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Global Application of Prevention Science

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40 Years of Prevention Science Research Advances

Epidemiology of Problem Behaviors

- Identify risk and protective factors that predict problem behaviors and describe their distribution in populations.

Efficacy Trials

- Design and test preventive interventions to interrupt causal processes that lead to youth problems.



Risk Factors for Adolescent Problems

Community

Family

School

Individual/Peer

Risk Factors	Substance Abuse	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Depression & Anxiety	Violence	
Community						
Availability of Drugs	✓				✓	
Availability of Firearms		✓			✓	
Community Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime	✓	✓			✓	
Media Portrayals	✓				✓	
Transitions and Mobility	✓	✓		✓		
Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization	✓	✓			✓	
Extreme Economic Deprivation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Family						
Family History of the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Management Problems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Family Conflict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior	✓	✓			✓	
School						
Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of Commitment to School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Individual/Peer						
Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alienation and Rebelliousness	✓	✓		✓		
Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Constitutional Factors	✓	✓			✓	✓



Protective Factors

Individual Characteristics

- High Intelligence
- Resilient Temperament
- Competencies and Skills

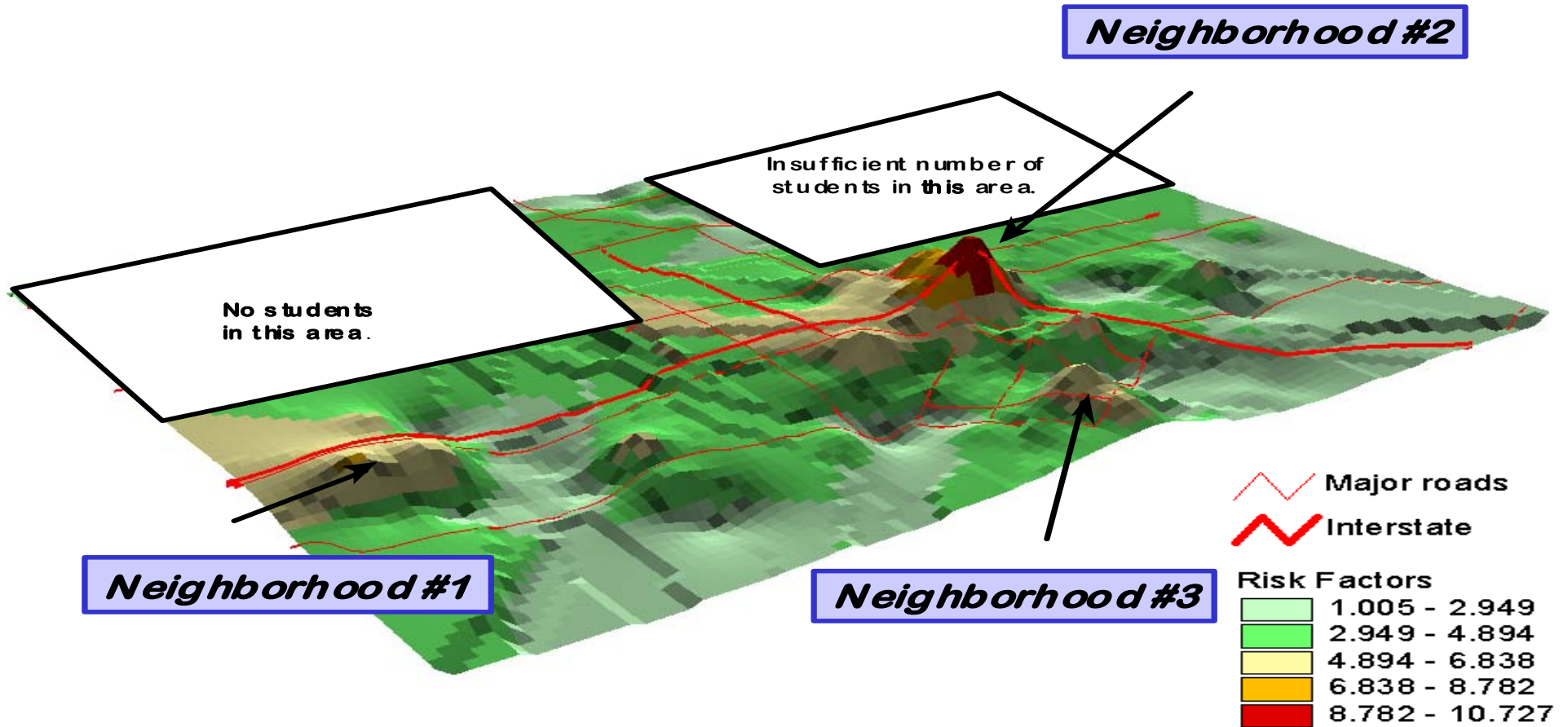
In each social domain (family, school, peer group and neighborhood)

