DVP Digest: September-October 2015

News and Updates from **CDC’s Division of Violence Prevention (DVP)**

In this latest issue of the DVP Digest, we are proud to showcase DVP’s leadership in research to advance our nation’s ability to prevent violence before it occurs.

Research is fundamental to preventing violence because good data guide smart prevention strategies. Without research guiding action, communities could spend their precious, limited resources on ineffective strategies or, in some instances, on strategies that do more harm than good. In our featured success story, you will learn more about one of DVP’s most successful research investments, the **National Centers of Excellence for Youth Violence Prevention (YVPCs)**, and how their work is driving substantial reductions in youth violence in some of our Nation’s most vulnerable communities. We have also recently announced a number of new research investments in suicide, dating violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and youth violence prevention that are highlighted here.

This issue also highlights a variety of the latest news from DVP, including a substantial number of new scientific publications and partnership engagements. In partnership with our federal and non-governmental colleagues, **National Suicide Prevention Month**, **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, and **National Bullying Prevention Month** were recognized and used...
as opportunities to raise awareness and share information about violence prevention strategies.

I hope you enjoy this issues of the DVP Digest - thank you all for your interest, support and partnership in making violence prevention a reality!

Sincerely,
James Mercy, PhD
Director, Division of Violence Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DVP Spotlight on...Research

Research proves violence is preventable and gives us the tools to be successful in stopping violence before it begins. DVP’s research investments:

- Help us understand what puts people at risk or protects them from violence;
- Supports the rigorous evaluation of innovative prevention strategies;
- Strengthens the dissemination and adoption of evidence-based prevention strategies;
- Focus on where the largest burden and knowledge gaps are;
- Concentrate on the primary prevention of violence perpetration; and
- Are designed to result in knowledge that can have practical and substantial impacts on violence and other health issues and tools that community stakeholders can use today.

In early November, CDC’s Injury Center will virtually release its new research priorities to guide and help accelerate health impact over the next 3-5 years. This research agenda outlines gaps and key priorities in child abuse and neglect, youth violence, intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, sexual violence, and self-directed violence. It also reflects CDC’s commitment to advancing research on strategies designed to have cross-cutting impacts on multiple forms of violence.

DVP has recently announced several competitive awards for new research to rigorously evaluate approaches to prevent violence and, including:

- Two awards focused on suicide prevention strategies focused on middle-aged men
- Five awards focused on dating violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence
- Four awards focused on youth violence, including three National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (YVPCs).
Across violence topics, the research investments by DVP and its partners have resulted in strategies that address individual and family risk factors and effectively prevent violence. Considerably less is known about community and policy level prevention strategies, and strengthening this evidence is a common theme of DVP’s latest research investments.

For more details about DVP’s new research investments, please see the addendum to the DVP Digest below.

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**DVP Program Updates**

- On Aug 31-Sept 2, Rape Prevention and Education Program (RPE) grantees from 50 states, D.C., and 4 territories convened at the RPE Leadership Meeting in Los Angeles, to engage in information-sharing, trainings and visioning for the program.

- From Sept 28-30, DVP hosted DELTA FOCUS grantees from each of the 10 funded states to share successes and lessons learned, and to offer technical assistance.

- CDC’s Public Health Grand Rounds presented: “Preventing Suicide: A Comprehensive Public Health Approach” on Tuesday September 15. The session increased awareness about suicide, effective prevention strategies, and public health’s role preventing suicide.

- DVP and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) hosted an “Ask the Expert” Facebook Forum on Suicide Prevention from Sept. 21-25. This event on the VetoViolence Facebook page invited violence prevention practitioners and mental health professionals to consult experts about suicide risks and prevention efforts and discuss their work with others. Resources, infographics, videos, quizzes, and feedback from DVP and SAMHSA were shared during the week.

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**DVP Success Story**

CDC’s National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (YVPCs) research and create lasting ways to prevent youth violence. Findings from the YVPCs demonstrate that comprehensive public health approaches can have a broad reach and significant impact on youth violence.

YVPCs connect academic and community partners, including local and state health departments, to implement and rigorously evaluate cutting-edge youth violence prevention strategies in some of the nation’s highest risk communities. The latest round of YVPCs examined community-level impacts of comprehensive
strategies and offer promising results. For example:

- Preliminary results from the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP) show a **50% decline in homicides** between 2010 and 2013 in Humboldt Park. The homicide rate in other at-risk Chicago communities was relatively unchanged over this period. Significant declines in violent crime also occurred, and preliminary results demonstrate declines are associated with the synergy of the comprehensive strategies and not due to any one strategy.

