2013

A REPORT FROM THE PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER OF MICHIGAN

PRC MI Prevention RESEARCH CENTER of MICHIGAN

Safe and Healthy Futures

Empowering Communities for Health

MISSION STATEMENT

The Prevention Research Center of Michigan (PRC/MI), based at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, was established in 1998. Our mission is to create and foster knowledge resulting in more effective public health programs and policies. The Center conducts community-based prevention research to improve health and prevent disease, especially focused on populations with a disproportionate share of poor health outcomes. The Prevention Research Center of Michigan is one of 37 Prevention Research Centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Prevention Research Centers work as an interdependent network of community, academic, and public health partners to conduct prevention research and promote the wide use of practices proven to promote good health.

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Dear READERS

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to send you our latest report from the Prevention Research Center of Michigan.

Our lead article features the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center (MI-YVPC), one of six CDC funded Centers nationwide. MI-YVPC seeks to prevent youth violence through a comprehensive, evidence-based approach focused on a defined community in Flint, Michigan. MI-YVPC researchers are working with community organizations, law enforcement, schools, health service providers, and residents to create opportunities for youth, engage families, eliminate blight, improve neighborhoods, and ultimately reduce crime and violence.

We also highlight some of our other work around the State. Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity (PRIME), led by the Michigan Department of Community Health, aims to reduce racial disparities in infant mortality by introducing policies and practices that maximize access and reduce barriers to care for pregnant women and their children.

Finally, we describe the *Speak To Your Health!* survey, a community-engaged survey model that gathers and analyzes data about the health and well-being of community residents. The survey, which was originally developed in Genesee County, has been adapted for Arab American and Latino communities in Michigan.

Everyone has a role to play in improving public health. We are honored to partner with so many dedicated organizations and individuals who work tirelessly to create safe and healthy futures for Michigan's communities.

In good health,

Marc Zimmerman
Director

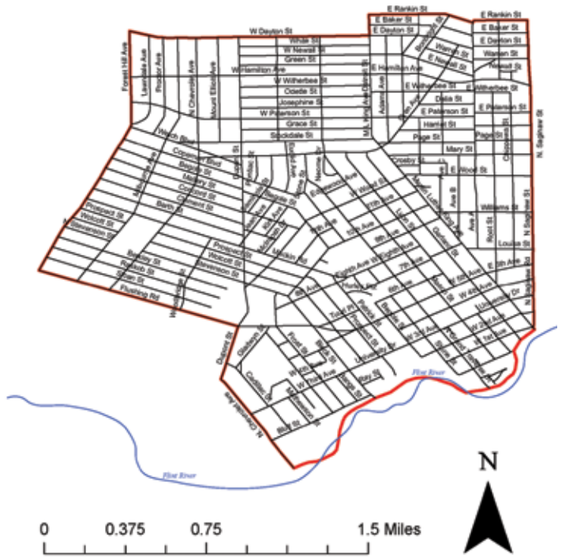
Susan Morrel-Samuels,
Managing Director

MI-YVPC:
A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center

Violence in the U.S. causes approximately 55,000 deaths a year and over 2 million injuries.[1] In 2010, 16,259 people were victims of homicide and 38,364 people took their own lives. Young people aged 24 and younger accounted for nearly 20% of these cases.[2] For many years, society has addressed violence as a criminal issue. While law enforcement is critical, it usually intervenes in violence after the damage has been done. In contrast, public health focuses on prevention by making changes in the environment and individual attitudes and behaviors before the violence occurs.

MI-YVPC Program Area



From Broken Windows to Busy Streets

Broken Windows Theory[3] suggests that one broken window in a neighborhood is an invitation to break more windows and eventually create a downward spiral where houses become abandoned, empty lots become overgrown, and residents become increasingly disengaged creating opportunities for vandalism, loitering, and other criminal activities. This cycle is exacerbated by reductions in police and fire protection, unemployment, home foreclosures, and social program cutbacks. As a result, the neighborhood becomes infected with more serious crime and urban decay.

Since 2010, researchers from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Medical School have been working collaboratively with community partners in Flint, Michigan to reduce violence and create a supportive and healthy environment for youth ages 10-24. The Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center (MI-YVPC), based at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, is one of six Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Using a multi-sector approach, the MI-YVPC works with youth, families, and the community at large to implement and evaluate a multi-level youth violence prevention strategy that will be sustainable and effective at preventing violence within the Flint community. The goals of the MI-YVPC are to create sustainable partnerships to promote a safe and healthy community and reduce incidents of violence and injuries among youth. Additionally, MI-YVPC trains graduate and undergraduate students in youth violence prevention.

