

National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

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National ACE Coordinating Center

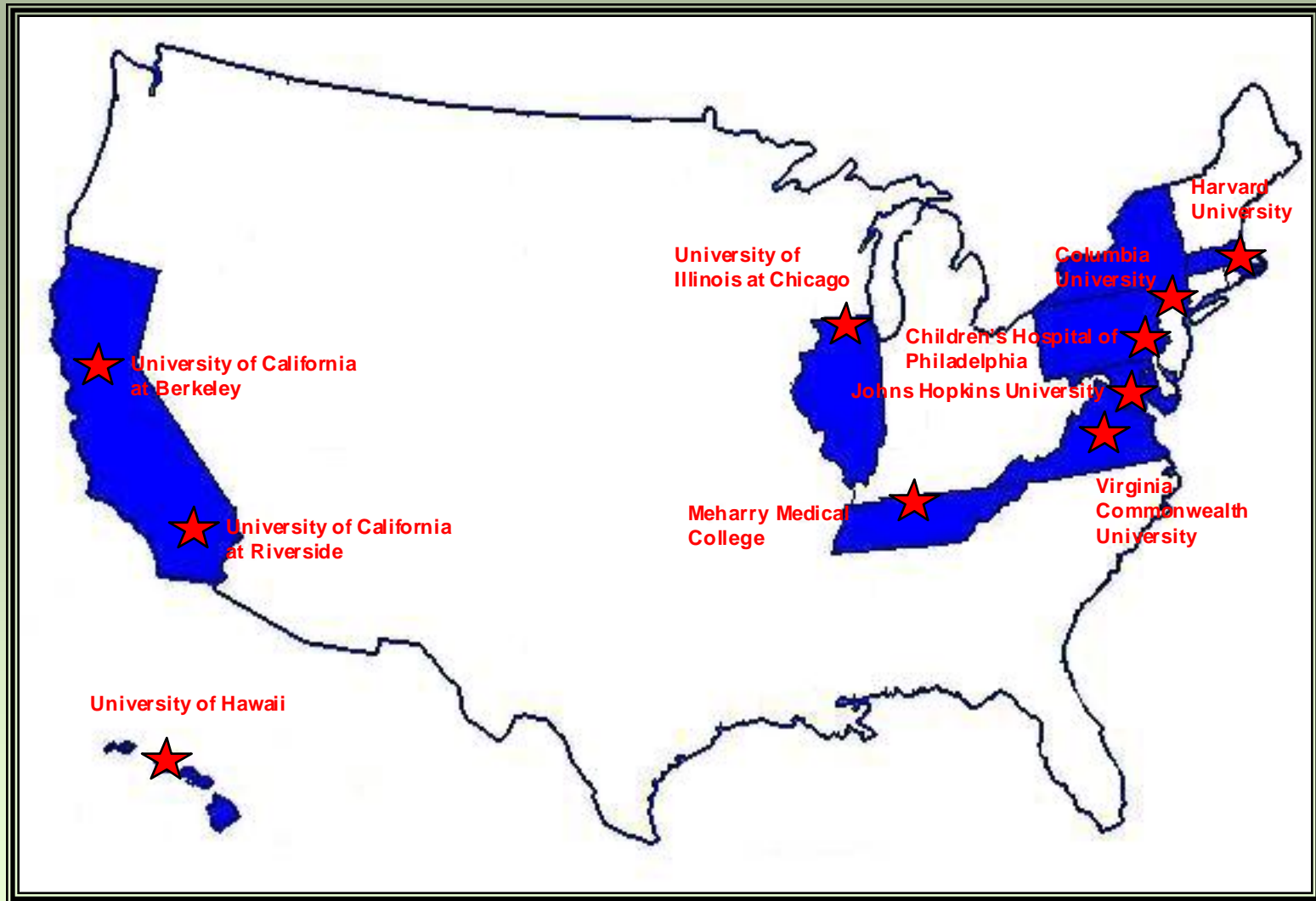


Learning Objectives

- Identify the ten Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACEs) and their respective community-based research projects
- Describe the goals, activities, and findings to date of one ACE Center
- Discuss the benefits of collaborative efforts between the National ACE Coordinating Center and UNITY in youth violence prevention



The ACEs



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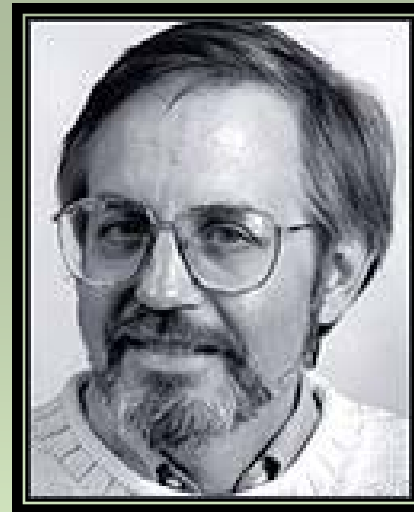
Overview of the ACEs

- Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Ten ACEs (including two Urban Partnership Academic Centers of Excellence - UPACEs)
- Unique from traditional research centers in their University-Community partnership to study and create lasting ways to prevent youth violence
- Support dissemination and translation of youth violence prevention research into effective community practices



Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention

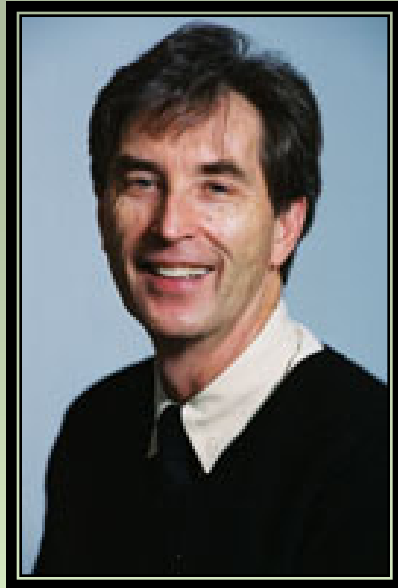
- *Mobilize parents to address youth violence using the Voices Against Violence video curriculum to promote bystander pro-social reaction to youth violence*



Principal Investigator
Bruce Link, Ph.D.

NACES

Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center



Principal Investigator
David Hemenway, Ph.D.

- *Improve community capacity for prevention through surveillance system with the Boston Youth Survey (students), the Boston Neighborhood Survey (adults), and integrating city, state, and federal level data to examine risk/resiliency factors, changing community needs, and evaluate programs and policies*

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Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence

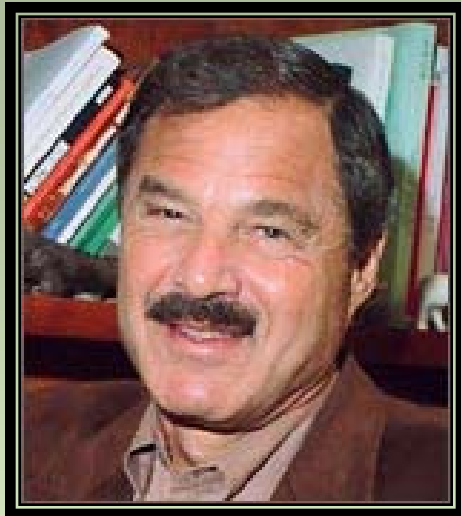
- *Work with the Baltimore City Gang Violence Reduction steering committee to evaluate programs such as Operation Safe Streets, a multi-faceted community initiative to reduce gun violence and prevent youth homicides*



Principal Investigator
Philip Leaf, Ph.D.

NACES

University of California at Berkeley Center on Culture, Immigration, and Violence Prevention



Principal Investigator
Franklin Zimring, J.D.

- *Evaluation project to examine the effectiveness of an after-school prevention program, Roosevelt Village Collaborative (RVC) using community-based participatory research, with community members trained in research and prevention science to increase community capacity to conduct evaluation*

NACE§

University of California at Riverside Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

- *Quasi-experimental effectiveness trial of Families and Schools Together (FAST), program with immigrant Latino parents and their elementary school-aged children in Santa Ana, California*



Principal Investigator
Nancy Guerra, Ed.D.

NACES

Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention

- *Examine effectiveness of SAFE Children Effectiveness Trial, a family-based preventive-intervention with Chicago inner-city first graders, targeting key risk markers for later aggression and related problems*



Principal Investigator
Deborah Gorman-Smith, Ph.D.

NACES

University of Hawaii Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center



Principal Investigator
Earl Hishinuma, Ph.D.

- *Qualitative and quantitative research to build an empirical, predictive model of youth violence and a culturally immersed, gender-based prevention program for Filipinos, Hawaiian, and Samoan youths*

NACE§

Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

- *Community participatory action research (PAR) to take promising models of prevention/intervention programs for youth ages 10-14 and adapt them for use in the West/Southwest Philadelphia community*



Principal Investigator
Joel Fein, M.D., MPH

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Nashville Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence



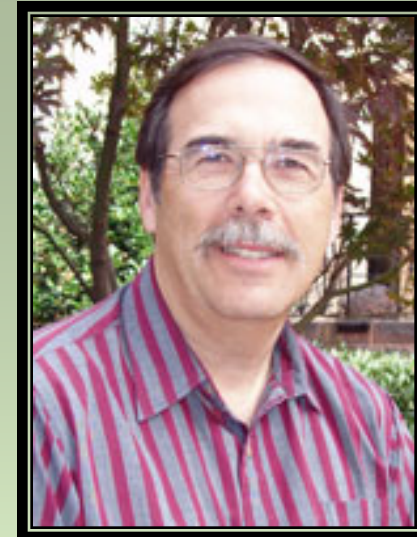
Principal Investigator
Paul Juarez, Ph.D.

