

Definitions of Effective Substance Abuse Programs

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)'s WESTCAPT (Western Center for the Advancement of Prevention Technologies)

See website <http://captus.samhsa.gov/western/western.cfm> or <http://casat.unr.edu/bestpractices/alpha-list.php>

“Best Practices” are those strategies, activities, or approaches which have been shown through research and evaluation to be effective at preventing and/or delaying substance abuse.

“Promising Practices” are programs and strategies that have some quantitative data showing positive outcomes in delaying substance abuse over a period of time, but do not have enough research or replication to support generalizable outcomes.

SAFE, DISCIPLINE, AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

See website <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/programs.html> for complete guidelines.

“Exemplary” Have a least one evaluation that has demonstrated an effect on substance use, violent behavior, or other conduct problems one year or longer beyond baseline, and that there is strong evidence that the conditions are met.

“Promising Programs” must have findings from at least one evaluation demonstrating an effect on substance use, violent behavior, conduct problems OR one or more risk and protective factors that research has established as major predictors of these behaviors and give evidence that the conditions are met.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Registry Of Effective Prevention Programs (NREPP)

see website http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov/template_cf.cfm?page=model_list#Model for complete criteria for selection.

Effective Programs” are prevention programs that produce a consistent positive pattern of results. Only those programs that positively affect the majority of intended recipients or targets are considered effective. These programs must score at least a 4.0 on a 5-point scale on parameters of integrity and utility.

“Model Programs” are effective programs whose developers have agreed to participate in CSAP's dissemination efforts. Program developers have also agreed to provide training and technical assistance to practitioners who wish to adopt their programs. That help is essential to ensure that the program is carefully implemented, and maximizes the probability for repeated effectiveness.

“Promising Programs” provide useful and scientifically defensible information about what works in prevention, but do not yet have sufficient scientific support to attain standards set for effective status. Promising programs are eligible to be elevated to effective status subsequent to review of additional documentation regarding program effectiveness. Promising programs must score at least 3.33 on a 5-point scale on parameters of integrity and utility.

OJJDP Model Program Ratings

See website <http://www.dsgonline.com>

“Exemplary” These programs have been scientifically demonstrated to prevent delinquency or reduce/enhance risk/protective factors for delinquents in specific social contexts using an evaluation of the highest quality.

“Effective” These programs have been scientifically demonstrated to prevent delinquency or reduce/enhance risk/protective factors for delinquents in specific social contexts using either an experimental or quasi-experimental design.

“Promising” These programs display a strong theoretical base and have been scientifically demonstrated to prevent delinquency or reduce/enhance risk/protective factors for delinquents in specific social contexts using limited research and or non-experimental designs.