

# **Bridging the Gap: Research Informing Practice for Healthy Youth Behavior**

## **ImpacTeen: A Policy Research Partnership to Reduce Youth Substance Use**

**University of Illinois at Chicago  
Health Research and Policy Centers**

[www.uic.edu/orgs/impacteen](http://www.uic.edu/orgs/impacteen)

**and**

## **YES! Youth, Education and Society**

**University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Research**

[www.isr.umich.edu](http://www.isr.umich.edu)

*ImpacTeen is part of Bridging the Gap: Research Informing Practice for  
Healthy Youth Behavior, supported by The Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation and administered by the University of Illinois at Chicago.*



## Objectives

To build on existing information about the effectiveness of policies, environmental influences, and other factors in reducing youth substance use and abuse.

To develop three databases -- one each for alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs -- for the 50 United States and District of Columbia.

## Objectives (continued)

For the three state databases to contain information about:

- Factors associated with youth substance use -- such as policies; environmental, social and institutional influences; and market mechanisms, and
- Measures of use, harms associated with use, and other related outcomes.

## Objectives (continued)

- To make the state-level data publicly available for researchers, policymakers, advocates, and others interested in substance control policy, through published reports and the World Wide Web.
- To eventually turn the state-level databases over to relevant federal agencies for maintenance, updates, and expansion.

## Objectives (continued)

To develop comparable, in-depth community-level information for about 1,000 communities in four years:

- 900 communities from Monitoring the Future
- 100 Rapid Response communities

## Objectives (continued)

To catalogue and critically review existing databases.

To enhance and strengthen ANR's local tobacco-related ordinance database by proactively tracking and retaining historical data on local ordinances.

## UIC Staff

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## Key Project Partners

### **State Alcohol Research**

*University of Minnesota*

Alexander C. Wagenaar, PhD

Rhonda Jones-Webb, PhD

### **State Tobacco Research**

*Roswell Park Cancer Institute*

Gary Giovino, PhD

K. Michael Cummings, PhD

Andrew Hyland, PhD

### **State Illicit Drug Research**

*University of Delaware*

Lana Harrison, PhD

Cliff Butzin, PhD





## **YES! Youth, Education and Society**

- Enhance the ongoing Monitoring the Future (MTF) study, the nation's leading survey of youth substance use and abuse.
- Survey a new sample of schools, selected as 'experimental' condition schools, using schools from MTF to provide control or comparison data.

## **YES! Youth, Education and Society (continued)**

- Survey school administrators (confidentially) about school policies, programs, and practices related to youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.
- Add new measures to ongoing MTF to track youth perceptions of school, community, state, and national policies, programs, and practices related to substance use and abuse.

**University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Research**

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## Bridging the Gap Objectives

- Examine effects of policies, programs and practices at the state, community-, or school-levels as they relate to substance use.
- Merge youth, administrator, community-, and state-level databases.

## Bridging the Gap Objectives

- Conduct analyses of how policies, environmental influences, and other individual, school, community, and state-level factors effect youth substance use and abuse.

## Community Data Collections

Battelle (led by Jaana Myllyluoma and Pam Clark) is conducting the following types of data collections:

- On-site observational data collection in stores and communities
- On-site retrieval of local ordinances and regulations
- telephone interviews with store managers and clerks
- telephone interviews with key community informants (e.g. police and health departments)
- archival information

## Products

- Working papers, peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs, conference presentations, annual reports and meetings, and associated press coverage, will be available throughout the project on our Web site.
- State alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug databases, and community data summary reports, will be publicly available on the Internet during and upon completion of the project.

## Rapid Response Field Experiments

- Evaluation of the Botvin Life Skills Training curriculum as it becomes more widely disseminated
- Evaluation of comprehensive state programs to reduce tobacco use that will coming out of the November 1998 multi-state settlement agreement



## **Recent Grant Proposals that Expand/Extend/Apply to ImpacTeen**

Recent grant proposal submissions have included the following:

- TTURC Application
- NCI Media (Melanie Wakefield)
- NCI retail outlet (Pam Clark)
- NCI policy adoption/implementation (John Gardiner)
- CDC Special Interest Project (UIC)
- SAPRP proposal to revisit communities (Dianne Barker)
- American Legacy Foundation (UIC, Roswell Park, others)

