

Frequently Asked Questions: Evidence-Based Practice



Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) : Integration of the best available research-based knowledge with practice expertise, while considering the characteristics, culture, and preferences of the client system, to guide decision making about the skills, techniques, and strategies to be used by the practitioners within the context of an organization or community setting.¹

Environment of Organization

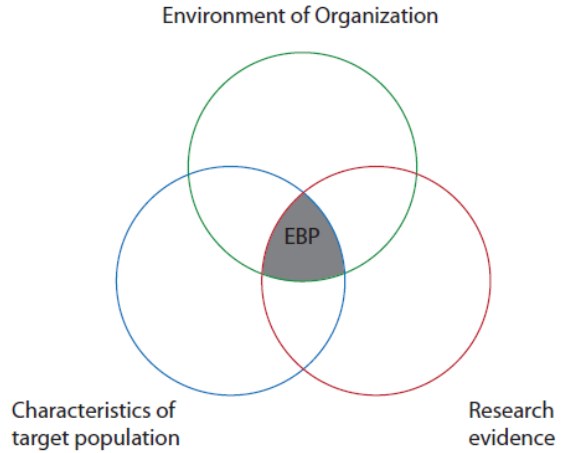
Orientation of organization within the community based on current trends and community setting.

Characteristics of Target Population

Characteristics, culture, and preferences of population served

Research evidence

Research that has been scrutinized by independent organizations



Evidence-Based Practice vs. Best Practice

EBP is always based on scientific evidence², while the evidence used in best practice can fluctuate.

	Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)	Best Practice
Empirically reliable and consistent	X	
Professionally analyzed evidence	X	
Addresses issues within the community	X	X
Informs and guides interventions	X	X
Produces measureable outcomes	X	



How could EBP help your community organization?

EBP tells you what works. Increasingly, community organizations are funded based on their ability to produce verifiable outcomes. Given this trend, implementing EBP is the most effective way to attract funding and negotiate the competition for limited resources.

- EBP is efficient: Informing practice using measurable outcomes
- EBP is reliable: Providing a consistent, and accessible knowledge base³
- EBP provides Improved service: lowering costs and increasing resources⁴
- EBP is cutting edge: Evidence-Based Program Planning Model⁵ (See EBP PowerPoint)
- EBP ensures quality: Using scientifically-based interventions⁶
- EBP helps to protect the public and is legally defensible⁷
- Interventions are selected by review boards and organized into updated databases⁸

What are the steps of the EBP Process?

For detailed training, see EBP PowerPoint presentation.

1. Convert your need for information into an answerable question.
2. Track down the best evidence to answer that question.
3. Critically appraise evidence for its validity, impact and applicability.
4. Integrate the critical appraisal with your context, environment and the characteristics of your target population.
5. Evaluate effectiveness and seek ways to improve your practice.

Examples of Community Organizations using EBP

Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC)

Provides case management for AISD children with more complex needs using Evidence-based “Wraparound” practice to deliver Care Coordination Services

