

# Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere



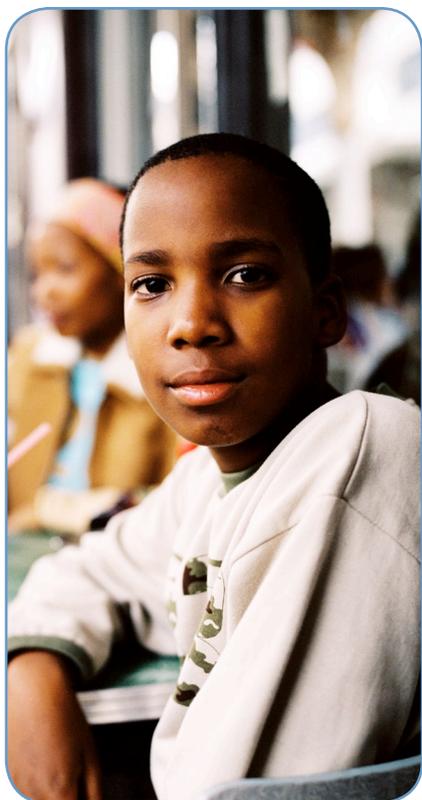
STRYVE's goals are to:

- Increase public health leadership to prevent youth violence.
- Support the widespread adoption of youth violence prevention strategies based on the best available evidence.
- Reduce youth violence nationally.

Youth violence is a public health crisis in the United States (U.S.). Homicide is the third leading cause of death of young people, with an average of 16 youth murdered every day. More than 700,000 young people, ages 10 to 24, were treated in emergency departments for physical assault-related injuries in 2010. In 2011, approximately 20 percent of high school students report being bullied at school, and over 30 percent report being in a physical fight.

Youth violence diminishes quality of life of individuals, families, and communities. And, as recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, "We can't arrest our way out of this problem. Prevention is the key to long-term success."

STRYVE, or Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere, is a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent youth violence before it starts. STRYVE's vision is safe and healthy youth who can achieve their full potential as connected and contributing members of thriving, violence-free families, schools, and communities.



## Achieving the Vision of Safe and Healthy Youth

**We can stop youth violence before it starts.** We can save the lives of children and youth by reducing the factors that place them at risk for violence—like substance use and poor social skills—and by strengthening the factors that protect them from violence—like being connected to a caring adult. The goals of STRYVE are intended to help spread the word about how to prevent youth violence and get community-based organizations, local government agencies, schools, and families to work together to prevent young people from dying or being hurt.

Ending youth violence is neither simple nor quick. To be effective, communities need a range of approaches to help respond after violence occurs and to prevent kids from being hurt or killed in the first place. Prevention strategies build healthy and safe communities, promote youth's skills to solve conflicts peacefully, and to develop and sustain supportive relationships. In addition, effective youth violence prevention can lower the risk for related problems, such as alcohol and substance use, obesity, and academic failure, and contribute to significant cost savings for numerous service systems, including justice, education, and health care.

STRYVE's focus on preventing youth violence before it occurs is unique. STRYVE helps communities make prevention a vital and complementary part of their overall strategy to address youth violence. Preventing violence is just as important as responding to it after it happens.

# Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere

## Key Components of STRYVE

**STRYVE takes a public health approach.** Violence jeopardizes the health and safety of the public, and public health must be part of the solution. Public health emphasizes a science-driven approach and bringing diverse groups together to take collaborative action. This approach applies scientific and programmatic expertise to preventing violence before it occurs.

**STRYVE is multi-sector.** Youth violence prevention is a shared responsibility. STRYVE emphasizes collaboration among multiple sectors and disciplines, including justice, education, labor, social services, public health and safety, and youth-serving organizations. Each sector has a unique and important role to play in prevention, but no sector acting alone can prevent youth violence.

**STRYVE builds capacity.** Violence in every community is different; there is no one-size-fits-all solution. STRYVE provides the tools and information to build the capacity of health departments, other government agencies, and community-based organizations to develop and implement effective, comprehensive approaches to prevent youth violence that are tailored to the needs and strengths of individual communities.

**STRYVE is comprehensive.** Violence is a learned behavior that can be unlearned or not learned in the first place. There are factors that place youth more or less at risk of violence at the individual, interpersonal, community (schools, neighborhoods, faith institutions, etc.), and societal levels. STRYVE offers communities an array of culturally and developmentally appropriate approaches to prevention at each level that are based on the best available evidence through its four key strategies:

- **Strengthen the personal capacity of youth to resist violence**, by developing youths' social, emotional, and behavioral skills to resolve conflict peacefully and engage in healthy relationships and that help provide critical skills for success at school and the work force.
- **Build and support positive relationships between youth and adults**, such as using family, school, and mentoring approaches that provide youth with positive role models and nurturing connections with others.
- **Promote thriving, safer, and more connected communities**, such as designing safer environments, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the settings in which people interact.
- **Create a society that promotes safety and health**, by changing societal norms accepting of violence and developing collaborative strategies at the national, state, and local levels to ensure all youth have equal access to preventive services and educational and vocational opportunities.



**STRYVE is action-oriented.** Youth violence prevention requires effective action, which requires information on what works and how to replicate and sustain successful efforts. STRYVE provides guidance on actions communities can take to plan and implement prevention approaches. STRYVE provides community tools through a variety of mechanisms, such as the STRYVE Web portal at [www.VetoViolence.org/STRYVE](http://www.VetoViolence.org/STRYVE). This online resource center offers:

- Interactive training on key concepts and strategies of youth violence prevention.
- Resources for a public health approach to youth violence prevention, including up-to-date data, research documents, educational materials, and a database of programs and practices based upon the best available evidence.
- Customizable tools to use in strategic planning and the opportunity to learn from other communities.

**STRYVE is building partnerships.** CDC is forging connections with organizations that represent key sectors in preventing youth violence. These multi-sector partners have a common focus on preventing youth violence but vary in their approaches to promoting safety and health. These partners will raise awareness about the potential and benefits of preventing youth violence and will help develop the tools communities need to prevent youth violence before it starts.

Visit [www.VetoViolence.org/STRYVE](http://www.VetoViolence.org/STRYVE) for more information about STRYVE resources and [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence) to learn more about CDC's work to prevent youth violence.

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) • [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov) • [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention)