

Developing a Strategic Plan for the NIH Office of Disease Prevention

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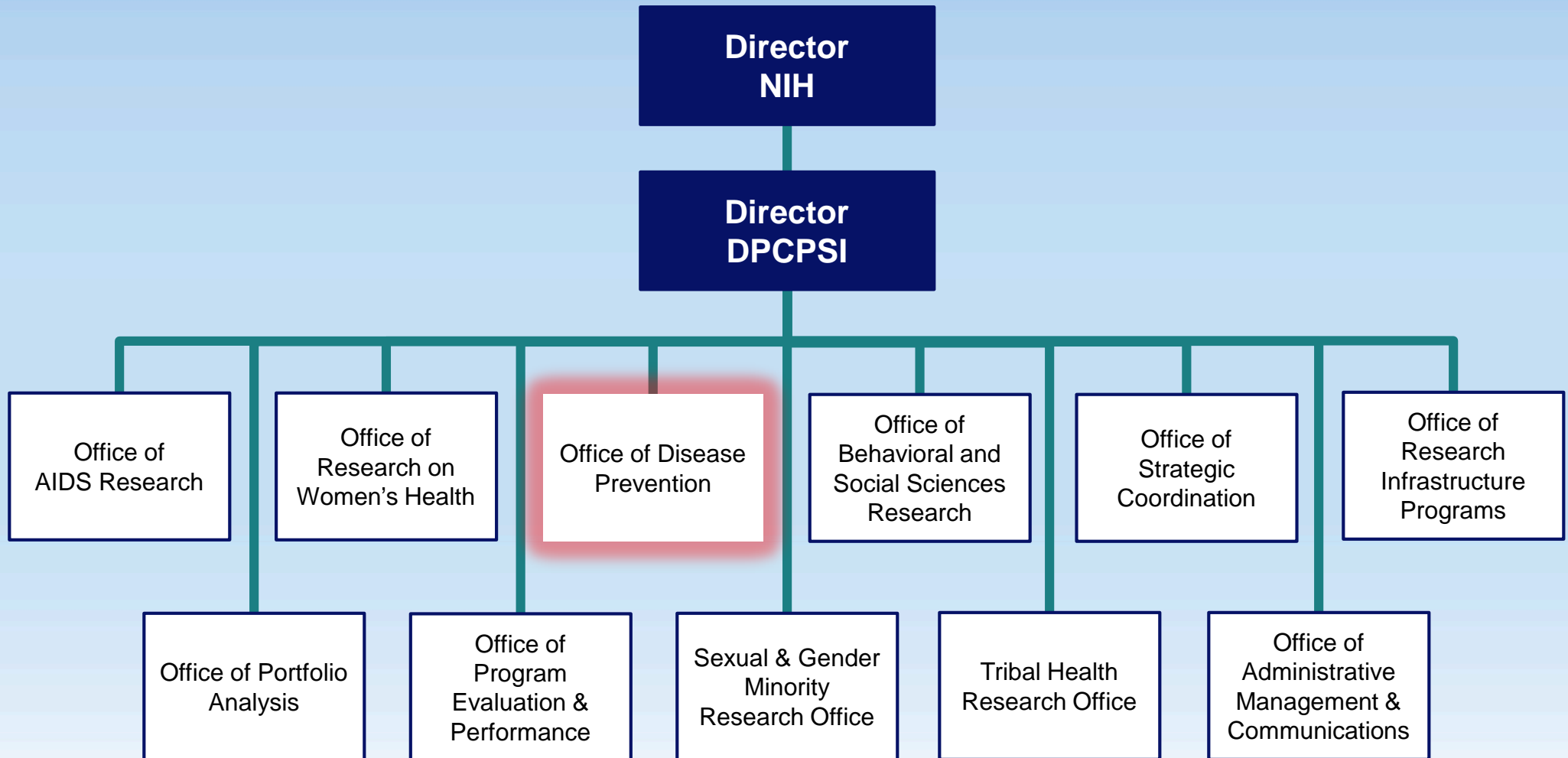
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National Institutes of Health
Office of Disease Prevention

The Office of Disease Prevention

Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives



Mission

- To improve the public health by increasing the scope, quality, dissemination, and impact of prevention research supported by NIH.
- Provide leadership for the development, coordination, and implementation of prevention research in collaboration with ICs and other partners.



