

A SIX-YEAR SNAPSHOT

SEPTEMBER 2005 TO AUGUST 2011

An Overview of Outcomes, Findings & Recommendations from the First Six Years of **UNITY**

UNITY builds support for effective, scalable, sustainable efforts to prevent violence before it occurs so that urban youth can thrive in safe environments with ample opportunities and supportive relationships.

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

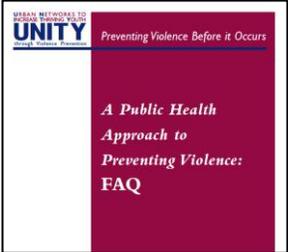
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A SIX-YEAR SNAPSHOT (Sept. 2005 to Aug. 2011)

	OUTCOMES & PRODUCTS	FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS
YEAR 1	<p>Conducted an assessment, “An Assessment of Youth Violence Prevention Activities in USA Cities”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most cities cited a lack of a comprehensive strategy. • Law enforcement and criminal justice strategies are most prevalent. • Public health departments are not seen as part of the solution. • Cities with the greatest coordinated approach also had the lowest rates of youth violence. 	<p>For cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a comprehensive approach to violence that includes prevention. • Establish greater collaboration between city entities and across jurisdictions. • Develop and implement a city-wide plan. <p>For the nation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a national agenda. • Train public health on its role and incentivize participation. • Provide cities with the opportunity to network and mentor each other.
	<p>Established the Steering Committee & National Consortium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention is not understood. • Structural racism is a barrier to getting support. • Cities need guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reframe violence. • Build political and social will. • Form a peer network. • Be a repository for what works. • Develop <i>UNITY RoadMap</i> online.
YEAR 2	 <p>Developed the UNITY RoadMap: A Framework for Effectiveness and Sustainability</p>	<p>Key RoadMap Elements</p> <p>WHO? Partnerships</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High-Level Leadership 2. Collaboration & Staffing 3. Community Engagement <p>WHAT? Prevention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Programs, Practices & Policies 5. Training & Capacity Building 6. Communication <p>HOW? Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Strategic Plan 8. Data & Evaluation 9. Funding 	<p>Cities can use the UNITY RoadMap to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the current status of their efforts (their starting point). • Understand the core elements necessary to prevent violence <i>before</i> it occurs (milestones). • Get information, resources and examples to support planning, implementation and evaluation.
	<p>Commissioned “Moving from Them to Us: Challenges in Reframing Violence Among Youth”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The default frame works against primary prevention. • News sets the policy agenda and frames debate; most stories reinforce the default frame. • Race, youth and violence are conflated in the news. • Racial inequities, when recognized at all, tend to be attributed to individual failings. • Government is the problem <i>and</i> the solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster cross-sector action on violence prevention. • Transform news reporting on violence. • Determine effective ways to talk about race and government in the context of violence.

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YEAR 3	<p>Convened Cities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities need the <i>RoadMap</i>. • Public and political awareness of the value of prevention is key. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevate prioritized strategies. • Recognize cities for their work. • Partner with key organizations. • Advance a UNITY agenda.
	<p>Conducted Outreach and Dissemination & Formed Organizational Partnerships</p> <p>(e.g., Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, National Association of County and City Health Officials, and National League of Cities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNITY aligns with work of many national organizations and initiatives. • There is value in collaboration and coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to articulate opportunities for coordination and collaboration. • Continue to share information about UNITY and what’s working in cities around the country. • Need to articulate and clarify the public health approach.
YEAR 4	<p>Formed the UNITY City Network</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing number of mayors willing to commit to a prevention approach and implementing the <i>UNITY RoadMap</i>. • Health departments need help getting traction. • Cities value a peer network. • Efforts are under-resourced. • Cities have unique approaches. • Cities are achieving success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and disseminate examples of what works. • Build the economic case. • Provide training and technical assistance. • Develop an urban agenda to make the case that violence is preventable and elevate the needs of cities.
	<p>Authored “A Public Health Approach to Preventing Violence: FAQ”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence is a public health issue. It is a leading cause of injury, disability and premature death, a significant disparity, and it increases the risk of other poor health outcomes. • Public health can help solve our nation’s violence problem. It has a track record in addressing threats to the public’s health, it improves the health and safety of a population, and it understands prevention. 	<p>Public health can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure the problem and progress in addressing it. • Play a key role in coordinating the range of needed efforts. • Build capacity among multiple players to prevent violence. • Develop data-informed strategy. • Be an invaluable advocate for the prevention of violence.

