

MATRIX OF PROGRAMS AS IDENTIFIED BY VARIOUS FEDERAL AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

The following document identifies various federal and private agencies that have rated the effectiveness of prevention programs designed to reduce or eliminate problem behaviors such as delinquency, aggression, violence, substance use, school behavioral problems, mental health problems, and risk factors identified as predictive of these problems. This document describes the criteria that have been identified for program inclusion by each agency. Information about each agency's selection criteria was gathered directly from the agency's website.

The Matrix of Prevention Programs is a table listing over 450 programs that have been rated by each agency. The Matrix can aid the practitioner by showing how various programs have been rated across different agencies. It should be noted that just because a program has been reviewed by one of the agencies does not necessarily mean it is a "best" program, as some programs rate low and have minimal evidence. Greater confidence can be placed in programs with consistently higher ratings *across multiple agencies*, since their outcomes have been achieved using more rigorous evaluation. Whenever possible, use programs that have achieved the highest ratings.

It is our hope that this document will shed some light on the many programs that have reviewed by various agencies promoting school safety, child and adolescent development and well-being.

For information about specific programs, contact:

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence
483 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309
email: blueprints@colorado.edu
www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints

Updated: August 2011

CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE
Matrix Overview of Focus and Program Criteria Standards

1) Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy

Contact Information: Social Programs That Work
www.toptierevidence.org

Jon Barron
jbaron@coalition4evidence.org
202-683-8049

*Ratings System: **Top Tier, Near Top Tier***

Description: The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy seeks to identify those social interventions shown in rigorous studies to produce sizable, sustained benefits to participants and/or society. The purpose is to enable policymakers and practitioners to readily distinguish the few interventions that are truly backed by rigorous evidence from the many that claim to be so that they can use such knowledge to improve the lives of the people they serve.

Top Tier interventions are ones that have been demonstrated effective, through two or more well-conducted randomized controlled trials or, alternatively, one large multi-site trial. Additionally, these interventions must have been evaluated in real-world community settings with appropriate sample sizes and produce sizeable, sustained benefits to participants and/or society.

Near Top Tier interventions have been shown to meet all elements of the Top Tier standard in a single site, and which only need one additional step to qualify as Top Tier - a replication trial establishing that the sizeable, sustained effects found in that site generalize to other sites.

2) Blueprints for Violence Prevention

Contact Information: Blueprints for Violence Prevention
www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints

Sharon Mihalic, Director
303-492-2137
blueprints@colorado.edu

*Ratings System: **Model Programs, Promising Programs***

Description: The Blueprints mission is to identify truly outstanding violence, drug prevention (and most recently mental health) programs for children and adolescents that meet a high scientific standard of effectiveness. In doing so, Blueprints serves as a resource for governments, foundations, businesses, and other organizations trying to

make informed judgments about their investments in violence and drug prevention programs. Blueprints staff systematically and continuously review the research on programs to determine which are exemplary and grounded in evidence. To date, it has assessed more than 900 programs.

Blueprints Model Programs must meet three criteria: evidence of effect with a strong research design (experimental or quasi-experimental), sustained effect (at least one year beyond treatment), and multiple site replication.

Blueprints Promising Programs must have evidence of effect with a strong research design (experimental or quasi-experimental).

**3) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA),
US Department of Health and Human Services**

Contact Information: National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices
<http://nrepp.samhsa.gov>

1-866-436-7377
nrepp@samhsa.hhs.gov

Ratings System: 0 – 4 for individual outcomes

Description: The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) is a searchable online registry of mental health and substance abuse interventions that have been evaluated and rated by independent reviewers. The purpose of this registry is to assist the public in identifying approaches to preventing and treating mental health and/or substance use disorders that have been scientifically evaluated and are also ready to be disseminated in the field. NREPP seeks to improve access to information on tested interventions and thereby reduce the lag time between the creation of scientific knowledge and its practical application in the field.

