Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HBVIPs) are programs that provide comprehensive care to assault-injured patients or preventative care for high-risk patients, seeking care in Emergency Department or Hospitals. HBVIPs seek to address risk factors for violence, social determinants of health, and mental health effects of violence and injury, with the goal of reducing and preventing re-injury from violence, and especially firearm violence. HBVIPs aim to break the cycle of violence by connecting assault-injured patients to a variety of services in their community, such as physical and mental health services, housing, job training, and legal services. In HBVIPs, culturally-competent Violence Intervention Specialists provide case management over months or years to an assault-injured patient.

WHY INTERVENE WITH PATIENTS WHILE IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR HOSPITAL?

- Patients seeking care in the Emergency Department or admitted to the hospital with assault injuries are at high risk for both fatal and non-fatal reinjury.
- Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations are a “teachable moment” when patients may be most receptive to interventions and change behavior.

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS?

- Over 40 HBVIPs currently exist in the United States
- Comprehensive evaluations have not been completed on outcomes from Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs.
- Due to a lack of robust evaluation and flaws in design and scale, data on the effectiveness of these programs is inconclusive.
WHAT EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS EXIST TO REDUCE AND PREVENT VIOLENCE?

- SafERteens ([www.Saferteens.org](http://www.Saferteens.org)) is the only CDC-approved hospital-based violence intervention that has been shown to reduce violence among youth seeking care in the Emergency Department.
- SafERteens is a single-session brief counseling session that is administered in the Emergency Department with youth who have been in a fight recently.
- It involves Motivational Interviewing counseling combined with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
- SafERteens focuses on increasing problem-recognition around youth violence behaviors, as well as providing skills in conflict resolution, violence avoidance and safety behaviors.
- SafERteens has been shown to reduce severe aggressive fighting behaviors for up to a year after delivering the intervention.
- SafERteens has also been shown to reduce severe victimization, depression symptoms, violence consequences (e.g., truancy), dating violence, and alcohol consequences (e.g., DUI).
- It is estimated that implementation of the program throughout a single trauma center would result in a reduction of 4200 violent events in a single year, with a cost of less than typical IV placement per person.

REFERENCES


