

The National Association of County & City Health Officials,
Prevention Institute and UNITY
are pleased to invite you to our upcoming reception

ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference

**Realizing the Dream to be the Healthiest Nation:
The Imperative of Ensuring the Safest Cities**

September 10, 2008 5:30-7 pm, Tofanelli Room, Sheraton Grand Sacramento

Striving to be the healthiest nation is a laudable and important goal, and necessarily means that people must be safe from violence. Together we will explore: Why do safe communities foster better overall health outcomes? What are some examples of effective strategies to prevent violence before it occurs? What is the role of public health in preventing violence? How are cities and public health departments approaching this issue? What is UNITY and how is it part of the solution?

Featuring:

Assemblywoman Anna Caballero, California State Assembly and Chair of Select Committee on Youth Violence Prevention (Invited)

Adewale Troutman MD, MPH, MA, Director of Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness and Associate Professor of Public Health at University of Louisville

Larry Cohen MSW, Founder of Prevention Institute and Executive Director and Co-Chair of UNITY

The reception will highlight:

UNITY (Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth through Violence Prevention).

Initiated in 2006, UNITY is a national initiative designed to strengthen and support cities in preventing violence before it occurs and to help sustain these efforts. To maximize existing resources and promote sustainability, we are proposing a paradigm shift – from programs to strategy.

Violence is preventable, not inevitable. It is a predictable behavior in the unsafe environments where people live. Over the last generations, we've seen dramatic improvements in health status from prevention efforts related to other forms of injury and illness. Preventing violence before it occurs involves efforts to address the risk factors associated with violence, and builds on assets in youth, families, and communities.

*Violence is not the problem
of one neighborhood or group,
and the response and solutions
are not the responsibility
of one sector of the community
or of one agency, professional
group, or business.
Coming together and
owning this problem and
the solutions are central.*

—Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith

Prevention Institute
Harvard School of Public Health
Southern California Injury
Prevention Research Center,
UCLA School of Public Health

