

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Research Scientist (100%)
Social Development Research Group
School of Social Work
University of Washington

The Social Development Research Group (SDRG) at the University of Washington is seeking a Research Scientist to work on the Community Youth Development Study, a randomized controlled trial of the Communities That Care (CTC) prevention system in 24 communities funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and several other federal agencies. The five-year Community Youth Development Study (CYDS) is a continuation of a prior efficacy trial during which CTC was implemented in 12 intervention communities. The continuation study assesses the long-term effects of CTC on community prevention service systems and on adolescent risk and problem behaviors for 4 years following the end of resources provided by the efficacy trial. An important focus of this study is the sustainability of community prevention coalitions and their effect on prevention service systems transformation.

The Research Scientist will work in a collegial setting as a member of the analysis team on the CYDS project under the supervision of the projects' principal investigator, J. David Hawkins. SDRG is a multi-disciplinary group of more than 60 researchers and staff members led by Dr. Richard F. Catalano, working to increase understanding of social development and health risk behavior during childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood and to use this knowledge to develop effective prevention programs, policies and service systems. More information about SDRG is available on the web at www.sdrg.org

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Design and execute multi-level analyses of complex, community-level research questions regarding
 - changes in community prevention service systems,
 - the sustainability and effect of a community prevention system on community- and individual-level adolescent risk and protective factors, substance use, and related youth problem behaviors, and
 - the relationships between community prevention system characteristics and epidemiological and longitudinal measures of adolescent drug use and related outcomes.
- Conduct analyses using advanced statistical analysis techniques, including multilevel modeling, growth curve modeling, survival analysis, structural equation modeling, and multiple imputation analysis.
- Prepare large complex datasets for analysis.
- Lead and collaborate on analysis and writing teams in the preparation of peer-reviewed articles.
- Contribute to the conceptualization, development, and preparation of project reports, scholarly publications, presentations, and grant proposals.
- Present project findings to federal, state, and community groups and agencies planning and providing substance abuse prevention services, and to prevention scientists.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Doctorate in social work, sociology, psychology, public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, or related field, or a Master's degree and three years equivalent experience.
- Strong written and oral communication skills and ability to write for publication in peer-reviewed, scientific journals.
- Strong analytical background, including experience with advanced longitudinal and epidemiological analysis techniques, such as hierarchical linear modeling, structural equation modeling, missing data procedures, as well as scale construction, and assessment of reliability and validity of measures.
- Experience with SPSS and SAS, HLM, or Mplus.
- Experience working with large, complex epidemiological and/or longitudinal datasets.
- Experience working in and contributing to collaborative research teams.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Familiarity with prevention science methods.
- Knowledge of epidemiological and etiological research on substance abuse, including data collection methods, prevalence estimation, and risk and protective factors for adolescent alcohol and other drug abuse.
- Experience with service systems research or studies of complex organizations or community change.

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Req # 44367