

# Overview of TASC Critical Elements & EBP

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# What is Evidence-based Practice?

- Development and implementation of programs based on a systematic review of “what works”
  
  - 3 basic approaches to evidence-based practice:
    - Strategy 1: Conduct a comprehensive review of all available research on a particular topic:
      - The systematic reviews conducted by the Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group (Sherman et. al, 2005; Sherman, et. al, 1997)
      - The systematic reviews using meta-analytic methods including experimental and quasi-experimental research (Gendreau, et. al, 1990)
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# What is Evidence-Based Practice?

- Strategy 2: Examine only a subset of all available research studies, using randomized field experiments as the “Gold Standard” (Farrington and Welsh’s (2005))
  
  - Strategy 3: Conduct a nonscientific review, simply say “evidence based”, and then offer your own listing of best practices.
    - Reexamine/reposition scientific reviews
    - Only include a subset of all available research, often supporting either liberal or conservative ideology (Farabee, 2005; Cullen, 2002)
    - No specific identification of review procedures, inclusion/exclusion criteria, etc.
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# What is Meta-Analysis?

- Meta-Analysis is a statistical technique designed to synthesize empirical relationships across a large number of studies.
- Meta-Analysis allows us to determine both the Size and Direction of effects across studies.
- Meta-Analysis techniques can be translated into summary statistics that public policy makers can easily understand (e.g. a 10% recidivism reduction effect for all correctional interventions using multi-systemic strategies)

Sources: Wilson (2001); Rossi, Freeman, and Lipsey (2001)

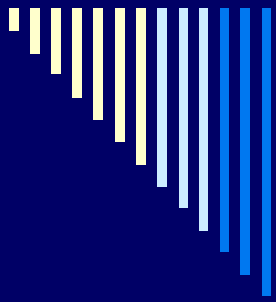
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# When Should Meta-Analysis be Used?

- ❑ Only used to summarize research findings from methodologically rigorous evaluation designs
  - ❑ Use when there are more than 10 studies being included in the review
  - ❑ Use for studies examining the relationship between clearly defined independent and dependent variables.
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# What Review Criteria are Used in The Campbell Collaborative's Systematic Reviews?



