

RESOURCES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Public Health

Name: Best Evidence Encyclopedia (Johns Hopkins University)

Purpose: To provide fair and useful information about the strength of the evidence supporting a variety of programs available for students in grades K-12.

Audience: Educators and Researchers

Description: The Best Evidence Encyclopedia provides summaries of scientific reviews produced by many authors and organizations, as well as links to the full texts of each review. The reviews selected for inclusion in the Best Evidence Encyclopedia are meta-analyses or other quantitative syntheses that apply consistent, scientific standards to bodies of evidence that both meet high standards of methodological quality and evaluate realistic implementations of programs currently available to the educator.

Website: <http://www.bestevidence.org/>

Name: The Campbell Collaboration

Purpose: To help people make well-informed decisions by preparing, maintaining and disseminating systematic reviews in education, crime and justice and social welfare.

Audience: Public health practitioners, social workers, educators and advocates

Description: The Campbell Collaboration is an international research network that produces systematic reviews of the effects of social interventions. Campbell is based on voluntary cooperation among researchers of a variety of backgrounds. Campbell has a number of Coordinating Groups responsible for the production, scientific merit and relevance of the systematic reviews.

Website: <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/>

Name: Center for Training and Research Translation (Center TRT)

Purpose: To enhance the public health impact of state and community obesity prevention efforts by providing public health practitioners with the training and evidence needed to improve nutrition and physical activity behaviors, environments and policies in ways that are equitable, efficient and sustained over time.

Audience: Public health practitioners

Description: Bridges the gap between research and practice by reviewing evidence of public health impact and disseminating population-level interventions; designing and providing practice-relevant training both in-person and web-based; addressing social determinants of health and health equity through training and translation efforts; and providing guidance on evaluating policies and programs aimed at impacting healthy eating and physical activity.

Website: <http://www.center-trt.org/>

Name: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: A Healthier Nation, County by County

Purpose: To understand the critical role that factors such as education, jobs, income and environment play in how healthy people are and how long they live and to explore and select evidence-informed policies and programs to address priority issues.

Audience: Public health practitioners, healthcare providers, community advocates, government officials, employers, grant makers and educators

Description: The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program helps communities create solutions that make it easier for people to be healthy in their communities, by focusing on specific factors that affect health, such as education and income. Ranking the health of nearly every county in the nation, the *County Health Rankings* illustrate the various factors that contribute to people's health. The *County Health Roadmaps* provide tools to help groups working together to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborates with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to bring this groundbreaking program to cities, counties and states across the nation.

Website: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>; Action Center:

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/roadmaps/action-center>

Name: Creating Healthy Communities (CHC)

Purpose: To reduce premature mortality by addressing the risk factors associated with chronic disease.

Audience: Public health practitioners

Description: The CHC Program uses population and evidence-based approaches to make policy, systems and environmental changes aimed at reducing the impact of chronic disease on communities. CHC Program interventions apply a number of strategies (information and skill-building, policy and regulation, environmental change) across several community settings (schools, general community, healthcare, worksites). The CHC Program developed a Healthy Communities Checklist to use as an environmental scan for the urban and rural/suburban communities. This allows the counties to establish a baseline assessment of health program available in each priority community as they relate to environmental, systems and policy issues specific to chronic diseases. Once completed by the community coalition, it can be used to identify resources, capacity and needs; establish priorities and interventions; and focus project direction on population-based activities.

Website: <http://www.healthyohioprogam.org/healthylife/createcomm/chc1.aspx>

Name: The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide)

Purpose: To provide a systemic review of scientific literature used for identifying research gaps in health intervention strategies and assess the costs and return on investment of evidence-based interventions.

Audience: Policymakers, public health practitioners, health educators, researchers, schools, worksites, funding organizations and community organizers

Description: The Guide to Community Preventive Services is a free resource that provides programs and policies to improve health and prevent disease in your community. The tool provides evidence-based research for several areas. These areas include planning programs and services (address specific health needs within a community), developing public policy (justify funding proposals and support public and private policies that promote health and wellness), allocating resources and securing new sources of funding (can aid in determining which interventions optimize use of limited resources), informing research (develop research agendas, project proposals and funding announcement) and education for health professionals (educate about public health and systematic reviews).

