New Jersey Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (NJ SPF-Rx)

The Center for Prevention Science (CPS), within the Rutgers School of Social Work, was contracted by the New Jersey Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to serve as the evaluation team for the New Jersey Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx) project which began a second cycle in 2022. The program's main objective is to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing prescription medications and inform the pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing to young adults, particularly youth athletes.

Evaluation Component

Dr. Kristen Powell, Associate Director of the Center for Prevention Science at the Rutgers School of Social Work, serves as the Principal Investigator, while Dr. Andrew Peterson, Director of the Center for Prevention Science at the Rutgers School of Social Work, serves as Co-Investigator of this evaluation project. The Center for Prevention Science has been awarded $278,400 to evaluate this program over 5 years.

The evaluation team will examine the ways in which New Jersey's 21 regional prevention coalitions implemented the SPF model and the influence of their interventions on targeted outcomes including changes in prescription drug misuse among youth aged 12-17, the impact of the focus on young athletes' use of opioids for non-medical purposes, and the ways in which the broader New Jersey SPF initiative influenced the prevention systems at the state and local levels. In addition to performing quantitative data analyses of SPF-Rx performance measures, the evaluation team will conduct qualitative data analyses after gathering information from NJ regional coalition members via focus groups and survey results. Results of analyses are reported on an annual basis to DHMAS.
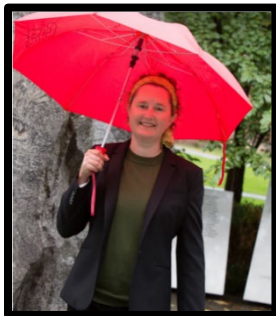
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Meet the Team!

Austin Sroka, L.S.W., is the project coordinator for the SPF-Rx project at Rutgers University School of Social Work's Center for Prevention Science.

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Kristen Gilmore Powell, Ph.D., L.S.W., is an Associate Research Professor with the Rutgers University School of Social Work and Associate Director of the Center for Prevention Science. Dr. Powell is also the Director of the Northeast and Caribbean Prevention Technology Transfer Center. She is the Principal Investigator of the SPF-Rx project.

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Andrew Peterson, Ph.D. is a Distinguished Professor with the Rutgers School of Social Work and Director of the Center for Prevention Science. Dr. Peterson is the Co-Director He is the Co-Investigator of the SPF-Rx project.

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