



# Blueprints

# FACT SHEET

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## Blueprints for Violence Prevention Selection Process

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) is frequently asked why only eleven programs were selected as Blueprint violence prevention programs—programs which CSPV attests work effectively. This paper summarizes the Blueprint selection process and describes CSPV's position on why there are so few violence prevention programs that have been demonstrated to work.

In selecting Blueprint programs CSPV established a high standard of program effectiveness. CSPV's criterion for successful programs is higher than most other organizations that maintain a position on what works in violence prevention. The Blueprint evaluation standards include:

- An experimental design,
- Evidence of a statistically significant (or marginal) deterrent effect,
- Replication at multiple sites with demonstrated effects, and
- Evidence that the deterrent effect was sustained for at least one year post treatment.

This set of selection criteria establishes a very high standard: one that proved difficult to meet. However, it reflects the level of confidence necessary if CSPV is going to recommend that communities replicate these programs with reasonable assurance that they will prevent violence.

In the search for Blueprint programs, CSPV staff has reviewed more than 600 delinquency, drug and violence prevention programs. The overwhelming majority of these programs have never been evaluated and, therefore, CSPV is unable to ascertain their effectiveness. There are a handful of programs that have been evaluated and found to be ineffective and, in a few cases, programs have even been demonstrated to have negative effects. However, this is a rare outcome; most of the programs are simply waiting for a thorough scientific evaluation. This evaluation is underway for a number of the 600 programs and several of these have met the first two criteria but they are not far enough along in the evaluation process to determine issues of sustained effect or successful multiple site replication. CSPV has identified these programs as *Promising Programs* which may likely, after further evaluation, meet CSPV Blueprint standards and become future Blueprint Programs.