

# KEY LANDMARK AREAS

- **Systematic development of epidemiologic studies**
  - National monitoring and surveillance systems
  - Longitudinal studies
- **Incorporation of theory**
- **Innovative research and statistical methodologies**



# EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES

- **Establishment of the national institute on drug abuse**
- **Development of epidemiologic data systems**
  - National household survey on drug abuse
  - Monitoring the future study
  - Community epidemiologic survey
  - Longitudinal, etiologic studies



# CONTRIBUTIONS OF EPIDEMIOLOGIC DATA SYSTEMS TO PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

- **Distribution and characterization of drug using behaviors**
- **Age of initiation**
- **Risk and protective factors associated with initiation and progression of drug use—  
Hawkins et al.**
- **Association of normative beliefs regarding drug use and perceptions of risk associated with varying levels of drug use**

# THEORY

- **Social learning theory**
- **Theory of planned behavior change**
- **Recognition that theoretically derived models that specify attitudes, perceptions and behaviors are targets of prevention**
- **Recognition that substance use can be prevented**
  - **Evans, Pentz, Botvin, Perry and Johnson**
  - **Work of national institute of heart, lung and blood and national cancer institute**



# RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL METHODS

- **Missing data**
- **Nesting issues—unit of assignment, school versus student levels**
- **Longitudinal nature of prevention data—growth curve modeling, latent transition analyses**



# DISSEMINATION AND DIFFUSION OF MODEL PROGRAMS

- **National conference of drug abuse prevention research: putting research to work for the community**
  - **Booklet: preventing drug use among children and adolescents: a research-based guide**
    - Principles of prevention and examples of effective programs
- **National register of effective programs and practices—center for substance abuse prevention**
- **Other lists of effective programs**
- **Other meta-analyses focusing on principles or elements of effective programming**



# Reflections---Sloboda

- **Reflections on the past**
  - The challenge of prevention research
  - Being a part of the development of the field
  - Establishing a norm for science/research-based intervention strategies for communities
- **Needed areas for further development**
  - Training of next generation prevention researchers
  - Theory building
  - Links between epidemiology and prevention
  - Issues of translating from “lab” to “practice”
  - The brick wall.....

