URBAN NETWORKS TO INCREASE THRIVING YOUTH

UNITY

through Violence Prevention

UNITY and the RoadMap for urban youth violence prevention

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting 2007
Session 4040.0:
Youth Violence Prevention and Interventions
Tuesday, November 6th 9:00-9:15 am

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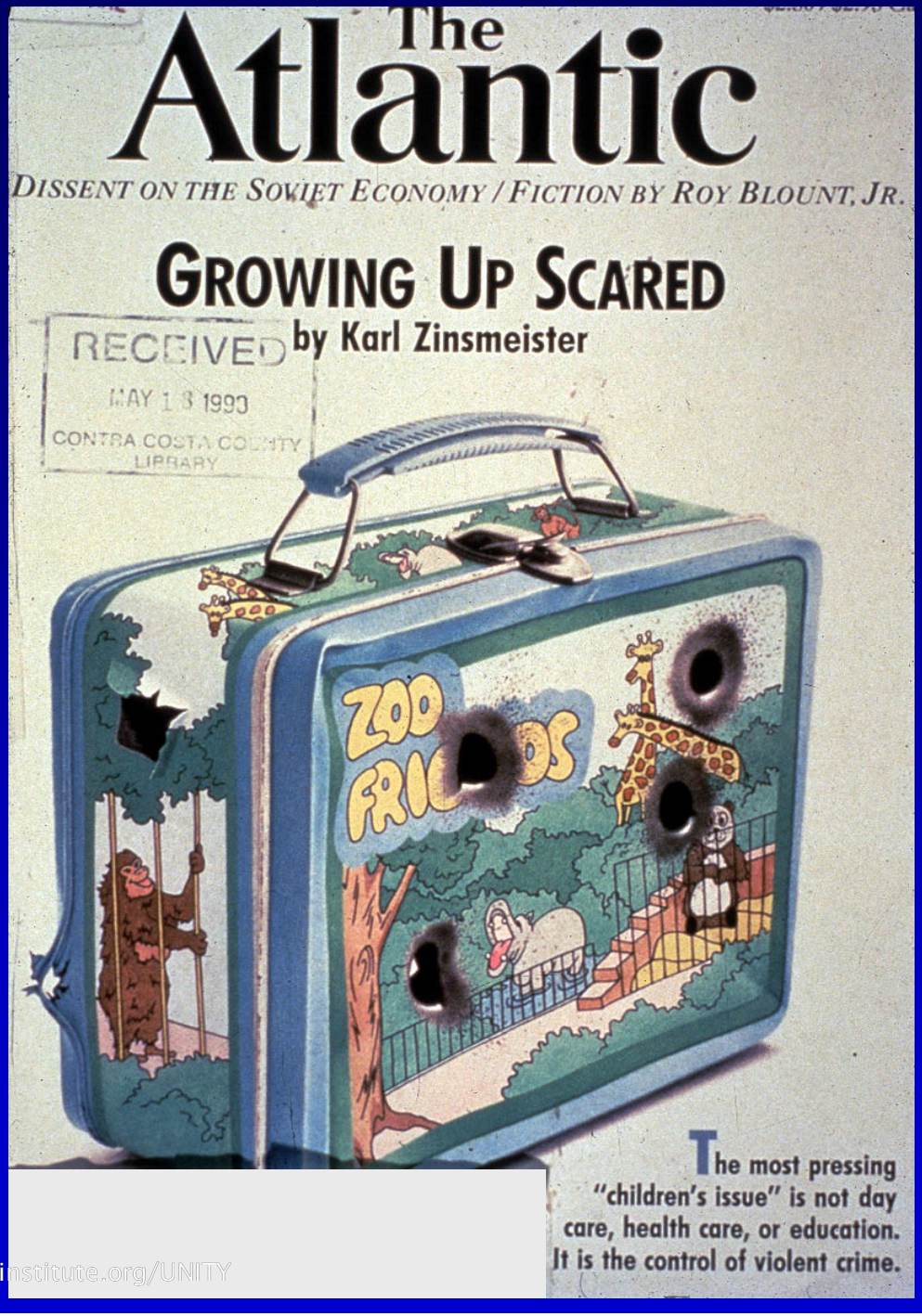

