

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs to Reduce Firearm Injury and Death



WHAT ARE HOSPITAL-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS?

- 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) 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.



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