

Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action

Violence among children and adolescents is a significant public health concern. In 1997, violence claimed the lives of more than 3,700 Americans ages 19 and under—that’s an average of 10 deaths per day—making the homicide rate for young people in the United States the highest among developed countries. Once viewed as a problem only in inner-city neighborhoods, youth violence is now perceived as a nationwide concern, and communities are eager to find ways to stop it.

While we don’t know all the answers when it comes to preventing youth violence, we do know enough to offer some insight into what works. *Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action* shares that insight. It provides the best knowledge available about several strategies designed to prevent youth violence. These strategies are among those with the strongest evidence base for reducing youth violence.

The sourcebook’s first chapter offers a review of the general principles of intervention planning, implementation, and evaluation. This chapter will be especially helpful to readers who are new to developing prevention efforts. For seasoned program planners, it will be a useful refresher.

Chapter 2—the “meat” of the sourcebook—builds on the experiences of others who have worked to prevent violence by children and adolescents. It discusses in depth the best practices of four key youth violence prevention strategies. These include—

- Parent- and family-based strategy
- Home-visiting strategy
- Social-cognitive strategy
- Mentoring strategy

The sourcebook documents the science behind each strategy’s best practices and offers resources for more information about programs that have used these practices.

To write the sourcebook, we solicited input from individuals working to prevent youth violence, as well as individuals whose positions made them likely to play a role in violence prevention efforts. We also conducted an extensive review of the scientific literature on youth violence prevention.

Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action will be available in print and online in August 2000.