

The National ACE Program News

Newsletter for the Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

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Introducing the Coordinating Center

Welcome to the first edition of National ACE Program News, the official newsletter of the Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE) Coordinating Center (CC).

We are very proud to be a part of the ACE family. The Coordinating Center is housed in the University of Hawai'i's Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC). With the creation of the CC, we are bringing further national attention to youth violence prevention.

The Coordinating Center's primary functions are:

1) to enable faster development, broader dissemination and synthesis of ACE-specific and cross-ACE activities and products necessary in youth violence research and practices,

2) to serve as a primary resource for the efficient national dissemination of knowledge

generated by the ACE program into practical health and community practices,

3) to facilitate the collaboration of individuals, groups and organizations in preventing youth violence, and

4) to support program sustainability and the advancement of national youth violence prevention initiatives.

We hope the CC can increase information sharing and research collaboration, sharpen youth violence awareness, and expand and strengthen this prevention movement. We would like to encourage anyone interested in learning more about the ACEs function, or youth violence prevention in general, to contact us.

The CC is located on the island of O'ahu, which in Hawaiian means the "gathering place." We hope the Coordinating Center will become a true "gathering place" and focal point



**Gregory Mark, D. Crim.,
Principal Investigator/Director
National ACE Coordinating
Center**

for a stronger national youth violence prevention effort.

*Aloha,
Gregory Mark*

Highlighting the ACEs: University of Hawai'i APIYVPC

This is the first in a series of newsletters that will highlight the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Currently, the ten ACEs in the National ACE Program are: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Columbia University, Har-

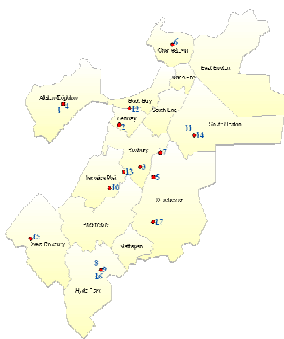
vard University, Johns Hopkins University, Meharry Medical College, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Riverside, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

In spite of Hawai'i's image as a paradise vacation, free from social ills, Hawai'i shares many

of the same social concerns as other parts of the United States, including youth violence.

With this in mind, the University of Hawai'i Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) aims to prevent and reduce youth violence among three ethnic communities in Hawai'i – Hawaiians,

(Continued on page 3)



Geographic regions in the greater Boston area

Surveillance: The Boston Data System

As part of the surveillance efforts of the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center (HYVPC), three major components of the Boston Data System include: 1) the Boston Youth Survey (BYS), an in-class survey of high school students, 2) the Boston Neighborhood Survey (BNS), a telephone survey of adults in the community, and 3) existing data by neighborhood based on the US Census, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Redevelopment Authority, etc.

Initiated by the City of Bos-

ton in 1997, with collaboration from the HYVPC, the Boston Youth Survey has since developed into a more comprehensive and representative survey targeting 18 schools in the Boston area.

The 2006 BYS sample includes over 1200 students (ages 13-19+) and surveys topics such as school performance, drugs/alcohol, neighborhood, physical and mental health, community resources, accidents, and violence.

Areas specific to violence include victimization, perpetra-

tion, witnessing violence, and feelings of safety.

The 2006 Boston Neighborhood Survey includes a sample of 1700 adults, and asks questions about neighborhood safety, police protection, and if police are doing a good job.

Efforts continue to fully develop the Boston Data System as it would provide valuable information in tracking changes over time, geographic specificity, integration of data sources, and evaluation of interventions.



**Joel Fein, M.D.,
Principal Investigator
Philadelphia
Collaborative Violence
Prevention Center**

Beginning September, 2006, two new Centers were awarded a five-year cooperative agreement to establish Urban Partnership Academic Centers of Excellence (UPACE) on Youth Violence Prevention.

Dr. Joel Fein of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is the Principal Investigator and Director for the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC).

The Center will also draw from the expertise of faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and Drexel University and of community members through the Philadelphia Area Research Community Coalition (PARCC).

