

Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

Creating a Safer Philadelphia, One Community at a Time



Violence is a growing problem in many cities across the country. To stem the tide in Philadelphia, a group of committed researchers and community members have formed the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC). It brings together academic institutions and community-based organizations to prevent violence through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Part of the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the PCVPC is one of the CDC's Urban Partnership Academic Centers of Excellence and the first to be based in Philadelphia.



Helping Communities Act

PCVPC's goal is to enhance the capacity for community members and community-based organizations to engage in youth violence prevention efforts in West and Southwest Philadelphia. PCVPC researchers are committed not only to determining which interventions are most effective, but also to ensuring that they can be sustained locally. That's why our scientists and community members regularly collaborate.

Partnering to Prevent Violence

To reduce the frequency and impact of youth violence in West and Southwest Philadelphia, PCVPC members perform community-based participatory research. Joining forces with the Philadelphia Area Research Community Coalition, researchers from CHOP, Drexel University, Temple University and The University of Pennsylvania collaboratively decide how to implement programs and disseminate information to reduce violence.

The PCVPC also has connections with citywide community violence prevention programs, such as Blueprints for a Safer Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Injury Reporting and Intervention System, and the Youth Violence Reduction Project to grow momentum for creating safer Philadelphia communities.

A Proactive Mission

PCVPC's mission is to design, implement and evaluate programs that enhance the resilience of communities affected by violence and to reduce the frequency and impact of youth violence, injury and death in West and Southwest Philadelphia communities. Specific goals of the Center include:

- to focus on primary prevention (Instead of reacting to violence, PCVPC aims to have a positive impact on a child, family or community before violence occurs.)
- to partner with citywide violence prevention programs to enhance their efforts rather than duplicate them
- to advance existing approaches and knowledge through rigorous community-based participatory research
- to adopt promising models of primary youth violence-prevention programs for use in venues throughout West and Southwest Philadelphia

Research in Action

PCVPC's major research project involves adapting favorable models of primary prevention programs for youth ages 10 to 14 in West and Southwest Philadelphia. These programs involve parent/family, leadership, and problem-solving and mentoring strategies. By partnering with community members and community-based organizations, PCVPC aims to reach all adolescents, not just those at high risk.

PCVPC funds pilot research projects to better understand how violence affects the lives of these young people. The Center also is working to determine the best ways to share research results with the community and how to incorporate local feedback into research design.

For more information about the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center, please contact Ayana Bradshaw, M.P.H., at 267-426-2255 or pcvpc@email.chop.edu.

More details are available at www.chop.edu/injury.