CSSRC Resource Review

Review Date: 6/17/13

Name/Title: Understanding Evidence

Author: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Violence Prevention

Media Type: (Book, CD, Flyer, Poster, Website, etc) training and resource website

Publisher/Supplier: CDC

Publication Date: March, 2013

 Re-order Source: http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/evidence/#&panel1-1

Language: English

Usefulness Rating:

1. Excellent
2. Good XX
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. Rated by: (CSSRC staff member) Alice Huyler
6. Comments:
    a. Understanding Evidence is a free, online resource created by the CDC that offers local practitioners and others working to prevent violence knowledge and resources for using evidence in their decision-making processes. The tool is intended primarily for those working in violence prevention, however the concept is applicable to anyone wishing to learn more about evidence-based programs and decision making.
    b. The goals of the tool are to enable a learner to: 1. define the three types of evidence involved in evidence based decision-making; 2. identify standards of rigor across the key dimensions that make up the best available research evidence; 3. identify sources of and ways to collect best available research evidence, contextual evidence, and experiential evidence; and 4. identify key stages and characteristics of an evidence based decision-making process.
    c. Included in the tool are learning modules, case studies, an interactive continuum of evidence of effectiveness, and resources. As a learner proceeds through the modules, they are directed to complete little questionnaires that will create a custom document relating to their use of evidence in decision-making.
    d. Each kind of evidence and its value in selecting a program or practice is clearly described in non-technical language to be accessible for people who are not researchers.
    e. Learning modules include:
        i. Introduction
        ii. Best Available Research Evidence

           iii. Experiential Evidence

           iv. Contextual Evidence

    f. Case studies include:

           i. Child Maltreatment

           ii. Suicide

           iii. Sexual Violence

           iv. Teen Dating Violence

           v. Youth Violence

    g. Resources listed include:

           i. CDC resources for understanding evidence

           ii. Evidence-based registries

           iii. Resource centers for violence prevention

           iv. Community assessment information

           v. Experiential methods

Category: (Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Promotional Item) Prevention

Topic: (Bullying, Substance Abuse, Threat Assessment, etc) Evidence-based programs and practices, violence, dating violence, sexual violence, suicide

Audience: (Administrators, Counselors/Psychologists/Social Workers, Emergency Responders, Health Professionals/Nurses, Law Enforcement/SROs/Security, Parents, Teachers, Other School Personnel) Administrators, Counselors/Psychologists/Social Workers, program purchasers

Intended Age Group: (pre-K, elementary, middle, high, higher education) all

Cost: 0

Additional Comments: Navigating in the tool is not very obvious. When I clicked off the learning module to the resource center and continuum map, then returned to the learning module, I could not return to the place where I had been. Jumping between the modules is simple and intuitive, but there seems to be no way to navigate within a module. This may be related to there being a certificate for continuing education credits upon completion of the learning modules. The modules really work best if the user completes them straight through in one sitting. It is frustrating for people who purposely or mistakenly click off the module or who get interrupted.