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

Patrick Tolan Ph.D. Director
Center for Positive Youth Development
University of Virginia
Phone: (434) 243-9551
E-mail: ph6e@virginia.edu

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://sibs.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/cte/resources.asp
- PROSPER (Spoth, Greenburg, & Turrisi, in press)
  http://www.prosper.ppsi.iastate.edu/default.htm
### Prevention is Cost Effective

**Summary of Benefits and Costs (2008 Dollars)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>$17,551</td>
<td>$7,709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership</td>
<td>$33,735</td>
<td>$9,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functional Family Therapy</td>
<td>$20,501</td>
<td>$2,260</td>
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<td>Aggression Real. Training</td>
<td>$13,952</td>
<td>$802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Systemic Therapy</td>
<td>$21,150</td>
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<td>Intensive Jay. Probation</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Drug Courts</td>
<td>$5,640</td>
<td>$4,245</td>
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<td>Adult Cog/Beh Treatment</td>
<td>$5,201</td>
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<td>Basic Education (in Prison)</td>
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<td>Intensive Adult Supervision</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
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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 $5
- So Communities Can And Are Expected To:
  - Choose Programs that Fit Your Community
  - Know What Problems Are & Resources Already Have

### Ecological Model

#### 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

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

"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

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
This ain’t Rocket Science.

It’s Much More Complicated!

And Important!