

National Institute on Drug Abuse
Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research
Services Research Branch

Drug Abuse Treatment Services for Adolescents

The Services Research Branch of NIDA supports research designed to improve the availability, utilization, quality, delivery, outcomes, and costs of behavioral health services for adolescents who misuse drugs. Treatment services for adolescents who misuse drugs are inadequate nationwide. Few adolescents who need substance abuse treatment services receive them, and the services provided often are of poor quality and insufficient quantity. Underlying this deficiency are misunderstandings about the nature of drug abuse and the unique needs of adolescent drug users, few effective community treatment models, limited youth access to services, narrow breadth and targeting of services, and poor diffusion of science-based practice into effective community interventions.

To address this problem, NIDA has identified the following priority areas for research:

- *Strategies for broadening youth access to treatment services* (e.g., expansion of pathways to treatment for adolescents at various—particularly earlier—developmental stages in their drug use careers; factors that facilitate or impede access to treatment)
- *Strategies for improving treatment delivery, including breadth, integration, and targeting of services for adolescents at different developmental stages in their own maturation and in their drug use and treatment careers* (e.g., optimal financing mechanisms; cost-effective ways to combine and deliver linked services; continuing care services care for defined populations of adolescents, including juvenile justice, HIV+, and residential treatment populations; cost efficient strategies to improve provider preparedness)
- *Strategies for translating efficacious clinical treatments into effective community interventions* (e.g., strategies for keeping providers abreast of current research and able to make informed decisions about adopting and adapting science-based technologies; financing and cost-effective processes for technology transfer efforts)

Funding Opportunities:

- RFA-DA-05-002 Enhancing State Capacity To Foster Adoption Of Science-Based Practice [Proposal Receipt Date: August 17, 2004]
- PA-03-011 Services Research in the National Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network
- PA-02-164 Economic Evaluation of Drug Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services for HIV/AIDS
- PA-02-055 Drug Abuse Dissertation Research: Epidemiology, Prevention, Treatment, Services, and Women and Gender Differences
- PA-01-097 Drug Abuse Health Services Research

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