PARCC representatives will act as co-directors for each core of the Center. The four cores of the Center are: 1) Administrative/Infrastructure, 2) Research, 3) Surveillance/Information, and 4) Communication &

Dissemination.

They will concentrate their research and programmatic efforts in West and Southwest Philadelphia.

A collaborative prevention research project will implement and test adapted components of several CDC Best Practice Programs focused on social problem-solving, youth mentorship, and parenting/family-based strategies.

For more information on the PCVPC link to http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/injury/our_research/violence_intervention

Dr. Paul Juarez of Meharry Medical College is the Principal Investigator for the Nashville Youth Violence Prevention, Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence (NUPACE).

The Center will bring together an interdisciplinary group of investigators from Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee

State University, and the Metro Public Health Department.

They will concentrate their research and programmatic efforts in Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee.

The NUPACE will utilize a strength-based approach, focus on primary prevention, and employ a developmental-ecological model that examines youth violence within the context of family, peers, schools, and community.

They will test important pathways through which these contexts promote or moderate the risk of youth being a victim or perpetrator of interpersonal violence. Geographic profiling and spatial analyses will be used, along with additional measures of developmental and ecological factors.

For more information on the NUPACE link to <http://www.mmc.edu/page.asp?SID=1&Page=2356>.



**Paul Juarez, Ph.D.,
Principal Investigator
Nashville Youth
Violence Prevention
UPACE**

University of Hawai'i APIYVPC *continued from Page 1*

Samoans, and Filipinos. These three groups are over-represented in Hawai'i's juvenile justice system.

More specifically, the APIYVPC is working with the Kailua/Waimanālo community to develop a community-based participatory research model that will help exemplify how youth violence prevention efforts nationwide can best work with different Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

The Kailua/Waimanālo community is a relatively small community, with a high percentage of Native Hawaiians, the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i. In this effort, the APIYVPC has partnered with a number of community-based organizations and schools to identify ways in which culture

can be built into programming in ways that prevent youth violence.

Work groups that have been established include the Kailua High School (KHS) Safe Schools Task Force, KHS Teacher's Work group, *Ke Ala Laua'e* Women's Support Group, and Friends of Waimanālo. Evaluations are being conducted in order to assess this process.

The research agenda, driven by community input and participation, entails the ensemble of six interdependent research projects, each having the common theme of the role of API ethnocultural variables in developing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interpersonal youth violence prevention programs.

An earlier study by the API-

YVPC on violence prevalence rates among Hawaiian, Samoan, Filipino, and Japanese public high school students in Hawai'i found that 38.7% of students surveyed engaged in at least one violence behavior within the last six months.

With current qualitative and quantitative studies underway, the APIYVPC expects to adapt and develop innovative gender- and culturally immersed youth violence prevention programs that may serve as national prototypes for other API communities.

For more information on the APIYVPC link to <http://www.hawaii.edu/apiyvpc/>. For information and a link to other ACEs' websites, see the Coordinating Center website at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/nacecc>.



Earl Hishinuma, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Asian Pacific Islander
Youth Violence
Prevention Center
ACE

Voices from the Community: Kailua High School

In collaboration with the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC), the Kailua High School's (KHS) Ethnic Studies class was developed in hopes of deepening students' awareness and understanding regarding ethnic minorities and teaching the language and communication skills to talk through conflicts constructively as an alternative to fighting.

The class was modeled from an ethnic studies program developed by Dr. Gregory Mark, former Principal Investigator of the APIYVPC, and offered as a pilot class to a small group of KHS students during the 2005-06 school year by KHS

teachers Amber Strong and Kehau Glassco.

The entire class presented at the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in Hamilton, New Zealand in December 2005. For the Spring 2007 school semester, the ethnic studies class is being offered to approximately 90 KHS students in hopes of broadening school-based violence prevention services. The following testimonials were submitted by students who participated in the pilot ethnic studies class.

By Kili Vierra

The Ethnic Studies changed my perspective on

race and culture throughout the world. This class has given me an extended knowledge of the history and background of racism, prejudice, and discrimination in the United States, Hawai'i, and other parts of the world. I have gained a respect towards all ethnicities and second thoughts on racial jokes that seem acceptable in Hawai'i's local culture. I think this class can definitely change the perspectives of others in Kailua High School, as it has changed for me.

