

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES .....	vi
LIST OF FIGURES .....	vii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	ix
FOREWORD BY TODD R. RISLEY, PHD .....	xi
FOREWORD BY MADELEINE WILL .....	xv
OVERVIEW .....	1
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION .....	3
Positive Behavioral Support: Overview and Definition .....	3
Need for a Review of Positive Behavior Support .....	6
Research Questions Posed: Contributions of the Review .....	7
Elaboration of Defining Characteristics of PBS .....	7
Research Questions .....	8
How Widely Applicable Is PBS? .....	8
In What Ways Is the Field Evolving? .....	8
How Effective Is PBS? .....	9
What Factors Modulate the Effectiveness of PBS? .....	9
How Responsive Is the PBS Literature to the Needs of Consumers (Nonresearchers)? .....	9
The Structure of the Research Synthesis .....	9
CHAPTER 2 METHODS .....	11
Operational Definitions .....	11
Demographics .....	11
Assessment Practices .....	11
Summary .....	12
Intervention Strategies .....	12
Intervention Categories .....	12
Systems Change .....	15
Ecological Validity .....	16
Summary .....	17
Outcome Measures .....	18
Positive Behavior .....	18
Problem Behavior .....	18
Stimulus Generalization .....	18
Response Generalization .....	18
Maintenance .....	19
Lifestyle Change .....	19
Social Validity .....	19

Summary .....	20
Literature Search and Eligibility Criteria .....	20
Initial Selection Criteria .....	20
Literature Search .....	21
Exclusion Criteria .....	21
Data Collection Methods .....	24
How Intervention Effects Were Measured .....	24
How Reliability Was Measured .....	26
CHAPTER 3 RESULTS .....	27
How Widely Applicable Is PBS? .....	27
In What Ways Is the Field Evolving? .....	27
Size of the Database .....	29
Demographics .....	29
Assessment .....	35
Intervention .....	38
Outcomes .....	41
How Effective Is PBS? .....	43
Changes in Positive Behavior .....	43
Distribution of Outcome Effectiveness for PBS Interventions .....	44
Success Rates for PBS Interventions Pooled Across Outcomes .....	45
Stimulus and Response Generalization .....	47
Maintenance .....	48
Lifestyle Change .....	48
Social Validity .....	48
What Factors Modulate the Effectiveness of PBS? .....	50
Influence of Demographic Variables .....	50
Influence of Assessment Variables .....	53
Systems Change .....	53
Ecological Validity .....	54
Medication .....	54
CHAPTER 4 DISCUSSION .....	57
Potential Biases in the Retrieved Literature .....	57
Rigor Versus Relevance? .....	57
Rigor Over Reliance? .....	58
Is Rigor Over Reliance the Only Choice? .....	59
External Validity of Excluded Studies .....	59
Drawing Inferences From the Results .....	61

How Widely Applicable Is PBS? .....	61
In What Ways Is the Field Evolving? .....	61
General Status of PBS .....	61
Demographics .....	62
Assessment .....	62
Intervention .....	64
Outcomes .....	66
How Effective Is PBS? .....	66
Changes in Positive Behavior .....	66
Distribution of Outcome Effectiveness: What Constitutes a Success? .....	67
Success Rates Pooled Across Outcomes .....	67
Stimulus Generalization, Response Generalization, and Maintenance ....	70
Lifestyle Change and Social Validity .....	70
What Factors Modulate the Effectiveness of PBS? .....	71
Demographic Variables .....	71
Influence of Assessment Variables .....	72
Systems Change .....	73
Ecological Validity .....	74
Implications for Future Research .....	74
How Responsive Is the PBS Literature to the Needs of Consumers (Nonresearchers)? .....	75
Comprehensive Lifestyle Support.....	75
Long-Term Change .....	76
Practicality and Relevance .....	76
Consumers Want Support, Too .....	78
CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY .....	81
How Widely Applicable Is PBS? .....	81
In What Ways Is the Field Evolving? .....	81
How Effective Is PBS? .....	82
What Factors Modulate the Effectiveness of PBS? .....	82
How Responsive Is the PBS Literature to the Needs of Consumers (Nonresearchers)? .....	82
CHAPTER 6 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	85
For Researchers .....	85
For Service Providers .....	85
For Social Policy Advocates .....	86
For the Government .....	86
REFERENCES .....	87