- The Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center (MI-YVPC) reported that youth in the intervention area of Flint, MI were **25% less likely to be a victim of a violent assault** than youth in the comparison area. This was accompanied by a **38% decrease in youth assault-related injuries** in the intervention area. As a result of the combined effects of six evidence-based programs, Flint saw and sustained these decreases over time, in contrast to a comparison community.

- The Virginia Commonwealth University's Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development demonstrated a **100% reduction in the rate of ambulance pickups for violence-related injuries** in the intervention community receiving three years of a comprehensive school-based intervention. A comparison community receiving only two years of the intervention had a 24% decline and the control community had a 47% increase in rates of ambulance pickups for violence-related injuries. Teacher ratings of student aggression mirror the pattern of the community outcomes in the three communities.

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**DVP Scientific Releases**

Please note that whenever possible we have provided links to the full texts of the articles listed below. For more information on articles that do not include full texts, please email violenceprevention@cdc.gov.

**Cross-Cutting**

- [Positioning a public health framework at the intersection of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence: Primary prevention requires working outside existing systems.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4569738/). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Oct. 2015

**Child Maltreatment**


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### Sexual Violence/Intimate Partner Violence

- *Rethinking Serial Perpetration*. Published on the website of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Aug. 2015

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### Youth Violence


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### DVP Partnership Matters

- DVP briefed and solicited comments from key partners on our draft sexual violence and child abuse and neglect technical packages, which present a select group of strategies based on the best available prevention strategies. (September)

- DVP held an introductory meeting with leadership from the *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* to discuss areas of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration. (Sept. 21)

- DVP hosted staff from the *National Network to End Domestic Violence* in Atlanta for a portion of its DELTA FOCUS reverse site visit. (Sept. 29)

- DVP leadership and staff met with a variety of federal partner agencies to discuss alignment across our respective initiatives and opportunities for continued and enhanced collaboration, including:
  - The *Administration of Children and Families (ACF) Family Violence Prevention and Services Office* (Sept. 23); and
The Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice (Oct. 21)

- DVP hosted a quarterly meeting of the STRYVE Action Council, a consortium of national organizations committed to preventing youth violence. (Oct. 21)

- **DVP staff attended the Injury and Violence Prevention Network (IVPN) in-person meeting in Washington, D.C., to meet with key partners about Injury Center priorities.** (Oct. 22)

- DVP staff held an in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. with key federal and policy partners, to share and discuss DVP’s draft Strategic Direction, as well as other areas of mutual interest. (Oct. 23)

- DVP’s director, Dr. Jim Mercy, met with senior leadership of the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to share information and discuss areas of potential collaboration. (Oct. 26)

- DVP hosted staff from the YMCA of the USA and Boys and Girls Clubs of America for a portion of its National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention reverse site visit. (Oct. 29-30).

- In October 2015, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the creation of the HHS Task Force to Prevent and End Human Trafficking, of which DVP will be a part. The task force will: build the capacity of divisions and programs to prevent and respond to human trafficking through coordination and information sharing; initiate strategic opportunities to integrate human trafficking prevention and intervention through cross-division collaboration; and leverage strengths, reach, and resources of health and human service divisions to directly benefit victims of human trafficking and inform anti-trafficking policies and practices.

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### DVP Resources and Tools

This section features select tools and resources from DVP that communities can use to translate research into practice and evaluation.

- The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault released a Resource Guide to support the efforts of students, faculty, administrators, and communities around the country to prevent sexual violence and improve the response to it at colleges and universities

- CDC released the Cost of Injury: Tools for Partners toolkit that is designed to help practitioners share cost of injury information with their
colleagues and partners. The toolkit includes the following tools:

- Press Release Template
- Social Media Messages
- Infographics
- Slides

Research

Addendum

DVP has recently announced several new research investments to rigorously evaluate violence prevention strategies and approaches, and demonstrates CDC’s commitment to expanding the evidence base in these prevention areas:

**Suicide Prevention Strategies Focused on Middle-Aged Men**

- Tailored Activation in Primary Care to Reduce Suicide Behaviors in Middle-Aged Men Principal Investigator – Dr. Anthony Jerant; Institution – University of California at Davis. A randomized control trial will evaluate whether Multimedia Activation to Prevent Suicide for Men, an interactive computer program addressing suicide risk, linked with telephone evidence-based follow up care reduces suicide behaviors.