By Tuesday DeRego

I am 17 years old, and I

(Continued on page 7)

***"I have gained
a respect
towards all
ethnicities and
second thoughts
on racial jokes
that seem
acceptable in
Hawai'i's local
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Dr. Nancy Guerra, P.I.
for the Southern
California Academic
Center of Excellence
on Youth Violence
Prevention spearheads
the Cross-Site
Measure Workgroup.

**“I think it’s
important to
get the kids
talking . . . to
each other . . .
their voice has
been
overlooked.”**



Inter-ACE Collaborations: Cross-Site Measure

When ACE principal investigators met at the March 2006 ACE Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, one important outcome resulted in the concerted effort for increased inter-ACE collaboration.

One of the topics that emerged entailed trying to develop a general measure of youth violence that potentially can be a vehicle to collect cross-site data.

Currently the cross-site measure workgroup has pooled measures for questions focused

on perpetration and victimization that the various sites use or would like to use, including a complete table of aggression and victimization measures with psychometric information and author contact/references.

Discussions of content, stakeholder, and methodological considerations for implementing a cross-site measure are underway, with a plan to pilot the measure next fall.

Participating Centers include the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on

Youth Violence Prevention (UC Riverside), the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (University of Hawai‘i), the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention (Columbia University), and the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Youth Violence Prevention Center (Virginia Commonwealth University).

A copy of the table of aggression/victimization measures may be requested by contacting nacecc@dop.hawaii.edu or (808) 945-1517.

Teen Perspective: Hearing the Voices of Youth

An innovative new TV series *Teen Perspective*, was developed by Phillip Leaf, Ph.D., Director for the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Youth Violence Prevention, and professor in the Department of Mental Health at the Bloomberg School, working with WMAR-TV, ABC2 in Baltimore, MD and the Urban Leadership Institute.

The show brings together Baltimore county and city

youth to talk face-to-face about the reality of the challenges and struggles of their daily lives. The show addresses topics such as gang violence, lack of parental involvement, and teen pregnancy, and includes students interviewing their peers.

The series was developed with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland’s Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

Dr. Leaf says, “I think it’s important to get the kids talking, talking to each other, and talking to their parents about what is really going on. . . Their voice has been overlooked.”

The latest episode on teens and gangs aired on October 28th.

For more information e-mail pleaf@jhsph.edu or link to www.jhsph.edu/preventyouthviolence.

Publications, Presentations, and Products

Arifuku, I., Peacock, D., Glesmann, C. 2006. Profiling Incarcerated Asian and Pacific Islander Youth: Statistics Derived from California Youth Authority Administrative Data. *AAPI Nexus*. Vol. 4, No. 2.

Le, T.N. and Wallen, J. 2006. Youth Delinquency: Self-Reported Rates and risk Factors of Cambodian, Chinese, Lao/Mien, and Vietnamese Youth. *AAPI Nexus*. Vol. 4, No. 2.

Meetings/Conferences: APHA 2006 in Boston

The National ACE Coordinating Center hosted a session at the 2006 American Public Health Association Meeting in Boston entitled "Strengthening the National Movement for Youth Violence Prevention: CDC's Academic Centers of Excellence."

Representatives of various ACEs and other organizations attended to learn more about the work of their colleagues in youth violence prevention.

An introduction of the Coordinating Center was followed by presentations from: Dr. David Hemenway, Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center; Dr. David Mayeda, University of Hawai'i Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center; Dr. Alice Hausman, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center; and Ms. Rachel Davis, Urban Networks to Increase

Thriving Youth through Violence Prevention (UNITY).

The audience was able to engage in an interactive discussion with the ACE and UNITY presenters to ask questions and offer feedback. Dr. Gregory Mark, Principal Investigator of the National ACE Coordinating Center, summarized the session as an opportunity to "share, sharpen and strengthen" youth violence prevention efforts.



Rachel Davis (left) & Dr. Gregory Mark (right) at the 2006 APHA Meeting.

