults: Research Advances and Promising Interventions. Mary Ellen O'Connell, Thomas Boat, and Kenneth E. Warner, Editors. Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.