http://www.austinisd.org/community/access/docs/ACCESS_ATCIC_20100819.pdf

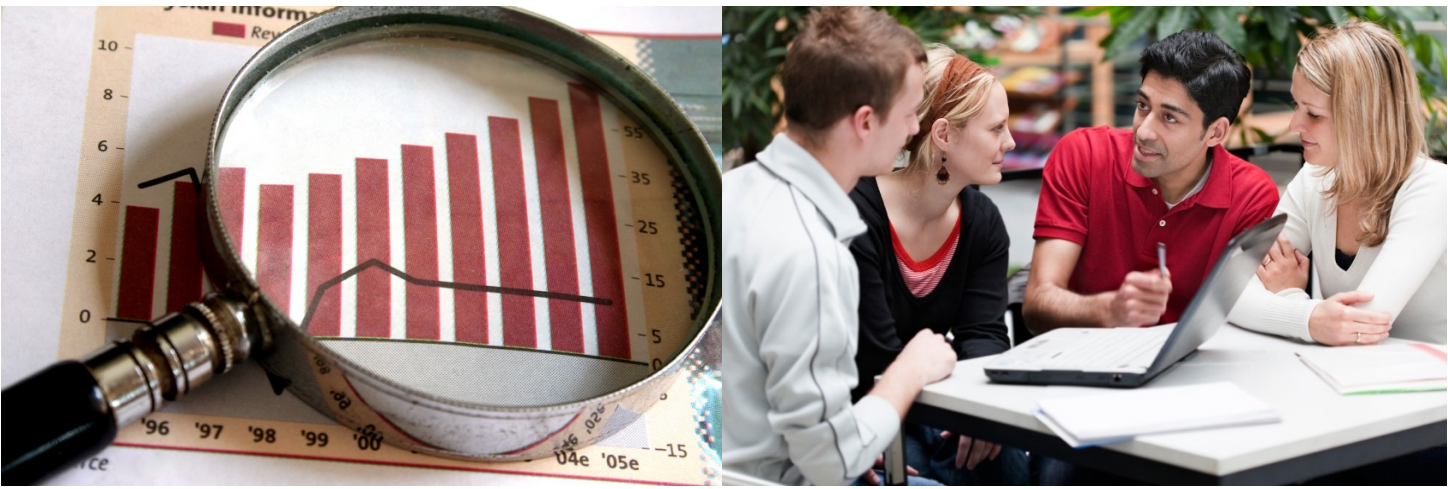
Austin Independent School District (AISD)

Partners with Austin Child Guidance Center in its comprehensive ACCESS project to implement an evidence-based program, created by Dr. Scott Sells of the Savannah Family Institute

<http://www.austinchildguidance.org/services/community-collaborations/>

Department of Program Evaluation utilizes community indicators to form questions for evaluation of AISD programs and use the EBP format to develop the questions that need addressing for populations.

http://www.austinisd.org/inside/docs/ope_10-12_Plan_of_Work_2010_11.pdf



Where do you go for resources and research?

General Resources

The Campbell Collaboration

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

The Community Guide

<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html>

Evidence-Based Practice for the Helping Professions

<http://www.evidence.brookscoll.com/database.html>

Social Programs That Work

<http://evidencebasedprograms.org/wordpress/>

Criminal Justice

National Institute of Corrections

<http://www.nicic.gov/>

Crime and Justice Institute

<http://cjinstitute.org/projects/webinars/series/>

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/abstractdb/AbstractDBDetails.aspx?id=209170>

Healthcare

The Cochrane Library

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

National Cancer Institute: Research-Tested Intervention Programs

<http://rtips.cancer.gov/rtips/index.do>

National Working Group on Evidence-Based Healthcare

<http://www.evidencebasedhealthcare.org/>

Institute of Medicine

<http://www.iom.edu>

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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

Evidence-Based Behavioral Practice (EBBP)

<http://www.ebbp.org/>

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute (NRI)

http://www.nri-inc.org/data_topics/

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) at the University of Washington

<http://lib.adai.washington.edu/instruments/>

The Evaluation Center

<http://tecathsri.org/materials.asp>

National Institute of Mental Health

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov>

Youth and Education

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC)

<http://www.cebc4cw.org/>

Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior

<http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

Child Trends

<http://www.childtrends.org>

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints>

Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)



References

1. Roberts-DeGennaro, Maria. (2010). Using an Evidence-Based Program Planning Model In a Macro Practice Course. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 30:1, 46 - 63.
2. Gambrell, E. (2007). Views of evidence-based practice: Social workers' code of ethics and accreditation standards as guides for choice. *Journal of Social Work Education*. 43, 447-462.
3. <http://campbellcollaboration.org/>
4. http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/speeches_remarks_statements/2009/speech_10262009
5. Roberts-DeGennaro, Maria. (2010). Using an Evidence-Based Program Planning Model In a Macro Practice Course. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 30:1, 46-63.
6. Gambrell, E. (2006) Evidence-based practice and policy: Choices ahead. *Research on Social Work Practice*. 16, pp. 338-357
7. <http://www.samhsa.gov/>
8. <http://jap.sagepub.com/content/14/3/181.short>

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