School Programs for Physical Activity to Prevent Obesity

Program description:
Programs in school that aim to increase children's physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviors include increasing knowledge about the benefits of physical activity; incorporating physical activity in the classroom with short periods of movement, exercise, dance, etc., interspersed between academic lessons; or increased time, frequency, and/or intensity of the physical education curriculum. Typically these programs are taught by classroom or physical education teachers who receive brief (< 1 day) training to deliver the intervention. The evaluations usually compare these programs to the standard health education and physical activity curriculum, which also provide opportunities to exercise and contain content on the importance of physical activity.

Typical age of primary program participant: 10

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Participant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
			ES	SE	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Child obesity – body mass index	P	12	-0.07	0.03	0.04	-0.05	0.03	12	-0.05	0.03	22

Benefits and costs were not estimated for obesity prevention programs.

Discount Rates Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Discount	Discount Rate
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	0.5
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	0.5
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	0.75
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	1.75
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.5
Unusual (not "real-world") setting	0.5
Weak measurement used	0.5

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

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Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

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