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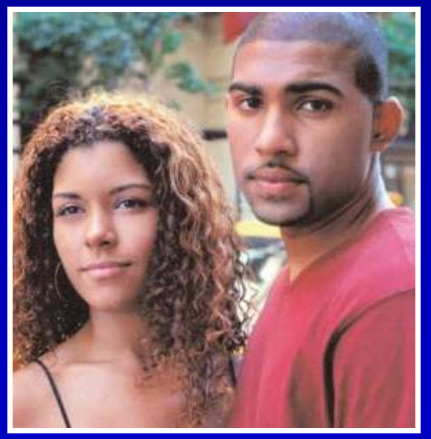
UNITY Basics

- Focus on urban youth violence prevention
- Provide tools, resources and work with the largest cities in the US
- Foster sustained violence prevention efforts in urban areas and nationally
- Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The California Wellness Foundation



www.mystrength.org

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UNITY Co-Chairs

Billie Weiss, MPH
Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center, UCLA School of Public Health

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD
Harvard School of Public Health

Larry Cohen, MSW
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UNITY Activities

- Conduct an assessment
- Foster effective communication
- Foster a peer network
- Conduct training and technical assistance
- Develop a national strategy
- Develop a *RoadMap* for effective and sustainable youth violence prevention

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DATA and ASSESSMENT

Data Collection Methodology

- Telephone Interviews with City Key Informants
  - Mayors
  - Police Chiefs
  - Public Health Directors
  - School Superintendents

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DATA and ASSESSMENT

Findings

- Informants identified youth violence as a serious issue for their city.
- Few reported that their city uses primary prevention to stop violence before it occurs.
- Informants lack a shared knowledge of existing youth violence prevention resources available in their city.

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DATA and ASSESSMENT

Poster Session on UNITY Assessment

4095.0 Posters on Injury, Politics, and Policies
Today, November 6th 12:30-1:30pm

Board 7
UNITY: Assessment results of current youth violence prevention practices in a selected sample of cities

Billie Weiss, MPH and Anne Duncan, MPH
Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center, UCLA School of Public Health

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Preventing violence *before* it occurs.

UNITY *RoadMap* for Effectiveness and Sustainability

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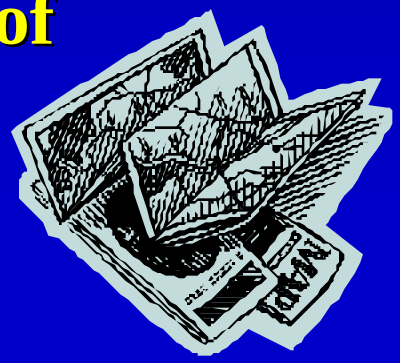
UNITY *RoadMap*

Definition

- Plan that allows people to reach a desired destination
- Describes the infrastructure - primary routes, landmarks, alternate options - for going from one place to another
- Describes your starting point and how to get to the desired outcome
- Answers: **How can we get to the point of preventing violence *before* it occurs?**



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UNITY *RoadMap*

Purpose

1. Delineate and describe core programmatic and infrastructure elements
2. Help cities assess the current status of their efforts
3. Provide information, resources, and models to help cities implement the core programmatic and infrastructure elements

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UNITY *RoadMap*

Overview

- Cities can take action to effectively and sustainably prevent violence *before* it occurs by focusing on:

1. **Leadership**
2. **Prevention**
3. **Strategy**

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Who: Leadership

Violence prevention is a bottom-up - top-down venture. It also requires dedicated staffing and clear roles and responsibilities for multiple players.

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UNITY *RoadMap*

Leadership

WHO does it take to prevent violence *before* it occurs?

