

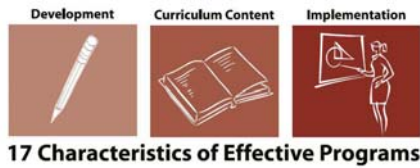
Indianapolis, IN
September 13th, 2007



An Introduction to the New & Revised 17 Characteristics of Effective Programs:

A Tool for Assessing
Effective HIV, STI, and Teen Pregnancy
Prevention Programs

Healthy Teen Network



Welcome!

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leadership,
education,
training, resources,
advocacy,
information and
support

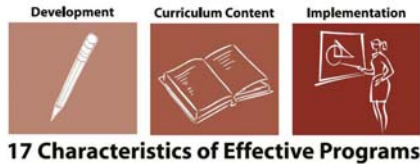
Healthy Teen Network is devoted to making a difference in the lives of teens and young families. We are a national organization focused on adolescent health and well-being with an emphasis on *teen pregnancy prevention, teen pregnancy, and teen parenting.*



Objectives

At the completion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- ❑ Describe at least 3 science-based practices;
- ❑ Describe what is meant by a science-based program or curriculum;
- ❑ Describe the process used to develop the Characteristics of Effective Programs;
- ❑ List the 3 categories of the Characteristics;
- ❑ Begin to be able to describe each of the 17 Characteristics; and
- ❑ Describe how the Characteristics and the TAC can be used by practitioners to select, adapt, improve, and develop adolescent pregnancy & STI prevention programs/curricula.



Agenda

- ❑ **Welcome & Introduction**
- ❑ **Review of “Science-Based” Definition**
- ❑ **Overview of the Origin of the Characteristics and the 3 Categories**
- ❑ **Characteristics Small Group Activity**
- ❑ **Introduction to the 17 Characteristics & the TAC**
- ❑ **Q & A**



“Science-Based” Definitions

What strategies would you consider to be “science-based” in your work to prevent teen pregnancy, STIs, and HIV/AIDS?

