



# *What Do We Know About What Works: Prevention and Intervention for Youth Violence*

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The facts are coming! The facts are coming!

## Scientific Basis for Prevention and Approach to Organizing

- 30 Years of Research on What Can Work
- 15 Years of Research on How Can Work
- 10 Years of Evidence Of Much Effort
- But Not What Evidence Supports:
  - Not What Can Work
  - Not How Can Work
  - Not Information to Direct and Manage Well



## 5+ Years of Recognition of Cost Effectiveness of:

1. Doing What Can Work
2. Doing As Intended
3. Using Specific Sound Information

to Direct Youth Prevention

## Organization and Information for Effective Community Choice

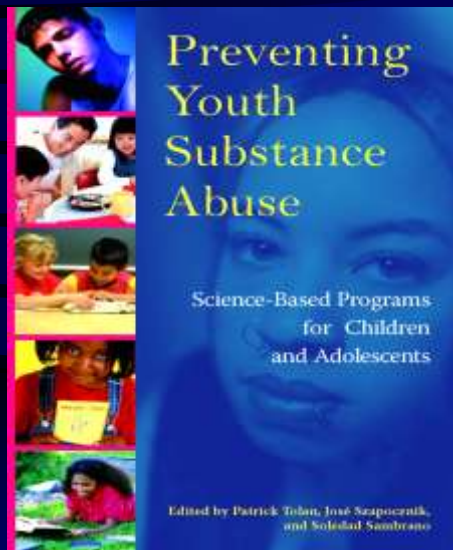
- No Longer Arguable:
  - Not in Our Community
  - “Answers Are Just Common Sense”
- Roster of Effective Programs: Blueprints  
<http://ibs.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprintsquery/>

## Have Reliable Methods for Community Organization for Prevention That Work

- Communities that Care (Hawkins et al., 2002)  
<http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/features/ctc/resources.asp>  
[X](#)
- PROSPER (Spoth, Greenburg, & Turrisi, in press)  
<http://www.prosper.ppsi.iastate.edu/default.htm>

### Prevention is Cost Effective (Aos et al., 2005)

Summary of Benefits and Costs (2005 Dollars)			
Dollars per Person (PV lifecycle)	Benefits	Costs	B - C
<u>Early Childhood Education</u>	\$17,551	\$7,709	\$9,843
<u>Nurse Family Partnership</u>	\$32,735	\$9,632	\$23,103
<u>Functional Family Therapy</u>	\$20,501	\$2,260	\$18,241
<u>Aggression Repl. Training</u>	\$13,952	\$802	\$13,151
<u>Multi-Systemic Therapy</u>	\$21,190	\$6,001	\$15,189
<u>Intensive Juv. Probation</u>	\$0	\$1,566	-\$1,566
<u>Adult Drug Courts</u>	\$5,640	\$4,245	\$1,395
<u>Adult Cog/Beh Treatment</u>	\$5,201	\$1,000	\$4,201
<u>Basic Education (in Prison)</u>	\$3,128	\$795	\$2,333
<u>Intensive Adult Supervision</u>	\$0	\$3,671	-\$3,671



## **Resources for How To:**

### **A Handbook of "How To" for Proven Programs**

### **From Preschool to High School**

Available from  
American Psychological Association

## **Need Compass: Need Information And Organization**

- Understand Patterns Vs. Beliefs
- Understand What Can Work and What We Do Know
- Understand What is Important for What Can Work to Work
- Understand Financial and Political Influences on What Will Be Possible
- State Management Between Federal and Community
  - Diverse Communities Across State
  - Effective/Efficient Use of \$
- So Communities Can And Are Expected To:
  - Choose Programs that Fit Your Community
  - Know What Problems Are & Resources Already Have

