THE COMMUNITY GUIDE

How to Navigate the Site
The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide) is a collection of evidence-based findings of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF). It is a resource to help you select interventions to improve health and prevent disease in your state, community, community organization, business, healthcare organization, or school.

Community Guide reviews are designed to answer three questions:

- What has worked for others and how well?
- What might this intervention approach cost, and what am I likely to achieve through my investment?
- What are the evidence gaps?

The CPSTF issues findings based on systematic reviews of effectiveness and economic evidence that are conducted with a methodology developed by the Community Guide Branch.
The CPSTF reviews intervention approaches across a wide range of health topics. Interventions are applicable to groups, communities, or other populations and include strategies such as healthcare system changes, public laws, workplace and school programs and policies, and community-based programs.

All of the intervention approaches are intended to improve health directly; prevent or reduce risky behaviors, disease, injuries, complications, or detrimental environmental or social factors; or promote healthy behaviors and environments.

The CPSTF was established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in 1996 to develop guidance on which community-based health promotion and disease prevention intervention approaches work and which do not work, based on available scientific evidence. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the DHHS agency that provides the CPSTF with technical and administrative support.
The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide) is a collection of evidence-based findings of the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF). It is a resource to help you select interventions to improve health and prevent disease in your state, community, community organization, business, healthcare organization, or school.

- Implement Programs, Services, and Other Interventions
- Develop Evidence-Based Policies
- Prioritize Areas for Research
- Educate Students and Others about Evidence-Based Public Health
- Inform Funding Decisions and Fund Proposals
- Learn how others have used The Community Guide across the United States

USING THE COMMUNITY GUIDE
Create a User Profile

- A primary feature of the new site is the option to become a registered user. There is no cost and your information will not be shared or used to send unsolicited email notices. All you need is a valid email address, display name, and password.

Why Become a Registered User?

- When you register, you can complete a user profile. This optional information is used to generate customized content. We’ll point out resources we think you might like and share what users with similar profiles are reading.

- Registered users can also save search strategies and results, and bookmark favorite pages. This makes it easier to track your work and share information with others.

Do I Have to Register?

- No. You are welcome to use the site without registering and you will have access to all the same information and resources.
Find Information

There are a few ways to get the information you want.

- **Search** – use the search box at the top of any page to find anything on the site.
- **Topics** – use the drop down menu from the top of any page to see content about that topic.
- **Customized Content on the Homepage** – content will change regularly to reflect what’s new at The Community Guide as well as current trends. If you are logged in as a registered user, the homepage will display content based on your interests, preferences, and previously saved information. There are four types of customized content:
  - **Most Viewed this Week** - pages most often viewed by all users
  - **Recently Modified** – new or updated CPSTF findings and reviews, publications, and resources
  - **You Might Like** – items of possible interest based on your user profile (registered users only)
  - **Users Like You Viewed** – items frequently viewed by people with similar profiles (registered users only)
Search Filters displayed above the search results can be used to narrow your results. Drop down menus allow you to narrow results by the following:

- Topic
- Audience
- Setting
- CPSTF Finding
- Strategy

The search engine gives you results under five different tabs:

- All – every page on the site that matches your search term
- Systematic Reviews – evidence-based reviews and findings
- Tools – interactive materials to help assess, implement, evaluate
- In Action Stories – examples of how findings have been used
- Resources – information and promotional materials
You can use standard search strategies to narrow your results. For example, search “breast cancer” or “car safety seat” for more specific results.

How Do I Save My Search Results or find earlier search results?

Registered users can click on the “Save Search” button to save search results (with any selected filters). Registered users may access saved searches through the user profile.
Learn About Systematic Reviews

- When you click on a systematic review, you will be directed to a page that tells you the CPSTF finding, summarizes the evidence, and links you to more information.

- Along the **left side of the page** you’ll find the following:
  - Topic
  - CPSTF finding
  - Date of the finding
  - Key characteristics of the intervention strategy, including target audiences, settings, and applied strategies

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE SITE
In the **center of the page**, information is presented under four tabs:

- **Snapshot** – summaries of the CPSTF finding and intervention definition, and links to the full CPSTF Finding and Rationale Statement as well as any available promotional materials
- **What the Task Force Found** – information about the review, effectiveness and economic evidence, evidence gaps, applicability, and study characteristics, and links to available publications
- **Supporting Materials** – evidence tables, lists of included studies, search strategies, and references
- **Considerations for Implementation** – information to consider when planning to implement this type of intervention
Learn how others have used The Community Guide across the United States:

- Click on Publications & Resources
- Select Community Guide in Action
- Select a dot on the map of the US to learn how others have used the Guide
HOW TO NAVIGATE THE SITE

Get Email Updates:

- At the bottom of the site you can enter your email address in order to subscribe to receive updates.
- Once you enter your email address it will ask you what other subscription topics you’d like receive updates on. Information may include webinars, new studies, etc.