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2006	DECEMBER 2006	JANUARY 2007	FEBRUARY 2007	MARCH 2007	APRIL 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 5 6-7:30pm EST ACE Session at APHA, Boston, MA • Nov 15 School Safety Web- cast 1-2pm EST Archived at www.connectlive.com/events/edschoolsafety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec 1 Abstract Deadline Social Marketing in Public Health Conference www.cme.hsc.usf.edu/smph/ • Dec 8 Deadline 2007 DASH Funded Partners Meeting Youth Applications • Dec 11-12 2006 National Summit on Gang Violence Arlington, VA www.gangsummit.org/index.html • Dec 15 Deadline Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program www.bjscholars.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 29-Feb 1 PREVENT Institute: Developing Leaders in Violence Prevention Chapel Hill, NC www.prevent.unc.edu/ • Jan 15 Application deadline APA ProDIGS Grants http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/programs/pemsi_health.html • Jan 31-Feb 2 Putting the Pieces Together for Child- ren and Families: The National Con- ference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare, and the Courts Anaheim, CA www.cffutures.org/conference_information/index.shtml 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 4-7 The National Net- work for Youth: A Place to Call Home Washington, D.C. http://www.nn4youth.org/site/PageServer • Feb 6-7 ACE Reverse-Site Meeting Riverside, CA • Feb 26-28 Child Welfare League of America 2007 National Conference Washington, D.C. www.cwla.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 4-7 18th Annual Youth at Risk Conference Savannah, GA ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/yar2007.html • March 8-9 Law's Violence: Ruptured Community: Justice and Healing for Immigrant Youth Conference Boalt Law School Berkeley, CA www.yypcenter.org/events • March 8-10 The Deeper End of the Pond: Innovative Practices in Community Justice Baltimore, MD http://www.law.umaryland.edu/conferences/conf31/intro.asp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 11-14 Community- Campus Partner- ships for Health Conference Toronto, Canada depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf-cfp.html • April 22-28 National Crime Victims' Rights Week www.ovc.gov/ncvrw/welcome.html • April 23-27 2007 DASH Funded Partners Meeting Atlanta, GA http://www.team-psa.com/dash2007/main.asp

For a more comprehensive and updated list of upcoming events, conferences, training opportunities, we recommend linking to <http://www.jhsph.edu/preventyouthviolence> and subscribing to the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence Items of Interest newsletter.



Robert Cohen, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University,
Consultant for the
National ACE
Coordinating Center

**“a forum in
which to
analyze the role
of the law in
doing violence”**



**Historic Mission Inn
Hotel in
Riverside, California**

From Past to Present and to the Future *continued from page 8*

build a stronger national response to youth violence.

With these developments in the newly added Centers and the Coordinating Center, and the development of a strategic plan, we envision the National ACE Program will continue to move forward in building its momentum.

It is expected that by the end of this current cycle, there will be increased coordinated efforts among the ACEs to enable faster development, synthesis, and broader dissemination of ACE activities and

products in youth violence research and practice, as well as a focus on efficient national translation of knowledge generated by the ACE program into health and community practice efforts.

Finally, it is anticipated that the ACEs will continue to develop collaborations among organizations working to prevent youth violence to support sustainability of needed programs.

It is through this historical perspective that one can reflect on the evolution of the ACE

program, which has adapted to the different strengths and needs of the Centers over the past half-decade and will continue to do so as the program matures.

Although the challenges of building upon the national ACE program are many, the road to the future of the national ACE program is already being built as the ACEs continue to work independently and collaboratively to further the national agenda for youth violence prevention.

Law's Violence, Ruptured Community: Justice and Healing for Immigrant Youth

The Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention, Institute for the Study of Social Change, the National Council on Crime & Delinquency, and the Center for Social Justice will sponsor a conference on Thursday and Friday, March 8th and 9th, at Boalt Law School.

