

The Future of Blueprints and Prevention Science

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Development

Current Lists of EB Programs

• **Maintained Lists** **Model/Effective Promising**

• Blueprints	12	42
• Coalition for EB Policy	10	9
• OJP Crime Solutions	75	189
• OJJDP Model Pgm Guide	46	116
• What Works Clearinghouse	23	108
• BEE	24	34

Identifying EB Programs

Remaining Issue:
Consensus on the Standard for
Certifying Programs

Federal Working Group Standard for Certifying Programs as Effective*

- Experimental Design/RCT
- Effect sustained for at least 1 year post-intervention
- At least 1 independent replication with RCT
- RCT's adequately address threats to internal validity
- No known health-compromising side effects

*Adapted from *Hierarchical Classification Framework for Program Effectiveness*, Working Group for the Federal Collaboration on What Works, 2004.

Hierarchical Program Classification*

- I. *Model*: Meets all standards
- II. *Effective*: Lacks independent RCT replication
- III. *Promising*: Lacks a RCT replication
- IV. *Inconclusive*: Contradictory findings or non-sustainable effects
- V. *Ineffective*: Meets all standards but with no statistically significant effects
- VI. *Harmful*: Meets all standards but with negative main effects or serious side effects
- VII *Insufficient Evidence*: All others

*Adapted from *Hierarchical Classification Framework for Program Effectiveness*, Working Group for the Federal Collaboration on What Works, 2004.

EB Certification Standard by List

Minimum Required	FWG	BP	CEBP*	CDC	OJJDP	OJP	NREPP
Model							
Design: RCT	Yes	Yes	Yes	No QED (2)	No QED	No QED	No QED
Replication	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Sustained	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Independ	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Promising							
Design: RCT	No QED	No QED (2)	Yes	No QED	No QED	No QED	No
Replication	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sustained	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Independ	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Professional organizations and federal agencies listing evidence-based programs are failing to meet their responsibilities to protect practitioners and clients from ineffective programs and practices.

Bigland & Ogden (2008)

A significant proportion of evidence reviews lack scientific rigor and fail to address client, practitioner, and funder needs for current, trustworthy information about a programs effectiveness.

(IOM Report on Healthcare, 2008)

The New Prevention Science Frontier: Taking Research to Practice

How to Upgrade Public System Portfolios with EB Programs to Make them More Effective and Cost Efficient?

In 2002, The White House encouraged all Federal Agencies to support evidence-based programs and to discontinue programs with no evidence of effectiveness.

- OMB, the President's Management Agenda, 2002

Four Initial Strategies

Based upon a Review of System Portfolios:

- Stop Implementing Harmful Programs
- Give Priority to EB Programs When They Fit
- Commit to Evaluate All Non-EB Programs
- Monitor Return on Investment

Example: Two Harmful Programs Currently Being Implemented

- Scared Straight /Beyond Scared Straight
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Scared Straight

- Known to increase the likelihood of recidivism (Petrosino et al., 2002 & 2013; DHHS, 2001)
- Negative ROI. Costs Taxpayers \$76 (increased crime) for every dollar invested in this program (WSIPP, 2012)
- Promoted by A&E Network- *Beyond Scared Strait* TV Series--Currently in its 6th season
- A&E urged by U.S. Department of Justice Officials and respected Criminologists to stop promoting this harmful program, but it continues

21st Century Community Learning Centers

- National evaluation revealed negative effects on multiple types of behavior (suspensions, disciplinary actions, etc.) and no differences on academic outcomes (James-Burney, et al, 2005)*. Replicated by 2 other studies.
- Program serves an average of 1 Million students per year and has been funded every year, 1998 thru 2014.
- Average Federal authorization *after 2005* = \$1 billion/year

*Students in program did feel safer at school

Penetration of EB Programs and Practices

- The great majority of child, adolescent, and family prevention programs currently being implemented in the U.S. have no credible evaluation
- About 10% of child public service agencies are implementing EB programs and practices
- Less than 10% of drug, bullying and violence prevention programs in schools are EB; less than half of these are being implemented with fidelity
- Less than 1% of U.S. Gov't funding for prevention programs goes to certified EB programs and practices

Hoagwood and Olin, 2002; Gottfredson and Gottfredson, 2002; Ringwalt, 2009; DOE, 2011; Bridgeland and Orszag, 2013

Why Are We Not Implementing Evidence-Based Programs?

- It's hard to sell prevention- the focus 'typically' is on after-the-fact responses to negative outcomes
- Current incentives for public systems based on number of clients served, not demonstrated reductions in problem behaviors or increased positive outcomes
- Real costs associated with closing down existing system programs: change in philosophy, retraining, initial costs for startup of EB pgms, fidelity demands
- Confusion about what EB means, where to find EB programs & how to interpret the differences across lists
- Politics and parochial judgment often trump research
- Increasing professional resistance to EB programs/practices
- Limited investment in leadership training about value and use of EB programs

Implementation Science: Some Promising Community – and Systems- Level Implementation of EB Programs and Practices

Communities That Care

- A community-level EB program delivery system
- Partnership of public systems, schools, community, & families; building capacity, commitment to data-based decision making
- RCT: By 12th grade- 32% lower initiation any drug
- 18% lower initiation delinquent behavior
- 14% lower initiation violent behavior
- ROI = \$5.30; Fidelity = 90%

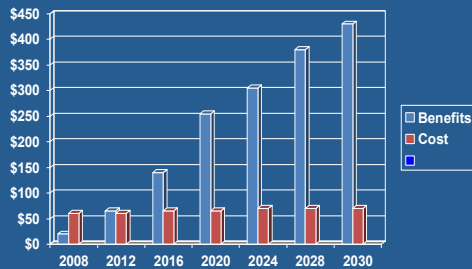
Florida Redirection Project

- Initiated in State Dept. of Juvenile Justice in 2004. Current state funding at \$9, 365,000
- Redirects youth from residential commitment to MST, FFT or BSFT
- Initially limited but as of 2011 available for all youth referred by DJJ or the court; available in 18 of 20 judicial circuits
- Cost savings > \$30K per youth; Total saving for state since 2004 >\$211M
- 20% decrease in re-arrest; 31% in felony re-conviction; 21% in subsequent commitment to adult system

Washington State EB Systems

- 1997- Legislature directed WSIPP to identify EB/ Cost effective programs in justice systems
- Based on successful implementation of EB justice programs, legislature cancelled new prison plans
- Early 2000s, directed same EB strategy for pre-school, K-12, child welfare, MH, substance abuse and public health systems.
- ROI information for EB programs in these systems at www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost

Annual WA Taxpayer Costs & Benefits: Forecast with Modest Portfolio of Justice System Evidence-Based Programs



Blueprint Strategies for Facilitating the Dissemination and Successful Implementation of EB Programs

- Providing kind of information that facilitates an informed decision (fit, cost, benefits, funding, readiness, system requirements, contacts, etc.)
- Providing tools for assessing community and system needs and risk/protective profiles
- Policy Team: Developing a strategic plan for a broad, national level dissemination of BP Programs

A Call to Action

- Become an advocate for evidence-based programs and practices in your agency or community
- Build partnerships to support EB programs
- Encourage system-level use of EB programs: Initial Redirection strategy
- Don't oversell: In practice, effects are modest
- Commit to "doing no harm" ; Relentlessly oppose iatrogenic programs/practices
- Promote Blueprints as a Consumer Reports or FDA type registry of evidence-based programs
- Partner with The Blueprint Policy Team

THANK YOU

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development

Center for the Study of Problem Behavior and Positive
Youth Development

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Web Site: www.blueprintsprograms.com
