



Philadelphia Collaborative
Violence Prevention Center

www.phillyviolenceprevention.org

Safe Neighborhoods, Safe Lives: Things that Prevent or Reduce the Impact of Violence in the Community

Expert's Tips for Preventing Violence from
the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center
For more information, please visit www.phillyviolenceprevention.org

Prevention is Possible/Community Mobilization (Tips 1-5)

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1. Young people have a lot to offer if you let them.

Help connect them to businesses and organizations that can value their energy, vision, and potential.

Importance: Youth gainfully employed are less likely to engage or involve themselves in risky behaviors. According to research, students who have a job in high school are less likely to engage in negative behavior or drop out than their peers who do not work.

How it helps: Connecting youth to employment opportunities provides a greater chance for positive interactions with adults. Furthermore, youth holding jobs while in school are more likely to see the relevance of what they are learning in school to future job opportunities and remain more committed to their school work.



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- McLaughlin, M. W. (2000). *Community counts: How youth organizations matter for youth development*. Washington, DC: Public Education Network.
- Stone, J. & Mortimer, J. (1998). The Effect of Adolescent Employment of Vocational Development: Public and Educational Policy Implications. Journal of Vocational Behavior. 53(2): 184-214.

For more info:

Philadelphia Children's Connection

http://www.philadelphiachildrensconnection.org/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/

Philadelphia Youth Network

<http://www.pyninc.org/>

2. Violence prevention needs more than quick fixes.

Connect with people and programs in your community to make a difference. Go to www.safeyouth.org or call **1-888-570-BLUE** and visit www.PHILLYBLUEPRINT.com. Even small steps can be rewarding, and a safer community will make life a little easier.

Importance: Preventing violence is a multi-faceted and complex task to undertake. Making rash decisions in the hope that they will be a quick fix to preventing violence many times does little to help the problem and can end up doing more harm than good. Expanding our societal response to include engaging communities through interaction will aid in crafting more prevention-oriented programs and solutions.

How it helps: Because preventing violence is generally an incremental process, any contribution made by community members and programs can have a positive effect. These interactions within one's community can help connect everyone towards a common goal. One such program, The Minnesota Action Plan to End Gun Violence was designed to engage community members in finding solutions to end violence in their lives and communities through inspiring optimistic attitudes and projecting a sense of hope among its members.



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- Johnson, D. (1998). Community Solutions to Violence: A Minnesota Managed Care Action Plan. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*; 14(3): 93-97.
- Mihalic, S. et al. (2001). Juvenile Justice Bulletin: Blueprints for Violence Prevention. *U.S Dept. of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*; July 2001: 1-16.

For more info:

Family Violence Prevention Fund
<http://endabuse.org/>

The Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia
<http://www.avpphila.org/>

3. Being hurt can lead to later violence.

Speak up to everyone who comes in contact with youth who have been hurt. Work with friends, law enforcement, health care workers, schools, employers, and court systems to help young people recover emotionally as well as physically.

Importance: "Hurt people, hurt other people." Youth who are victims of violence are at an increased risk for engaging in violence themselves in the future. It is important for adults and community members to recognize the links between violence victimization and perpetration, and to offer support and help to victims of violence reduce their risk of additional victimization and decrease the likelihood that they will engage in violence themselves.

How it helps: Understanding the dynamic between being injured as a result of violence and the propensity to repeat violence is very important. Studies have shown that the probability for youth that are hurt through violence to be involved with future violence increases exponentially with each instance of violence perpetrated against them. A recent study found that youth victims of violent assault expressed the most desire to retaliate within the four weeks after the event—so be particularly watchful and supportive in those first four weeks after a youth is hurt. Taking steps to reach out and lend support to these youth can put them on the path to healing and help prevent future injury.



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- Becker, M., et al. (2004). Caught in the Crossfire: The Effects of a Peer-Based Intervention Program for Violently Injured Youth. Journal of Adolescent Health. 34: 171-183.
- Cooper, C., et al. (2000). Repeat victims of violence: report of a large concurrent case-control study. Archives of Surgery. 135(7): 837-843.
- Kellerman, A., et al. (1998). Preventing Youth Violence: What Works? Annu. Rev. Public Health. 19: 271-292.
- Wiebe, D., et al. (in press) Self-reported Violence-related Outcomes for Adolescents Within 8 Weeks Of Emergency Department Treatment For Assault Injury. Journal of Adolescent Health.

For more info:

National Institute of Mental Health

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-parents/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-what-parents-can-do.pdf>

Youth Alive

<http://www.youthalive.org/caught-in-the-crossfire/>

4. Know your neighbors.

Teach your children a sense of community by getting to know your neighbors, joining activities, and working with others to keep your neighborhood safe. Neighbors who know and look out for each other are among the strongest features of safer neighborhoods.

Importance: Communication is very valuable in reducing crime. Community familiarity is a useful tool in reducing the amount or the potential for crime in a neighborhood. Unfortunately, many inhabitants of a community do not know one another, and that leaves them susceptible to future crime.

How it helps: Communities whose members know each other are more likely to notice when someone or something seems out of place. Building relationships with your neighbors not only teaches your children a lesson in meeting new people, but it also may end up in the creation of a lifelong friendship.



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- Kellerman, A., et al. (2006). Reducing Gun Violence: Community Problem Solving in Atlanta. National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 1-40.
- Saegert, S. & Winkel, G. (2004). Crime, Social Capital, and Community Participation. American Journal of Community Psychology. 34(3): 219-233.

For more info:

American Psychological Association: What makes kids care

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/kids-care.aspx>

KidsHealth

<http://kidshealth.org/>

5. Use the wisdom in your community.

Is there someone who does well, even in the face of violence or other obstacles? Or someone who knows where to turn to really get things done? Find your local "in the know" experts to help you solve problems.

Importance: It is important for youth to have access to individuals in the community who set an example by attitude, behavior, and thought process. Community experts and leaders serve as powerful resources for young adults to tap into for information.

How it helps: Seeking out the experts in your community can produce a valuable link to guidance and knowledge. Commonly, these leaders are at the forefront of a movement to enhance the community. The information provided by these leaders may answer your questions and give you the direction and motivation needed to solve problems.

References:

- Pepper, J. (2007). The Power of Community. What Really Matters: Service, Leadership, People, and Values, 123-160.
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For more info:

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

<http://www.bbbs.org/>

National Crime Prevention Council

<http://www.ncpc.org/>