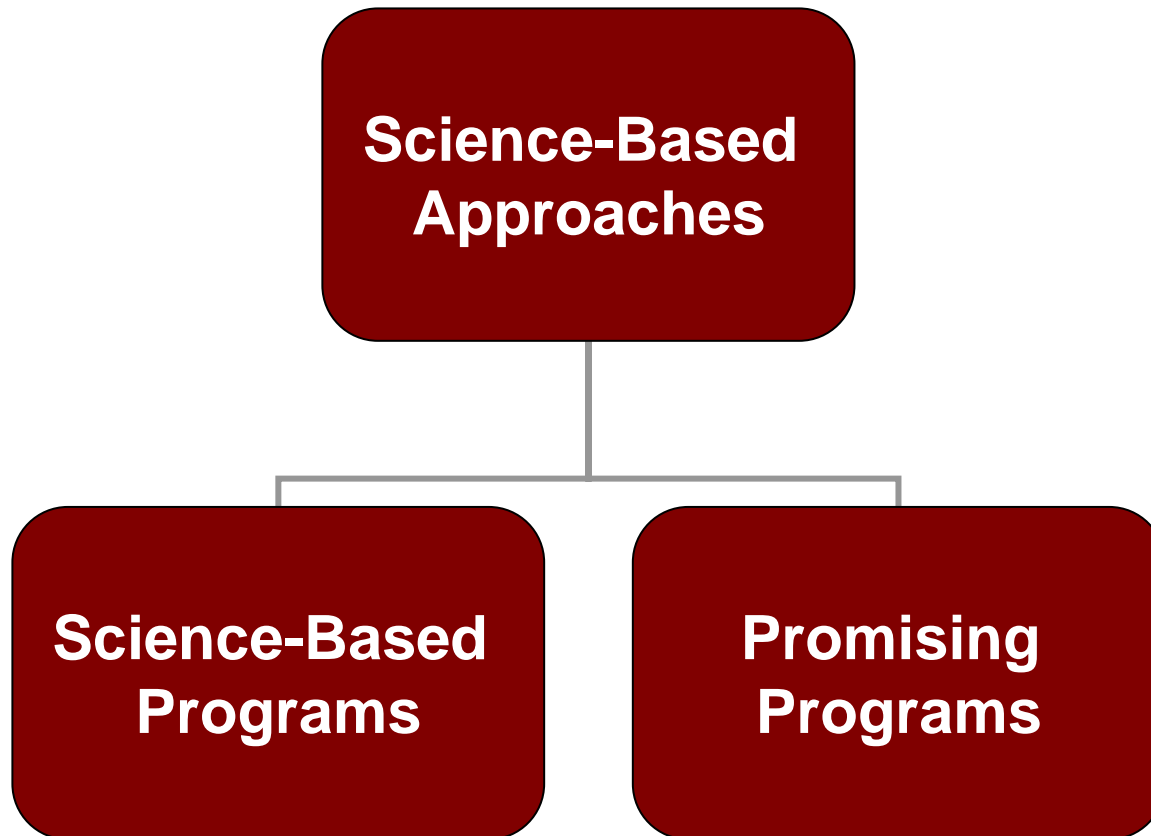


Science-Based Approaches

1. Use research & data to assess youth
2. Use health education & behavior theory
3. Use logic models
4. Implement science-based programs with fidelity
5. If necessary, make strategic adaptations to science-based programs
6. **Use the 17 Characteristics**
7. Conduct process & outcome evaluation



SBA Includes:





Why Use SBAs?

- Teen pregnancy rates in the US
- Using what has shown to be effective in changing behavior
- Meeting health goals and participant outcomes
- Engaging funder's interests
- Improving practice and learning along the way
- Improving processes in program development, implementation, & evaluation



The 10 Characteristics

How many of you have heard of the “10 Characteristics of Effective Programs?”

This research was led by ETR’s Douglas Kirby, PhD in 1994.



The New Characteristics Research

In 2005, Family Health International funded Dr. Kirby and his team to:



- Conduct a worldwide search for rigorously evaluated HIV prevention and sex education programs and describe their impact, and
- Examine effective programs for common characteristics.



Written Products

Kirby, D., Laris, B.A. & Rolleri, L. (2006). *Sex and HIV Program for Youth. Their Impact and Important Characteristics.* Scotts Valley, CA: ETR Associates.

Kirby, D., Rolleri, L. & Wilson, M.M. (2007). *A Tool to Assess the Characteristics of Effective Sex and HIV Education Programs.* Washington, DC: Healthy Teen Network.



Program Criteria

- Targeted young people up to 25
- Were curriculum-based with structured activities involving groups of youth (not one-on-one interaction or youth development)
- Were implemented in schools or community settings *anywhere in the world*



Evaluation Study Criteria

- Used an experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation design
- Had a sample size of 100 or larger
- Measured impact on initiation of sex for at least 6 months and other behaviors for at least 3 months
- Were published in 1990 or later



The Numbers!

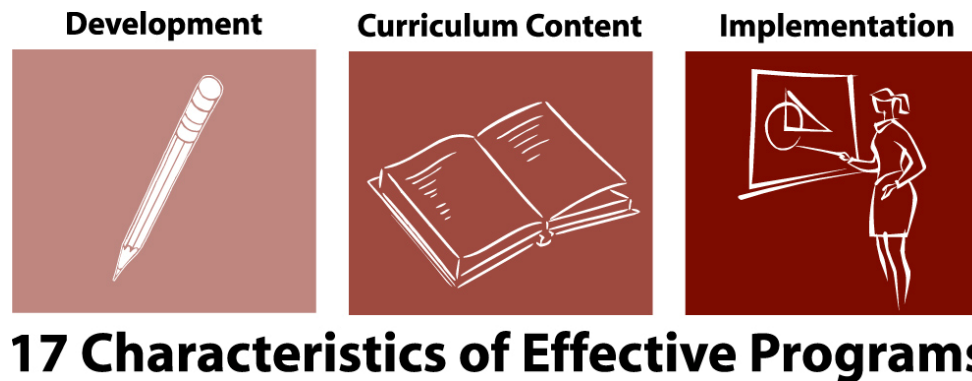
- 83 programs met the criteria
- 28 programs had the strongest for behavior change
- 19 of the 28 curricula were obtained from program developers and analyzed