Current Activities

- ODP manages the \$100M Tobacco Regulatory Science Program.
- ODP is the NIH liaison to other DHHS activities and partners.
 - U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
 - Community Preventive Services Task Force
 - Healthy People 2020
- ODP offers an evidence-based assessment program
 - Pathways to Prevention
- ODP offers training and education
 - Mind the Gap, Gordon Lecture, pre-conference methods workshops
- ODP co-funds NIH research projects, meetings, and workshops that support prevention research.
- ODP has a staff of 30 FTE and 1 onsite contractor

Systematically Monitor NIH Investments in Prevention Research and the Results of that Research

- Challenges in 2013...
 - Existing portfolio analysis methods had unknown sensitivity and specificity.
 - They provided inadequate detail on features like outcome, exposure, study type, design, age group, etc.
 - They could not accurately characterize levels or trends for awards or dollars.
 - They could not identify areas with inadequate support.
 - They could not be used effectively to address this strategic priority.

Monitor NIH Investments in Prevention Research

■ Progress

- Developed a taxonomy for prevention research with 8 categories and 135 topics.
- Coded 5612 type 1 R01 abstracts for FY10-15 -- all RCDC prevention awards, and a 5% random sample of the remainder.
- Collaborated with OPA to develop machine learning tools to automate the coding process.
- Coded >15,000 R, P, and U awards from FY12-17, using the machine learning tools to guide their selection.
- Will publish findings in 2018, collaborating with ICs to develop manuscripts.

Monitor NIH Investments in Prevention Research

■ Proposed Objectives

- Characterize and report on the NIH prevention research portfolio based on the taxonomy for prevention research developed by the ODP.
- Regularly assess the progress and results of NIH investments in prevention research.
- Partner with NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to disseminate ODP portfolio analysis tools and related data.

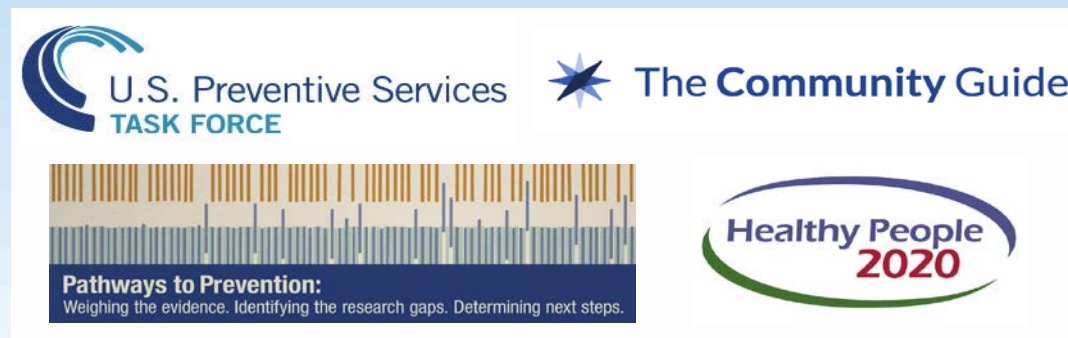
Identify Prevention Research Gaps for Investment or Expanded Effort by the NIH

- Challenges in 2013...
 - ICs looked to ODP for advice on areas and topics for new or expanded prevention research.
 - Better portfolio analysis methods would help.
 - Regular interaction with key stakeholders would help.
 - US Preventive Services Task Force
 - Community Preventive Services Task Force
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Professional societies

Identify Prevention Research Gaps

■ Progress

- Improved coordination between NIH and the USPSTF, including an annual survey of Insufficient Evidence statements to monitor progress and identify opportunities.
- Increased efforts to disseminate the Insufficient Evidence findings of the CPSTF to the research community.
- Partnered with HHS ODPHP and the ICs to support Healthy People 2020 and develop Healthy People 2030.
- Offered Pathways to Prevention (P2P) workshops.



Identify Prevention Research Gaps

■ Proposed Objectives:

- Work with a variety of stakeholders to identify needs in prevention research.
- Compare identified needs in prevention research with the current NIH portfolio to identify gaps in prevention research.
- Work across the ODP and with NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to identify the most promising/feasible prevention research gaps for investment or expanded effort.

Promote the Use of the Best Available Methods and Support the Development of Better Methods

- Challenges in 2013...
 - Evidence showed that the best methods were not always used.
 - My observations, based on 33 years as an NIH funded investigator and reviewer told me that...
 - Program and review staff were not always up to date, making it harder for them to advise applicants and empanel study sections.
 - Review panels often lacked necessary methodological expertise.
 - Steps were needed to ensure applications with strong methods were distinguished from those with weak methods.

