

Reducing Alcohol-Impaired Driving: School-Based Programs, Instructional Programs

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

School-based programs to reduce alcohol-impaired driving include: instructional programs; peer organizations such as Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD); and social norming campaigns. Instructional programs can address the problems of drunk driving (DD) and riding with drunk drivers (RDD) alone, or have a broader focus on alcohol or other substance use. Peer organizations engage students in a variety of DD and RDD prevention activities. Social norming campaigns generally are ongoing, multiyear public information programs on college campuses that aim to reduce alcohol use by providing students with objective normative information regarding student alcohol consumption in order to reduce misperceptions and ultimately change their behavior.

Task Force Finding (October 2003)*

According to the Community Guide's rules of evidence, there is sufficient evidence that school-based instructional programs are effective in reducing RDD [riding with drinking drivers] among students. However, there is insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of these programs on DD [driving after drinking] outcomes. Based on the broader literature evaluating school-based programs to prevent substance abuse, it appears that instructional programs that include resistance and other skill training and which require interaction on the part of students are likely to be most effective in reducing RDD, as well as other relevant outcomes.

*From the following publication:

Elder RW, Nichols JL, Shults RA, et al. Effectiveness of school-based programs for reducing drinking and driving and driving and riding with drinking drivers: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(5S):288-304.

Publications

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