

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY GUIDE?

The *Guide to Community Preventive Services (Community Guide)* is a collection of all the evidence-based findings and recommendations of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force). It is a credible resource to help you make decisions by providing information on:

- Community preventive services, programs, and policies that have been shown to work
- How these programs, services, and policies may fit the needs of your community
- Estimated costs and potential return on investment

WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THE COMMUNITY GUIDE?

The Task Force issues evidence-based findings and recommendations on many public health topics such as:

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| • Adolescent health | • Health communication | • Oral health |
| • Alcohol | • Health equity | • Physical activity |
| • Asthma | • HIV/AIDS, STIs, and pregnancy | • Social environment |
| • Birth defects | • Mental health | • Tobacco |
| • Cancer | • Motor vehicle | • Vaccines |
| • Cardiovascular disease | • Nutrition | • Violence |
| • Diabetes | • Obesity | • Worksite health promotion |
| • Emergency Preparedness | | |

WHO IS THE COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR?

A wide range of decision makers use the *Community Guide*:

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| • State and local health departments | • Research and program funders | • Employers and companies |
| • Boards of health | • Public health practitioners | • Researchers and evaluators |
| • Non-governmental organizations | • Clinicians | • Community health centers |
| • Policymakers and legislators | • Educators and school administrators | • City and county planners |
| • Health plans and systems | | • Social service agencies and organizations |



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE?

The Task Force is an independent, nonfederal, unpaid group of public health and prevention experts whose members are appointed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Task Force was established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Congress has mandated that the Task Force provide information for a wide range of decision makers. CDC is mandated to provide administrative, research, and technical support for the Task Force.



HOW CAN YOU USE THE *COMMUNITY GUIDE*?

Use the *Community Guide* to:

Foster dialogue—Stimulate conversation among individuals and groups about public health challenges and effective solutions

Develop policies—Identify evidence-based policies communities can pursue

Mobilize communities—Engage individuals and groups to address public health issues

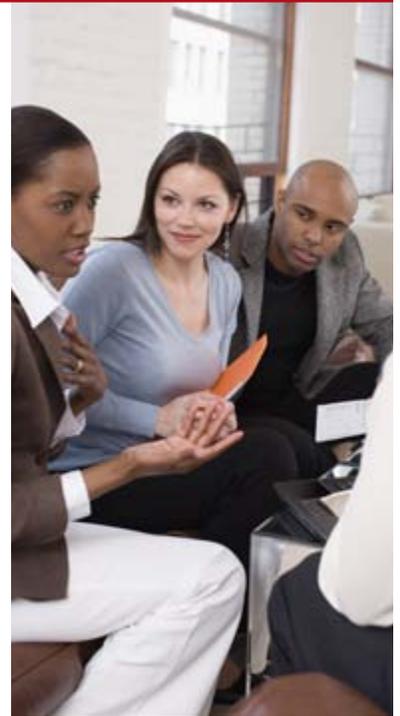
Inform research priorities—Develop research agendas, priorities for funding, and funding announcements

Educate—Teach others about the systematic review process and evidence-based public health

Evaluate—Find out whether programs, services, and policies are helping you meet your public health goals

Support funding proposals and decisions—Establish priorities for seeking financial support of research, evaluation, programmatic or policy initiatives to make best use of limited resources

See how the *Community Guide* is used. Visit www.thecommunityguide.org/CG-in-Action.



WHAT MAKES THE *COMMUNITY GUIDE* CREDIBLE?

Expert Oversight—The Task Force oversees development of the *Community Guide*. The members of the Task Force are renowned for their expertise in public health research, practice, and policy. Systematic review teams are led or supported by scientists at CDC, and include government, academic, policy, and practice-based partners.

Collaboration—Task Force collaborators are active in all aspects of developing, disseminating, and helping prepare the *Community Guide* to assure that it meets real-world needs. Partners come from a range of government, academic, policy, and practice-based settings and include:

- Liaisons to the Task Force—individuals from non-profit organizations and federal agencies with official Task Force liaison status who serve without compensation to represent the views, concerns, and needs of their members and constituents

- Scientists and program managers from CDC
- Researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from other federal agencies and throughout the the United States

Scientific Methods—The Task Force findings and recommendations are based on evidence from systematic reviews of community preventive services, programs, and policies found in the scientific literature. These systematic reviews evaluate the evidence by:

- Analyzing all available evidence on what works to promote health and prevent disease, injury, and disability
- Assessing the economic benefits of the interventions found to be effective
- Identifying where more evidence is needed

THE *COMMUNITY GUIDE* IS EASY TO USE!

One-stop

The *Community Guide* website compiles all Task Force findings and recommendations in one place, so it saves time.

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