The MI-YVPC not only tries to stop this downward spiral, but strives to cultivate an environment where community assets can thrive and resources can expand. "We are in essence, trying to create an upward spiral," says Dr. Marc Zimmerman, MI-YVPC Director. "If we can help generate more positive social interactions across generations while also improving the physical conditions of the neighborhood then we can create the environment for healthy development in a thriving community." There is no one solution to violence. Yet, through public health approaches to prevention, violence can become an increasingly rare event.

Mobilizing Community Resources

The MI-YVPC focuses its efforts to prevent youth violence in the Durant-Tuuri-Mott neighborhood in Flint, Michigan. The city of Flint has seen both economic prosperity and misfortune throughout the years. Transitioning from a manufacturing to service economy has had a strong effect on the life-circumstances of young people. At one time, Flint and surrounding Genesee County was one of the most affluent metropolitan areas in the U.S. because of high-paying manufacturing jobs. In the past 40 years, over 70,000 auto industry jobs have been lost, and the population has declined by half. Like many urban Michigan communities facing declining populations, the city faces extreme economic and health challenges, including high rates of crime and violence.

At the same time, there are many people working to prevent further violence and create safe and healthy environments and the Durant-Tuuri-Mott area has several community resources including active community organizations, a major hospital, two nearby Universities and some neighborhoods that show early signs of redevelopment. Mobilizing these community assets is vital to creating a sustainable model for youth violence prevention.

Partnerships

MI-YVPC is a collaboration of faculty and staff from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Medical School, Michigan State University, Genesee County Health Department, Flint Police Department, and many other local organizations. MI-YVPC's dedication to involving Flint community partners in the implementation and evaluation of the programs is vital for the success of our youth violence prevention strategy. The MI-YVPC partners and steering committee advise and inform the research, training, evaluation, and communication activities of the Center.

For more information, visit the MI-YVPC website: http://miyvpc.org.

Members of the MI-YVPC Steering Committee represent the following organizations:

- 7th Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan – Family Division
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint
- Church Without Walls
- City of Flint Mayor's Office
- Durant-Turri-Mott Elementary School
- Flint Area Reinvestment Office
- Flint Downtown District Weed & Seed
- Flint Odyssey House Health Awareness Center
- Flint Police Department
- Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD)
- Genesee County Health Department
- Genesee County Land Bank
- Genesee Health System
- Greater Flint Health Coalition
- Hurley Medical Center Emergency Department
- Kettering University
- McLaren Regional Medical Center
- Mott Children's Health Center
- Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice
- University of Michigan – Flint

Prevention STRATEGY

The MI-YVPC approach to youth violence prevention involves implementing and evaluating six initiatives that focus on individual, family, and community level changes. These programs are designed to enhance healthy development, strengthen family relationships, build intergenerational ties, and improve neighborhood conditions.

For example, Clean and Green/Adopt-A-Lot and Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) are community-based programs that focus on reducing urban blight, improving the physical environment, and empowering youth to be engaged in pro-social community life. Fathers & Sons and Targeted Outreach Mentoring work with individual youth and their families to reduce risky behaviors and provide positive developmental opportunities. Project SYNC engages youth who come to the emergency department in a brief risk assessment and counseling session, and Community Mobilization facilitates good communication between the police and community residents so that they can work together for sustained violence prevention. Each of these programs involves local community organizations.

Clean and Green/Adopt a Lot

Lead organization: Genesee County Land Bank

The MI-YVPC partners with the Genesee County Land Bank to provide support to improve vacant properties within the MI-YVPC program area. The Genesee County Land Bank aims to restore value to the community by acquiring, developing, and selling vacant and abandoned properties, and this mission is carried out through several programs that partner with residents to improve the appearance and quality of vacant land in Genesee County. Clean and Green and Adopt a Lot are two of the Land Bank's programs that engage neighborhood residents and community organizations in the beautification and maintenance of vacant parcels. Each participating group or organization maintains at least 25 parcels and in exchange, receives a stipend that they can use to support their work. Some groups use their stipend to purchase equipment necessary for maintaining their parcels while some use the funding to employ youth and community residents to tend the properties. Several Land Bank-owned parcels in Flint and Genesee County have been transformed into community gardens or recreation spaces with decorative split rail fencing and raised garden beds. The Land Bank controls more than 4,000 vacant properties, over 500 of which are in the MI-YVPC intervention neighborhood.

