

Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Centers/Partners Initiative

TTURC consists of seven academic institutions studying new and innovative ways to combat tobacco use, integrating research across scientific disciplines, speeding transfer of innovative approaches to communities nationwide, and training a new generation of tobacco control researchers. Three of the seven TTURCs include research components addressing youth tobacco cessation. TTURC is funded by NCI and NIDA. The Partners Initiative is designed to improve policy understanding and communications practices among the TTURC tobacco research arms. Unique collaborations are being fostered among scientists across many disciplines to focus research on areas where there are gaps, including adolescent smoking. The Partners Initiative is funded by RWJF.

Tobacco Etiology Research Network

TERN is a transdisciplinary research network that is intended to achieve major scientific advances in understanding the transitions from initial to regular use to dependence on tobacco and cessation among adolescents and young adults. Findings and models developed by TERN have been used by all Blueprint funders to define developmentally appropriate measures of youth quitting and to guide the development of innovative cessation strategies. TERN is funded by RWJF.

School Health Policies and Programs Study

SHPPS measures and tracks over time policies and programs in elementary, middle, and senior high schools nationwide. The assessment includes tobacco-free school policies and environments, required tobacco-use cessation services, and required tobacco-use prevention education. SHPPS is funded by CDC.

Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control

CX is a planning model designed to facilitate the development and implementation of comprehensive tobacco control programs locally. It provides systematic guidance for communities to assess current status, move closer to excellence, and improve interventions. As of August 2001, more than 1,500-community/state tobacco control staff/volunteers in 36 states have been trained in CX. Phase I evaluation results are expected in December 2001. CX is funded by ACS.

For more information on YTCC and the National Blueprint for Action contact:

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The Blueprint is available at www.cfah.org/pdfs/research_NBAreport.pdf.

The Center serves as the secretariat for YTCC.

The Center is an independent nonprofit organization funded by foundations to promote greater recognition of how psychological, social, behavioral, economic, and environmental factors influence health and illness.

The National Blueprint for Action for youth and young adult tobacco-use cessation was published in the Spring of 2000 by the Youth Tobacco Cessation Collaborative. Since then, YTCC members have worked successfully to collectively address many of the needs identified in the Blueprint, with a focus on the two-year objectives outlined. These highlights illustrate just some of the progress that has been made. Although progress made is significant, more attention to this issue is needed.

Among the more significant and important developments are the relationships that have formed among the Collaborative organizations, the increase in collaboration across organizations, the co-funding of research and other projects, and the increase in attention to the issue of cessation among youth. In addition, the Blueprint approach has become a model for other activities such as the soon-to-be-released National Blueprint for Disseminating and Implementing Evidence-Based Clinical and Community Strategies to Promote Tobacco-Use Cessation and the forthcoming Action Plan for the National Partnership to Help Pregnant Smokers Quit.

The Blueprint

The Youth Cessation Blueprint was developed as a consensus document to guide decisions regarding funding research and programs related to youth tobacco-use cessation, to reflect common goals and objectives among national organizations that fund such efforts, to help ensure that funding plans and programs across organizations build the strongest possible national efforts to support youth cessation, and to coordinate funding efforts.

The ten year goal of the National Blueprint is to ensure that every young tobacco user (age 12–24) has access to appropriate and effective cessation interventions by the year 2010. The Blueprint includes 2-, 5-, and 10-year objectives and funding strategies for research, implementation, and support and demand.

The YTCC was formed in 1998 to address the gaps in knowledge about what cessation strategies are most effective in assisting youth to quit smoking. Collaborative members represent major organizations that fund research, program, and policy initiatives related to controlling youth tobacco use.

