

Join Hands for Children

Comparison of Definitions for Evidence-Based Practice

<p align="center">DSHS Children’s Administration</p>	<p align="center">California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare</p>
<p>An evidence-based program is a model program that has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sound theoretical basis in generally accepted psychological or sociological principles for treatment of the identified population and service needs. • A manual that specifies the components and characteristics of the service, so it can be replicated. • Strong research support with at least two randomized controlled outcome studies or two comparison-group studies that established the program’s effectiveness. The sample size for the two studies must be no less than 100 in both the control/comparison group and the study group (unless there are three or more studies on the same population and outcomes, and then the sample size may be as small as 60) • A quality assurance plan that allows for measurement of whether the service is delivered according to the model design. 	<p>The Institute of Medicine (IOM) defines "evidence-based practice" as a combination of the following three factors:</p> <p>(1) best research evidence (2) best clinical experience, and (3) consistent with patient values (IOM, 2001).</p> <p>These three factors are also relevant for child welfare.</p> <p>We propose adopting the Institute of Medicine's definition for evidence-based child welfare practice with a slight variation that incorporates child welfare language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Research Evidence • Best Clinical Experience • Consistent with Family/Client Values <p>This definition builds on a foundation of scientific research while honoring the clinical experience of child welfare practitioners, and being fully cognizant of the values of the families we serve.</p> <p>Reference: Institute of Medicine. (2001). <i>Crossing the quality chasm: A new health system for the 21st century</i>. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.</p>