Therapeutic Foster Care: For Chronically Delinquent Adolescents

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition
In program-intensive therapeutic foster care, juveniles (aged 12 to 18 years) determined to be chronically delinquent were placed in foster homes and systematically isolated from their delinquent peers. Program personnel worked closely with the foster parents and others in the participant’s environment (e.g., teachers) to train and support them in providing an environment structured for social and emotional learning.

Task Force Finding (June 2002)*
The Task Force finds sufficient evidence to recommend use of this intervention: violent outcomes among juveniles in therapeutic foster care were reduced by a median of 72% compared with juveniles in group homes. This intervention was only evaluated in one setting, and applicability cannot necessarily be extended to other settings.

*From the following publication:

Publications


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The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

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