Website: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/>

Name: HealthyPeople.gov

Purpose: To identify nationwide health improvement priorities; to increase public awareness and understanding of the determinants of health, disease and disability and the opportunities for progress; to provide measurable objectives and goals that are applicable at the national, state and local levels; to engage multiple sectors to take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices that are driven by the best available evidence and knowledge; and to identify critical research, evaluation and data collection needs.

Audience: All interested in public health issues

Description: Healthy People provides science-based, ten-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. For three decades, Healthy People has established benchmarks and monitored progress over time in order to: encourage collaborations across communities and sectors, empower individuals toward making informed health decisions and measure the impact of prevention activities. Healthy People 2020 identifies nearly 600 objectives with 1,200 measures to improve the health of all Americans. To determine the success of Healthy People, it is important to track and measure progress over time. Healthy People relies on data sources derived from national census of events (like the National Vital Statistics System) and nationally representative sample surveys (such as the National Health Interview Survey).

Websites: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/default.aspx>; Prevention Strategies: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/prevStrategies.aspx>

Name: Keeping America Healthy

Purpose: To find and share programs that have produced measurable improvements in health outcomes in a community setting

Audience: Policymakers, community leaders and public health professionals

Description: The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease developed a Roadmap for Successful Program Development to help policymakers and local leaders address population health issues in their communities. The Roadmap's framework is built on the nine Commonalities Among Successful Population Health Improvement Programs. Briefly, these nine "essential elements" are: define the problem and program objective, tailor program to the target population, engage leadership, coordinate among stakeholders and across settings, integrate throughout the organization or community, empower the target population, motivate the target population, sustain and institutionalize program and measure, evaluate and refine the program.

Website: <http://promisingpractices.fightchronicdisease.org/>

Name: National Association of County and City Health Officials Model Practices (NACCHO)

Purpose: To provide a resource to get, give, try, evaluate and reference an idea.

Audience: All interested in public health issues

Description: The Model Practices Database is an online, searchable collection of innovative best practices across public health areas. These practices allow you to benefit from your colleagues' experiences, to learn what works, get strategies on how to re-implement effective programs with good results and save time and resources. The database features practices in, but not limited to the following areas: community health, environmental health, public health infrastructure and systems and public health and emergency preparedness.

Website: <http://naccho.org>; Model Practices: <http://naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/>

Name: National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy

Purpose: To provide evidence-based interventions that will ensure the maximum sustainable health impact is achieved.

Audience: All interested in public health issues

Description: The National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy sets goals, actions and timelines to reduce the incidence of preventable illness and disability in the United States and promote health and well-being. It prioritizes evidence-based policy and program interventions to address both the leading causes of death and disability in the United States (heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases and unintentional injuries) and the preventable behaviors—including tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and excessive alcohol use—that contribute to those causes.

Website: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/initiatives/prevention/strategy/index.html>

Name: National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP)

Purpose: To connect members of the public to intervention developers so they can learn how to implement these approaches in their communities.

Audience: The Public

Description: NREPP is a searchable online registry of more than 260 interventions supporting mental health promotion, substance abuse prevention and mental health and substance abuse treatment, which have been reviewed and rated by independent reviewers.

Website: <http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/>

Name: Partnership for Prevention-Action Guides

Purpose: To create a “prevention culture” in America, where the prevention of disease and the promotion of health, based on the best scientific evidence, is the first priority for policy makers, decision-makers and practitioners.

Audience: All interested in public health

Description: To help promote evidence-based practice, Partnership for Prevention has developed Action Guides that translate recommendations into practical “how to” guidance. These Action Guides help plan and implement evidence-based programs and practices in community and workplace settings to prevent chronic disease and promote health. Topic areas include tobacco, physical activity, nutrition, diabetes and cancer screening.

Website: <http://www.prevent.org/>; Action Guides: <http://www.prevent.org/Initiatives/Action-Guides.aspx>

Name: Public Health Accreditation Board

Purpose: To advance quality and performance within public health departments.

Audience: The governmental entity that has the primary statutory or legal responsibility for public health in a tribe, state, territory, or at the local level.