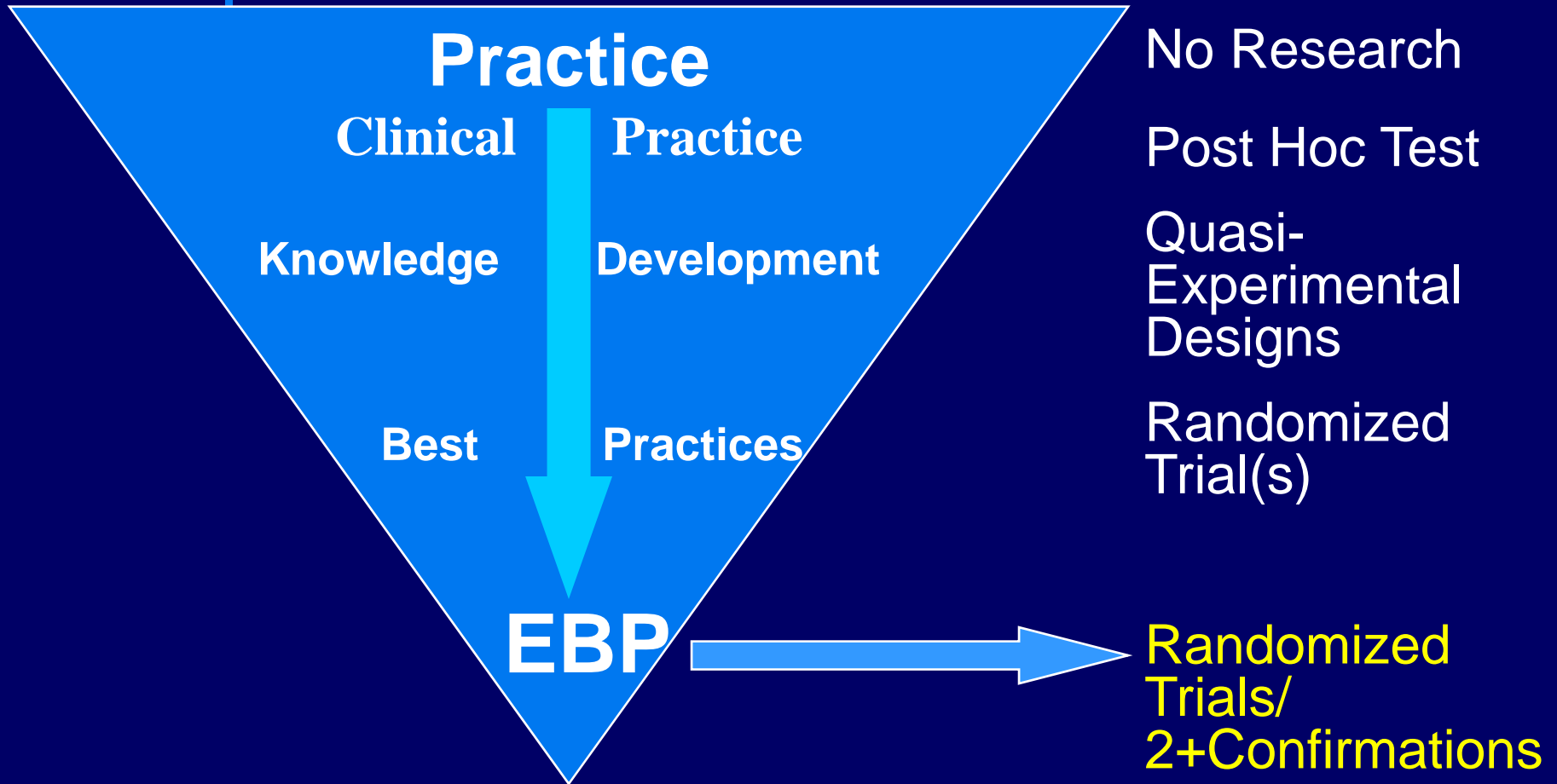


# Study Inclusion Criteria For Systematic Reviews

The scientific methods scale ranks evaluation studies from 1=weakest to 5=strongest on overall internal validity:

- ***What Works:*** A minimum of two level 3 studies with significance tests showing ineffectiveness and the preponderance of evidence in the same direction.
- ***What Does Not Work:*** A minimum of two level 3 studies with significance tests showing ineffectiveness and the preponderance of evidence in the same direction.
- ***What is Promising:*** At least one level 3 study is required with significance tests showing effectiveness and preponderance of evidence in support of the same conclusion.
- ***What is Unknown:*** Any other program

# What Defines Evidence in EBPs?





# What Has Been Tried: CJ Interventions?

- Intensive Supervision
- Boot Camp
- Case Management
- TASC
- DTAP (Diversion to TX, 12 Month Residential)
- Drug Courts
- Tx with Sanctions (e.g. Break the Cycle, Seamless System, etc.)
- In-Prison Tx (TC) with Aftercare

Without engaging offender in change,  
doomed to failure!!!



# What Has Been Tried: Clinical?

- Education (Psycho-Social)
- Non-Directive Counseling
- Directive Counseling
- **Motivational Interviewing**
- **Moral Reasoning**
- **Emotional Skills**
- **12 Step with Curriculum**
- **Cognitive Processing**
- **Cognitive Behavioral** (Social Skills, Behavioral Management, etc.)
- **Therapeutic Communities**
- **Contingency Management/Token Economies**



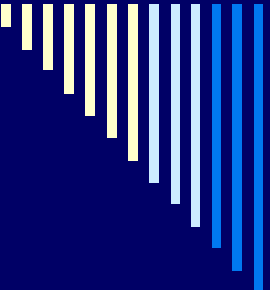
**Skills & Decision-Making: Shape Behavior**

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**#1 System : A process to coordinate justice, treatment and other systems.**

- Clinical Practice
  - Questions: What is coordination?  
Coordination vs. Integration
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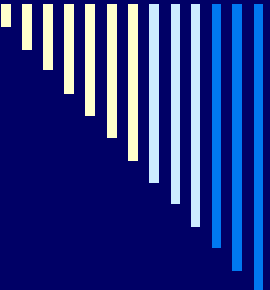


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## #2 System: Procedures for providing information & cross-training to justice, tx, & other systems.

