

Benefits of Using SBAs

Source: Alford, S., Leon J, Sugland B. Science-Based Practices: A Guide for State Teen Pregnancy Prevention Organizations. Washington DC, Advocates for Youth; 2004.

Relying on science-based practices permits a coalition/organization to:

1. Maximize its opportunities to have a positive, measurable impact on young people's behaviors.
2. Maximize its opportunities to improve and refine its programs to achieve the best possible outcomes with youth and/or the professionals who serve them.
3. Contribute valuable lessons to the field of teen pregnancy prevention, especially to those who wish to replicate effective strategies.
4. Integrate pregnancy prevention with proven STI/HIV prevention and youth development programs and strategies.
5. Collaborate with organizations in related fields, such as social services, HIV treatment, and youth development, to increase the resources and services available to young people.
6. Improve its professionalism.
7. Hone the accuracy and impact of its products, messages and efforts.
8. Increase the extent to which program planners, the media, policy makers, and others rely confidently on its information.
9. Address controversy and counter misinformation by providing accurate information to guide public discourse and to inform policy decisions.
10. Ensure that its resources are well spent – on effective programs, strategies, and activities.
11. Meet standards of accountability imposed by funding sources.
12. Increase the sustainability of programs by meeting funding sources' expectations that monetary investment will achieve measurable, anticipated outcomes.
13. Increase programs' sustainability by proving their worth to local, regional, and state private and corporate sponsors.
14. Avoid loss of funding that can ensue if the organization cannot prove the positive impact of its programs.