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WHAT IS EVIDENCE-BASED THREAT ASSESSMENT?

Why Do We Support Practice?

Quality Assurance

- Assessment
- Management

Service Development

- Implementation
- Expansion

Liability Management

- Standard practices
- Best practices

How Do We Support Practice?

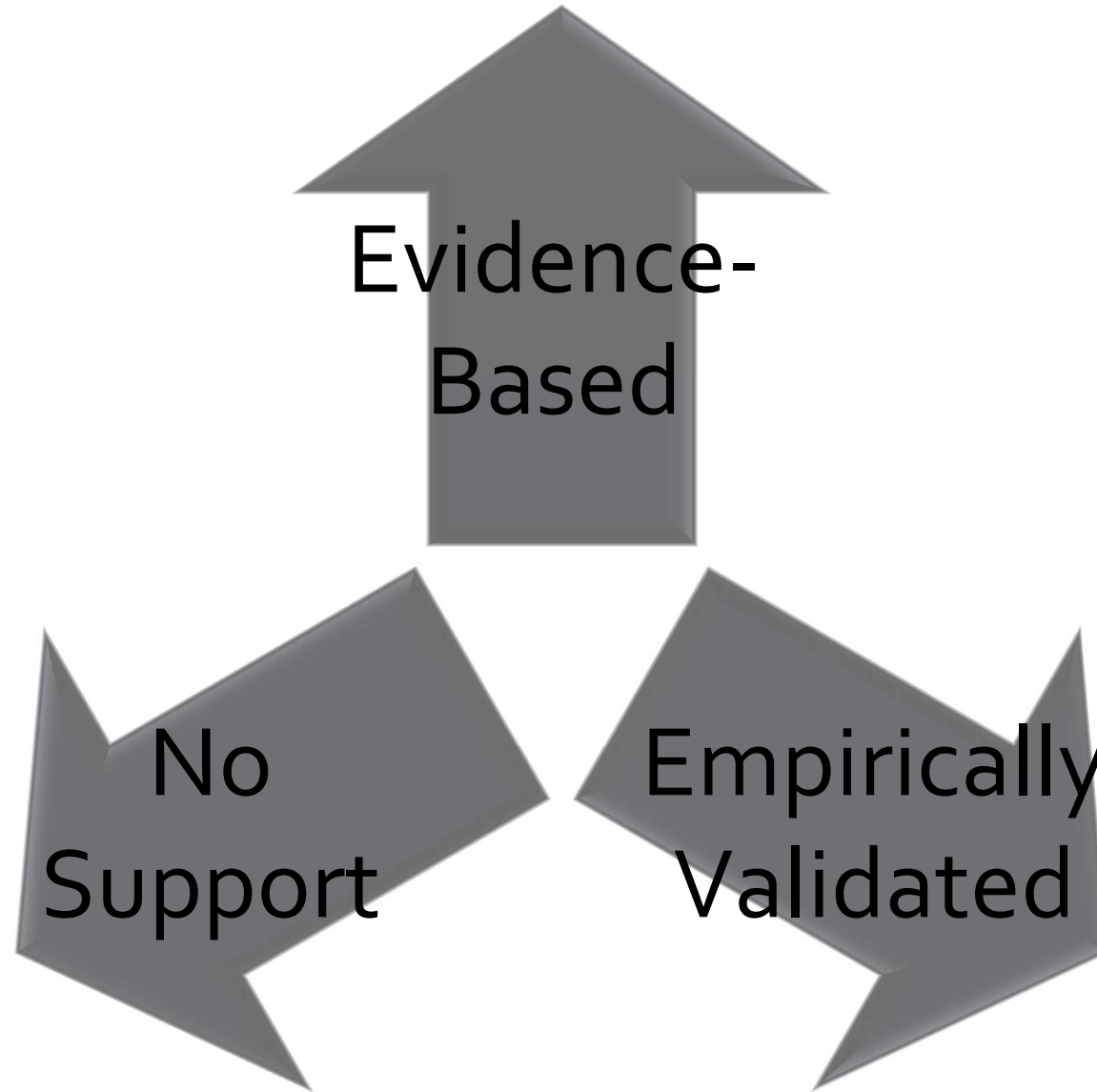
Efficacy

- Consistency and accuracy in controlled settings

Effectiveness

- Consistency and accuracy in field settings

Support for Practice



Evidence-Based Practice

- Effectiveness is supported systematically by experimentation, observation, or theory
 - “[T]he conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients”
 - Sackett et al., 1996

