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

- PROSPER (Spoth, Greenburg, & Turrisi, in press)
  http://www.prosper.ppsi.iastate.edu/default.htm

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Benefits and Costs (2005 Dollars)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dollars per Person (PV lifecycle)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership</td>
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<td>Functional Family Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggression Repl. Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Systemic Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intensive Juv. Probation</td>
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<td>Adult Drug Courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Cog/Beh Treatment</td>
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<td>Basic Education (in Prison)</td>
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<td>Intensive Adult Supervision</td>
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**Resources for How To:**

**A Handbook of “How To” for Proven Programs**

**From Preschool to High School**

Available from American Psychological Association

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**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
In 2010, 4,828 young people (10-24) were victims of homicide—13/day.  
- Homicide is 2nd 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.

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%)

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