

# Matching Evidence: Summary Narrative

A systematic literature search revealed no studies that have examined variation in a practice related to the Matching Standard of the Third Edition of the *Elements of Effective Practice™* in relation to indicators of a program's effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and/or safety.

The literature did reveal two primary studies (Ensher & Murphy, 1997; Schwartz, Rhodes, Spencer, & Grossman, 2013) and two meta-analyses (DuBois, Holloway, Valentine, & Cooper, 2002; DuBois, Portillo, Rhodes, Silverthorn, & Valentine, 2011) that have examined variation in matching practices in relation to mentoring relationship or youth outcomes. These include the practices of matching mentors and youth based on considerations of race/ethnicity, gender, interests, or the expressed preferences of the mentee, respectively. However, these studies examined the implications of emphasizing such considerations *individually* in matching (or, similarly, the implications of focusing attention on as little as one among a set of potential matching considerations; DuBois et al., 2002). Consequently, their findings do not bear directly on the relevant Benchmark of the Matching Standard in the Elements (B4.1) as this Benchmark calls for consideration of both program aims and *multiple* characteristics of the mentee and mentor in matching.

Research that addresses the outcomes associated with considering the more complete range of potentially pertinent considerations referred to in this part of the Elements when matching mentors and youth is needed. Also needed is research addressing the implications of other practices related to match initiation that are included in this Standard (e.g. arranging and documenting an initial meeting between the mentor and mentee).

**Extent of Evidence Base**  
None

**Favorability of Findings**  
N/A

**Rigor of Methodology**  
N/A

**Scope of Findings**  
N/A

# References

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Ensher, E.A., & Murphy, S. E. (1997). Effects of race, gender, perceived similarity, and contact on mentor relationships. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 50, 460-481. doi:10.1006/jvbe.1996.1547

Schwartz, S. E., Rhodes, J. E., Spencer, R., & Grossman, J. B. (2013). Youth initiated mentoring: Investigating a new approach to working with vulnerable adolescents. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 52, 155-169. doi:10.1007/s10464-013-9585-3