Intervention Grid

Intervention Approach	Focus of Program		
	Individual	Relationship	Community
Primary Prevention	Youth Empowerment Solutions	Fathers & Sons	Clean & Green
Secondary Prevention	Project Sync	Mentoring	Community Mobilization

Community Mobilization

Lead organization: Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice

Utilizing the skills and expertise of students and faculty from the MSU School of Criminal Justice, the MI-YVPC Community Mobilization program provides support to the Flint Police Department and neighborhood groups. Community Mobilization has three main areas of focus: distributing crime data analyses; convening community discussions; and engaging neighborhood organizations. The key activities are to: 1) Conduct community forums on topics such as neighborhood relationships, crime trends, perceptions of law enforcement, and neighborhood activism; 2) Meet with Flint Police to share and discuss results of data analyses and community forums; 3) Share "real time" crime data analyses with community groups and residents and coordinate efforts with law enforcement to prevent crime; and 4) Provide technical assistance to neighborhood organizations to assist with community improvement and crime prevention activities. Neighborhood beautification activities have been organized for tire recycling, graffiti removal, and tree planting, and involvement in these improvement efforts has also led to the formation of a new block club.

Fathers and Sons

Lead organization: Flint Odyssey House Health Awareness Center

The MI-YVPC Fathers and Sons Program is a community-based intervention designed to prevent violence and other negative health behaviors among youth ages 10-14, by strengthening relationships between African American fathers and their sons.

The program aims to enhance fathers' parenting knowledge, attitudes and behaviors, father-son communication, father-son connectedness, cultural awareness, sons' refusal skills and fathers' use of community resources. Fathers and sons come together twice a week for 6 weeks to participate in the program. Fathers and sons who have successfully completed the program report very positive experiences and improved relationships.

Project Sync

Lead organization: Hurley Medical Center Emergency Department

Project Sync is a brief intervention program that provides one-on-one counseling to youth ages 14-20 when they present to the emergency department for any reason. Based on principles of Motivational Interviewing, Project Sync counselors engage with the participants to recognize risky behaviors and increase their motivation to change, in a non-confrontational and non-judgmental manner. The one-on-one counseling approach emphasizes individual choice and responsibility, supports self-efficacy, and differentiates between current behavior and future goals/values. It also allows the counselor to assess the youth's risk for violence, roll with resistance, and increase problem recognition. To date, 202 intervention area youth and 99 comparison area youth have participated in the study.

Targeted Outreach Mentoring

Lead organization: Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint provides a mentoring and case management program for youth ages 10-17 who live in the MI-YVPC intervention area. Mentoring is an effective way to build a positive relationship between a child and an adult, has been shown to promote positive behaviors among youth and has been associated with less violent behavior.[4,5] Youth are connected with a mentor at the beginning of the program who assesses their interests and goals. The mentor helps connect youth to community resources and opportunities for exploring and reaching their individual goals. Youth meet with their mentors regularly to check in and discuss their progress toward their goals. The program typically lasts 6 months to one year. Youth are also encouraged to enroll in other Boys and Girls Club and MI-YVPC programs.

Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES)

Lead organization: Church Without Walls

The YES program promotes positive development and prevents risky behaviors among youth by empowering them to change their physical and social environments. During a 16-week curriculum, youth engage in activities focused on leadership, cultural identity, community assessment, program planning, and resource mobilization and are given opportunities for meaningful community involvement. Throughout the program, the youth are connected with community leaders and supported by other trained adult advocates who provide assistance and mentorship. Each YES group plans and carries out community improvement projects, which have included public performances, neighborhood clean-ups, outdoor murals, community gardens, and playground improvements. In 2013, YES participants talked with Congressman Dan Kildee about living in Flint and their ideas for a safer future. This conversation was captured in a video and can be viewed on the MI-YVPC and PRC/MI websites.

Engaging YOUTH

Community involvement is essential to prevent youth violence. The MI-YVPC Community Outreach Committee has developed strategies to increase participation and promote its programs to youth and families in the focus neighborhoods.

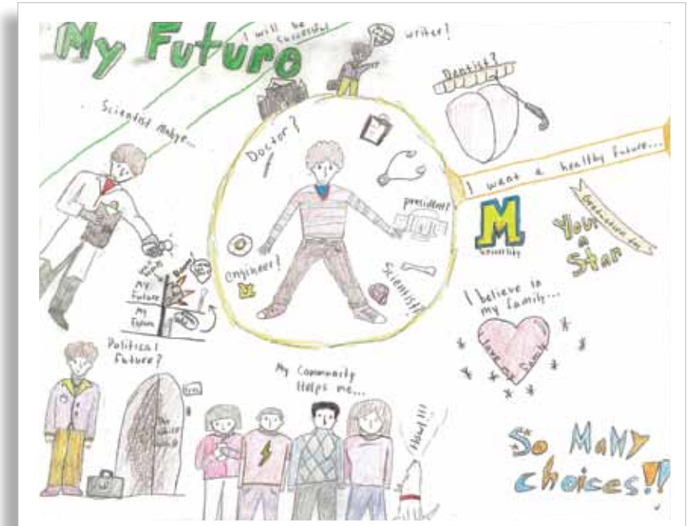
In 2012, over 125 Flint community members and youth attended the Safe and Healthy Futures Youth Festival. Families and youth learned about the MI-YVPC programs and had the opportunity to talk to representatives from MI-YVPC partner organizations. The attendees also enjoyed performances by Flint-based youth groups Raise It Up! Youth Arts & Awareness, the Gamma Delta Kudos and Kappa Leadership League, and Lyrically Elevated from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint. Bang Town's Mobile Studio on the Go was on hand to help the youth participants record a song. Youth at the festival were also invited to be interviewed on camera and discuss their hopes for a healthy and successful future.

