NC IOM Adolescent Health Task Force Strategy for Summarizing “The Evidence”

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Task Force Has Scheduled Reviews of "The Evidence" in Six Areas

	Current Dates
1. Unintentional Injury	July 11, 2008
2. Chronic Illness	September 5, 2008
3. Substance Use	October 10, 2008
4. Sexual Health	January 9, 2009
5. Violence	February 6, 2009
6. Mental Health	March 6, 2009

Step 1: Define focus

Steering Committee reviews US and NC data and suggests focus areas based on answers to these questions:

- What are the most common problems?
- What problems have highest impact?
- Do we have strong evidence or promising practices to guide recommendations to address this issue?

Step 2: Review available evidence

Members of the project Science/Data Group review existing evidence-based reviews already conducted by:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- US Preventive Task Force (USPTF)
- Child Trends
- Helping America's Youth
- Summary sources suggested by topic experts

Process

- Summarize reviews
- Translate organization-specific terminology to Task Force terms

Examples of Organization-Specific Terminologies to Summarize “The Evidence”

CDC	Strong/Sufficient/Insufficient Evidence
USPTF	Grades A-D, Insufficient evidence
Child Trends	What Works, What Doesn’t Work, Mixed Reviews, Best Bets, Doesn’t Work
Helping America’s Youth	Level 1-3
Injury Handbook	Same as CDC

NC IOM Adolescent Health Task Force Terminology to Summarize "The Evidence"

Strong Evidence	Well-designed studies with at least two studies demonstrating evidence of effectiveness
Sufficient Evidence	Study designs may not be as rigorous but show effectiveness or there is only one well-designed study demonstrating effectiveness
Insufficient Evidence	Studies were poorly designed or executed, too few studies were analyzed, or findings were inconsistent
Promising Practice	Programs that are based on science or theory, but have not been tested through experimental research
Not Recommended	Studies have demonstrated that the programs do not work or cause harm

Translation Process

- Easy when review outcomes are consistent
- If review outcomes are inconsistent, we use strength of evidence from the most recent and/or thorough review
- If it is not clear which should be used, we note this

Step 3: Create summary table

Members of project Science/Data Group create a summary table:

- Arranged by intervention/program strategy
- Listing “strength of evidence”
- Listing sources for evidence review
- Listing level of intervention
- Indicating whether strategies included specific attention to adolescents or provides information/ insights into health disparities

SAMPLE

Evidence Based/Promising Practice Summary Table

	Strength of Evidence	Source	Level of Intervention	Code
Preventing Unintentional Auto-related Injuries				
Graduated Drivers Licensing	Strong Evidence	5	Policy	A
Address childhood aggression	Promising Practice	3	Individual	A
Enhance the value that adolescents place on safety concerns	Promising Practice	3	Individual	A
Prevent and treat conduct problems	Promising Practice	3	Individual	A
Prevent risky behaviors (such as substance use and reckless driving) and promote safety habits (such as use of seatbelts ,and of helmets)	Promising Practice	3	Individual	A
Driver Education	see note below[2]	3, 5	Individual	A

Strengths of Process

- Efficient: Allows reviews of variety of adolescent health topic areas over an 8-month interval
- Checks and Balances: Multiple reviewers with different perspectives involved
- Quality: Provides Task Force with high-quality summary reviews to inform discussions

Limitations of Process

- Adopting frameworks used by CDC, USPTF, and other organizations that exclude evidence on strategies that may be important

- Rely on research, which is not perfect
  - Research is not available on many strategies
  - Research may be available but weak
  - Research results may be mixed

Conclusions

- A defined feasible process to produce high-quality summaries of “The Evidence” on a variety of adolescent health topics over the next 8 months
- Will provide the Task Force with a clear picture of “The Evidence” to guide discussions and recommendations