

BENEFITS AND COSTS OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Does prevention pay? The Washington State Institute for Public Policy has provided credible evidence that for each dollar spent on “research-based” prevention programs for youth, more than a dollar’s worth of benefits will be generated (i.e., benefits exceed the costs). Following are the benefits accrued per dollar of cost for the Blueprints programs that were analyzed.

Blueprints Model Programs	Benefit per Dollar of Cost	Outcome
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 1.01	Drugs, Crime, Educational
Functional Family Therapy	\$13.25	Crime reduction
Life Skills Training	\$25.61	Drug reduction
Midwestern Prevention (Project STAR)	\$ 5.29	Drug reduction
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care	\$10.88	Crime reduction
Multisystemic Therapy	\$ 2.64	Crime reduction
Project Towards No Drug Abuse	\$55.84	Drug reduction
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$ 2.88	Crime reduction
 Blueprints Promising Programs		
CASASTART	\$ 0.89	Drugs and Crime
Good Behavior Game	\$25.92	Drugs
Guiding Good Choices	\$11.07	Drugs and Crime
Project Alert	\$18.02	Drugs
Project Northland	\$10.39	Drugs
Seattle Social Development Program	\$ 3.14	Crime, Educational
Strengthening Families 10-14	\$ 7.82	Drugs

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2004. Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention programs for Youth. Olympia, WA. Full report available at www.wsipp.wa.gov.