

Research Perspectives on Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders—Mapping and Bridging the Gaps

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What the Prevention Report Accomplishes

- Presents a vision of what could be
 - “...a well-organized system...to ensure strong families and schools and nurturing neighborhood” (p. 385)
 - Essentially, a society sustaining support for healthy development, population health and well-being
- Presents strategies for effective actions to realize this vision
 - To reduce THE gap between potential of prevention and realizing that potential
 - Specifies key research gaps, the focus here

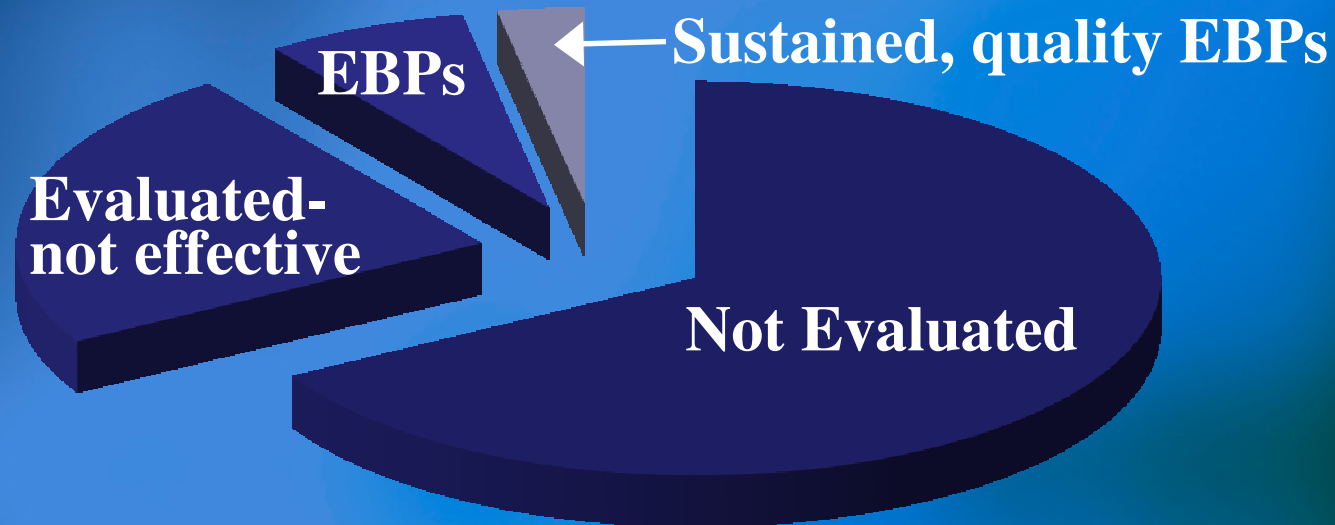
This Report Provides Research “Gap Maps”

- Presents “maps for the new frontier,” using research to find a way from promise to realization of potential for public well-being
- Describes research “Gap Maps” that are wide-ranging, from screening to economic analyses to translational research (Box S4)
- Will focus on one of the largest gaps and translational research-related maps



The Translational Gap— Scaling Up For Sustained, Quality EBP Implementation

...a larger “piece” of evidence-based programs (EBPs) to delay
two types of translation with general community populations
...sustained, quality implementation on a large scale



Rigorously demonstrated, long-term EBP impact is very rare (Foxcroft et al., 2003).

Addressing the Translational Gap is Imperative

- New approaches to implementation represent the frontier of prevention research (p. 332)
- “To maximize the health of its citizens, society should pursue interventions in proportion to the ability of those interventions to improve outcomes...building a system that can deliver advances reliably.”



- “The current policy...is probably costing lives.”

Steven H. Woolf (2007; 2008)

Especially Promising Translational Research Investment

- Select EBPs addressing costly, prevalent mental health problems, incorporating competency-building, with the strongest evidence, multiple types of positive outcomes, demonstrated economic benefits
- Example—strong evidence for family-focused programs warrants “concentrated” dissemination research (p. 214)
- Research conducted through community-university partnerships particularly important—fosters improved delivery systems and networks

Case in Point — Translation of Existing EBPs to Address Gap

- Existing EBP has 65% relative reduction rate for adolescent lifetime meth use;* if reached 25% of those eligible, would prevent 16,250 cases for every 100,000
- Two choices for increasing prevention to 25,000 cases per 100,000 destined to become meth users
 1. Increase reach from 25% to 39%
 2. Develop and test new intervention that could be 100% effective (with 25% reached)
 - In cases like this translation/reach is a clear choice

Another Way of Framing Gaps Overall— The 4 Es of Program Impact

- Effectiveness—More programs evaluated more vigorously (e.g., long-term follow-ups)
- Extensiveness of coverage—Fill gaps re population needs (e.g., for sociodemographically diverse populations, rural to urban)
- Efficiency—More programs with multiple outcomes, economically efficient programs
- Engagement—Effective strategies at individual and organizational levels (e.g., increase organizational readiness to adopt and sustain quality implementation)

Spoth, R. (2008). Translation of family-focused prevention science into public health impact: Toward a translational impact paradigm. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 17(6), 415-421.

Model Guiding Research on Gaps

- The Preventive Intervention Research Cycle is a point of departure (p. 324)
- Incorporate a broader perspective on translational research, starting at earliest phases of preventive intervention research
- E.g., Society for Prevention Research's TIES Framework for integrated translational research on factors re
 - Translation stage setting (pre-adoption phase)
 - Institutional/individual adoption of EBPs
 - Effective implementation of EBPs
 - Sustainability of EBPs

In Conclusion...

- The report's strategic plan for mapping and bridging the gaps (p. 377) guides us on the road ahead...

