

Evidence & Economics in State Capitals

Lessons Learned From Washington State

Workshop on Strengthening Benefit-Cost Methodology for the
Evaluation of Early Childhood Interventions

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“Going Retail” — Production & Use of Evidence-Based Information in Washington State

Washington Legislature has directed WSIPP to examine evidence-based options affecting several outcomes:

Crime (1994, 1999, 2003, 2005),
Education, Early Ed. (2003, 2006, 2007),
Child Abuse & Neglect (2003, 2007),
Substance Abuse (2003, 2005),
Mental Health (2005)



Factors Affecting the Demand for (and Use of) Evidence-Based (EB) Information in Washington State

A Local EB Messenger (WSIPP)

- ***Long-term (“Being There”)***
- ***Non-partisan (“D”s & “R”s)***
- ***Many policy areas***

Analytical Framework

- ***Cost-benefit, ROI***
- ***Meta-analysis when possible***
- ***Internally-consistent CB model***
- ***“Consumer Reports” like lists***

A Few Key Champions

- ***Elected and staff***

Use Evidence to Cut Programs, Not Just Add Them