

# PIRE'S CAPABILITIES

PIRE's capabilities are deep, ranging from research studies about the causes of societal problems to evaluation studies about solutions to those problems to technical assistance projects to help adopt evidence-based and research informed practices for implementing solutions. Our scientists, project directors and practitioners possess expertise in a wide range of topics, including substance abuse prevention and treatment, crime and justice, education and youth development, health disparities, international studies, public health, obesity, injury prevention, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, suicide, integrated health services, cost effectiveness, and public safety. Our work in these areas can be classified in four major domains: research, evaluation, training and technical assistance, and policy analysis.

## RESEARCH

For more than four decades, PIRE scientists have carried out hundreds of research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health and other agencies that have contributed to the development of more effective prevention, treatment, and safety strategies. Across its six major locations, PIRE researchers utilize a wide range of research modalities, including community trials, survey research, geospatial research, cost-benefit analysis, legal and legislative analysis, computer simulation modeling, and meta-analysis. We are equally adept at implementing community-based participatory research projects to randomized controlled trials across multiple communities. PIRE's Center in Berkeley, CA, has served for more than 40 years as the national Prevention Research Center for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, leading the nation in research on environmental strategies to prevent and reduce consequences of harmful alcohol use. Across all our centers, we have undertaken important domestic and international research studies on a host of public and behavioral health topics, including substance abuse, mental health and wellbeing, HIV and STIs, traffic safety, injury, violence, and health economics.

## EVALUATION

PIRE has long been recognized as a leader in the field of evaluation. Our work includes evaluation of programs related to public health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, dependency treatment, tobacco use prevention, traffic safety, criminal justice, education and similarly critical public health issues. PIRE researchers evaluate programs on the international, national, state, and local levels. We are also adept at developing novel approaches to evaluation when more traditional approaches will not suffice. Often, our primary goal is to implement an evaluation that will provide actionable data for program staff so they can make data-driven decisions to enhance program effectiveness. PIRE has served as the evaluator for SAMHSA-funded grants awarded to numerous state agencies and tribal governments, including but not limited to the SPF-SIG, SPF-TIG, PFS, and SPF-Rx. We are currently working on SAMHSA-funded projects in Alabama, Idaho, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Vermont, and with the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians in Michigan. Our work also includes evaluations of school-based interventions, including recently awarded contracts to evaluate SAMHSA-sponsored Project AWARE grants in Indiana, South Carolina and South Dakota.

## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA)

PIRE has a rich history of providing training and technical assistance to enable and enhance the implementation of policies, practices, and programs that can reduce risk factors, enhance protective factors, decrease health problems, and increase the well-being of individuals and entire communities. Our TTA work is based on our seminal research on the impact of environmental strategies, now adopted by the field as best practices. PIRE has operated national TTA centers such as the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This project provided science-based, practical, and effective training and technical assistance to states, law enforcement agencies, and community groups that were working to reduce underage access to alcohol. Instructional materials, training, and technical assistance on best practices were provided in a variety of formats, including a website, teleconferences, and regional and national conferences. We also provide TTA to many of our state and community clients on issues related to needs assessments, capacity development, strategic planning, selection and implementation of evidence-based strategies, evaluation and monitoring, and sustainability.

## POLICY ANALYSIS

Government policies, regulations, and laws, as well as formal and informal organizational policies, have powerful impacts on behaviors and overall public health and safety. PIRE researchers and policy analysts identify, develop, and evaluate effective public health and safety policies on national, state, and local levels. PIRE's research and analysis have encompassed a variety of policy areas, including traffic safety, drugs and alcohol, tobacco, violence, firearms, educational programming, and health care financing. PIRE has also developed simulation models, which enable decision-makers to explore alternative policy scenarios and predict the benefits of different policies or combinations of policies. Examples of computer models for simulation purposes that have been developed by PIRE include SimCom, a simulation model used to examine alternative strategies for reducing alcohol problems in a community or state, and SimSmoke, which tests alternative policy strategies to reduce smoking levels and initiation rates among the national population. PIRE was also instrumental in the development of alcohol (APIS) and recreational use of cannabis models that examine policies associated with these substances <https://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/>.



# Comprehensive Responses to the Opioid Crisis

## Through Research, Evaluation, and Training and Technical Assistance

PIRE expertise supports the federal government, states, tribes, and local communities to build, implement, and sustain evidence-based culturally responsive prevention and treatment responses targeted at ending the opioid crisis. Our history of scientific leadership in prevention and treatment—including pioneering work in environmental prevention strategies, policies to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse, impaired driving interventions, screening/early intervention, matching treatment modalities to individuals’ needs, school-based interventions, geographic analysis, and culturally informed community engagement—enables us to provide evaluation and training and technical assistance (TTA) services tailored to the needs of any community.