In 2013, the MI-YVPC reached out to youth through the Safe and Healthy Futures Contest. The Outreach Committee asked 5th and 6th grade students to submit an original drawing, poem, song, or story about their future. Contestants also answered questions about what their safe and healthy futures look like, what is needed to get them there, and how they view their community. The committee received over 30 entries from two elementary schools and awarded first and second place prizes to participants from each school and grade. Winning entries are featured here.

In addition, the MI-YVPC maintains an active and informative website and social media presence. They encourage community members to submit articles and post comments to the Safe and Healthy Futures blog, and share information with their friends on Facebook and Twitter.

Aaron Watson

Age 12 • Format: Drawing



What does my safe and healthy future look like?
My safe and healthy future looks like success. I want to become a doctor and help the world get rid of sickness. I will be a healthy man and a financially successful person. My family and friends will help me reach my goals and become a great and successful person.

What do I need to do to get there?
If I am to reach these goals, I need to first get an education. This is the primary step to being successful. I need to graduate and accept my family's motivation and love.

How can adults in my community help me?
They can give great advice and great courage. Adults in my community are very important to me, especially my parents. They motivate me to be the best I can be. Every adult is helpful though; they have graduated and already have the knowledge that they are getting ready to pass on to us, as young kids.

What does community mean to me?
The community means everything to me....They give great advice, and help me stay fit and healthy. The community is a great influence on me, and without them I would be nothing.

Sataria Grear

Age 10 • Format: Drawing

What does my safe and healthy future look like?
My safe and healthy future looks very successful. My goals in life are to be an author and an artist. There are the two most exciting activities that I love to do!

What do I need to do to get there?
My goals are to further my education so I can get the knowledge and the information to be successful in the future at becoming an artist and author!

How can adults in my community help me?
Adults can help me by having me attend art classes, attend reading and writing programs, helping me further my education and encouraging me to accomplish my goals.

What does community mean to me?
Community means to me, family, friends, and teachers coming together to help and support each other by focusing on positive things in helping to provide a great safe and healthy environment.

Amari Cooper

Age 10 • Format: Song

Lyrics:

[Verse 1]
I wanna be kind,
I wanna be nice,
I want nonviolence,
in my life.
World without criminals,
No crime.
All love, no crime
Just let it all,
Go away.
Just let it all,
Blow away.

[Chorus]
My future,
Yeah it's my future.
(Repeat 3 xs)
It's gonna be nice,
It's gonna be nice
My future,
Yeah it's my future.
(Repeat 3 xs)
It's gonna be nice,
It's gonna be nice

[Verse 2]
No fire,
Just water.
No darkness,
Just light.
Our future,
Our time.
And I'm gonna,
Shine bright.
My choice,
I wanna pick right.
Not wrong.
No, no guns,
And no knives.
We're all fam,
We wanna live long.

[Chorus]
My future,
Yeah it's my future.
(Repeat 3 xs)
It's gonna be nice,
It's gonna be nice
My future,
Yeah it's my future.
(Repeat 3 xs)
It's gonna be nice,
It's gonna be nice
My future,
Yeah it's my future.
(Repeat 3 xs)
It's gonna be nice,
It's gonna be nice

What does my safe and healthy future look like?
I'm hoping to be a bucket filler and not a bucket dipper. I want to be helpful and have a good attitude. I want to help millions of people and get an education.

What do I need to do to get there?
I need to check on me before I check on them, don't be a super saint. Listen to my teacher and pay attention in class, ignore the negativity, be a good person, and help others out.

How can adults in my community help me?
Adults can show me right from wrong, help stop the negativity, and protect us to make a better choice (life).

What does community mean to me?
Community means teamwork and being helpful or team, and family to me.

Evaluation STRATEGY

The overall evaluation strategy for the Center is based on several components. The MI-YVPC research team will examine spatial analysis of crime incidents, community survey data, and hospital injury data in the intervention neighborhood, in comparison to all other neighborhoods across the city. They will also compare the outcomes in the intervention area to a comparison area with similar characteristics. In addition, they are conducting a process evaluation of each individual program and an overall evaluation of the Center.

