Preventing Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adolescents and Young Adults (ages 16–30): Expert Panel Planning Meeting
September 26, 2018

Discussion Questions

Session and discussion format: Each session will start with two to three experts providing brief comments to stimulate the discussion. These comments will be followed by an open discussion that includes other participants. These discussion questions are examples of questions that might be discussed. The discussion will provide an opportunity for all participants to pose other questions and share ideas.

Session 1: Epidemiology, Etiology, and Prevention of Opioid Misuse and Transition to Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adolescents and Young Adults

1. What are the profiles of older adolescents and young adults (ages 16–30) who are at risk for opioid misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD)? What populations are at highest risk?
2. Do the risk factors, protective factors for other substances/drugs apply to opioid use and OUD? What is different about this epidemic, in terms of risk factors and protective factors?
3. How can existing evidence-based prevention models/interventions and prevention science inform development of interventions and strategies to prevent opioid misuse and OUD in at-risk older adolescents and young adults?
4. What existing evidence-based models, from the substance abuse prevention or other fields, can be adapted to prevent opioid misuse and OUD in at-risk older adolescents and young adults?

Session 2: At-Risk Populations and High-Priority Settings

1. Where are older adolescents and young adults (ages 16–30) who are at risk for opioid misuse and OUD?
2. What are the best settings/strategies/platforms for accessing, engaging, screening, intervening with this population?
3. What are models and approaches for addressing the multiple needs and risk factors of at-risk older adolescents and young adults (e.g., intersecting individual and environmental risk factors, comorbidities, polysubstance use, etc.)?
4. What is the potential of technology in accessing, intervening, sustaining engagement, and measuring impact with at-risk older adolescents and young adults? What are the limitations?
Session 3: Study Designs and Outcomes

1. What are appropriate study designs beyond conventional randomized control trials for testing screening and prevention interventions in healthcare and other service systems and in workplace, justice, college, and community settings (e.g., SMART, MOST)? What are the relevance, the advantages, and the limitations of these designs, at this stage of developing the evidence? When are they appropriate/not appropriate?
2. What are the acceptable standards for data validity (self-report, biomeasures, etc.)?

Session 4: Adaptation and Integration of Existing Models and Approaches in Healthcare and Other Systems

1. What are examples of existing evidence-based screening and prevention models and strategies that have been implemented in healthcare, justice, and other systems that might prevent opioid misuse and OUD in at-risk older adolescents and young adults (ages 16–30)?
2. How might existing evidence-based models be adapted and integrated into healthcare and other systems, where at-risk older adolescents and young adults are, to address the multiple needs and risk factors of this population?
3. What are the limitations of existing prevention models or approaches, and what are the challenges with integrating these models/approaches in healthcare and other systems/settings?
4. What are strategies for reaching and sustaining engagement with older adolescents and young adults at risk for opioid misuse and OUD as they transition out of systems (e.g., from an adolescent to an adult system, to the workplace, etc.)?

Session 5: Implementation and Uptake

1. What is needed in order for screening and evidence-based strategies and interventions for older adolescents and young adults (ages 16–30) to be implemented, scaled up, and sustained in healthcare, service systems, and other settings?
2. What models for implementation and sustainability of evidence-based interventions and strategies exist?
3. What are appropriate research designs and methods for studying implementation and scale-up of evidence-based screening and interventions? What role can computational models (e.g., agent-based and simulation modeling) play?
4. What types of economic analyses are needed?

Open Discussion Questions

1. What financing considerations and organizational capacity are needed to support and sustain screening and prevention interventions/services for at-risk older adolescents and young adults in diverse settings and systems?
2. What research/findings are important to federal partners, policymakers, and third-party payers?
3. What are key partners and collaborators, including public–private partnerships, for implementation, sustainability, impact?