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YEAR 5	<p>Developed the UNITY Urban Agenda, which was endorsed by representatives from 13 large cities in April 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know how to prevent violence. • Violence exacts a terrible burden on young people, families, neighborhoods, cities and taxpayers. • An investment in prevention will pay off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in cities to develop, implement, coordinate and evaluate effective and sustainable approaches to prevent community and gang violence. • Coordinate training and capacity building, a national communications campaign, and evaluation/data to support local efforts. • Enhance national and state infrastructure to support local efforts.
	<p>Informed “Addressing the Intersection: Preventing Violence and Promoting Healthy Eating and Active Living”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence and fear of violence influence healthy eating and active living behaviors, e.g., by decreasing physical activity and altering food purchasing and eating patterns. • Violence makes the environment less supportive of healthy eating and active living by reducing social interactions and discouraging community investments, e.g., in grocery stores. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand a community-wide approach for preventing violence, especially in highly-impacted neighborhoods. • Apply a violence prevention lens to environmental and policy change strategies to promote healthy eating and active living efforts. • Elevate the role of healthy eating and active living practitioners in fostering safer communities through advocacy and partnerships.
	<p>Mapped tools, resources, models and City Network into comprehensive web pages</p>		
	<p>Conducted UNITY Evaluation</p> <p>(Preliminary findings and quotes from city representatives around the country)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban efforts are working: “Youth violence can be prevented because clearly we’re preventing it.” “This approach works. It’s working right here in my city, where we reduced violence by 40 percent in just two years—and then brought it down another 20 percent. And we didn’t do it by increasing arrests. We did it by giving young people opportunities to thrive.” • The City Network has value: “Tremendous value in networking opportunities to talk to other cities and see what cities are doing, and in sharing with each other successes and failures so that we have multiple opportunities to get it right.” “Opportunities to talk about youth violence prevention and how to elevate it in the other sectors of society, both governmental and non-governmental agencies.” • Valuable tools: “The RoadMap is not just some high-in-the-sky fluff.” • UNITY has made an impact: “We have access to resources we didn’t have before.” “UNITY has been instrumental in the development of our blueprint.” “Because of UNITY, we have addressed violence differently. We now see it as a health issue as well as a social issue.” “It is with great pride that I announce the adoption of the UNITY Tucson City-Wide Violence Prevention Plan by the Mayor and Council at today’s study session.” 	

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YEAR 6	<p>Developed the UNITY Policy Platform, a summary of the UNITY Urban Agenda</p> 	<p>Endorsed by city representatives of 13 U.S. cities and others, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancement Project • American Public Health Association (APHA) • CeaseFire, Chicago Project for Violence Prevention • Futures Without Violence • National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) • National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) • Prevention Institute • Safe States Alliance • Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
	<p>Convened state health officials for “Advancing State Efforts to Prevent Violence”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State health officials agreed that there are many opportunities to embed violence prevention within the state health sector and across multiple sectors at the state level. • Challenges to advancing state efforts to prevent violence include: framing and communications issues, a need for more state leadership, barriers to collaboration, and inadequate or piecemeal funding. 	<p>State health agencies can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reframe public perception of violence and of perpetrators. • Include strategies to prevent violence in health-related proposals. • Leverage current resources to prevent violence. • Collaborate with other state agencies, local health departments, and with national organizations.
	<p>Published a series of fact sheets linking violence to other health issues</p> <p>(e.g., chronic diseases, mental health, learning and health equity)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence has far-reaching health consequences for young people, families and neighborhoods. • Violence and fear of violence undermine learning and interferes with academic success. • Violence is a health inequity and also worsens health disparities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate efforts to prevent violence into healthy eating and active living strategies. • Promote trauma-informed approaches and support school-based efforts. • Ensure that violence is addressed throughout health and prevention planning.
	<p>Developed two publication series— Making the Case, and City Voices and Perspectives</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> <p>CITY VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES</p> <p><i>Paul D. López</i> Denver City Councilman</p> </div>  </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> <p>MAKING THE CASE</p> <p><i>Prevent Violence for Better Public Health</i></p> </div>  </div>
	<p>Leveraged multiple networks</p>	<p>UNITY has participated in the California Cities Gang Prevention Network, the National Forum for Youth Violence Prevention, STRYVE Action Council and City Network, and the network of Defending Childhood grant recipients, among others.</p>	