There are three main components of the MI-YVPC evaluation: 1) Parcel Assessments, 2) Violent Crime and Injury Data and 3) The *Speak To Your Health!* Community Survey.

The logic model below provides an overview of the MI-YVPC evaluation process, depicting the inputs, activities, and outputs that lead to short- and long-term community outcomes (see Figure 1).

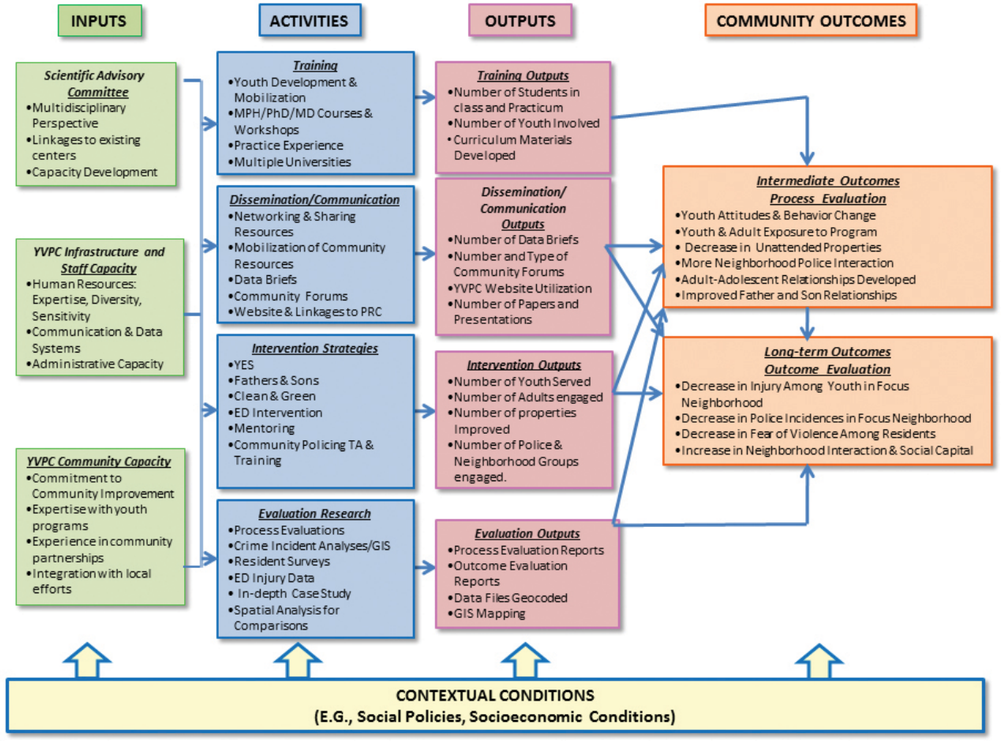


Figure 1: MI-YVPC Logic Model

Parcel Assessments

According to the Broken Windows Theory, neighborhood social and physical disorganization may encourage vandalism and violence, and over time, minor forms of public disorder eventually lead to urban decay and more serious crime. Tending of vacant properties and other improvements to the physical environment may encourage community engagement and discourage crime and violence. Through the parcel assessments, the MI-YVPC is measuring property maintenance and improvement within the intervention area and comparing it to a comparison area with similar characteristics.

Each summer, teams of trained observers walk and drive through the intervention and comparison neighborhoods to assess the condition of the properties. In addition to rating the overall condition of the buildings, lawns, and landscaping, the teams are assessing whether the properties: are occupied or vacant, have broken and/or boarded windows and doors, have graffiti, show evidence of fire damage, have discarded appliances, furniture, or vehicles and/or other litter and trash.

The parcel assessment project began in 2011 and will continue every summer through 2015. The team assessed 6,100 parcels in both 2011 and 2012 and 10,150 parcels in 2013. This reflects an expansion of the intervention area in 2013. These annual assessments each year will allow the evaluation researchers to assess any changes that are happening to the physical structure of the properties in both the intervention and comparison areas.

Violent Crime and Injury Data

In addition to the parcel assessments, the researchers are looking at violent crime and injury data from various sources. Using police data and data from emergency room visits, researchers are collecting and analyzing the type, frequency, and location of crimes and injuries, particularly those involving youth and young adults under 25 who live in the intervention area.

The *Speak To Your Health!* Community Survey

The final component of the MI-YVPC evaluation involves an abbreviated version of the *Speak To Your Health!* Community Survey to capture residents' perceptions of safety, community involvement, fear of crime, and overall physical condition in their neighborhood. The survey has 61 questions and takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Every other summer, surveyors administer the questionnaire to residents throughout the neighborhoods in the MI-YVPC program and comparison areas.