- Clinical Practice
  - Questions: Type of information needed? Areas of cross-training (e.g. goal cohesion, procedures, target population, etc.)
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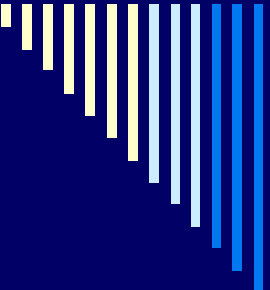
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**# 3 Organization: A broad base of support from the justice system with a formal system for effective communication.**

- Knowledge Development
  - Questions: Effective form of formal support? Form of effective communication?
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**# 4 Organization: A broad base of support by the treatment and other social services community.**

Knowledge Development

Questions: what is support by tx or social services?

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## # 5 Organization: Organizational integrity.

- Knowledge Development

- Questions: define integrity?  
Organizational readiness?



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## # 6 Organization: Policies and procedures for regular staff training.

- Knowledge Development

- Questions: Policies and procedures to support regular staff training? Develop staff?



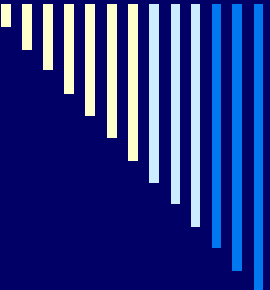


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## #7 Organization: A management information system with a program evaluation design.

- Best Practices

- Questions: effective use of MIS?  
Effective use of program evaluations?



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## # 8 Operations :Clearly defined client eligibility criteria.

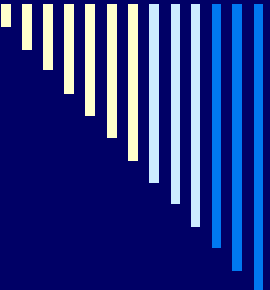
- Best Practices
  - EBP: High Risk Offenders Should Be Triaged into Structured, Intense Programs
  - Questions: what is high risk? How can high risk be used to determine program placement?
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## # 9 Operations: Performance of client-centered case management.

- Best Practices for Client Centered Case Management
    - Case Management Identified as Not Effective due to varying practice, tendency to refer (not place)
    - Case Management identified as Promising when offer services
  - Questions: What is client centered? Strengths based? Case management practice?
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## # 10 Operations :Screening procedures for identification of TASC candidates within the justice system.

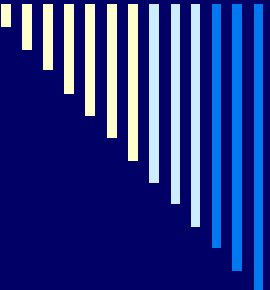
- Best Practice
  - Research Focus: Reliability and Validity of a Risk and/or Need Tools
  - Questions to improve use of assessment and case planning
    - Prescreen for offense
    - Assessment for problem severity
    - Process for program placement
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## # 11 Operations: Documented procedures for assessment and referral.

- Best Practices
  - Research literature:
    - Referrals do not necessarily lead to provision of services
    - Referrals do not affect completion rates
  - Questions: how to improve program participation rates?
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**# 12 Operations:** Policies, procedures and protocols for monitoring TASC clients' alcohol and drug use through chemical testing.

□ Best Practices

□ Research Findings:

- UA process varies, no single one more effective
- Positive UA results are not routinely responded to

□ Questions: effective UA procedure?  
Effective process for sharing information to offenders? Effective reward/sanction process

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## # 13 Operations: Competency with diverse populations.

- Clinical Practice
  - Questions: what aspects of offender characteristics should be differentially handled (e.g. gender, race, ethnic, etc.)
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