

The Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health

Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth

by *Unleashing the Power of Prevention*



Grand Challenges
for Social Work

Every day, across America, behavioral health problems in childhood and adolescence take a heavy individual, social, and economic toll on millions of lives. These problems range widely — from anxiety and depression to alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse; delinquent and violent behavior; dropping out of school; and risky sexual activity and unwanted pregnancies. For decades, the approach to behavioral health problems was to treat them one at a time and only after they were identified — at a high and ongoing price. Strong evidence from the past three decades indicates that we can prevent many behavioral health problems before they emerge.

Dynamic Coalition for Change

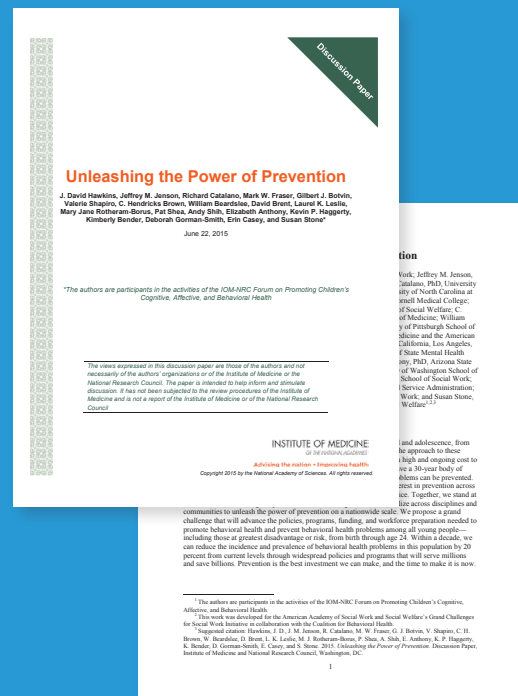
The Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health (CPBH) is an interdisciplinary group of researchers, policymakers, educators, and practitioners dedicated to advancing preventive interventions that promote behavioral health among young people from birth through age 24. It is comprised of 70 individual members representing public health, medicine, prevention science, social work, and psychology. The coalition has received organizational endorsements from groups such as the National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives, Mental Health America, National Association of State Mental Health Directors, and the Society for Child and Family Practice and Policy, American Psychological Association.

Moving to Action

The CPBH is implementing an action plan called Unleashing the Power of Prevention that seeks to increase the widespread use of tested and effective preventive interventions for all young people. The paper was developed as a response to the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare's (AASWSW) Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative. A central component of a Grand Challenge called: Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth, Unleashing the Power of Prevention identifies seven action steps necessary to decrease the incidence and prevalence of behavioral health problems in young people by 20 percent within a decade.

Learn More

Please visit the AASWSW website at <http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/12-challenges/ensure-healthy-development-for-all-youth/> for more information about the Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health, Unleashing the Power of Prevention, and the Grand Challenges initiative. Unleashing the Power of Prevention is also available as a discussion paper on the National Academy of Medicine website at <http://nam.edu/perspectives-2015-unleashing-the-power-of-prevention/>.



By unleashing the power of prevention through widespread use of proven approaches, we can help all youth grow up to become healthy and productive adults!