Future Directions

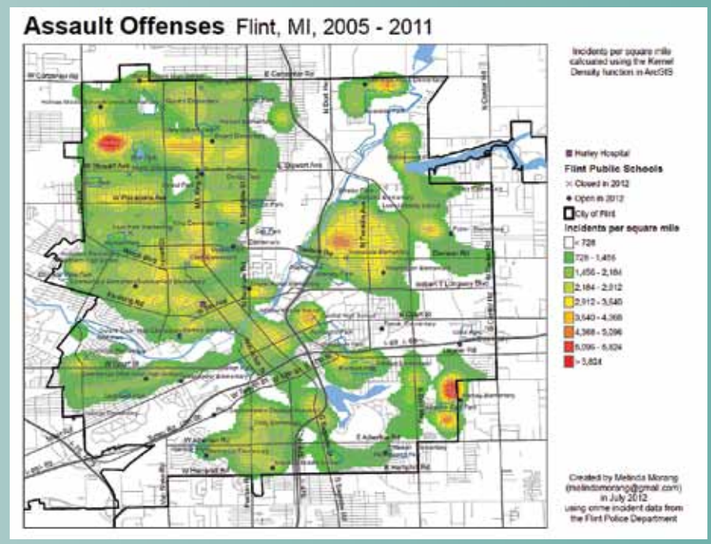
In the coming years, the Center will continue to work with its partners to engage the community and to implement programs that help youth connect with adults and improve their neighborhoods. They will continue to collect and analyze data through program evaluations, property assessments and neighborhood crime reports. Ultimately, the Center hopes to provide evidence to support this multi-pronged approach as a sustainable model for violence prevention in Flint and other communities in Michigan and nationwide.

For more information about the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center, please contact: Susan Morrel-Samuels, Managing Director, MI-YVPC, Email: sumosa@umich.edu

Crime Map Library

The MI-YVPC Crime Map Library contains links to 67 individual maps depicting the relative rates of crime incidents in different regions of Flint, Michigan. Each map provides a visual summary of the incidence of a specific type of crime. There are nine types of crime that were analyzed: Arson, Assault, Burglary and Breaking and Entering, Destruction, Damage, or Vandalism of Property, Homicide Offenses, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, and Forcible Sex Offenses. The crime map library can be found on the MI-YVPC website (http://miyvpc.org).

The Flint Police Department and the City of Flint's Department of Information Services provided all the crime incident data.



Around the STATE

PRIME: Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity

Infant mortality is a significant public health issue in the U.S., and there are striking disparities between infant mortality rates for African Americans and Whites, and American Indians and Whites. In Michigan, for the period of 2007-2009, the White infant mortality rate was 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. In contrast, the rate for African Americans was 15.5 and for American Indians the rate was 8.8.[6] Although improvements to infant mortality rates have occurred, these racial disparities have persisted. To address these disparities, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) embarked on a 3-year project to create a public health practice model that can help the practice workforce to more effectively address the racial disparities in infant mortality in the state of Michigan.

Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity (PRIME) aims to enhance the capacity of the Michigan Department of Community Health's Bureau of Family, Maternal & Child Health (BFMCH) to reduce African Americans/Whites and American Indians/Whites disparities in infant mortality in Michigan. PRIME seeks to achieve this aim by providing resources, training and technical assistance to staff, building on resources and lessons learned from collaborations with local public health, professional consultants and university partners. PRC/MI faculty and staff are leading the evaluation team.

Health Equity and Social Justice Trainings

PRIME has engaged MDCH staff and partners in several trainings and have implemented opportunities for participants to share best practices and learn from each other. Trainings included The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond's *Undoing Racism Workshop* and Ingham County Health Department's *Health Equity Social Justice Workshop*. One of the main components of the projects was the development of the PRIME health equity curriculum, the Health Equity Learning Labs, which can be adapted to fit other State and Local Health Departments. This series of workshops, developed with consultants from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, was administered to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Division, along with community partners from community based organizations and local health departments. Partners from the Inter-tribal Council of Michigan (ITC) also presented Native American/American Indian culture and history. PRIME is currently adapting materials from the Health Equity Learning Labs to be presented to the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) division.

MDCH staff from three Divisions received trainings on Health Equity and Social Justice. MDCH staff who attended these trainings had increases in knowledge and understanding of how social determinants of health, particularly racism, influences policies and practices that adversely affect health outcomes. PRIME has disseminated results from the trainings and lessons learned at local and national conferences, and developed a PRIME website to disseminate PRIME materials.

In addition to the workshops, an Organizational Assessment was given to the staff members in the WIC and CSHCS Division as a way to evaluate the health equity cultural climate of the Division. The results from the Organizational Assessments were used to develop the Health Equity Learning Labs.

