

Kentucky Early Intervention Program, 2001-2002; Preliminary Results

POPULATION:

Kentucky youth 13 through 18 years of age who had first or second time substance abuse-related charges and after screening were determined to be appropriate for an educational intervention program. This report is on 474 participants in the Early Intervention Program who completed the PRIME For Life program between October 2001 and March 2002, and for whom Prevention Research Institute's pre-tests and post-tests and Spalding University's intake information for the students were available.

EVALUATION DESIGN:

Data for this report were gathered by researchers at Spalding University and at Prevention Research Institute (PRI). Students referred to the Early Intervention Program and their parent(s) completed surveys, developed by Spalding researchers, during the intake process for the program (for further information see Cummings, Johnson & Linfield, 2002). This information was matched to two PRI surveys completed by the students. One survey (pre-test) was completed before attending the 12-hour PFL class and another survey (post-test) was completed immediately after class. To measure short-term changes in perception of risk, pre-intervention and post-intervention views were compared.

EVALUATOR:

Wendy Kallina, Ph.D., Prevention Research Institute; Data collection: Spalding University School of Social Work and PRI.

REFERENCE

Kallina, W. (2002) *PRIME For Life: Preliminary Results for the Early Intervention Program*. Prevention Research Institute, Inc.

FINDINGS:

- ◆ Analyses revealed statistically significant and desired changes on measures of perception of risk. After completing the PRIME for Life program, youth:
 - ☞ Evidenced a more accurate understanding of who is at risk for alcoholism;
 - ☞ Increased their perception of risk of heavy daily drinking and heavy episodic drinking;
 - ☞ Assessed the risks associated with occasional and regular marijuana use significantly higher.

- ◆ At the conclusion of the PFL program participants were able to examine their past drinking choices and drug choices and state their future intentions:
 - ☞ 48% of youth intended never to make high-risk drinking choices in the future;
 - ☞ 31% of youth intended rarely to make high-risk drinking choices in the future;
 - ☞ 58% of youth intended never to use drugs in the future;
 - ☞ 36% of youth intended to decrease their drug use in the future.

- ◆ Students' perceptions of PFL were as follows:
 - ☞ 76% agreed the class changed their thinking about how much and how often they should drink;
 - ☞ 71% of youth agreed that the class changed their thinking about drug use.

Prevention Research Institute, www.primeforlife.org, 800-922-9489