

## **Preventing Youth Violence Before it Happens:**

We know that youth violence is a public health as well a criminal justice issue. We are increasingly hearing law enforcement say that we can't arrest our way out of this problem. Public health organizations focus on stopping violence before it happens. The goal is to stem the flow of children entering the juvenile justice system and reduce homicides and injuries from youth violence.

Research and practice from the past two decades have shown there are strategies that communities can implement now to prevent youth violence.

- Family-focused prevention strategies designed to provide build family relationships and parenting skills.
  - Examples: Child Parent Centers and Strengthening Families program
- School-based programs designed to change how youth think about violence and develop skills to resolve disputes in a non-violent manner.
  - Example: Life Skills Training program
- Community-level change strategies like Business Improvement Districts, environmental design, and community outreach programs enhance safety and increase positive interactions in entire neighborhoods.
  - Example: Cardiff Model

[CDC resources for evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies to prevent Youth Violence](#)

**CDC's Youth Violence webpage -- <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/index.html>**

**STRYVE Strategy Selector Tool -- <http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/stryve>**

**Preventing Youth Violence: Opportunities for Action -- <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/opportunities-for-action.html>**