



Innovation Learning Lab: Building Evaluation Capacity to Prevent Opioid Misuse and Overdose

PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic has produced an alarming array of public health problems, including a dramatic increase in opioid overdose. To address this worsening crisis, states are pursuing a range of options, including promising interventions to reduce subsequent overdoses among overdose survivors. Yet few of these interventions have benefited from strong evaluations—either formative or outcome—to guide their efforts, resulting in limited information on what works in different settings or among different populations.

SOLUTION

- Accelerate innovation by building the capacity of locally developed prevention interventions to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of their efforts
- Increase the number and scale of proven prevention interventions that reduce opioid misuse and overdose

APPROACH

Through its Innovation Learning Lab, PS@EDC works closely with states to support local prevention programs to develop and evaluate innovative overdose prevention interventions. By engaging programs in

a comprehensive development process informed by rigorous evaluation methodologies, states can help to ensure that limited federal funds are used wisely; innovative programs have a strong theoretical base, grounded in community needs; and new innovations produce sustainable outcomes.

Specifically, we work with states to:

- Identify innovative programs that meet an identified prevention need.
- Provide training, consultation, and customized technical assistance to strengthen the evaluation capacity of these programs (e.g., develop evidence-informed logic models, create/enhance evaluation tools).
- Create opportunities for cross-fertilization among program developers.
- Establish criteria and award financial incentives for programs showing potential impact.

WHY EDC?

EDC has provided training and technical support to hundreds of innovative substance misuse programs across US operating in diverse settings and serving a wide array of populations and settings.

To learn more about creating a learning lab for your state, contact preventionsolutions@edc.org.

Prevention Solutions@EDC provides training and expert consultation to support public health agencies and organizations working to prevent substance misuse and related behavioral health problems in their communities.