

DEFINITION: PREVENTION TYPE

PRIMARY: Prevents the life stressor or death from ever occurring. May occur at any point before or during the child's life. Often focused on systems.

Examples of primary prevention include: Separating bike lanes from car traffic; Legislation requiring the use of seatbelts; Fencing around pools.

SECONDARY: Reduces the impact of the life stressor. Identifies high-risk communities and implements prevention. Often focuses on a mix of systems-level and individual solutions.

Examples of secondary prevention include: Improving access to swimming lessons; Gatekeeper training to identify youth at risk of a mental health crisis; Distribution of smoke detectors in neighborhoods with older houses.

TERTIARY: Reduces the impact or progression of what has become an ongoing life stressor. Occurs near the death-causing event. Focuses on how agencies respond.

Examples of tertiary prevention include: Access to pediatric-ready healthcare; Education on infant safe sleep; Access to poison control centers.

CLIFF OF GOOD HEALTH ANALOGY

The Cliff of Good Health

Jones CP et al. *Journal Health Care Poor Underserved* 2009



The National Center is funded in part by Cooperative Agreement Number UG7MC28482 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of an award totaling \$5,149,996 annually with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.