The conference will focus on Latino and Asian/Pacific

Islander immigrant communities and the violence that occurs among and towards youth in these communities by analyzing violence as an environmental and societal problem instead of as the actions of pathological individuals. It will also provide a forum in which to analyze the role of the law in doing violence in immigrant communities and the

potential of the law and other social institutions to promote healing by building on the strengths of youth and others in their communities.

Conference co-sponsors are the Center for Latino Policy Research and the Berkeley Diversity Research Initiative. To obtain contact information for details, link to www.yvpcenter.org/events.

2007 ACE Meeting

The 2007 ACE Meeting will take place February 6-7 at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California. Members of the Planning Committee, consisting of CDC, Coordinating Center, and ACE representatives, have met to work together on logistical, thematic, and agenda issues.

The two-day meeting agenda, is being planned utilizing a collaborative process requesting input from all the participating Centers.

The 2007 ACE Meeting agenda will cover topics such as: building the National ACE Program, surveillance, outreach & training, community mobilization, community-based participatory research, research design & methodological issues, responding to community events, and cross-site collaborations. Additionally, community partners of the host ACE, the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

(UC Riverside) will be recognized and honored.

ACEs may contact the Coordinating Center for logistical and travel planning information at nacecc@dop.hawaii.edu or (808) 945-1517.

For more information on the Mission Inn, link to www.missioninn.com.

Voices from the Community: KHS *continued from Page 3*

grew up on the island of O'ahu, in Kailua Town. My ethnicities are Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, Caucasian, and Maori. I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I also enjoy dancing hula and Tahitian, playing volleyball, paddling, going to the beach, and just enjoying life.

When I took the Ethnic Studies class, I thought it was going to be a regular social studies class, but it turned out totally not what I expected it to be.

Taking ethnic studies



Tuesday DeRego (left) and Kili Vierra, students at Kailua High School, Hawai'i.

changed my horizon of viewing people of different races. I remember always judging people from the outside, by just viewing their appearance. After taking

ethnic studies, I learned not to judge people based on their race or ethnicity, because you can learn so much from others, other than of your own race.

If students from Kailua High School could take this Ethnic Studies class, I feel that there would be less conflicts between various ethnic groups.

For more information feel free to contact the APIYVPC at (808) 945-1517 or e-mail apiyvpc@dop.hawaii.edu.

IN FOCUS



Partnering with Latino Health Access, the South California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACE-UC Riverside), developed the FAST, or Families and Schools Together, program which focuses on Latino Children and their families.

The ACEs

Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention

Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence

Center on Culture, Immigration, and Violence Prevention

Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention

Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Youth Violence Prevention

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

Nashville Youth Violence Prevention UPACE

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NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER
FOR THE ACADEMIC CENTERS OF
EXCELLENCE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION

From Past to Present and to the Future by Robert Cohen

As we continue to move forward in our efforts for youth violence prevention, it may be useful to offer a historical context for the National ACE Program.

In 2000 CDC funded the initial ten National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACE) in order to address objectives in the Injury/Violence Prevention and Mental Health and Mental Disorders priority areas of the "Healthy People 2010."

The Centers were charged with developing multidisciplinary, community-university partnerships to address problems of youth violence through research, community-wide surveillance, training and the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive, community-based plan.

During the first five years individual ACEs conducted numerous risk and protective factor studies, implemented efficacy and effectiveness trials, and played key roles in several creative community mobilization efforts directed at preventing youth violence.

In addition, the ACEs collectively engaged in several collaborative projects including the production of special issues of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine on health care professional training and community mobilization for youth violence. The ACEs, in collaboration with CDC also created a logic model that served as a framework for the RFA for the second round of funding in 2005.

The first group of ACEs were divided into comprehensive and developing centers

based on their level of maturation in relation to youth violence prevention research.

Fast forwarding to the present, currently, in the second round of funding, this distinction was eliminated and eight centers were funded. Two additional centers were added under the University Partnership Academic Centers of Excellence (UPACE) request for applications in 2006.

During this grant period ACEs are expected to demonstrate a strong link between their research and community outreach efforts.

Additionally, the Coordinating Center was established in the same year in order to facilitate and promote cross center activities as well as to work with CDC and the ACEs to

(Continued on page 6)