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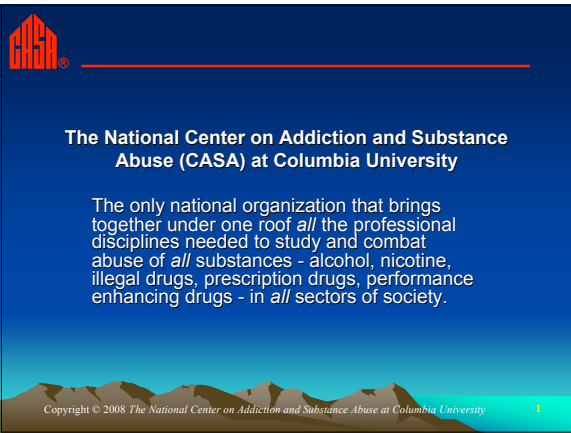
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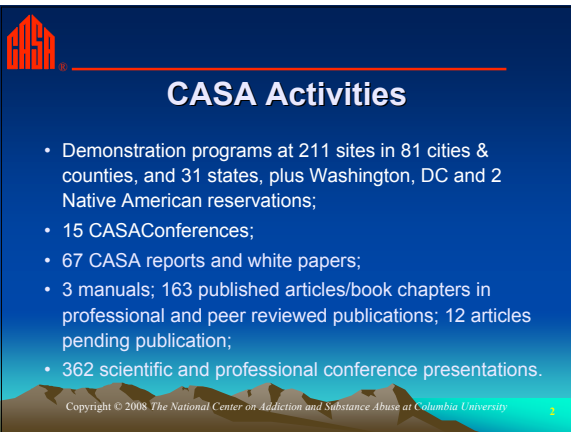
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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Overview

### CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> (Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows)

combines teachers, police, social service and health-care workers under one umbrella to provide comprehensive services to 8-13 year-old high-risk children and their families.

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Values

Treat children as children, not problems to be solved

More of a process than a program

Relationships are key to success

All youth can be helped to achieve to the best of their abilities

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Targets High Risk Youth 8 – 13 Years of Age

- School Risk Factors
- Family Risk Factors
- Personal Risk Factors
- Environmental Factors

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Aims to Improve the Lives of High-Risk Youth

- Reduce juvenile delinquency and violence
- Reduce substance use and abuse
- Increase participant attachment to school
- Improve grades
- Strengthen families
- Make communities safer

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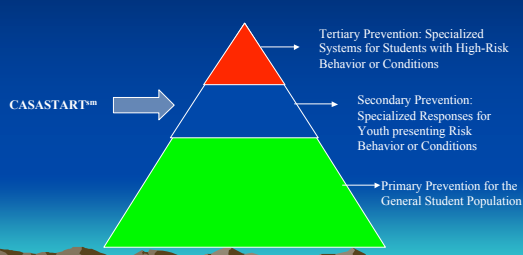
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## Who CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Serves



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## Risk and Protection — focuses on the relationship between risk and protective factors in a young person's life

Focus is on four domains

- Community
- Family
- School
- Individual and Peer

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## Theoretical Bases

- Social structural strain
- Social learning
- Social control
- Youth development framework

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## Social Structural Strain Theory

Emerged during the 1930's and suggests that antisocial behavior occurs because of a disconnection between social and societal goals and an individual's ability to access the means to achieve those goals. This was an extension of Durkheim's theory of **anomie**, or "outside the law" or "normlessness".

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## Social Learning Theory

Describes development as a learned behavior that is influenced strongly by environmental experiences. Young people are seen as being influenced by the behaviors of people around them. An integral part of social learning is the concept of modeling. Children observe other people's (parents, friends, teachers) behaviors and model their own after what they see and experience in others.

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## Social Control Theory

Suggests that the norms of the surrounding culture have significance in influencing children to deviant behaviors. Research has substantiated that delinquency is a function of the failure of an adolescent to form or maintain a bond to family, peers, institutions or society. Measures of social class and ability are seen as background variables that contribute to the likelihood of maladaptive delinquency.

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## Youth Development Framework: Reduce Risk Factors/Increase Protective Factors

- Intellectually reflective
- Prepared for meaningful work
- Prepared to be a good citizen
- Develop caring and ethics
- Attain and maintain good health

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Mantra

- Community Based
- School Centered
- All The Youth Get All The Services
- Partners Attend CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Meetings Regularly

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> - 8 Strategies

- Academic support
- After school and summer programming
- Community Policing
- Juvenile Justice linkages
- Mentoring
- Family Support
- Incentives
- Intensive Case Management – Social Support

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> 3 Meetings

- **Case Conferences**  
**Youth Focus** - Case manager, key personnel in the school, and law enforcement meet twice a month to problem solve around issues that arise with youth participants.
- **Administrative Meetings**  
**Program Focus** - CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Program Manager meets with Principal and Police Lt. To discuss challenges and successes at the school level.
- **Advisory Council Meetings**  
**Policy Focus** - Key decision-makers in the community attend this meeting. They are charged with addresses broader community issues related to youth substance abuse, delinquency and other trends affecting youth as well as developing policies and securing funding to support the program.

