



PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE: PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCESSES

Public health approaches to youth violence prevention are proactive – they can prevent violence before it occurs. Programs funded by federal, state, and local agencies have successfully prevented youth violence by utilizing public health approaches to plan and implement innovative and engaging community-based approaches.

- California** San Diego had a **17% decrease in gang related violence** in 2009 compared to 2008 and a **57% decrease in gang related homicides**. The key was combining aggressive police efforts with prevention and intervention efforts such as extending Friday hours at three recreation centers, employing 3,000 youth through the Hire A Youth Summer program, and twice monthly community collaborative curfew sweeps in specific areas.
- The Oakland's City-County Neighborhood Initiative Engages residents from Sobrante Park in community-strengthening efforts such as neighbor-to-neighbor bartering and youth economic development programs. Evaluation data showed a more than **40% reduction in violent crime** since the initiative began in 2004, even while overall rates of violent crime in Oakland increased.
- Illinois** The Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP) brings together researchers, community representatives, practitioners, and policy makers committed to understanding and reducing youth violence in poor, inner-city communities in Chicago – communities with some of the highest rates of youth violence in the country. Through the **synergy of comprehensive strategies**, CCYVP – in partnership with in Humboldt Park community members – has helped to **decrease homicides by 50%** in Humboldt Park between 2010 and 2013.
- Maryland** As part of their participation in the **Community-Based Violence Prevention Program**, Baltimore experienced a **50% decrease in shooting incidents** from July to December 2014 compared to the same time period previous year, and 41 conflicts were successfully mediated that, without mediation, may have resulted in violence.
- Michigan** The Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center (MI-YVPC) partners with universities, economic development organizations, health departments, hospitals, police departments and community-based organizations to implement and evaluate strategies to prevent youth violence. Youth were also **5% less likely to be victims of violent assault** and **experienced a 38% decrease in assault-related injuries** compared to youth in other areas during the period 2011 to 2015.
- Minnesota** Minneapolis experienced a **40% drop in juvenile crime** in focus neighborhoods across two years after implementing its **public health-based Violence Prevention Blueprint for Action initiative**, a community-driven, grassroots response to preventing youth violence that was initiated in 2008.
- Virginia** The Virginia Commonwealth University's Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development empowers youth, schools, families, and other stakeholders to promote the healthy, safe, and positive development of youth through evidence-based practices. In one community that received a **three-year comprehensive school-based intervention**, the Clark-Hill Institute and their partners were able to achieve a **100% reduction in the rate of ambulance pickups** for violence-related injuries among youth during the period 2011 to 2014.

Learn more about public health approaches to youth violence prevention:

- City of San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention <http://www.sandiego.gov/gangcommission/>
- Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention https://www.uchicago.edu/research/center/chicago_center_for_youth_violence_prevention/
- City-County Neighborhood Initiative (CCNI) <http://www.acphd.org/social-and-health-equity/partnerships-and-communities-collaboration/ccni.aspx>
- Community-Based Violence Prevention Program (CBVP) https://www.juvenilecouncil.gov/materials/2015_11/Handout_Community_Based_Violence_Prevention_One_Pager.pdf
- Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center <http://yvpc.sph.umich.edu/>
- Minnesota Violence Prevention Blueprint for Action <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/youth/yvp/>
- Virginia Commonwealth University's Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development <http://www.clarkhill.vcu.edu/>