Local Learning Collaborative

MDCH members of PRIME meet every six weeks with local health agencies and community based organizations in the Local Learning Collaborative (LLC). LLC members share challenges and successes in addressing health equity. The LLC is also an opportunity for the State to seek advice and feedback on PRIME's work and plans. LLC member organizations have shared their activities and best practices based on their work to address racism, health equity, and health disparities in their communities. For example, Ingham County Health Department has adopted a health equity lens for daily practices through four-day, dialogue-based workshops, which are mandatory for all employees. In Genesee County, guided bus tours through neighborhoods where high-risk clients reside have helped providers, administrators, and policymakers improve their understanding of the social conditions of women and families.
For more information on the LLC members' best practices, visit: http://prime.mihealth.org/LocalLearning/BestPractices.html.

Native American PRAMS

In partnership with MDCH, ITC, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, and the Michigan State University Office of Survey Research, PRIME also initiated a special Native American Pregnancy Risk Assessment (NA PRAMS) which worked with Native American communities to gather additional data on Native American maternal and child health. The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments, and collectss state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. The Native American PRAMS oversamples Native American/American Indian to conduct analysis, which captures maternal care, infant care, and infant health in this specific community. It is expected that the NA PRAMS will provide a rich source of data related to Native American/American Indians maternal and child health in Michigan, and will allow a much deeper analysis of risk factors for infant mortality in this community.

PRIME Website

PRIME developed a comprehensive website (http://prime.mihealth.org/) in collaboration with LLC members to help disseminate lessons learned from the LLC and PRIME. Website visitors can find videos on health equity, PRIME evaluation reports, and health equity resources.

For more information about the PRIME evaluation, please contact: Dr. Tom Reischl, Evaluation Director, E-mail: reischl@umich.edu or visit the PRIME website: http://prime.mihealth.org/.

Prime Partners:

- MDCH
  - Bureau of Family, Maternal & Child Health
  - Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section
  - MDCH Administration
  - Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health, and Chronic Disease Epidemiology
- UM School of Public Health:
  - Center on Men's Health Disparities
  - Office of Public Health Practice
- Ingham and Wayne County Health Departments
- Inter-Tribal Council of MI
- Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center
- Corner Health Center
- PRIME Local Learning Collaborative
- Vanderbilt University

PRC/MI STATE BOARD

We would like to welcome Ms. Melanie Brim, Deputy Director for Public Health Administration, at the Michigan Department of Community Health, as the new Chair of our State Board. The PRC/MI State Board members provide diverse perspectives on health issues, guide research and disseminate findings through their organizations. The PRC/MI State Board organizations include state and local public health, health service providers, insurance providers and purchasers, and health advocacy groups.

Around the STATE

Speak To Your Health! Community Survey

The *Speak To Your Health! (STYH)* Community Survey is a biennial community health survey that has been conducted since 2003 in Genesee County. The *STYH* Community Survey was developed collaboratively by community, health department, and university partners of the Prevention Research Center of Michigan (PRC/MI) and covers a range of health topics including nutrition, physical activity, mental health, sleep and health, alcohol and tobacco use, sexual health, and access to health care. Data from the *STYH* Community Survey have been used for health program planning and evaluation, grant proposals, community education, and policy development.

In an effort to better understand and address the health status, behaviors, and needs of other communities in Michigan, the PRC/ MI adapted the *STYH* Community Survey model for use with Arab American and Latino populations in order to promote safe and healthy futures in communities statewide.

In summer of 2012, the Arab American supplement of the *STYH* Community Survey was conducted by the PRC/MI with support from the Arab American Heritage Council (AAHC) in Genesee County. A key non-profit community organization that specifically serves the needs of Flint area Arab Americans and other recent immigrants, AAHC is well situated in the Flint community with extensive networks with various religious, cultural, and social organizations serving the Arab-American community. The Arab-American version of the *STYH* survey is nearly identical to the 2011 Genesee County *STYH* Survey, but was intended to only collect data from Arab Americans. A few additional questions were also added to the survey, particularly concerning hookah tobacco and perceived discrimination.

Additionally, the PRC/MI is also exploring the health status and needs of Latino/as in Washtenaw County through the Encuesta Buenos Vecinos (Good Neighbors Survey). Using the *STYH* model, this new survey utilizes community-based participatory research methods to gather comprehensive information from 500 Latino/a residents on health status and social determinants of health, giving particular attention to issues related to social cohesion, social capital, and community engagement. The project has connected the PRC/MI to new partners in Washtenaw County, particularly Washtenaw County Public Health and Casa Latina, a new non-profit and developing Latino community center.

For more information about the *STYH* Survey, visit the *Speak To Your Health!* Website (http://speak.sph.umich.edu) or contact Susan Frazier-Kouassi, skouassi@umich.edu.

