



THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Within the public health model, efforts to prevent violence are focused on enhancing protective factors and reducing risk factors. Protective factors are factors that reduce the likelihood of violence, such as healthy parent-child bonding. Risk factors are those that increase the likelihood of violence, such as childhood exposure to violence. If violence is to be effectively prevented and reduced, prevention efforts intended to address risk and protective factors – often categorized as primary, secondary, or tertiary – should be implemented on multiple levels. These include programs and policies that are implemented at individual, family, community, and societal levels. Primary and secondary prevention efforts in particular often have the greatest collective impact, especially when implemented comprehensively at community and societal levels.

The further upstream that we intervene, the more likely our strategies will prevent violence in the first place. No one strategy can prevent youth violence. The best approaches for preventing youth violence are comprehensive and utilize multiple strategies across the continuum.