The Collaborative includes:

American Cancer Society (ACS) • American Legacy Foundation (Legacy) • American Lung Association (ALA) • Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI) • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) • National Cancer Institute (NCI) • National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC) • National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) • National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) • Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

Highlights

Youth Smoking Cessation Evaluation Project

This evaluation project is a major initiative to identify, survey, and evaluate existing youth cessation programs with the purpose of identifying real-world “best practices” and “worst practices.” The aims are to empirically identify strategies that are feasible, effective, and broadly applicable, and to gain a deeper understanding of the needs and resource constraints in the schools, health plans, and community-based organizations that host these programs. This program will also develop evaluation tools that youth cessation programs can adopt for ongoing self-evaluation and quality improvement. This project is co-funded by CDC, NCI, and RWJF.

Youth Smoking Cessation Surveillance: A Review

This is a review of existing national and state-level youth tobacco surveys to identify gaps and opportunities in surveillance of youth quitting patterns, practices, motivations, and barriers. This effort will generate a proposal for new science-based measures of youth cessation-related variables to provide the nation with needed insights and benchmarks. The effort will also clarify preferences for different types of assisted quitting interventions. This review is funded by RWJF.

National Youth Tobacco Survey

The survey collects cross-sectional information on youth and tobacco use, such as prevalence by age and ethnicity, to build the evidence and better understand the problem. The survey includes a battery of addiction variables to determine the extent of nicotine addiction among youth. The survey was conducted in 1999, 2000 and will continue to be conducted. The survey is currently funded by Legacy. CDC will begin funding the survey in 2004.

Youth Tobacco Survey

YTS is a school-based survey that contains standard core questions and optional state-added questions. YTS helps states evaluate their programs in regard to impact on adolescent cessation and provides state specific estimates that can be compared with National Youth Tobacco Survey results. As of Spring 2001, 39 states had compiled at least one YTS. YTS is funded by CDC.

Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey

CTUMS is conducted twice a year across the ten provinces. The objective is to provide consistent, continual data enabling Canadian researchers and decision-makers to track the dynamic nature of tobacco prevalence and use patterns, particularly among youth and young adults. This survey is funded by Health Canada, one of the partners of CTCRI.

Collaborative Workshops

The YTCC collaborative has convened a series of workshops to address youth smoking cessation research gaps.

- In May 2001, the workshop, “Best Practices in Youth Tobacco Cessation: Methodology, Interventions, and Research,” was held in Chicago. The workshop brought together researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers around policies and programming for youth tobacco cessation. A process was initiated to carefully review the current evidence base and form recommendations — with the expert input of practitioners — for youth cessation interventions and services. In addition, research recommendations were formed based on gaps in the evidence. The workshop was cofunded by CDC, CTCRI, and NCI.
- In the fall of 2000, a workshop was held to coordinate research and evaluation of the potential impact(s) of tobacco package warning labels. This coincided with the introduction of new labels in Canada in late December 2000. As a result of the workshop, a number of parallel surveys have been carried out across the two countries (Canada and the United States) among both youth and adults. Additional efforts, such as focus groups, are expected to follow. This work has been the joint effort of CDC, CTCRI, and NCI, in collaboration with research and policy experts.
- Planning is now underway for a “measures workshop,” which will focus on development of standard measurements for adolescent tobacco cessation research. The workshop will address the need for a toolkit of research guidelines, including recommendations on what questions to ask youth and how to ask them.
- Planning is also under way for a “future interventions” workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to identify priority research that will provide a foundation for the next generation of more effective youth cessation interventions. The workshop will describe strategic priorities for research to provide the scientific foundation for studying effective cessation.

Youth Cessation Intervention Research

Under a collaborative effort, 29 tobacco cessation research projects were funded in 1997 and 1998 through the NIH RFA process. This initiative was designed to fund innovative research that has clear implications for the immediate and significant reduction of tobacco use by children and youth in the US. Ten of these 29 research projects are focused on youth tobacco cessation, including both behavioral and pharmacological interventions for adolescent smoking and adolescent smokeless tobacco. In addition, NIH currently funds at least ten additional research projects addressing youth tobacco cessation. Findings from these projects are beginning to be reported and will have important implications for future research and public health application. Funders included NCI, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), NIDA, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).