

Connecting and Supporting Families to Prevent Youth Drug Abuse

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University of Virginia Center for Positive Youth Development

- Research on Causes and Methods of:
 - Promoting Healthy Youth Development
 - Preventing Youth Development Problems
- Training and Information of Others About These Areas
- Service to Community, State, and Beyond to Put Knowledge to Action



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Scientific Basis for Prevention and Approach to Organizing

- 30 Years of Research on What Can Work
- 15 Years of Research on How Can Work
- 10 Years of Evidence Of Much Effort
- But Not What Evidence Supports:
 - Not What Can Work
 - Not How Can Work
 - Not Information to Direct and Manage Well

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5+ Years of Recognition of Cost Effectiveness of:

1. Doing What Can Work
2. Doing As Intended
3. Using Specific Sound Information

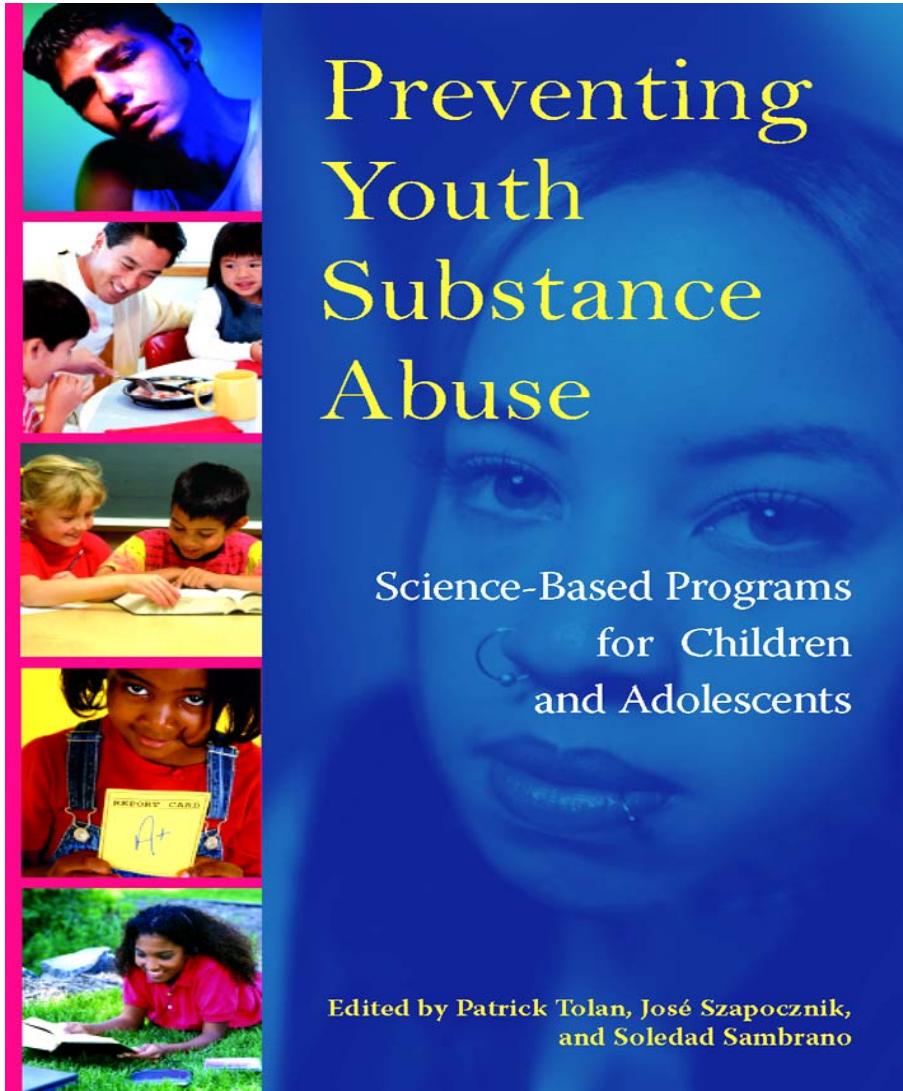
to Direct Youth Prevention

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Organization and Information for Effective Community Choice

- No Longer Arguable:
 - Not in Our Community
 - “Answers Are Just Common Sense”
- Roster of Effective Programs: Blueprints
<http://ibs.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprintsquery/>

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Example:

A Handbook of
“How To”
for Proven
Programs

From Preschool
to High School

Available from
American Psychological Association

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Need Compass: Need Information And Organization

- State Management of
 - Between Federal and Community
 - Diverse Communities Across State
 - Effective/Efficient Use of \$
- So Communities Can And Are Expected To:
 - Choose Programs that Fit Your Community
 - Know What Problems Are & Resources Already Have

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Two Community Organization Approaches That Work

- Communities that Care (Hawkins et al., 2002)
<http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/features/ctc/resources.aspx>
- PROSPER (Spoth, Greenburg, & Turrisi, in press)
<http://www.prosper.ppsi.iastate.edu/default.htm>

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Family Involved Prevention Works

