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
- 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

No students in this area.

Insufficient number of students in this area.

Neighborhood #1

Neighborhood #2

Neighborhood #3

Major roads

Interstate

Risk Factors

1.005 - 2.949
2.949 - 4.894
4.894 - 6.838
6.838 - 8.782
8.782 - 10.727

John A. Pollard, Ph.D. Developmental Research and Programs
Science Guided Prevention

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention Programs/Policies</th>
<th>Violence</th>
<th>Drug Use</th>
<th>HIV STI</th>
<th>Unintended Pregnancy</th>
<th>Vehicle Crash Risk</th>
<th>Obesity</th>
<th>Mental Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prenatal &amp; Infancy Programs (eg., NFP)</td>
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<td>2. Early Childhood Education</td>
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<td>3. Parent Training</td>
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<td>4. After-school Recreation</td>
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<td>5. Mentoring with Contingent Reinforcement</td>
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<td>6. Cognitive Behavior Therapy</td>
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<td>7. Classroom Organization, Management and Instructional Strategies</td>
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<td>8. Classroom Curricula</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Community Based Skills Training/Motivational Interviewing</td>
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<td>10. Cash Transfer for School Fees/Stipend</td>
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<td>11. Multicomponent Positive Youth Development</td>
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<td>12. Policies (eg., MLDA, Access to Contraceptives)</td>
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<td>13. Community Mobilization</td>
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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.

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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