Giving Back: Sharing the results with the commmunity

Guided by the principles of community-based participatory research, sharing the results with residents and community organizations is an essential step for improving community health and is a key component of the *STYH* model. Data from each wave of the Genesee County *STYH* survey were shared at a community-led event, the most recent of which was an all-day symposium highlighting the findings and featuring speakers from several community organizations. In addition, we distribute monthly health briefs, which feature relevant data and local resources, specifically geared toward community residents. We also recently launched a comprehensive website that provides access to data tables, GIS maps, and health briefs.

To learn more, visit the *Speak To Your Health!* Community Survey website: http://speak.sph.umich.edu.

Selected PUBLICATIONS

Carter, P., Walton, M., Newton, M., Clery, M., Whiteside, L., Zimmerman, M.A., & Cunningham, R. (2013). Firearm possession among adolescents presenting to an urban emergency department for assault. *Pediatrics,* 132(2), 1-9.
This study examined firearm possession among youth 14-24 years old who presented to the Emergency Department with assault related injuries. Youth were given a computerized survey that asked about demographics, firearm rates and characteristics, attitudes toward aggression, substance use, and previous violence history. The study found high rates of firearm possession (23.1%) among the youth and concluded that future prevention efforts should focus on minimizing illegal firearm access among high-risk youth, nonviolent alternatives to retaliatory violence, and substance use prevention.

Caldwell, C.H., Antonakos, C.L., Assari, S., et al. (2013). Pathways to prevention: Improving nonresident African American fathers' parenting skills and behaviors to reduce sons' aggression. *Child Development*. Epub ahead of print.
This study describes a test of the Fathers and Sons Program for increasing intentions to avoid violence and reducing aggressive behaviors in 8- to 12-year-old African American boys by enhancing the parenting skills satisfaction and parenting behaviors of their nonresident fathers. Results indicated that the intervention was effective for improving fathers' parenting skills satisfaction, which was positively associated with sons' satisfaction with paternal engagement. Support for family-centered youth violence prevention efforts is discussed.

Kruger, D.J., French-Turner, T., & Brownlee, S. (2013). Genesee County REACH windshield tours: Enhancing health professionals understanding of community conditions that influence infant mortality. *Journal of Primary Prevention,* 34(3), 163-72.
This article describes an evaluation of the Genesee County REACH's Community Windshield Tours, which were developed to raise awareness of social and environmental barriers to health promotion among health care system staff in Flint, Michigan. These tours provide a close-up examination of the community's environmental conditions and the experiences of mothers, children, and families at risk for poor birth outcomes. The authors found that several individual- and systems-level changes resulted from these tours, reflecting greater cultural sensitivity and increased understanding of patients' circumstances.

Skolarus, L.E., Murphy, J.B., Zimmerman, M.A., Bailey, S.,Fowlkes, S., Brown, D.L., Lisabeth, L.D., Greenberg, E., & Morgenstern, L.B. (2013). Individual and community determinants of calling 911 for stroke among African Americans in an urban community. *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes,* 6(3):278-83.
In partnership with Bridges to the Future, a faith based organization in Flint, Michigan, researchers explored the barriers and facilitators to calling 911 for stroke among African Americans. Using a focus group methodology, they explored factors that are often difficult to assess using surveys, such as religion, family, community, structural organization, and economics. The researchers found that participants recognized stroke symptoms and felt that stroke was a medical emergency yet, barriers to calling 911 included cost of an ambulance, emotions and stress, and EMS response time.

Veinot, T.C., Campbell, T.R., Kruger, D.J., & Grodzinski, A. (2013). A question of trust: User-centered design requirements for an informatics intervention to promote the sexual health of African-American youth. *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*. Epub ahead of print.
This article describes findings from 10 focus groups with 75 African American youth, which helped inform the design of an online intervention for HOPE (HIV/STD Outreach, Prevention and Education). Authors suggest that trust was the central intervention-relevant issue among African American youth, suggesting an important focus for culturally informed design.

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STATE BOARD ORGANIZATIONS

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Detroit Community Academic Urban Research Center
Michigan Association of Health Plans
Michigan Association for Local Public Health
Michigan Council for Maternal Child Health
Michigan Department of Community Health
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Primary Care Association
Michigan Public Health Association
Michigan Public Health Institute
Michigan State Medical Society
Registered Nurses Association of Michigan
University of Michigan School of Public Health

GENESEE COUNTY COMMUNITY BOARD ORGANIZATIONS

Dort-Oak Park Neighborhood House
Flint/Genesee County Neighborhood Roundtable
Flint Odyssey House Health Awareness Center
Genesee County Community Action Resource Department
Genesee County Health Department
Greater Flint Health Coalition
University of Michigan – Flint
University of Michigan School of Public Health
YOUR Center

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