

Appendix II

Annex III

List of interventions and possible study designs

The first level of evidence in the Standards is considered to be systematic reviews. However, the study designs for the second level of evidence differ according to the kind of study design that is in principle possible for any given intervention of policy. It would be unfair to state: this policy is not supported by randomized control trials, when randomized control trials are not possible because the policy covers the general population. In this respect, interventions and policies typically fall into three groups, i.e. interventions and policies for which:

1. A randomized controlled trial is possible;
2. A randomized controlled trial is not possible, because randomization is not feasible or ethical; however, a comparative design is still possible;
3. A randomized controlled trial is not possible, because a comparative design is not feasible in the first place (for example in the case of national media campaigns or regulations/policies).

The table below characterizes the interventions and policies for which evidence has been assessed in the Standard according to these three categories.

Intervention	Possible study design
Addressing individual psychological vulnerabilities	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Brief intervention	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Classroom environment improvement programmes	b. randomization difficult or impossible, comparative design possible
Community-based multi-component	b. randomization difficult or impossible,

Intervention	Possible study design
initiatives	comparative design possible
Early childhood education	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Entertainment venues	b. randomization difficult or impossible, comparative design possible
Interventions targeting pregnant women with substance abuse disorders	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Media campaigns	c. randomization and comparative design NOT possible
Mentoring	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Parenting skills	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Personal and social skills education	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Policies to keep children in school	c. randomization and comparative design NOT possible
Prenatal and infancy visitation	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Prevention education based on personal and social skills and social influence	a. comparative design and randomization possible
School policies and culture	b. randomization difficult or impossible, comparative design possible
Sports and leisure activities	a. comparative design and randomization possible
Tobacco and alcohol policies	c. randomization and comparative design NOT possible
Workplace prevention programmes	b. randomization difficult or impossible, comparative design possible