Key Components:

- ☑ Community Engagement
- ☑ Political Will & Support
- ☑ Organizational Structure & Staffing

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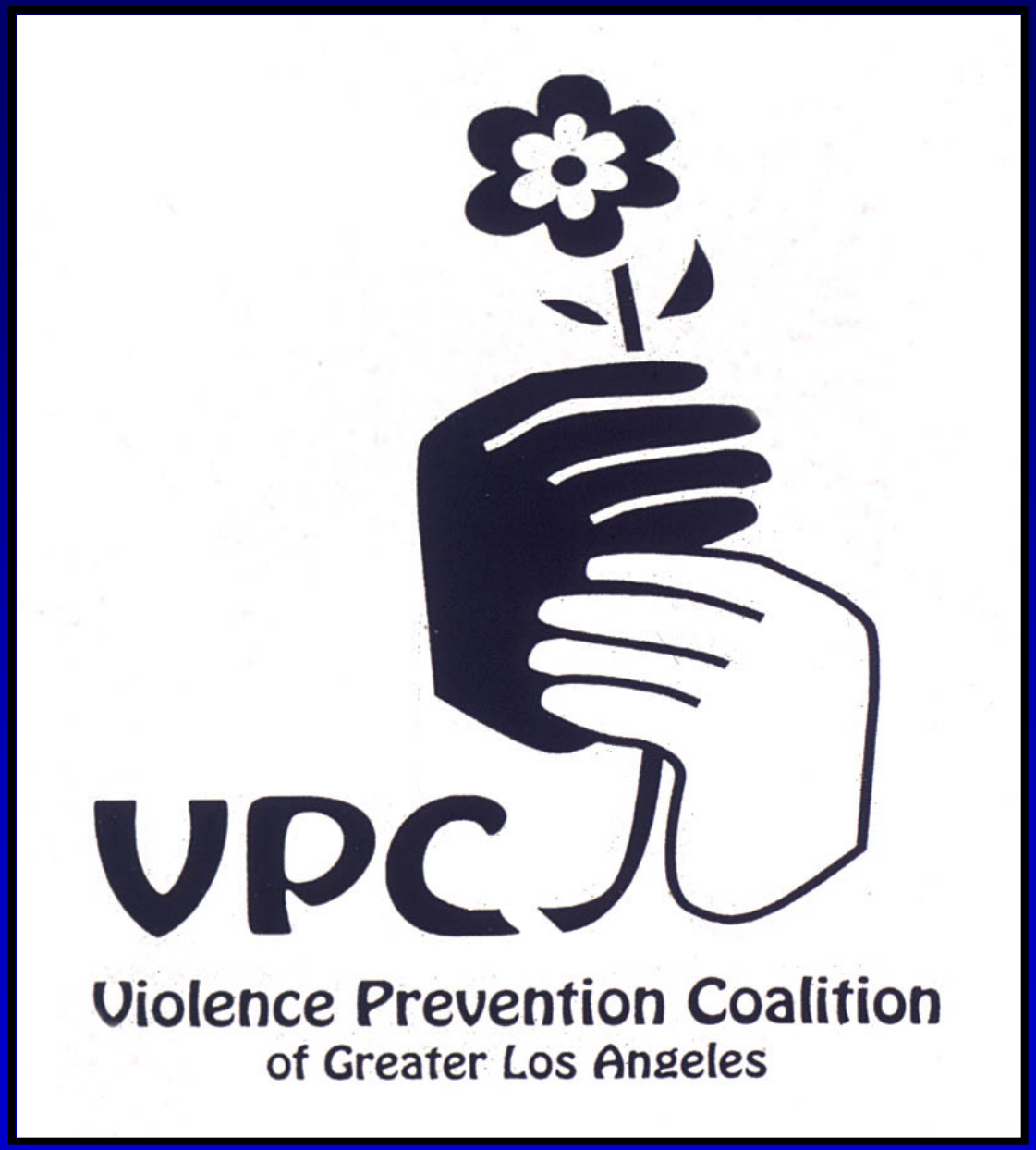

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What: Prevention

Violence prevention addresses multiple underlying contributors through programs, organizational practices, and policy. These efforts can be strengthened by strong communication and training.