For TTA projects, we use models such as the strategic prevention framework to guide needs assessments, strategic planning, logic model development, implementation of evidence-based interventions, and evaluation. PIRE staff have developed many tools for our partners, including a resource guide and reference list for prescription drug and other opioid misuse prevention strategies, intervention workplans, overdose prevention protocols, and data collection templates.

### PIRE OPIOID-FOCUSED PROJECTS

#### RESEARCH

- Paramedic-Administered Buprenorphine as a Bridge to Medication-Assisted Treatment, *National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)*
- Mechanisms, Treatment and Recovery from Opioid and Other Drug Abuse Disorders, *NIDA*
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and Opioid-Related Harms, *NIDA*
- Advancing Drugged Driving Data at the State Level: Recommendations to Improve Data on Drugged Drivers, *AAA Foundation*
- Evaluation of Prevention Strategies to Reduce Availability and Misuse of Opioids on California Reservations, *Indian Health Service/NIDA*
- Substance Abuse Prevention Workplace Research, *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)*
- Mobilizing the Community to Reduce Teen Prescription Drug Abuse, *NIDA*
- Self-Reported Prescription Drug Use and Views about its Safety in a National Sample of U.S. Drivers, *NIDA*
- OTC Syringe Sales to Prevent HIV in Underserved Areas of Inland California, *NIDA*
- Defining the Role of Mexican Pharmacies in HIV Prevention-A Mixed Method Approach, *NIDA*

#### EVALUATION

- Outcome Evaluation of Drug Abuse Treatment in Afghanistan, *U.S. State Department*
- Alabama Partnership for Success Grant (*aimed in part at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)
- Alabama Department of Mental Health, Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Block Grant (*aimed in part at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)
- Alabama Substance Abuse Services Strategic Prevention Framework: Prescription Drugs Grant
- Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) Partnerships for Success Grant (*aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse and underage drinking*)
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians’ Partnerships for Success Grant (*aimed in part at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians’ Strategic Prevention Framework: Prescription Drugs Grant
- Nevada Partnerships for Success Grant (*aimed at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)
- Evaluation of Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths in New Mexico
- New Mexico Strategic Prevention Framework: Prescription Drugs
- New Mexico Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success 2015 (*aimed at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)
- New Mexico Partnerships for Success II – Prevention (*aimed in part at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)

#### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA)

- Children’s Safety Network (CSN) Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Centers, *Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)*
- Communities of Practice Planning to Reduce Opioid Use Disorders (COP-PROUD), *HRSA*
- Paramedic-Administered Buprenorphine as a Bridge to Medication-Assisted Treatment in Stanly County, North Carolina, *Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina*
- Community Collective Impact Mobilizing for Change Project: a CURES Act Approach to Opioid Crisis Response in Ohio Communities
- Epidemiologic Services for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, *Partnerships for Success Grant*
- Epidemiologic Services for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, *Strategic Prevention Framework: Prescription Drugs Grant*
- Prevention of Prescription Drug Abuse in the Workplace Technical Assistance Center, *SAMHSA*
- Poison Control Center (PCC) Technical Assistance Resource Center, *HRSA*
- Prescription Opiate National Forum, *HRSA*
- New York Partnerships for Success Grant (*aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse and heroin use*)
- North Carolina Strategic Prevention Framework: Prescription Drugs Grant
- Ohio Partnerships for Success Grant (*aimed at reducing prescription drug/opioid abuse*)
- South Carolina Partnerships for Success Grant (*aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse and impaired driving*)
- Evaluation of Count It! Lock It! Drop It!™ Initiative across Tennessee, *Coffee County Anti-Drug Coalition & Blue Cross Blue Shield Co-funding*
- Vermont’s Opioid Use Harm Reduction Program
- Vermont Partnership for Success Grant (*aimed in part at reducing prescription drug abuse*)
- Evaluation of a Community-Based Initiative to Prevent Opioid Overdose, *Project Lazarus in North Carolina, CDC*



#### RESPONDING TO THE OPIOID CRISIS: A Comprehensive Intervention Framework

PIRE has developed an intervention framework for opioid misuse and related harms. The framework provides a clear and concise way of understanding various forces driving opioid misuse and ways in which communities, states, territories, tribes, and the federal government can implement strategies to halt this public health crisis. See [www.pire.org/opioidframework](http://www.pire.org/opioidframework)