


SPR 18th Annual Meeting

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ID# 252

Location: Mt. Oxford (Grand Hyatt/3rd Floor)

Time of Presentation: Jun 03 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Category/Theme: Context and Prevention

Model Program approaches to Youth Violence: Ethnic, Cultural, and Regional Considerations for Program Implementation and Evaluation

J. Dela Cruz¹

1. Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States.

The concept of youth violence as a preventable public health issue in recent decades has led to increased interest in violence prevention efforts and the development of effective prevention interventions for youths and young adults. Widespread program translation and dissemination, especially in areas of growing diversity and multiculturalism, may challenge program efficacy as local implementation may require additional adaptations and interfere with program fidelity. The Blueprints for Violence Prevention project based at the University of Colorado at Boulder represents one attempt in the United States to identify model programs of youth violence prevention. Researchers there have reviewed over 800 youth violence prevention programs using criteria based on strength of research designs, sustained effects, and multiple site replications. Eleven programs have been designated as "model programs" for youth violence prevention following extensive review. However, it is unclear whether all of these programs are equally applicable to different cultures/settings or if they have been evaluated in diverse samples. Because the need exists to implement violence prevention programming with youths from dissimilar backgrounds or environments, some researchers argue that program adaptation for different individual audiences may be needed to yield optimal results. Any form of adaptation is often considered a difficult and complex issue. Increases in immigration, widespread multicultural societies, and general global diaspora warrant these considerations in the implementation and evaluation of violence prevention programming.

In an attempt to examine the diversity of subjects with which the 11 Blueprints model programs have been implemented and evaluated, the available literature related to evaluations of these programs was reviewed and the characteristics of the study population and any related results were cataloged.

Range of outcomes and impacts varied across many of the programs. As an example, in review of the Incredible Year Series, over 40 evaluations and replications were identified, which examined outcomes based on race/ethnicity, sex, gender, geographical location (domestic and international). Findings support the use of the Incredible Years Series with ethnic minority youth and demonstrate positive effects in several US domestic and international settings.

The proposed presentation will provide an overview of the results of the Blueprints review, including future considerations for dissemination, translation, and implementation research of evidence-based youth violence prevention programs to diverse samples.

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