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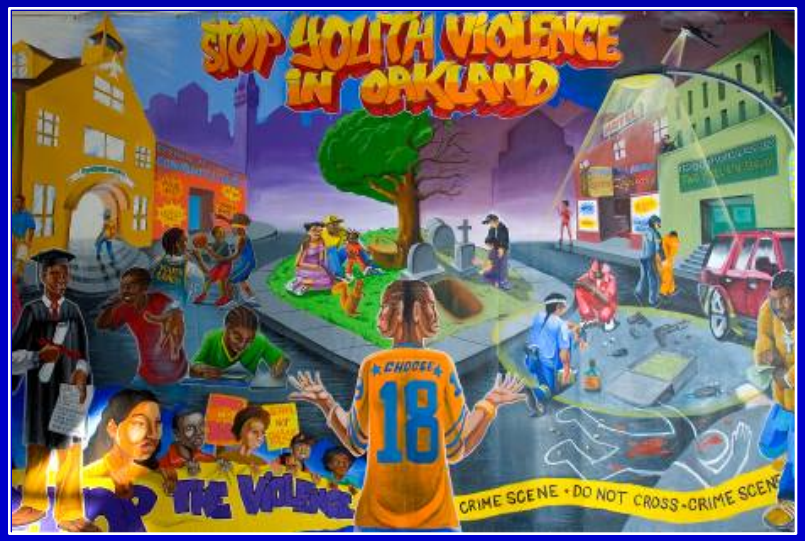
What: Prevention

WHAT does it take to prevent violence *before* it occurs?

Key Components:

- ☑ Programming, Organizational Practices & Policy
- ☑ Communication
- ☑ Training & Skills



www.youthuprising.org

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UNITY Cities' Program Priorities

Primary Prevention: UP FRONT

- Positive early care and education
- Positive social and emotional development
- Parenting skills
- Mentoring
- Quality after school programming
- Youth leadership
- Social connections in neighborhoods
- Quality education
- Economic development

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UNITY Cities' Program Priorities

Secondary Prevention: IN THE THICK

- Mental health services
- Family support services
- Conflict resolution/interruption

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UNITY Cities' Program Priorities

Tertiary Prevention: AFTER THE FACT

- Mental health services
- Successful reentry

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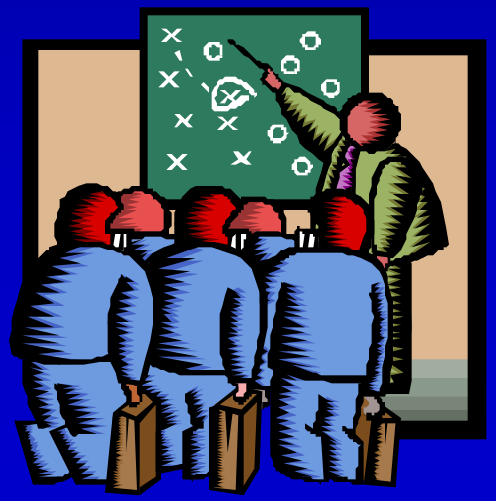
UNITY *RoadMap*

How: Strategy

Strategy promotes approaches that are well coordinated, responsive to needs and concerns, and build on best practices and existing strengths. The *process* of strategy development builds a shared understanding and commitment and enables participants to work out the relationships needed to enhance the likelihood of success.



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UNITY *RoadMap*

How: Strategy

HOW do we maximize and sustain efforts to prevent violence *before* it occurs?