Three Categories

- ❑ **Program Development**
- ❑ **Program Content**
- ❑ **Program Implementation**





How the Characteristics Can Be Used

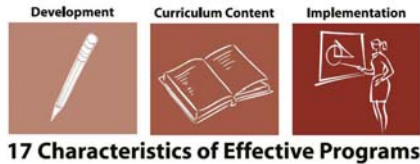
- Assess
- Adapt
- Implement
- Develop



Group Activity



1. You will have 15 minutes to complete this activity.
2. In your small group, identify 2-3 program characteristics for each of the 3 categories (see handout).
3. Choose the one you think is most important for each category.
4. Write the most important characteristic for each of the 3 categories in BIG letters using a marker on the pieces of paper.
5. Tape each of the 3 characteristics your group has identified under each of the appropriate headings on the wall.



Uncovering the Characteristics

- Did anything surprise you about Dr. Kirby's list?
- How similar are the two lists?
- Is there anything missing from Dr. Kirby's list that you think should be included?



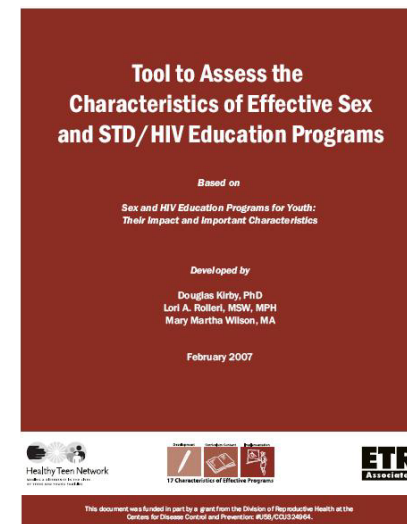
What is the TAC?

Question?

How can this new research on the characteristics of effective programs be used?

Answer!

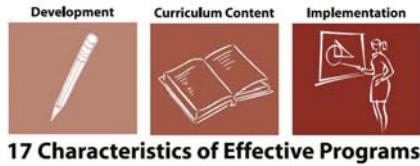
The *Tool for Assessing the Characteristics of Effective Sex and STD/HIV Education Programs*, or TAC for short, which was developed to help practitioners apply the research in a user-friendly way to improve programs.





Major Sections of the TAC

- Pages 1-3: Background Information
- Pages 4-6: Why Would You Use the TAC?
Assess, Adapt, Develop, Implement
- Pages 6-8: Preparation Steps
- Page 8: Four Steps to Assessing Each Characteristic
Read, Answer, Summarize, and Report!
- Pages 11-50: Characteristics Assessment
- Pages 51-55: Characteristics Summary Table
- Pages 57-61: Resources
- Pages 63-66: Glossary

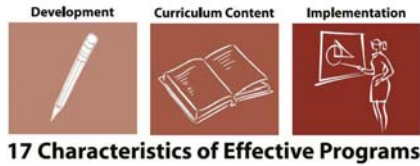


What Do You Think?

Do you think you would use the TAC in your organizations to assess a program?

Why? How?





Q & A

Questions?
Comments?



Key Points



- ❑ **The 17 Characteristics of Effective Programs is one of several science-based approaches that practitioners can use to strengthen their work**
- ❑ **The 17 Characteristics is based on a systematic and comprehensive review of 19 effective programs with the most compelling evaluation findings**



Key Points



- ❑ **There are three categories of Characteristics:**
 - 1. Development**
 - 2. Contents**
 - 3. Implementation**

- ❑ **The TAC can be used by practitioners who are interested in assessing a curriculum, adapting an existing curriculum, or developing a new curriculum**



Thank You!

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