

Abbott, Robert, Catalano, Richard F., Hawkins J. David, Hill, Karl G., and Kosterman, Rick. (1999). Preventing Adolescent Health-Risk Behaviors by Strengthening Protection During Childhood. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. (153,3). 226.

Literature Review: Resnick, M.D., Bearman, P.S, Blum, R.W. (1997) and Dryfoos, J. (1990) found that predictors of school failure, delinquency, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and violence indicates that many of the same factors predict many different outcomes. Bonding to school and family protects against a broad range of health-risk behaviors in adolescence. Teachers can improve children's attitudes toward school, behavior at school, and academic achievement through the use of effective methods of directions and management. Researched effects of programs offered to teachers, parents, and children.

Purpose:

- To examine the long-term effects of an intervention combining teacher training, parent education, and social competence training for children during the elementary grades on adolescent health-risk behaviors at age 18.

Methods:

- Sample: Fifth graders in public elementary schools serving high-crime areas in Seattle, Washington. Six hundred forty-three fifth graders had parental consent for the longitudinal study, and 598 were followed up and interviewed at age 18.
- Variables: Self-reported violent and non-violent crime, pregnancy, substance use, sexual activity, grade repetition and school dropout, bonding to school, school achievement, suspension and/or expulsion, and school misbehavior; delinquency charges from court records; grade point average; and disciplinary action reports from school records.
- Procedure: In-service training for teachers each intervention year, developmentally appropriate parenting classes offered to parents when children were in grades 1-3 and 5-6, and developmentally adjusted social competence training for children in grades 1 and 6.

Result/Conclusions:

- Interventions with parents, children, and teachers can have a lasting effect in reducing heavy drinking, violent behavior, and sexual intercourse by age 18 among multiethnic children.
- Students not receiving full intervention were reported to have more violent delinquent acts, heavy drinking, sexual intercourse, having multiple sex partners, and pregnancy or causing pregnancy by age 18, while those students receiving full intervention showed more commitment and attachment in school, less school misbehavior, and better academic achievement.