

Youth Violence

Youth violence can start early and continue into adulthood. Young persons can both perpetrate and be victims of youth violence.

What We Know

- ▶ Homicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24.
- ▶ In 2006, an average of 16 young people 10 to 24 years of age were murdered each day in the United States— a total of 5,985 for the year.
- ▶ In 2007, emergency departments treated more than 668,000 young people 10 to 24 years of age for violence-related injuries.
- ▶ In a national sample of 9-12th graders, 5.9 percent reported carrying a weapon—a gun, knife or club—on school property on 1 or more days in the month preceding the survey.

Nationwide implementation of effective school-based programs to prevent youth violence could result in 187,000 fewer fight-related injuries among high school students. This is equivalent to nearly 7,500 classrooms of students.



Research Focus	What We Want to Know	How This Research Will Help
Evidence-Based Strategies	What are the best ways to better publicize and to put into practice evidence-based youth violence programs?	This will bridge the gap between research and action and help put evidence-based plans into practice.
Program Adaptation	Which parts of a prevention program are critical to its effectiveness? What can we change without reducing that effectiveness?	This will enable us to determine which programs we can modify without reducing effectiveness and which should be delivered as originally developed.
Community and Societal Strategies	Are measures aimed at improving the physical, social, and economic environments of communities effective in reducing youth violence?	This will help reduce racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in rates of youth violence and other health outcomes.
Protective Factors	What factors protect against risk? Are they similar or different across groups, developmental periods, and settings?	This will help us build upon the strengths of families and communities and inform the development of prevention strategies and programs.
Pathways of Influence	What are the specific ways in which social and economic factors influence youth violence?	This will help us understand how some factors interact with others to lead to violent behavior and how modifying them can reduce risk.
Links Between Types of Violence	How is youth violence related to other types of violence and other health risk behaviors?	This will help us reduce multiple forms of violence, minimize costs, and eliminate redundancy and competition for resources among programs.
Economic Evaluation	What are the benefits and costs of implementing youth-violence prevention measures?	This will help guide decision-makers in allocating resources to current and future programs.



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