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Creates Partnerships

- A Common Vision
- A Common Mission
- A Common Language

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Partners

### Characteristics of a Successful CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Lead Agency

- History of working in partnership with other organizations
- Good leadership
- Stable organization not "overbalanced" by the program
- Results oriented
- Foster an environment of honest, direct communication
- Endorse the goals and affirm the values of the program
- Maintain client records & data
- Work with partners to create a sustainability plan starting day one

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Partners

### Key Lead Agency Responsibilities

- Act as lead agency – hire, manage, and train staff to implement program
- Assemble partners
- Nurture formal and informal communication among partners
- Facilitate communication and collaboration between partners, coordinate 3 key meetings
- Maintain client records & data
- Work with partners to create a sustainability plan

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Partners

### Key School Responsibilities

- Provide office and meeting space
- Refer students eligible for CASASTART<sup>SM</sup>
- Participate in 3 key meetings of CASASTART<sup>SM</sup>
- Share information regarding youth grades, attendance, conduct
- Work with partners to create a sustainability plan

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Partners

### Key Law Enforcement Responsibilities

- Teach prevention or "street law" classes to participants
- Make positive connections with youth in the program
- Create and/or enhance community policing strategies
- Share information regarding youth and crime
- Establish safe corridors to and from school
- Lead out-of-school activities
- Refer eligible youth to the program
- Accompany case managers on home visits when appropriate
- Attend 3 key meetings
- Work with partners to create a sustainability plan

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## Connecting the Dots: An Integrated Support System



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## Common Characteristics of a Successful CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Site

- Defined geographic boundary
- Strong lead agency
- Interagency agreements
- School-based services
- Community policing strategies
- Commitment to positive youth development
- Coordinated services through a series of meetings

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## Common Characteristics, cont'd

- Youth can participate for two years
- Intensive case management approach
- Youth have at least four risk factors
- Sites receive training and technical assistance
- Systems approach

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## Urban Institute Evaluation

- Performed in 5 cities: Austin, Bridgeport, Memphis, Seattle, and Savannah, 1992-1994.
- Eligible students randomized to CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> (338 students) or control group (333 students).
- Data from 203 students from neighborhoods that did not offer CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> used as additional comparison group.

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## Urban Institute Findings CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Youth Were

- More likely to be promoted to next grade.
- More likely to have relationships with positive peers.
- Less likely to respond to negative peer pressure.

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## Urban Institute Findings (cont'd)

- CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> youth were approximately 20 percent less likely to use drugs in the past 30 days compared to youth in the control group.
- CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> youth were approximately 60 percent less likely to sell drugs.
- CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> youth were approximately 20 percent less likely to commit violent acts.

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> HELPS SCHOOLS SUCCEED

A "Tipping Point" is reached when seven percent of a school's student population is involved in the program. Scores on standardized tests go up, and disciplinary incidents go down for the entire school.

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## An Evidence Based Program

- Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
- U.S. Department of Education
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- National Dropout Prevention Center
- Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Blueprints Project at the University of Colorado

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## Lessons Learned

- Greater family participation
- Strengthen ties to the school
- Pay greater attention to the predictability and quality of communications
- CASA needs to manage more assertively
- Work with younger children

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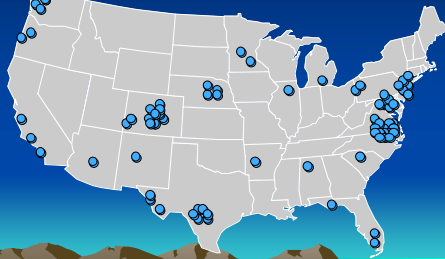
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## Program Dissemination

140 Sites as of February 2008



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## CASA's Role In Supporting Programs

- Identify target neighborhoods and lead agencies
- Train in core program areas
- Establish CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> site meetings
- Manage the CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Website
- Conduct case record reviews
- Troubleshoot problems and suggest corrections
- Develop funding strategies to sustain programs
- Program evaluation
- Convene national and regional learning exchanges

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## CASASTART<sup>SM</sup> Costs

- Average Cost for A Participating Child and Family is \$3,000 –3,500 Per Year
- Compare to the cost of a 12-day LOS for one youth in a KY Detention Facility: \$2,880

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