Key Components:

- ☑ Plans
- ☑ Data & Evaluation
- ☑ Funding

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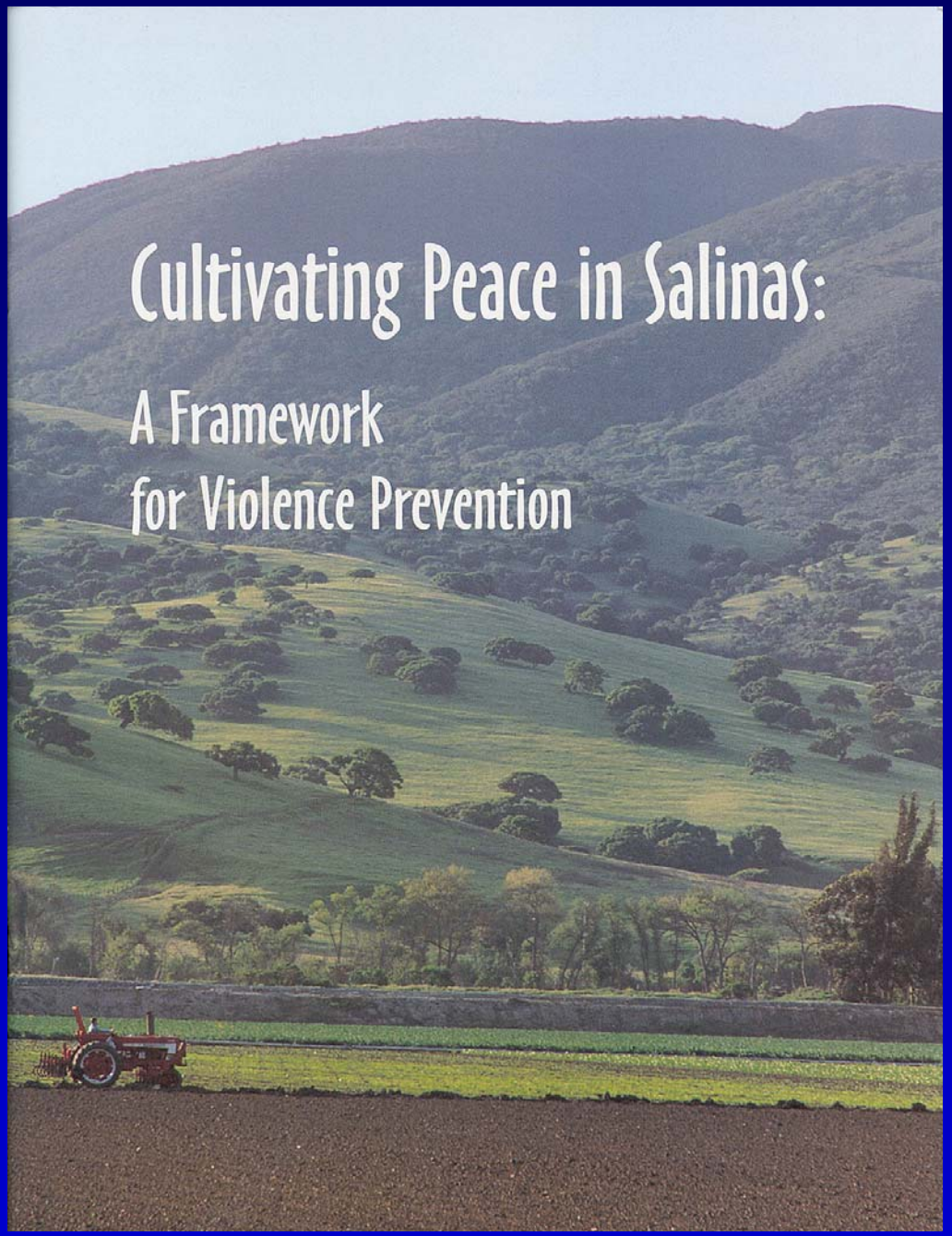

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UNITY *RoadMap*

Web-Based Toolbox

- Overview
- Assessment Tool
- For each component (Who, What, How):
  - Key Elements
  - Models / Case Studies
  - Tools & Resources

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"Several [locales] in the United States have distinguished themselves in the fight to reduce crime… At the heart of successful implementation of community-wide approaches is a deliberate process of bringing together formal and informal leaders to establish priorities for action."