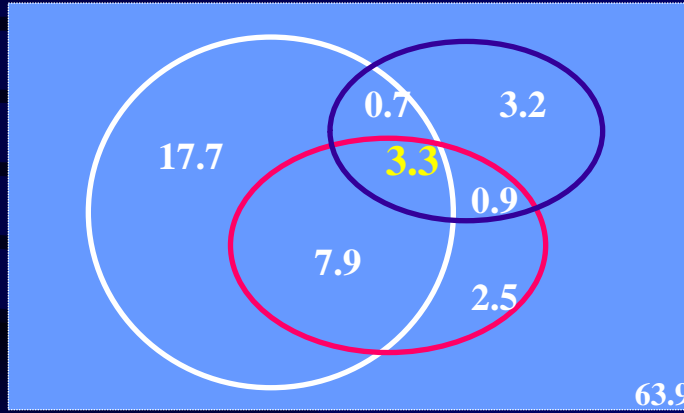
## Patterns in Youth Violence

- In 2010, 4,828 young people (10 -24) were victims of homicide—13/day.
  - Homicide is 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for 15 -24 years old.
  - 86% (4,171) were male
  - 82.8% were killed with a firearm
- In 2011, 707,212 young people (10-24) were treated in emergency departments for injuries from physical assaults.
  - 32.8% reported being in a physical fight in the 12
  - 16.6% reported carrying a weapon (gun [5.1%], knife or club) one or more days in the 30 days
- Youth homicides and assault-related injuries result in an estimated \$16 billion in combined medical and work loss costs

## Behind The Patterns

- Youth Violence Is Spread But Concentrated
- Youth Violence is Common But Rare
- Most Youth Violence is Not Lethal, Seriousness Ranges
- Much Youth Violence is Family Violence, But Time When Non-Family is Largest Portion
- Intimate Partner Violence Is Common-Cross-Genders
- Perpetrators and Victims Share Risk Factors, Often Same Persons

## Career Types in Juvenile Justice Graduating Cohort:



- Serious-Non-violent Careers (29.6%)
- Violent Careers (8.1%)
- Chronic Careers (14.6%)

Snyder

## Interventions

What Works, What Does Not, What is Unknown

## **Levels / Types of Intervention Needed — A System of Services**

- **Universal- all children**
  - Community Safety/ Community Policing
  - Norms about Violence and Aggression
  - Management of Children
  - Home Visitation
- **Selective-high risk, early intervention**
  - Managing At Risk Children in Schools, Home, Community
  - Social Skills / Cognitive Skills Training of At Risk Children
  - Environmental / Community-Related Risks
- **Indicated-already involved**
  - Multidimensional / Multicomponent
  - Family Focused—Multiple Systems
  - Support and Sanctions
  - Treatment of Persons/Incident Interventions

## **Approaches That Do Not Work, May Harm**

- Scared Straight
- Boot Camps
- DARE
- Individual Insight-Oriented Therapy
- Small Groups of High Risk Youth
- Family Communication Therapy



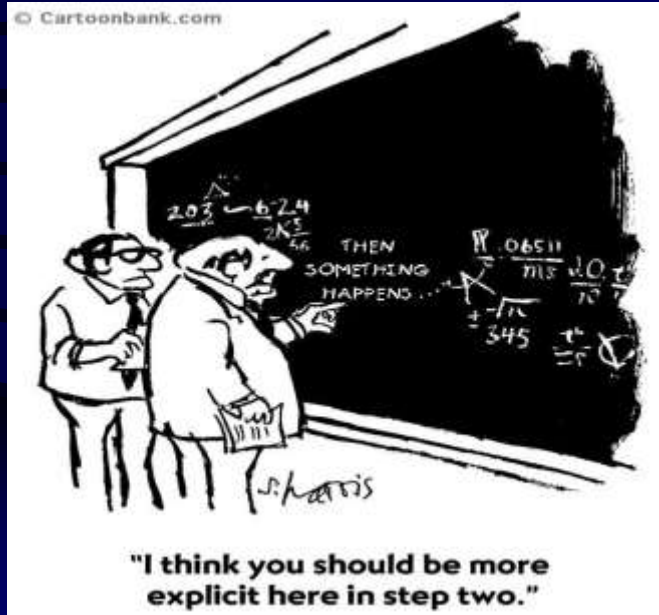
## What We Don't Know

- Many Commonly Used Approaches
- How Important Specific Activities are Versus Structured, Engaging Program
- Diversity and Generality
- Programs vs. Practices
- Critical Training
- Integrating Law Enforcement and Therapeutic

## For Interventions to Work

- Need to Apply Intervention that Can Reduce or Prevent Delinquency
- Need to Apply as Designed/In the Way it Worked
- Need to Apply Within System that Will Sustain Intervention Over Time
- Need to Apply With Focus on Appropriate Part of Population

## Science to Make Clearer How to Move Forward



## Investment of Resources

- Promote Healthy Development and Safe Communities
- Opportunities for Support in Raising Children
- Prevent Violence Toward and By Children, Early Intervention for High Risk
- Treatment and Other Interventions For Those with Violent Behavior or Traumatic Effects From