- Online Screening and Early Intervention to Prevent Suicide among Middle-Aged Men Principal Investigator – Dr. Jodi Jacobson; Institution – University of Maryland at Baltimore. A randomized control trial will evaluate Screening for Mental Health (an online screening program) plus Man Therapy (a comprehensive online screening and referral intervention for men) compared to Man Therapy alone on changes in suicidal behavior, ideation, and help-seeking behavior.

**Dating violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence**

- Prevention at the Outer Layers of the Ecology: Green Dot to Build Collective Efficacy and Change Injunctive Norms – Dr. Victoria Banyard; Institution – University of New Hampshire. Green Dot Community will be examined using a quasi-experimental design with communities receiving Green Dot bystander training, Green Dot bystander training plus capacity building, or no intervention. Reductions in rates of intimate partner and sexual violence will be examined as well as changes in community collective efficacy and gender-based violence norms.

- Bystander Program Adoption and Efficacy to Reduce Sexual Violence and Intimate Partner Violence in College Community – Dr. Ann Coker; Institution – University of Kentucky. A quasi-experimental study involving 24 colleges and universities will compare three bystander approaches: exclusively online training, Green Dot (an in-person, skills-based program), and other skills-based bystander programs. Impacts on sexual and intimate partner violence-related attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors as well as cost-effectiveness will be examined.

- Community Level Primary Prevention of Dating and Sexual Violence in Middle Schools Dr. Lindsay Orchowski; Institution – Rhode Island
Hospital. This study will examine the effectiveness of a social norms marketing campaign on shaping community norms and reducing rates of dating and sexual violence among middle school students.

· Implementing Fourth R in U.S. schools: Feasibility, Fidelity, and Sustainability—Dr. Jeffrey Temple; Institution – University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Fourth R is a promising teen dating violence prevention program. This study will examine factors that affect the implementation of the program in 10 ethnically, economically, and geographically diverse high schools and how these factors may contribute to changes in students’ healthy relationship skills and teen dating violence behaviors.

· Randomized Trial Integrating Substance Abuse with Bystander-Based Violence Prevention—Dr. Ann Coker; Institution – University of Kentucky. This study will implement different levels of bystander-based prevention programming at the University of Kentucky to better understand bystander intervention approaches that may reduce not only sexual and dating violence behaviors but also reduce alcohol abuse.

National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention and Youth Violence Prevention

· Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center: Community Engagement and Revitalization Principal Investigator – Dr. Marc Zimmerman; Institution – University of Michigan. Researchers will study the effects of improving vacant properties on violence, property crimes and intentional injuries among youth in Flint, Michigan, Youngstown, Ohio, and Camden, New Jersey, and greening program implementation guidance will be developed based on experiences of over 100 communities.

· Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention Principal Investigator—Dr. Deborah Gorman-Smith; Institution – University of Chicago. Researchers will evaluate the process and impact of implementing Communities that Care (CTC) in Bronzeville, Illinois. CTC is a promising, community-level prevention system that provides a data-driven framework for community decision-making and implementation of evidence-based prevention programs. Other prevention strategies, such as neighborhood greening and safe passages to school, will be evaluated for their impact on youth violence.

· University of Louisville Youth Violence Prevention Center: Changing the Narrative by Using Media to Shift Social Norms of Violence Principal Investigator—Dr. Monica Wendel; Institution – University of Louisville. Researchers will develop, implement and evaluate a mass and social media campaign to change norms about violence and reduce violence among youth in West Louisville, Kentucky relative to youth in East Nashville, Tennessee.

· Alcohol Policies to Prevent and Reduce Youth Violence Exposure Principal Investigator – Dr. Debra Furr-Holden; Institution – Johns Hopkins University. This study will rigorously evaluate the longitudinal relationship between alcohol outlet density, alcohol policies, and
changes in the alcohol environment on rates of youth violence in 10 Alcohol Beverage Control States. An in-depth analysis in 1 state will examine the mediating roles of policy enforcement and community disorder and disadvantage on youth violence.

Contact Us

For more information about DVP or to speak with one of our staff, please email violenceprevention@cdc.gov.