- Prosocial Opportunities
- Reinforcement for Prosocial Involvement
- Bonding
- Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards



A Place Based Approach is Needed Because Communities Vary in Exposure to Risk and Protection

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Science Guided Prevention

A horizontal bar composed of several colored segments: a long dark blue segment, followed by a cyan segment, a red segment, a green segment, a purple segment, and a grey segment.

Malleable risk and protective factors should be targeted by preventive interventions.

(Coie et al., 1994; Mrazek and Haggerty, 1984; Woolf, 2008; O'Connell, Boat & Warner, 2009)



Wide Ranging Approaches Have Been Found To Be Efficacious

Prevention Programs/Policies	Violence	Drug Use	HIV STI	Unintended Pregnancy	Vehicle Crash Risk	Obesity	Mental Health
1. Prenatal & Infancy Programs(eg., NFP)		✓		✓			
2. Early Childhood Education	✓	✓					
3. Parent Training	✓	✓			✓		✓
4. After-school Recreation	✓						
5. Mentoring with Contingent Reinforcement		✓					
6. Cognitive Behavior Therapy							✓
7. Classroom Organization, Management and Instructional Strategies	✓	✓		✓			✓
8. Classroom Curricula	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓



Wide Ranging Approaches Have Been Found To Be Efficacious

Prevention Programs/Policies	Violence	Drug Use	HIV STI	Unintended Pregnancy	Vehicle Crashes	Obesity	Mental Health
9. Community Based Skills Training/Motivational Interviewing			✓	✓			
10. Cash Transfer for School Fees/Stipend				✓			
11. Multicomponent Positive Youth Development	✓			✓			
12. Policies (eg., MLDA, Access to Contraceptives)		✓		✓	✓		
13. Community Mobilization	✓	✓					
14. Medical Intervention			✓	✓			
15. Law Enforcement					✓		
16. Family Planning Clinic				✓			



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Despite the Efficacy of Prevention...

Prevention approaches that do not work or have not been evaluated are more widely used than those shown to be effective.

(Ringwalt et al., 2009; Gottfredson et al 2000, Hallfors et al 2000, Hantman et al 2000, Mendel et al 2000, Silvia et al 1997; Smith et al 2002)



The Global Challenge



How can we increase use of tested, efficacious prevention policies and programs globally...

while recognizing that communities and nations are different from one another and need to decide locally what policies and programs they use?



Recommendations for Global Action

- **Include prevention in service systems**
- **Educate government, professionals and public in the research base for prevention science**
- **Create database of efficacious prevention policies and programs**
- **Shift 10% of funds spent on children to efficacious prevention policies and programs**
- **Increase translational research on adaptation and fidelity, going to scale, and sustainability**



Recommendations for Global Action

Build capacity of communities to:

- **Build prevention coalitions**
- **Assess and prioritize local risk, protection, and behavior problems** (Create database of surveys, indicators to assess local risk, protection, and behavior problems)
- **Match priorities to efficacious preventive interventions**
- **Support/sustain quality implementation of efficacious preventive interventions to all those targeted**



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