



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Division of Violence Prevention

Healthcare Providers Play Unique Role in Preventing Violence

Clinicians can prevent violence, a serious public health problem.

CDC has released an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), [Violence in the United States: Status, Challenges, and Opportunities](#). This article highlights strategies that communities, organizations, and healthcare providers can take to identify, treat, and prevent violence.

CDC findings show that interpersonal violence is a major public health, social, and developmental threat, and that it is a leading cause of death among children, adolescents, and young adults. Not only can exposure to violence cause immediate physical wounds that clinicians recognize and treat, but it can also result in long-lasting mental and physical health conditions that are less apparent to health care providers.

Despite the burden of violence in communities, many violent events often go unreported and untreated. The article highlights a need for multi-sector collaboration in implementing successful prevention strategies, and healthcare providers are in a unique position to identify and assist patients at risk of suffering violence.

CDC indicates that priority should be given to developing and implementing strategies that can reduce multiple forms of violence, with a focus on programs that prevent violence among children and youth. Many forms of violence have similar risk and protective factors and interventions can therefore have a broad impact.

Clinicians should be aware that exposure to violence is common among patients, even if unreported. CDC authors highlight various effective strategies for preventing violence that can be implemented within clinics, community organizations, and local government. Clinicians play an important role in advancing such violence prevention strategies.

Learn More

- For more information on CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention>
- VetoViolence: Violence prevention resources and trainings: <http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov>