NREPP uses a ‘quality of research’ rating for each criminal and substance abuse outcome, ranging from 0 to 4, on six criteria: reliability, validity, intervention fidelity, missing data and attrition, potential confounding variables, and appropriateness of analysis. An overall rating for each outcome is provided. Readiness for dissemination is also rated on a scale from 0-4, based upon three criteria: availability of implementation materials, availability of training and support resources, and availability of quality assurance procedures.

4) Communities That Care, Developmental Research and Programs

Contact Information: Center for Substance Abuse Prevention,
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov/about/csap.aspx

1-877-SAMHSA-7
SAMHSAInfo@samhsa.hhs.gov

Rating System: Effective

Description: Communities That Care focuses on preventing adolescent substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence as well as promoting the positive development of youth and children. Programs focus on the family, school, and community. The criteria include: (1) programs that address research-based risk factors for substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout and violence; (2) programs that increase protective factors; (3) programs that intervene at developmentally appropriate ages; and (4) show significant effects on risk and protective factors in controlled studies or community trials.

5) OJJDP Model Programs Guide

Contact Information: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
www.ojjdp.gov/mpg

Rating System: **Exemplary, Effective, Promising**

Description: The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Model Programs Guide (MPG) is designed to assist practitioners and communities in implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that can make a difference in the lives of children and communities. The MPG database of over 200 evidence-based programs covers the entire continuum of youth services from prevention through sanctions to reentry. The MPG evidence ratings are based on the evaluation literature of specific prevention and intervention programs. The overall rating is derived from four summary dimensions of program effectiveness: (1) conceptual framework, (2) program fidelity, (3) evaluation design and (4) empirical evidence.

Exemplary programs are implemented with a high degree of fidelity, demonstrate robust empirical findings and have an experimental evaluation design.

Effective programs are implemented with sufficient fidelity and demonstrate adequate empirical findings using a high-quality (quasi-experimental) evaluation design.

Promising programs are generally implemented with minimal fidelity and demonstrate promising (perhaps inconsistent) empirical findings using a reasonable conceptual framework and a limited evaluation design (single group pre- post-test).

6) Office of Justice Programs – Crime Solutions

Contact Information: Office of Justice Programs,
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs
www.crimesolutions.gov

Rating System: **Effective, Promising, No Effects**

Description: The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) sponsors CrimeSolutions.gov as a resource to help justice practitioners determine what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. Study reviewers analyze the most rigorous evaluation research available to assess the quality, strength, and extent of the evidence that indicates the program achieves its goals. The reviewers use a standard Scoring Instrument for each study reviewed and assign scores across four dimensions: (1) the program's conceptual framework, (2) study design quality, (3) study outcomes and (4) program fidelity.

Effective programs have strong evidence to indicate they achieve their intended outcomes when implemented with fidelity. These programs have at least one evaluation study that is rigorous, well-designed and finds significant, positive effects on justice-related outcomes.

Promising programs have some evidence to indicate they achieve their intended outcomes. These programs are well-designed, but the evaluation is slightly less rigorous and/or there may be limitations in their design. However, they find significant, positive effects on justice-related outcomes.

Programs that have No Effects have evaluations that are rigorous and well-designed, but find no significant effects on justice-related outcomes.

7) Child Trends / LINKS

Contact Information: Child Trends
www.childtrends.org

Marci McCoy-Roth
mmccoy-roth@childtrends.org
202-572-6000

Ratings System: **Effective**

Description: Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that studies children at all stages of development. The LINKS (Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully) database summarizes evaluations of out-of-school programs that work (or not) to enhance children's development. The lifecourse perspective is based on the concept that child development is a cumulative process that begins before birth and

continues into young adulthood. The database is directed to policy makers, program providers, and funders.

The following criteria have been used for inclusion in the LINKS database:

- Only social interventions (that is, not medical) are included;
- Every study has a treatment group and a control group, and random assignment;
- Only results based on an intent-to-treat analysis are reported;
- No restrictions were made on sample size.