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*2005 Program
New Investigator (3-year project)*

Project Title: The Effects of Eliminating an Anti-Tobacco Prevention Programs on Youth Smoking Behaviors

Project Summary: Since 1997, tobacco control efforts have been underway in a number of states; comprehensive state anti-tobacco programs have worked to prevent and decrease smoking among youths. Despite evidence demonstrating their effectiveness, severe budget cuts have led to the elimination of these youth targeted programs. Furthermore, with the elimination of the prevention programs, the surveillance and evaluation mechanisms also were eradicated thereby eliminating data needed to determine how the lack of programs is affecting youths. As reported in the MMWR, limited analyses of Minnesota youths, a state where youth prevention programs were cut, show program defunding had an effect on youth's awareness of the anti-tobacco campaign (decreased) and youth susceptibility to cigarette smoking increased. The primary objective of this work is to assess how the elimination of youth targeted programs has impacted tobacco use prevention outcomes in Florida and Minnesota, states that had effective youth prevention programs.

Because of limited knowledge of the effects defunding prevention programs has on youths, this proposal will test four hypotheses and compare a number of measures related to youth's participation in anti-tobacco activities, smoking attitudes/beliefs and intentions/susceptibility to smoke, and actual smoking behaviors. The proposed study will test each outcome before, during, and after the campaign examined existed for both Florida and Minnesota. Furthermore, there is collected data of a national sample of youth who live in states that have never had an anti-tobacco program; these data currently are unanalyzed. In this proposal, funds are requested to conduct further analyses of youths in Florida and Minnesota since the youth prevention campaign has been eliminated. This study also will compare these youths with a national sample of youths from states with no tobacco control programs to test for any differences with these youths. This study will use the CDC logic model as our frame of reference and will use statistical analyses to compare survey results. This study proposes to examine existing data from the pre-campaign baseline, existing data from the campaign, and collect new data from the post campaign.