

Fostering safety among youth through empowerment, social connection, and community support.

The Challenge

Many youth experience violence, such as assaults and firearm injuries. Different factors in a young person's life may influence their risk of violence. More research is needed to understand what aspects of youths' schools, neighborhoods, and communities may protect against violence.

The Approach

We work with young people and community partners to prevent youth violence by:

- Studying risk behaviors, like substance use, that can lead to violence, using large sets of data.
- Understanding barriers for youth accessing health care, like mental health services, using tools that show how different parts of the system are connected.
- Identifying and strengthening positive supports in youths' schools and neighborhoods by mapping their relationships and connections.
- Partnering with community organizations to address larger problems that contribute to violence, such as high rates of incarceration.

The Impact

Our work combines modern public health research methods with intentional youth engagement to address the youth violence crisis. We have identified numerous community resources, such as parks, barbershops/salons, and public transit, that increase perceived safety for youth impacted by violence. We have also learned about individual and interpersonal factors that buffer against violence exposure. By working alongside youth leaders, we envision co-creating a society where youth can safely live, learn, and play.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed a youth empowerment program that **reduced involvement in violence**.
- Identified community strengths that **increase safety** for youth who have experienced violence.
- Created an **interactive violence dashboard** for community members and policymakers.

Key Benefits

The work of the Adolescent Research Collaborative resulted in **Community** benefits.



Community power & partnerships: Empower youth as leaders and research partners. *(Demonstrated)*



Resource access: Identify community assets that support youth mental health and well-being. *(Demonstrated)*



Life expectancy & quality of life: Decrease incidence of youth violence through community programs. *(Potential)*

The team:

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