

Paula Smith, PhD - BIO

I am a developmental psychologist with expertise in school-based prevention in middle and high schools. My primary research interests lie at the intersection of schools and juvenile justice systems - the school-to-prison pipeline, juvenile justice, restorative justice, and access to mental health resources. My currently funded research spans three areas, but are all concerned with maximizing youth and community potential through the use of evidence-based research. I am the *evaluator* of a 5-year suicide prevention intervention in 3 Utah school districts. My most recently funded research project is a collaboration with several prevention researchers across the country and the National Prevention Science Coalition to ***plan and implement a demonstration project*** to develop the infrastructure for prevention in the state of Utah. Lastly, I am also the Principal Investigator of a research initiative to ***improve the quality of doctoral socialization for Black graduate students***; addressing the ways in which anti-Black racism permeates academia.

Professionally, I am a Board Member for the Society of Prevention Research, the National Prevention Science Coalition, and the Chair of the Utah Prevention Research Group. I advocate for socially just and equitable policies and practices in PK-12 schools and other youth-serving agencies.