

National *Academic Centers of Excellence* on Youth Violence Prevention

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

History

The Academic Centers of Excellence (ACEs) were established soon after the tragedy at Columbine High School. Each ACE works with the communities it serves to encourage participation and partnership, mobilizing residents and researchers to craft effective solutions for violence prevention tailored to their specific community. The ACEs research youth violence prevention approaches, collect and analyze surveillance data, and foster relationships with local community partners to help develop, implement, and evaluate promising prevention efforts. Youth violence disproportionately affects Asian/Pacific Islander (API) communities in the United States.

Since 2000, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) has been researching youth violence in multicultural settings to meet the needs of the diverse API population. A multidisciplinary staff from the University of Hawai'i coordinates the activities of APIYVPC, in collaboration with numerous local agencies and community-based organizations. APIYVPC is working on several research, surveillance, training, and community mobilization projects in the Kailua and Waimānalo districts on the island of O'ahu. Staff members from APIYVPC also head the National Coordinating Center for the ACEs program, to help direct information sharing, provide technical assistance, and facilitate coordination among the ACEs.

Research

One of APIYVPC's primary research projects is the development and preliminary evaluation of a culturally appropriate youth violence prevention approach for high schools serving API youth in disadvantaged communities on the island of O'ahu. Through the use of quantitative and qualitative methods, APIYVPC seeks to identify effective ways to engage youth and reduce the likelihood of future episodes of violence. Results from the study will aid the creation of a violence prevention model that will be tested for efficacy in similar multicultural settings.

APIYVPC is also involved in other research projects, including

- Evaluation of *Hui Mālama O Ke Kai*, a community-based intervention that has offered culturally sensitive after-school programming to Waimānalo youths since 1998; and
- Evaluation of a high school ethnic studies course that addresses youth violence prevention.

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Surveillance

APIYVPC researchers are aligning surveillance of school, community, and statewide data to demonstrate current trends in youth violence in Hawai'i. The Center collects data on youth violence and risk and protective factors from Kailua High school and the Kailua-Waimānalo community. These results are being used to direct Center activities and are shared with schools and community members for further analysis and application.

Training

The multidisciplinary research experience and expertise of APIYVPC personnel help community partners increase the capacity and development of their own organizations. The Center offers training opportunities for community organizations on needs assessments, community capacity building, positive youth development, evaluation, leveraging resources, policy and legislation, and career development.

Research associates, graduate assistants, and junior faculty associated with APIYVPC have opportunities to advance their understanding of the

field of violence prevention research. Development of such an understanding also includes encouraging each participant to create an Individualized Career Development Plan.

APIYVPC plans to share many of its findings with colleagues through the formal publication of the Handbook of Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention.

Community Mobilization

Community-based participatory research is an essential component of APIYVPC activities. Persistent community participation in APIYVPC activities and trainings exposes community members to the latest information on violence prevention research and cultivates relationships with APIYVPC and other community partners. APIYVPC has brought together a diverse set of community organizations to identify and mobilize toward common youth violence prevention goals, such as the establishment of a community youth services center. The success of and growing public interest in programs to prevent youth violence in Hawai'i is a testament to the positive effects of a strong community-based collaborative.

For more information, please contact:

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1-800-CDC-INFO • www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention • cdcinfo@cdc.gov