CASASTART

Program description:

Formerly known as Children at Risk, CASASTART (Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows) targets youth aged 11 to 13 in high-risk neighborhoods. Using case management, after-school activities, and law enforcement, the program attempts to decrease individual, family, and community risk factors while promoting positive behavior such as school performance and prosocial activities.

Typical age of primary program participant: 12

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Partici-pant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
			ES	SE	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	P	2	0.04	0.12	0.84	0.03	0.12	14	0.03	0.12	24
K-12 grade repetition	P	2	0.04	0.12	0.84	0.03	0.12	14	0.03	0.12	24
Age of initiation (alcohol)	P	1	0.14	0.16	0.39	0.10	0.16	14	0.10	0.16	24
Age of initiation (other illicit drugs)	P	1	-0.30	0.09	0.00	0.22	0.09	14	0.22	0.09	24
Truancy	P	1	0.38	0.03	0.84	0.29	0.03	14	0.29	0.03	24
Underage alcohol use	P	1	-0.14	0.16	0.39	-0.05	0.21	14	-0.05	0.21	24
Illicit drug use	P	2	-0.07	0.21	0.73	0.03	0.12	14	0.03	0.12	24

Benefit-Cost Summary

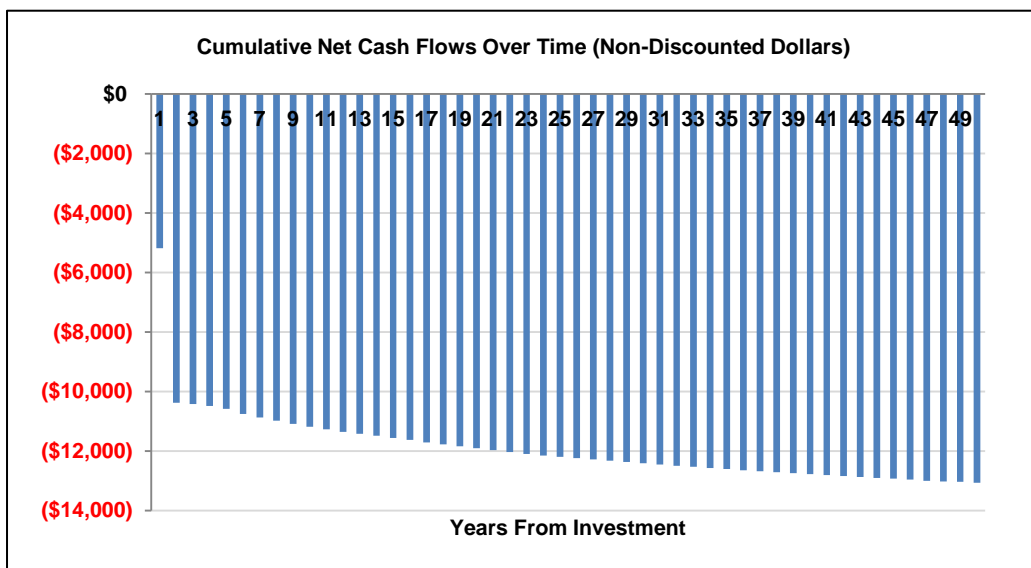| The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2011). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			
	Partici-pants	Tax-payers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits		Benefit to Cost Ratio	Return on Invest-ment	Benefits Minus Costs	Probability of a positive net present value
	-$245	-$385	-$755	-$188	-$1,574	-$6,806	-$0.23	n/e	-$8,380	0%

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of Benefits	Benefits to:				
	Partici-pants	Tax-payers	Other	Other In-direct	Total Benefits
Crime	$0	-$226	-$787	-$109	-$1,123
Earnings via high school graduation	-$271	-$100	$0	-$49	-$420
K-12 grade repetition	$0	-$36	$0	-$18	-$54
Earnings via alcohol disorder	$16	$6	$0	$3	$25
Health care costs for alcohol disorder	$0	$1	$1	$1	$3
Earnings via illicit drug disorder	$3	$1	$0	$1	$5
Health care costs for illicit drug disorder	$1	$4	$3	$2	$9
Property loss from illicit drug disorder	$1	$0	$2	$0	$3
Health care costs via education	$5	-$36	$27	-$17	-$22

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in Technical Appendix 2.	Program Costs			Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics	
	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Present Value of Net Program Costs (in 2011 dollars)	Uncertainty (+ or – %)
	$2,825	2	2002	$0	2	2002	$6,807	10%

Source: Miller, T.R., and Hendrie, D. (2005). "How should governments spend the drug prevention dollar: A buyer's guide." In: Stockwell, T., Gruenewald, P., Toumbourou, J., and Loxley, W., eds. *Preventing harmful substance use: The evidence base for policy and practice*. Chichester, England: John Wiley & Sons. pp. 415–431.

Cumulative Net Cash Flows Over Time (Non-Discounted Dollars)

Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	0.5
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	0.5
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	0.75
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	0.75
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.5
Unusual (not "real-world") setting	0.5
Weak measurement used	0.5

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

Harrell, A., Cavanagh, S., & Sridharan, S. (1999, November). *Evaluation of the Children At Risk Program: Results 1 year after the end of the program* (Research in Brief). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from ERIC database. (ED438341)

Mihalic, S., Huizinga, D., Ladika, A., Knight, K., & Dyer, C. (2011, June). *Bibliography: CASASTART final report* (Award Number 58328). Princeton, NJ: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.