

September 17th, 2013

Summary of Pathways to Prevention: Part III

SCOPE acts not as a source for its own prevention framework, but as a convener and resource for integrating effective prevention frameworks developed across the field. To the extent these frameworks have commonalities that make them effective, SCOPE endorses these principles as key to any effective framework.

1. *Prevention is integrated across disciplines and therefore collaborative;*
2. *Prevention is holistic (addressing physical, spiritual and emotional well-being)*
3. *Prevention is evidence-based and/or able to demonstrate efficacy;*
4. *Prevention is strategic in design and implementation;*
5. *Prevention is multi-targeted, directed at the individual, the community and the society (environmental);*

SCOPE encourages the perspective that prevention is conscious of social justice and mindful of systemic inequity, privilege and power dynamics that affect multiple and intersecting identities.

Several such frameworks exist, but are not summarized in one place as a primer on effective prevention. SCOPE aims to serve as a synergizing entity for the field of prevention by highlighting and cataloguing the following models for practitioners.

Models:

- I. Public Health
- II. Gordon's Operational
- III. Social-Ecological
- IV. Spectrum of Prevention

Social-Ecological

The social-ecological model addresses the intricate interaction between individual, relationship, community and societal factors. Strategic prevention efforts should include a range of activities that tap into more than one level of the model.¹

1. Individual: the first level identifies individual factors, such as age, education, income, substance use and personal history. Prevention efforts at the individual level often include elements to promote healthy attitudes, beliefs and behaviors, such as education and life skills training.²

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/overview/social-ecologicalmodel.html>

² Ibid.

2. Relationship: the second level looks at close relationships that may increase risk, such as peers, partners and family members, who may influence behavior and contribute to life experiences. Prevention efforts at the relationship level can include mentoring and peer programs.³
3. Community: the third level addresses settings, such as schools, workplaces and neighborhoods, in which social relationships occur and seeks out the characteristics of these settings which may be associated with health conditions. Prevention efforts at the community level aim to impact the climate, processes and policies in a given system, such as social norm and social marketing campaigns.⁴
4. Societal: the fourth level explores the broad societal factors that create a climate, such as social and cultural norms. Additional factors are the health, economic, educational and social policies that serve to maintain economic or social inequalities between groups in society.⁵

Tip of the Week authored by Michelle Issadore, M.Ed., SCOPE Executive Director: execdir@wearescope.org

This publication is a member-only publication and may not be disseminated to non-members or posted publicly without authorization from SCOPE.

©SCOPE 2013. All rights reserved.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.