Promote the Use of the Best Available Methods

■ Progress

- Created and posted online a 7-part course on Pragmatic and Group-Randomized Trials in Public Health and Medicine.
- Added language to the Application Guide and Review Criteria for clinical trials applications and created [ResearchMethodsResources.nih.gov](https://www.researchmethodsresources.nih.gov).
- Used the Prevention Research Expertise Survey to create a web-based tool for SROs to identify methods experts for review panels.
- Telecast Medicine: Mind the Gap webinars exploring prevention methods.
- Established the ODP Early Stage Investigator Lecture.



Pragmatic and Group-Randomized Trials in Public Health and Medicine

Now available! 7-part, self-paced, online course on Pragmatic and Group-Randomized Trials

[Learn More.](#)

Promote the Use of the Best Available Methods

■ Proposed Objectives:

- Maintain catalogues and directories of existing NIH and other federal resources for prevention science methods.
- Provide resources for review staff to identify experts in prevention research methods for recruitment to review panels.
- Provide training in prevention science methods to NIH program and review staff, to NIH investigators, and to investigators external to NIH.
- Serve as a resource to other ICs on prevention science.
- Collaborate with other ICOs to strengthen NIH policies and procedures to encourage the use the best available.
- Conduct periodic reviews of methods used in prevention research, including systematic reviews of the peer-reviewed literature.

Promote Collaborative Prevention Research Projects and Facilitate Coordination of such Projects

- Challenges in 2013...
 - All of the ICs supported prevention research in their own areas.
 - Enhanced collaboration and coordination among ICs could result in better outcomes and more efficient use of resources.

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Prevention-Related Funding Opportunity Announcements



The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) is the lead Office at the NIH responsible for assessing, facilitating, and stimulating research in disease prevention and health promotion, and disseminating the results of this research to improve public health. One of our priorities is to promote prevention research projects and better research methods. Below, we identify active NIH research grant opportunities for extramural investigators.

- [Leading and Actual Causes of Death](#)
- [Cross-Cutting Topics](#)
- [Research Methods](#)

Promote Collaborative Prevention Research Projects

■ Progress

- Provided input to all strategic plans developed by the ICs or for NIH.
- Co-led the development of the National Nutrition Research Roadmap and now coordinating the 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans.
- Collaborating with existing Scientific Interest Groups to increase focus on prevention research.
- Created five new Scientific Interest Groups.
 - Childhood Screening
 - Adult Screening
 - Genetics of Prevention
 - Environmental and Policy-level Interventions
 - Interventions to Prevent or Delay the Onset of Multiple Comorbid Diseases

Promote Collaborative Prevention Research Projects

■ Proposed Objectives:

- Establish or promote infrastructures and processes to foster prevention research coordination and collaboration across the NIH and with other public and private prevention partners.
- Coordinate and support the development of collaborative prevention initiatives to address gaps in prevention research and practice.
- Advance approaches for projecting future research needs and priorities in prevention and highlighting trans-NIH efforts to address those gaps.
- Work with other public and private prevention partners to develop a triennial State of Prevention conference highlighting research progress, gaps and opportunities focused on a specific prevention gap of cross cutting relevance across NIH.

Advance the Understanding of Prevention Research

- Challenges in 2013...
 - NIH was focused much more on basic science and on developing and evaluating treatments than on prevention.
 - The prevention community at NIH asked ODP to take a leadership role in promoting prevention research both at NIH and elsewhere.

Advance the Understanding of Prevention Research

■ Progress

- Expanded ODP website from 4 to >250 pages.
- Created a presence on social media.
- Built e-mail lists for targeted messaging.
- Strengthened partnerships with professional societies.
- Presented ODP resources at scientific meetings.
- Provided communications support to all ODP teams, webinars, workshops, and meetings.
- Created and posted information and interactive tools for prevention researchers to find valuable resources

Home

**Tobacco Regulatory Science
Program**

Prevention Research at the NIH

Resources for Researchers

Community Resources

Programs and Events

Strategic Plan

News and Announcements

About Us

Advance the Understanding of Prevention Research

■ Proposed Objectives:

- Increase the visibility of information about prevention research.
- Engage and collaborate with stakeholders to coordinate and enhance communications about disease prevention research.
- Support the communications-related efforts of all ODP Strategic Priorities including the promotion of ODP activities, events, and resources.

Developing the new ODP Strategic Plan

- Input from Councils, IC Directors, NIH staff ongoing
- Posted draft plan and issued RFI on November 30, 2017
- Revise plan, prepare milestones and timelines by March 31, 2018
- Prepare staffing plan and resource request by May 31, 2018
- Submit the package for approval by June 30, 2018
- Release the final plan on September 30, 2018

Discussion Questions

- How can ODP be of help to NICHD to advance prevention research?
- Are there other strategic priorities ODP should consider?
- Are there cross-cutting themes that ODP should consider, apart from the draft priorities?

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