-Jack Calhoun, founder, National Crime Prevention Council

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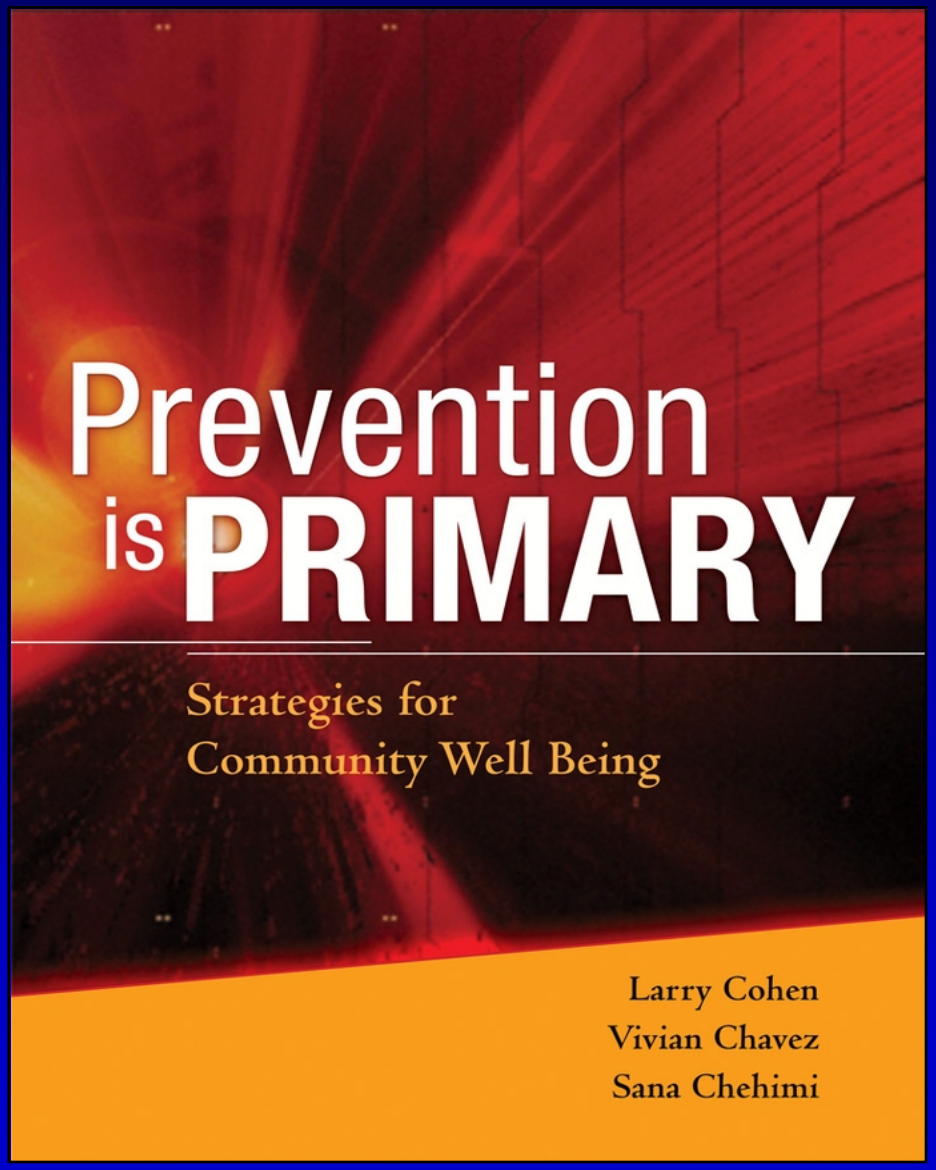

Foreword
By Georges C. Benjamin

CHAPTER 14
Strengthening the Collaboration between Public Health and Criminal Justice to Prevent Violence
By Deborah Prothrow-Stith

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