What is Prevention?

Universal Prevention (Primary):

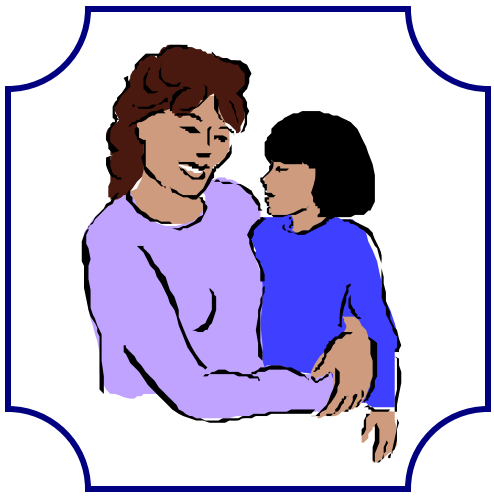
Aimed at positively influencing individuals before behavior occurs.

Key aspects:

- Offered to all members of a population
- Promote positive functioning

Examples

- Home visitor for all new parents
- New parent support/nurturing programs
- Parenting education
- Abuse prevention education
- Social skill building for sex equity, impulse control, coping, and stress reduction
- Media promotion
- After-school and summer programs
- Parent/school/community partnerships
- Family life, child development, and sexuality education



Indicated Prevention (Secondary):

Refers to services offered individuals considered to be “at risk”. Negative behavior has either not yet taken place or has not been detected.

Key aspects:

- Offered to a predefined group of vulnerable individuals
- Voluntary

Focuses on particular stresses of identified individuals

Identifies appropriate and inappropriate boundaries

Examples:

- Student assistance programs
- School based clinics
- Community mental health services
- Adolescent parenting/day care programs
- Parent support groups
- Agency/school partnerships

Selective Prevention (Tertiary):

Refers to services provided to people who are involved in negative behaviors. The intent of these services is to prevent re-occurrence of negative behaviors.

Examples:

- Foster care placement
- Court-ordered counseling, therapy, parent education
- Hospitalization
- Incarceration or diversion
- Juvenile justice system
- Crisis care placement
- Smoking cessation

Cindy Wakefield
303/866-6750
Prevention Initiatives
Colorado Department of Education
201 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203
Wakefield_C@cde.state.co.us

cde