Dr. Deborah Daro

Dr. Deborah Daro, Senior Research Fellow from University of Chicago, is considered one of the nation's leading experts in the area of child abuse prevention policy and early home visiting research. Her current work focuses on the unique and pivotal role early intervention programs, such as home visiting programs, can play in strengthening parental capacity across diverse populations, enhancing child development, and keeping children safe. Most recently, Daro's research and writing have focused on developing reform strategies that embed individualized, targeted prevention efforts within more universal efforts to alter normative standards and community context. Daro developed and currently chairs the Doris Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Trust. In this capacity, she oversees a network of 120 young scholars from across the country that represents a diverse array of disciplines and research interests. A primary focus of the fellowship is assisting these young scholars in translating their academic research into relevant policy and practice reforms.

Daro has completed dozens of multisite evaluations over the past 40 years that have incorporated a range of research designs, including both randomized clinical trials and various quasi-experimental designs. More recently, her work has been guided by the growing realization among program evaluators, implementation scientists, and policymakers that a new balance is needed between effectiveness and efficacy studies when investing in program research to guide broad scale replication of evidence based program models. She has served on multiple national advisory boards and has received numerous awards for her contribution to the field of child abuse prevention.

Daro holds a PhD in Social Welfare and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley. She has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Among her achievements, in September 2017, Prevent Child Abuse America presented Dr. Daro the Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding leadership in the development of Healthy Families America early home visiting model and the field of home visiting. In July 2016, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Board of Directors presented Dr. Daro the William Friedrich Memorial Award for lifetime contributions to advancing child abuse prevention policy and programs. In May 2004, she received the Anne Cohn Donnelly Child Abuse Prevention Leadership Award in recognition for improving the link between research and child maltreatment prevention policy and practice by Prevent Child Abuse America.