New ODP
Strategic Priority
Addressing Health Equity

Council of Councils
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ODP’s Mission

• To improve the public health by increasing the scope, quality, dissemination, and impact of prevention research supported by NIH.

• To provide leadership for the development, coordination, and implementation of prevention research in collaboration with ICs and other partners.
ODP Strategic Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes for FY 2019-2023

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**

- Leading Causes and Risk Factors for Premature Morbidity and Mortality
- Health Disparities
- Dissemination and Implementation Research

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**Conduct Portfolio Analysis & Impact Assessment**

**Identify Research Gaps**

**Improve Research Methods**

**Promote Collaborative Research**

**Advance Tobacco Regulatory & Prevention Science**

**Communicate Efforts & Findings**
Elevate ODP’s Commitment to Health Equity

**Add New ODP Strategic Priority**

**Address Health Disparities**

- Conduct Portfolio Analysis & Impact Assessment
- Identify Research Gaps
- Improve Research Methods

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**
- Leading Causes and Risk Factors for Premature Morbidity and Mortality
- Health Disparities
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- Promote Collaborative Research
- Advance Tobacco Regulatory & Prevention Science
- Communicate Efforts & Findings
New Strategic Priority VII

• Promote and coordinate prevention research that addresses health disparities.

• Objectives
  1. Coordinate trans-NIH funding opportunity announcements to develop and test new interventions and new strategies to disseminate existing interventions that address the leading risk factors for death and disability in populations experiencing health disparities.
  2. Assess the NIH prevention research portfolio related to health disparities to identify research, infrastructure, and training gaps and develop strategies to address those gaps.
  3. Serve as a resource on health disparities-related prevention research to ICs developing funding opportunity announcements, workshops, and other activities.
Rationale for this Change

• Health disparities related to race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, rural residence, sexual orientation, and gender identity persist in the United States.
• Addressing health disparities is part of the mission of every NIH Institute, Center, and Office.
• Enhanced collaboration and coordination among ICs could advance knowledge regarding evidence-based prevention strategies to reduce disparities and promote health equity.
• In FY 2020, as part of a published portfolio analysis of NIH-funded prevention projects from FY 2016 to 2019, the ODP found that only 3.6% of projects included a randomized intervention to address a leading risk factor for death or disability in populations that experience health disparities.
• This significant research gap led the ODP to propose elevating the topic of health disparities from a cross cutting theme to a new Strategic Priority.
NIH Portfolio Analysis Summary

• Support for new prevention research by NIH was stable over the last eight years.
• Support for new projects that address the leading risk factors for death or disability in the United States was also unchanged.

<1 in 3

prevention projects measured one of the leading risk factors identified by the Global Burden of Disease project

<1 in 9

of the FY19 NIH prevention research portfolio included a randomized intervention to address a leading risk factor

<1 in 19

used an intervention to address a leading risk factor in health disparity populations in FY2016-2019 (racial/ethnic minorities, low SES, underserved rural, SGM)
### Leading Risk Factors, Causes of Death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Risk Factors (GBD)</th>
<th>2020 Causes of Death (CDC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tobacco</td>
<td>1. Heart disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. High systolic blood pressure</td>
<td>2. Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. High fasting plasma glucose</td>
<td>3. COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dietary risks</td>
<td>4. Accidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. High body mass index</td>
<td>5. Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. High LDL cholesterol</td>
<td>6. Chronic lower respiratory diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Alcohol misuse</td>
<td>8. Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Occupational risks</td>
<td>11. Suicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Air pollution</td>
<td>NOTE: Homicide is a leading cause of death in men in many health disparity populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Low physical activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Context

• The leading risk factors for death and disability account for 74% of variability in county-level life expectancy.

• Associations among SES, race/ethnicity, and life expectancy are largely mediated through these risk factors (Dwyer-Lindgren et al. JAMA Int Med 2017).

• Social and structural determinants are significant contributors to these risk factors.
New Team to Support SPVII

- Each of our existing Strategic Priorities is supported by a team of ODP staff, led by a Team Lead who is a senior member of the staff.
- We are creating a new team to support our work in health disparities.
  - Jennifer Alvidrez, Ph.D., joined the ODP from NIMHD to serve as Team Lead.
  - We recently filled two additional positions with staff who will start in this month.
- One of our communications staff provides support for this team.
- This team will be responsible for addressing the new Strategic Priority VII and for making progress on each of SPVII’s objectives.
Objective 1: Discussions with ICOs

• Beginning in late 2020, the ODP discussed the portfolio analysis findings with ICOs to assess their interest in a new initiative…
  ◦ To develop and test new interventions and new strategies to disseminate existing interventions that address the leading risk factors for death and disability in health disparity populations.
  ◦ To be driven and supported by participating ICOs and coordinated by the ODP.
• The ODP presented this plan to the IC Directors in February 2021.
• There was broad support for developing more intervention and D&I research to address health disparities.
• 24 ICOs have agreed to participate in planning discussions.
Objective 1: Survey of ICOs

• The ODP distributed a web-based survey among the participating ICOs to assess ICO-specific interests in:
  ◦ The leading risk factors.
  ◦ Preventive services related to the leading risk factors and causes of death.
  ◦ Health disparity populations.

• The survey also asked ICOs to identify relevant activities that ICOs are planning or that are already underway.

• The ODP analyzed the survey data and identified four clusters reflecting shared interests in risk factors and preventive services.

• The ODP will create a workgroup around each cluster.
Pursuing Objective 1: Workgroups

• ICOs decide which workgroups to join and who their representatives will be.

• Workgroups
  ◦ Co-chaired by the ODP and an ICO representative.
  ◦ Encouraged to think broadly about prevention research priorities, gaps, and opportunities in their area; target populations; age groups.
  ◦ Decide whether to pursue portfolio analyses, RFIs, meta-analyses, workshops or other preliminary activities as a prelude to FOAs.
  ◦ Determine content of their FOA(s), including those that may be workgroup-specific or span multiple workgroups.
  ◦ Establish timeline for their work.
Pursuing Objective 1: Timeline

- **Initial Discussions**
  - December 2020
  - Discussions with ICOs
  - ICD Presentation
  - Survey: ICO Interests

- **Kickoff Webinar**
  - April 2021

- **Convene Workgroups**
  - July 2021
  - 1st Workgroup Convenes
  - Additional Workgroups Convene

- **FOA Activities**
  - November 2021
  - 1st FOA Published
  - Winter 2022
  - 1st Awards Made

- **Fall 2023**
  - Summer 2022

*Other activities will follow*
Next Steps

- Dr. Collins approved the elevation of Health Disparities from a cross-cutting theme to a new Strategic Priority on December 16.
- We are advising the Council of Councils of this change and welcome any feedback.
- Once we have the new team members fully on board, we will begin pursuing Objectives 2 and 3.
Questions?