Empirically Validated Practice

- Efficacy is confirmed directly by independent experimentation or observation

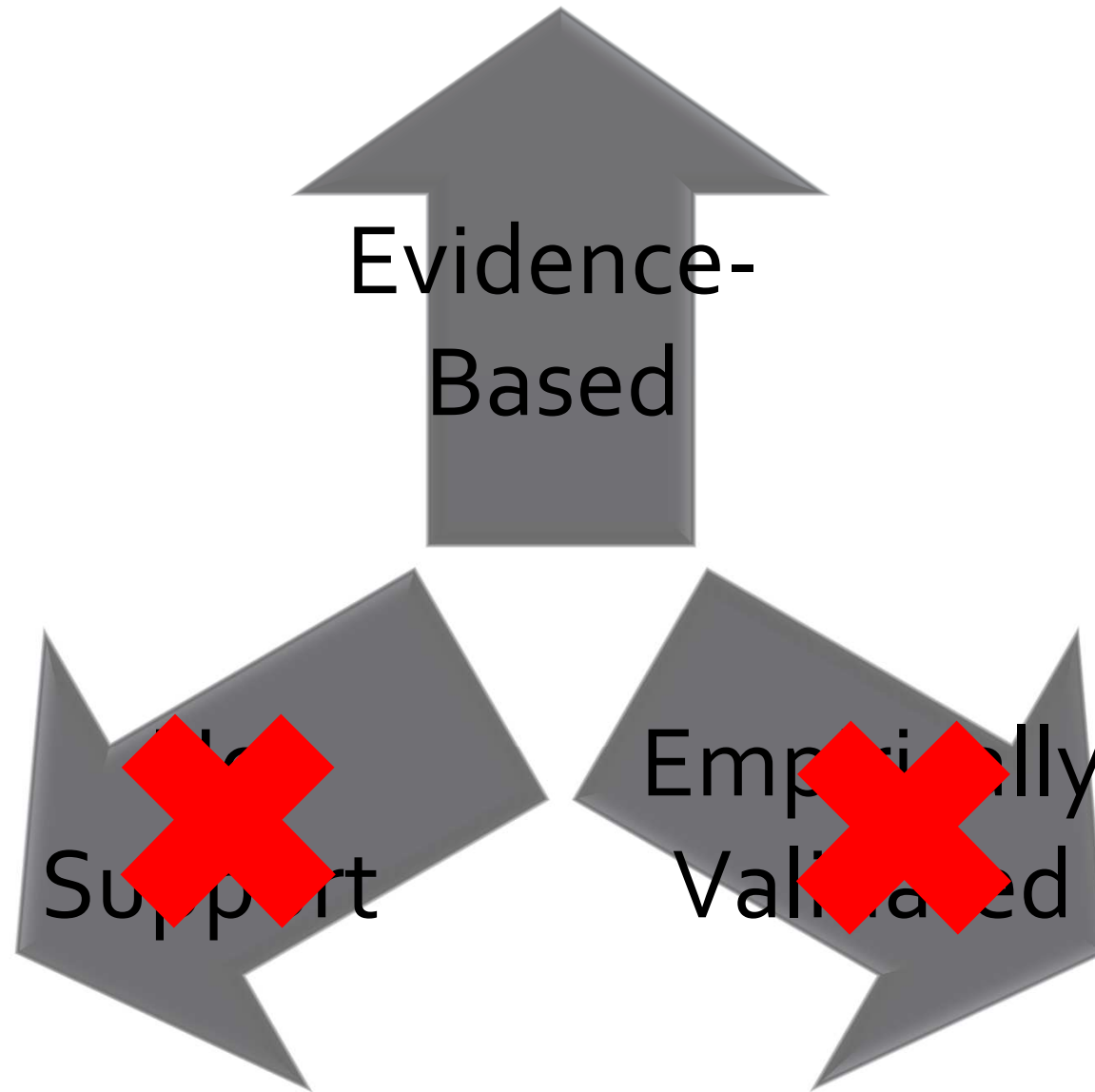
No Support for Practice

- No support for efficacy or effectiveness

Preference for EB Practice

- Any support is better than no support
 - Avoids reliance on traditional or charismatic authority
- Support for effectiveness is better than support for efficacy
 - Avoids reliance on narrow or simplistic criteria

Support for Practice



Summary

- Evidence-based TA is the individualized assessment and management of violence risk using, when available and appropriate, systematic procedures that supported by (derived from, evaluated in light of) research and theory

Is TA Evidence-Based?

Approaches to TA

Actuarial Instruments

- STATIC-99, VRAG, BVC, DyRiAS

SPJ Guidelines

- HCR-20, WAVR-21, SVR-20, SRP, SARA, B-SAFER

Behavioral TA Tools

- Dietz-10, Cir-Con, Path to Violence, JACA

Actuarial Instruments

	<u>Ax</u>	<u>Mx</u>
Individualized	✘	✘
Research support	✓✓	✘
Theoretical support	✓	✘

SPJ Guidelines

	<u>Ax</u>	<u>Mx</u>
Individualized	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Research support	✓ ✓	✓
Theoretical support	✓ ✓	✓

Behavioral TA Tools

	<u>Ax</u>	<u>Mx</u>
Individualized	✓✓	✗
Research support	✗	✗
Theoretical support	✗	✗

Summary

- There are some grounds to claim that actuarial instruments and SPJ guidelines are evidence-based
- It are few grounds to claim that behavioral TA tools are evidence-based
- Assessment practices have a stronger evidence base than do management practices

Can We Improve the Evidence Base?

Three Strategies

Increase
individualization

Conduct
research

Develop
theory

Increase Individualization

- Ensure assessment and management practices take into account diversity
 - Situations
 - People
 - Violence

Conduct Research

- Multiple methods
 - Case studies
 - Follow-up studies
 - Intervention studies
- Multiple foci
 - Efficacy
 - Effectiveness
 - Utility

Develop Theory

- Revise or elaborate existing theories
- Construct new theories

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