Dear Workshop Participants,

Welcome to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pathways to Prevention Workshop: Advancing Research To Prevent Youth Suicide. The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) is pleased to co-sponsor this event with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). I thank Dr. Cuthbert, NIMH Director, Dr. Volkow, NIDA Director, and Dr. Briggs, NCCIH Director, for their leadership for this workshop. The Pathways to Prevention program hosts workshops to identify research gaps, as well as methodological and scientific weaknesses in specific areas; suggest research needs; and move the field forward through an unbiased, evidence-based assessment.

This workshop is just one example of how the ODP promotes methodologically sound research to increase healthy years of life. The workshop is designed to be interactive, so we encourage you to share your insights during audience discussion sessions about the following topics:

1. How can national, state, and community data systems be linked to existing data from suicide prevention efforts in order to add possible value for stakeholders?
2. Which statistical methods are reliable and valid for understanding possible mediators and moderators in suicide prevention programs to improve targeting interventions to populations?
3. Which statistical methods are reliable and valid for analyzing linked national, state, and community data systems and suicide prevention data to avoid misleading conclusions?
4. What types of methodological/analytic advances would promote further evaluation of youth suicide prevention and facilitate intervention selection and implementation decisions by local community and state-level policymakers?

We will accept public comments on the panel’s draft report, which will be posted on the ODP website, www.prevention.nih.gov.

It is an exciting time for the ODP, as we are well underway with the implementation of our first strategic plan for fiscal years 2014–2018. The plan was developed with input from a variety of stakeholders, and includes activities to strengthen existing programs and develop new initiatives to advance the prevention research agenda at the NIH and improve public health. This Pathways to Prevention workshop is supported under Strategic Priority II: Identify prevention research areas for investment or expanded effort by the NIH. The ODP Strategic Plan is available for download on the ODP website.

On behalf of the NIH and ODP, thank you in advance for your contributions. We look forward to an informative and engaging workshop.

Sincerely,

David M. Murray, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Prevention
Director, Office of Disease Prevention
Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health