

2012

Community Preventive Services
Task Force

**2012 ANNUAL REPORT
TO CONGRESS**

AND TO AGENCIES RELATED TO THE WORK
OF THE TASK FORCE

 Community Preventive Services
Task Force

The Guide to Community Preventive Services
THE COMMUNITY GUIDE
What Works to Promote Health

The 2012 Annual Report to Congress was prepared by the Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) in response to the following requirement:

“...providing yearly reports to Congress and related agencies identifying gaps in research and recommending priority areas that deserve further examination, including areas related to populations and age groups not adequately addressed by current recommendations.” (, § 4003(b)(1); PHS Act § 399U(b)(6))

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides “ongoing administrative, research, and technical support for the operations of the Task Force.” (, § 4003(b)(1); PHS Act § 399U(c))

Executive Summary

In the last year, the Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) has issued or updated findings and recommendations about how to prevent and reduce the spread of pandemic influenza; prevent heart attacks, strokes, and skin cancer; increase the number of Americans who quit smoking; improve mental health; and reduce health disparities. The Task Force also

- Provided training and technical assistance on how to use Task Force recommendations to Task Force Liaisons and other health organizations and agencies; health departments, boards of health, and community-based organizations in 20 states; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff who oversee federally-funded programs.
- Improved the website where people can find Task Force findings and recommendations.
- Developed and piloted with CDC a template course on systematic review methods.
- Was recognized for authoring one of the five most cited articles in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2010, “A Systematic Review of Selected Interventions for Worksite Health Promotion: The Assessment of Health Risks with Feedback.”

The Task Force identified major gaps in the evidence base that limit its ability to do the following:

- Determine whether specific programs, services, and policies are effective in addressing particular populations or unique health concerns.
- Determine whether programs, services, and policies work everywhere and for everyone or only in specific places or for certain groups of people.
- Help practitioners, policy makers, and other decision makers select and put into place programs, services, and policies that meet their needs.

Using an established, transparent prioritization process, the Task Force has planned new reviews and updates to existing reviews on the following topics in 2012-14:

- Obesity prevention and control.
- Promoting good nutrition.
- Promoting physical activity.
- Addressing disparities in health status.
- Improving oral health.
- Reducing tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.
- Cancer prevention and control.
- Cardiovascular disease prevention and control.

When decision makers in communities, business, nonprofits, the health sector, and all levels of government need to know what works to improve and protect health, they can rely on recommendations from the Task Force (see www.thecommunityguide.org). Demand for Task Force recommendations grows stronger as the health sector, employers, the public, and policy makers recognize the imperative to keep people healthy, productive, and functioning independently, and address the rising incidence and costs of preventable diseases. To meet the increasing demand, the Task Force will take these actions:

- Accelerate the completion of highest priority reviews.
- Enhance dissemination to better meet the needs of the wide range of its users.
- Increase and refine training and technical assistance for decision makers and other users.
- Identify and communicate evidence gaps to help scientists, funders, and policy makers optimize resources for health research and evaluation.
- Work closely with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to expand and enhance each other’s work.