

## Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for youth in state institutions Juvenile Justice

Literature review updated June 2019.

As part of WSIPP’s research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines “what works” (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis. For detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#). At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

**Program Description:** Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is a cognitive behavioral intervention that targets chronically aggressive youth. ART aims to help adolescents improve social skill competence and moral reasoning, better manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. ART is a ten-week, 30-hour intervention delivered in groups of 8 to 12 participants, three times per week.

This analysis is on ART for youth in state institutions. Youth in the included study were females in a juvenile rehabilitation facility who had been assessed as having violent/aggressive behavior. In the included study, 33% of participants were youth of color. All participants in the treatment and comparison groups received treatment as usual, which included some cognitive behavioral programs or other individual/group counseling.

Evaluations on ART for juvenile justice system-involved youth in the community, including court-involved youth and post-release youth, are excluded from this analysis and analyzed separately.

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects							
Outcomes measured	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Adjusted effect size and standard error			Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)	
			ES	SE	Age	ES	p-value
Disruptive behavior disorder symptoms	1	30	-0.078	0.301	17	-0.078	0.796

Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome. WSIPP systematically evaluates all credible evaluations we can locate on each topic. The outcomes measured are the types of program impacts that were measured in the research literature (for example, crime or educational attainment). Treatment N represents the total number of individuals or units in the treatment group across the included studies.

An effect size (ES) is a standard metric that summarizes the degree to which a program or policy affects a measured outcome. If the effect size is positive, the outcome increases. If the effect size is negative, the outcome decreases.

Adjusted effect sizes are used to calculate the benefits from our benefit cost model. WSIPP may adjust effect sizes based on methodological characteristics of the study. For example, we may adjust effect sizes when a study has a weak research design or when the program developer is involved in the research. The magnitude of these adjustments varies depending on the topic area.

WSIPP may also adjust the second ES measurement. Research shows the magnitude of some effect sizes decrease over time. For those effect sizes, we estimate outcome-based adjustments which we apply between the first time ES is estimated and the second time ES is estimated. We also report the unadjusted effect size to show the effect sizes before any adjustments have been made. More details about these adjustments can be found in our [Technical Documentation](#).

### Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Erickson, J.A. (2013). *The efficacy of Aggression Replacement Training with female juvenile offenders in a residential commitment program* (Unpublished dissertation). Tampa: University of South Florida

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