



Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector

communities informing communities

Prevention: A Strategic Community Response to the Opioid Crisis

The opioid crisis in the United States is estimated to cost society [\\$1 trillion per year](#), yet preventing just one case of opioid use disorder (OUD) could save [over \\$2 million](#). Efforts to [prevent OUD](#) are the first line of defense in reducing opioid-related harms and their associated costs. Prevention programs and policies can limit inappropriate prescribing and diversion of pain medications, raise awareness of the risks of opioid misuse, and address risk and protective factors that can lead to opioid misuse and OUD.

Communities play a critical role in selecting and implementing interventions to prevent opioid misuse and OUD. The [Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector](#) includes many prevention-oriented program models and resources to assist communities in responding to the opioid crisis. These include:

- An [overview](#) of evidence-based drug prevention strategies
- [Background materials](#) from national organizations on approaches to prevent opioid misuse and OUD
- A [community response checklist](#) of prevention programs and policies
- A [briefing](#) on how communities can address social determinants of health to respond to the opioid crisis
- 55 geographically diverse [program models](#) that include a wide variety of prevention initiatives
- Links to over 250 [academic papers, reports, and websites](#) that have drug prevention as a major focus

We continue to add material on interventions to address the opioid crisis, with over 190 program models and 800 additional resources now available. As always, we encourage your feedback on promising opioid programs and policies, including those focused on prevention.

Best regards,

The Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector Team