Description: Accreditation through PHAB provides a means for a department to identify performance improvement opportunities, to improve management, develop leadership and improve relationships with the community. The process is one that will challenge the health department to think about what business it does and how it does that business. It will encourage and stimulate quality and performance improvement, in addition to create greater accountability and transparency in the health department.

Website: <http://www.phaboard.org/>

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Clinical

Name: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Electronic Preventive Services Selector

Purpose: To provide information on clinical preventive services, such as recommendations, clinical considerations and selected practice tools, to improve patient services.

Audience: Physicians, nurse practitioners, students

Description: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Electronic Preventive Services Selector (ePSS) is a quick, hands-on tool designed to help primary care clinicians and health care teams identify, prioritize and offer the screening, counseling and preventive medication services that are appropriate for their patients. The ePSS is based on the current, evidence-based recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and can be searched by specific patient characteristics, such as age, sex and selected behavioral risk factors.

Website: <http://epss.ahrq.gov/ePSS/index.jsp>

Name: Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN)

Purpose: To encourage adoption of evidence-based cancer prevention and control strategies in communities through an increased understanding of the dissemination and implementation process.

Audience: Academics, public health representatives and community partners

Description: The CPCRN is a national network of academic, public health and community partners who work together to reduce the burden of cancer, especially among those disproportionately affected. The CPCRN provides an infrastructure for applying relevant research to local cancer prevention and control programs. Its members conduct community-based participatory cancer research across its ten network centers, crossing academic affiliations and geographic boundaries.

Website: <http://www.cpcrn.org/default.asp>

Name: The Cochrane Collaboration

Purpose: Provides answers to clinical questions about the effectiveness of treatments.

Audience: Practitioners, providers, policymakers, authors, researchers and journalist

Description: The Cochrane Collaboration is an international, independent, not-for-profit organization of over 28,000 contributors from more than 100 countries, dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of health care readily available worldwide. *The Cochrane Library* (subscription required) contains full-text Cochrane Reviews, as well as other databases of reviews and controlled trials, including the CDSR. It also provides quality-assessed review evidence on diagnostic tests, health technology assessments, economic evaluations and methods studies from the world's medical literature.

Website: <http://www.cochrane.org/>

Name: The Guide to Clinical Preventative Services

Purpose: Develop evidence reports and technology assessments on topics relevant to clinical and other health care organization and delivery issues; specifically those that are common, expensive and/or significant for the Medicare and Medicaid populations.

Audience: Clinicians, consumers and policymakers

Description: Under the Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPC) Program of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, five year contracts are awarded to institutions in the United States and Canada to serve as EPCs. The EPCs review all relevant scientific literature on clinical, behavioral and organization and financing topics to produce evidence-based reports and technology assessments. These reports are used for informing and developing coverage decisions, quality measures, educational materials and tools, clinical care guidelines and research agendas. The EPCs also conduct research on methodology of systematic reviews.

Website: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epc/>

Name: Promising Practices Network

Purpose: To offer credible, research-based information on what works to improve the lives of children and families.

Audience: Decision makers, practitioners and program funders

Description: The Promising Practices Network website features summaries of programs and practices that improve outcomes for children. The information pertains to children from the prenatal period to age 18, as well as the families and communities in which they live. All of the information on the site has been screened for scientific rigor, relevance and clarity. The site is comprised of short, easy-to-understand summaries, but those summaries also include links to longer reports for further information. The site also includes links to databases, fact sheets, screening tools, seminal reports and a variety of other resources that are among the best research-based materials available on children and families.

Website: <http://www.promisingpractices.net>

Name: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

Purpose: To make accurate, up-to-date and relevant recommendations about preventive services in primary care.

Audience: Internists, pediatricians, family physicians, gynecologists/obstetricians, nurses and health behavior specialists

Description: The USPSTF is an independent panel of non-Federal experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine and is composed of primary care providers. The USPSTF conducts scientific evidence reviews of a broad range of clinical preventive health care services (such as screening, counseling and preventive medications) and develops recommendations for primary care clinicians and health systems. These recommendations are published in the form of "Recommendation Statements."

Website: <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/recommendations.htm>