- *Community-based participatory evaluation of two school-based programs to prevent bullying (Bullying Prevention Program and Alignment Enhanced Services) utilizing a quasi-experimental design*

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Virginia Commonwealth University Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

- Multi-disciplinary sponsorship by the Departments of Psychology, Government & Public Affairs, Psychiatry, and Preventive Medicine & Community Health
- Mission/Goal: to empower youth, schools, families and other stakeholders to promote the healthy, safe, and positive development of youth in the community from early adolescence through emerging adulthood



Principal Investigator
Albert Farrell, Ph.D.

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Research

- The Dating Experiences in Adolescence Study
- The Risk and Protective Factors for Youth Aggression Study
- Barriers and Support for Community Level Youth Violence Prevention
- Building Community Social Capital
- The Inclusive Violence Prevention Project
- Problems Faced by Latino Youth in Richmond



The Expressive Writing Study

- An intervention designed for middle-school youth exposed to community violence
- Preliminary results have yielded promising findings
 - relative to students in the standard expressive writing condition, students in the control condition had higher levels of emotional lability (lack of emotional control) and higher levels of aggressive behavior and anxious-depressive symptoms
 - students with high levels of community violence exposure appeared to benefit most from the expressive writing intervention



Project COPE

- Focuses on stressors in the lives of youth living in impoverished areas and how linked to adjustment
- Urban youths interviewed to relive recent stressful situation involving violence
- Preliminary results
 - Adolescent relational and physical aggression differentially associated with emotional awareness and emotion regulation coping
 - Youth who mentioned revenge as a goal evoked from violent situations had a strong positive association between witnessing violence and caregiver-rated externalizing behavior problems

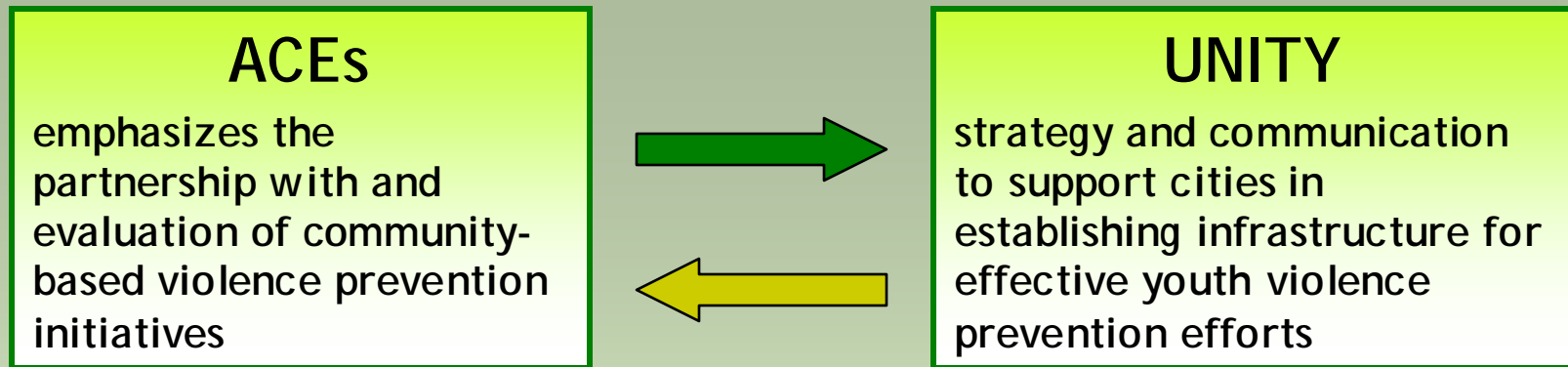


ACE Coordinating Center

- Coordinating Center established to initiate, foster & support coordinated efforts among the ACEs
- Taking lead on National ACE Action Plan
- Also look to partner with others in moving forward national agenda for youth violence prevention
 - Collaboration with UNITY, Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth through Violence Prevention, another CDC-funded initiative
 - Begin to find ways in which ACEs and UNITY can work together to advance youth violence prevention in cities as well as nationally



ACE – UNITY Collaboration



- ACEs' research can inform UNITY's work to identify and disseminate best and promising practices and approaches to preventing youth violence in cities
- UNITY's work can inform ACE activities and the direction of the CC as the projects partner to develop a national strategy for youth violence prevention

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