NMPED Science Curriculum Review of Evidence

Curriculum Name: Holt Decisions for Health ©2007

Publisher: Holt, Reinhart, and Winston
Number of Studies Submitted: 1
Number of Studies Reviewed: 1
Grade(s) of Studies Reviewed: 6 - 8

Average Rubric Ratings:

Criteria	Average Rating Across All Studies
Experimental Design	1
Sample	1.5
Methodology	2
Measures	2
Studies	0
Reporting Results	1
Investigators	2
Total Score	9.5
Average Subscale Score	1.36

Narrative:
One program effectiveness study (Is the program effective in increasing students' knowledge and understanding of health?) was available for review of *HOLT DECISIONS FOR HEALTH ©2007*. The study, done by Educational Research Institute of America (ERIA), used a pretest/posttest design over one semester with 570 students representing all three levels in 15 school districts from 12 states. Researchers did analyses separately for the three levels, and for each level there were separate analyses for the total group, four achievement level subgroups, and self-identified minority or non-minority student subgroups. The publisher developed summative tests to assess the program at corresponding levels, and ERIA determined that the tests were reliable and valid. Paired comparison analyses used both raw scores and percent correct scores, and converted pretest and posttest scores were analyzed using comparison *t*-tests giving statistical significance. In addition, Cohen's *d* statistic was used to determine effect sizes for the different level and group analyses. Effect sizes were medium to large in all analyses. The results of the various analyses indicated at each level:

- average standard raw scores had statistically significant increases for the total group of students;
- all four achievement sub-groups (based on pretest performance) increased their score averages significantly from pretest to posttest; and
- average standard scores increased significantly for the students who were categorized as belonging to an ethnic minority as well as for those who were not categorized as minority students.

Overall Quantity and Quality of Evidence:
The only study submitted for review provides considerable evidence for the effectiveness of the program. The sample was across 15 school districts with considerable variation (rural, small town, mid-size city, large city, central city and urban fringe) in 12 states. School districts ranged from 1% to 100% minority. Disaggregation of scores was done only for self-reported minority or non-minority students and for achievement based on pretest performance. The study is based on a one time (semester long) treatment with one measure (pre to posttest performance). Based on this study, there is promising evidence of program efficacy for *HOLT DECISIONS FOR HEALTH ©2007*.

References of Submitted Studies:
Educational Research Institute of America (January 2006). A Study of the Instructional Effectiveness of *HOLT DECISIONS FOR HEALTH ©2007*, Report Number 238