- Part of Most Effective Programs
- Cost Effective: \$3-14 savings per \$ spent
- Roster of proven programs available
 - across age ranges
 - for different populations
 - for different service systems
- Programs for Education, Support, and Treatment
- Programs for General Population and High Risk Groups

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Schools and Families Educating Children **SAFE Children**

Patrick H. Tolan, Deborah Gorman-Smith,
Michael Schoeny and David Henry

Funded by:

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Two Components:

(1) Multiple-Family groups

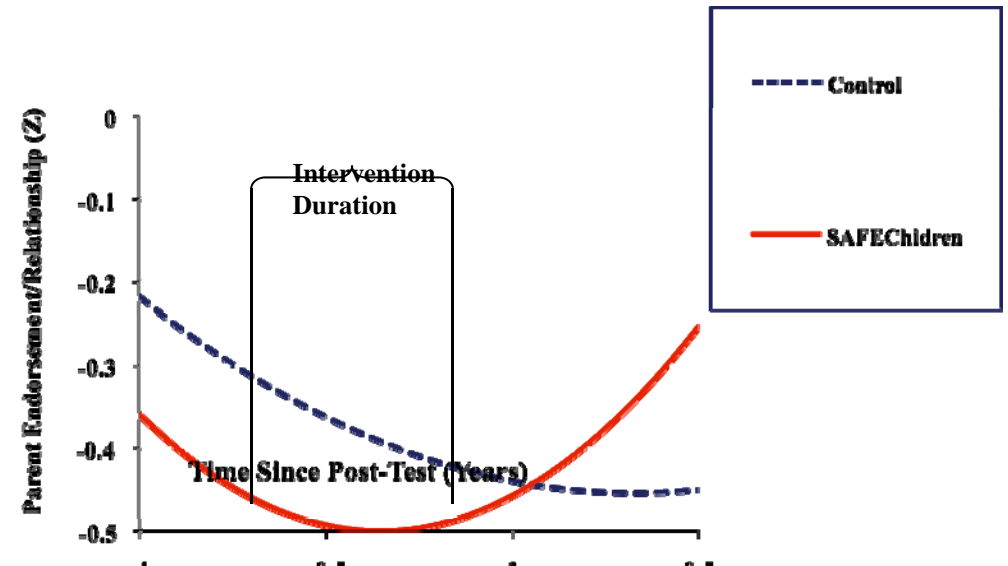
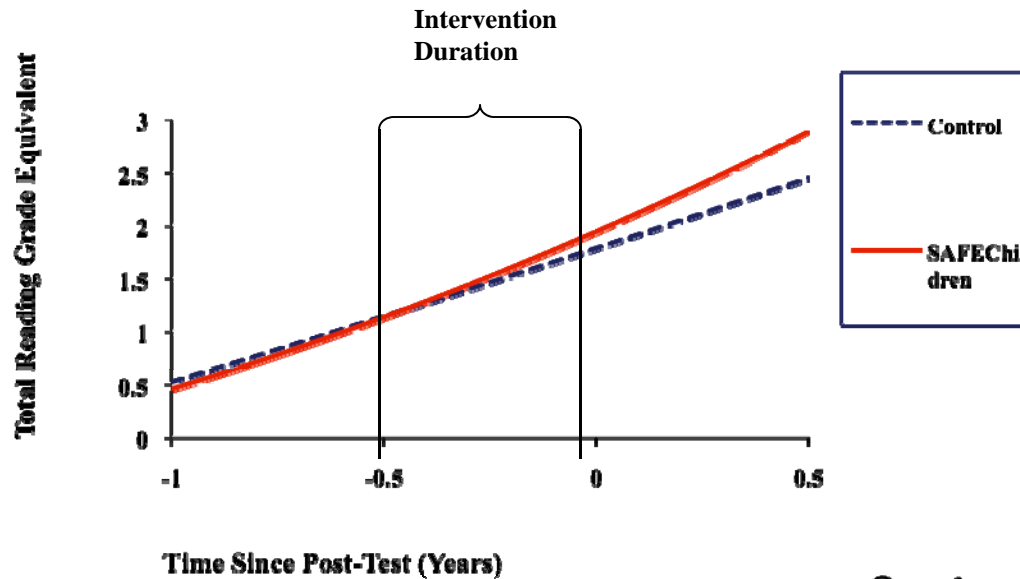
- 20 Weekly sessions over school year
 - parenting,
 - family relationship characteristics,
 - parental involvement and investment in education
 - managing child development in the social ecology of the inner-city

(2) Tutoring

- 2, 20 minute sessions per week
 - phonics-based
 - literacy education through reading of books

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Helping Families Help Children Grow Toward Success



Reading at National Average

Parents Stay Involved in School

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Also Helps Higher Risk Families and Students More

- High Risk Parents Improve on Parenting
- Students with More Behavior Problems at Start Show
 - Improved Concentration
 - More Commitment to School
 - Fewer Behavior Problems

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State-Community Partnership with University as Resource

- Knowledge Generation
- Knowledge Summarization
- Technical Assistance
- Surveys and other Management Information
- Evaluation of Effects and Cost-Benefits

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