

ReCAPP “Evidence-Based Programs” Selection Criteria

For inclusion in ReCAPP’s “Evidence-Based Programs” section, an adolescent pregnancy prevention program is evaluated using the two sets of criteria described below. The adolescent pregnancy prevention program is evaluated on program design and content, as well as evaluation design and outcomes. The program and evaluation criteria listed below are stringent. Few programs will meet all criteria, thereby reserving “Evidence-Based Programs” as a gold standard category.

Program Criteria:

1. The intervention is an *educational program* that:
 - is based upon theoretical approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing health-related risky behaviors.
 - uses multiple learning activities and strategies; and
 - lasts sufficient time to meet program goals and objectives.
- 2) The intervention’s *content areas* are factually correct and include at least one of the following: pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, or STI prevention.
- 3) The intervention provides *skill-building* opportunities.
- 4) The intervention portrays *human sexuality as a healthy and normal part of life*, and is *not derogatory or discriminatory against gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation*.
- 5) The *study population* is school-age youth, in particular those of middle school through high school ages.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. For high school level, the *study must measure* risk behaviors or health outcomes, not just knowledge and attitudes. Outcomes must include at least one of the following:
 - a delay of the initiation of sexual intercourse
 - a reduction in the number of sexual partners
 - a reduction in the frequency of sexual intercourse
 - an increase in the use of condoms
 - a decrease in pregnancy rate
 - a decrease in newly reported cases of an STI

2. For 8th grade and younger ages, studies may measure behavioral intentions.
 - Outcomes must not include an increase in sexual risk taking behavior.
 - The research design is of sufficient sample size and includes an intervention group, and control group or comparison group.
 - Follow up measurement takes place at least four weeks after the intervention.
 - A report of the study has been published in a peer reviewed journal, or one has been submitted for publication at the time of consideration and accepted prior to final selection.