Focuses on understanding the incidence, patterns, and causes of drug abuse and on developing better measures and designs to appropriately assess drug abuse, addiction, and related consequences (e.g., violence or seasonal farm workers); and

Develop effective, culturally specific drug abuse prevention strategies for health disparity initiatives) include individuals from the above groups and incorporate new health disparity-related research. The goals of this effort are to:

- Support prevention research, ensuring that new directions (e.g., research-to-practice initiatives) include individuals from the above groups and incorporate new health disparity-related research areas, including prevention, education, and treatment.
- Develop effective, culturally specific drug abuse prevention strategies for health disparity populations at increased risk for drug abuse, including those in detention or juvenile correctional facilities and rural populations (e.g., persons on Indian reservations or migrants or seasonal farm workers) and
- Reduce HIV risk, criminal involvement, and other drug abuse consequences that are disproportionately greater among racial/ethnic minority groups.

Disparities in Treatment and Health Services Research. Focuses on the full inclusion of racial/ethnic minority and rural populations in treatment research and clinical trials and the examination of treatment and enforcement policies that may influence adverse health outcomes for these groups.

The goals of this effort are to:

- Increase the number of treatment research studies focusing on racial/ethnic minority and rural populations and improve the dissemination of the study results; and
- Determine the factors contributing to differences, if any, experienced by racial/ethnic minority and rural populations in access to services and in treatment outcomes.

Special Populations Office

The Special Populations Office is the central coordinating office of NIDA’s health disparities efforts. It works to address the training and career development needs of individuals from underrepresented populations and ensures that issues related to these populations (e.g., minority populations) are adequately represented in NIDA’s health disparities research program.

Prevention of Drug Abuse and Addiction. Focuses on the need for more culturally specific drug abuse prevention strategies for health disparity populations in high-risk settings and underserved, hard-to-reach communities, including rural, low income, and other underserved populations. The goals of this effort are to:

For more than 35 years, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has led the Nation in bringing new insights and treatment advances to combat the nation’s drug problems. NIDA is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

NIDA is pursuing four major areas of research as part of its strategic plan on health disparities:

1. Epidemiology of Drug Abuse and its Health Consequences Among Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations. Focuses on the need to develop interventions and, causes of drug abuse among racial/ethnic minority populations. The goals of this effort are to:

- Enhance knowledge about the origins and patterns of drug use and addiction and examine race-related factors; and
- Identify short- and long-term effects of drug use, abuse, and addiction on overall health (including physical, mental, and emotional health and related consequences (e.g., violence and crime)).
Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Basic and Clinical Neurosciences. Focuses on research to better understand the racial/ethnic differences in biological vulnerability and resistance to drug abuse and addiction. The goals of this initiative is to increase the number of neuroscientists, genetic, and epidemiologic, clinical neuroscience, and basic behavioral science studies focusing on racial/ethnic minority, low socioeconomic status (SES), and social stressors.

Research Capacity Building
Valid health disparities research requires a research infrastructure that includes well-informed and trained scientists, knowledgeable communities (e.g., community-based organizations, professional associations, faith community, tribal councils), and academic institutions with competency and interest in health disparities research.
- Increase and improve drug abuse and addiction research development and training experiences for students, especially those from underrepresented in science.
- Establish new and expand existing programs to provide development and support opportunities for faculty and investigators interested in health disparities research; increase the capacity of academic institutions to conduct health disparities research in drug abuse and addiction; and
- Involve the broader professional and lay communities in addressing health disparities related to drug abuse and addiction.

Community Outreach, Information Dissemination, and Public Health Education
NIDA is committed to broadly disseminating our research findings to diverse audiences, including racial/ethnic minority populations.
- Educate racial/ethnic minority populations about drug abuse and addiction prevention and treatment strategies as well as identify and implement strategies for disseminating research findings;
- Put research into practice in health disparity communities by providing science-based prevention and treatment approaches to clinicians, and the public; and mentor students and scientists interested in drug abuse and addiction research and treatment in Hispanic populations. More information can be obtained at http://n=[www.drugabuse.gov/researchtraining/]

Innovation of Research, Capacity Building, and Outreach Goals
Through coordinated collaborative approaches involving research, capacity building, and outreach, NIDA is dedicated to the field on strategies for reducing health disparities in addiction and related comorbidities (e.g., HIV/AIDS), including greater risk for criminal justice involvement among African Americans and other racial/ethnic minority populations.
- Increase the drug abuse and addiction research capacity of institutions that historically and/or currently serve underrepresented populations and to increase the number of underrepresented individuals in drug abuse research through placements with NIDA grantees.

Research Funding Opportunities
NIDA sponsors the following minority and health disparities-focused research opportunities:
- Diversity-promoting Institutions Drug Abuse Research Program (DIDARP) (R24), NIAID-09-011, NIH-09-011, (http://grants.gov/grants/find-grants/grants-by-author/PA-09-011.html). This ongoing program is designed to increase the drug abuse and addiction research capacity of historically and/or currently serve student populations from historically minority institutions. Grants are provided to foster the research career development of a diverse group of faculty, trainees, and staff underrepresented in drug abuse research.

NIDA’s Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Program in the U.S. (R01), (R24), (R01-227, (http://grants.gov/grants/find-grants/grants-by-author/PA-09-236.html). This funding opportunity supports research efforts to identify, understand, and develop strategies for reducing drug abuse disparities in vulnerable populations (racial/ethnic minorities, people with HIV, sex, men with youth, sexual minority, gender, gender diversity, excluded populations), to promote improved health and the well-being of those with HIV/AIDS.
- Technology-Based Adherence Interventions for Substance Abusing Populations with HIV (R01), (R04-097), (http://grants.gov/grants/find-grants/grants-by-author/PA-09-097.html).