

Case Study

Evaluation—Do Violence Prevention Programs in Schools Work?

Evaluation research seeks to determine the effects of a social program or other type of intervention. It is a type of explanatory research because it deals with cause and effect. However, evaluation research differs from other forms of explanatory research because it considers the implementation and outcomes of social policies and programs. These issues may not be relevant in other types of explanatory research. The increase of youth violence in the 1980s spawned many new government programs and, with them, evaluation research to assess the impact of these programs. Some of these studies are reviewed in Chapter 10, which covers evaluation research.

Explanatory research Research that seeks to identify causes and/or effects of social phenomena

Evaluation research Research about social programs or interventions

As many school administrators will tell you, there are direct mail, e-mail, and in-person direct sales efforts to sell them programs that reduce violence, increase empathy among students, promote a positive school environment, promote other forms of mental well-being, and on and on. Unfortunately, not many of these