

Programs That Work

In response to requests from schools for effective prevention programs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed Programs That Work. Programs That Work identifies and disseminates programs that reduce risk behaviors for HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, unintended pregnancy, and tobacco use among young people. The decision to use any of the Programs That Work programs is entirely a local one. CDC funding is not contingent on the use of these or any other programs.

Purposes of Programs That Work

- To identify programs with credible evidence of effectiveness in reducing health risk behaviors among young people.
- To provide information and training on effective programs for interested educators from state and local education and health agencies and national nongovernmental organizations.
- To help inform state and local decisions about adopting programs that have been proven effective.

Selecting Programs That Work

CDC staff review electronic databases, published literature, meta-analyses, and other reports to identify prevention programs that have been evaluated according to the Programs That Work scientific criteria. Two external panels of experts, one comprised of evaluation experts and the other of program experts, review the programs and the evaluation studies. If both panels recommend adoption of a program, CDC designates the program as a “Program That Works.”

Disseminating Programs That Work

CDC provides information and training on these programs to interested state and local education and health agencies and national nongovernmental organizations. CDC uses a variety of strategies to enable these programs to be implemented at the local level, including: (1) working with the developers to prepare the programs for dissemination, (2) providing fact sheets and other information on the Programs That Work Web site, (3) providing technical assistance to state and local education and health agencies who choose to implement the programs, and (4) conducting national workshops to train those who will train teachers and others at the local level who choose to implement the programs.

For more information, visit the Programs That Work Web site at <http://www.cdc.nccdphp/dash>