National Academic Centers of Excellence
on Youth Violence Prevention:
Forging Community and National Partnerships
to Address Youth Violence

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The findings of this presentation are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

- 10 ACEs established in 2000

- Objectives
  - Create multidisciplinary academic infrastructure
  - Develop action plans for community mobilization
  - Establish community-wide surveillance system
  - Design and implement research projects
  - Provide training, technical assistance, and mentoring
Draft Conceptual Framework for the Academic Centers of Excellence Program

INPUTS

Youth Prevention Priorities
ACE Community Committee
ACE Infrastructure
Relationships with Partners
Motivating Conditions for Developing and Maintaining Relationships

ACTIVITIES

Develop Research Agenda
Improve Surveillance
Conduct Research
Build Capacity
Engage Community
Develop Mobilization Plan

OUTPUTS

Evaluation
Greater Efficacy
Communication and Dissemination
Intervention Implementation
Training, Technical Assistance

OUTCOMES

Improved Practice and Policy
Reduction of Youth Violence
Expanded Resources
Recognition

CONTEXTUAL CONDITIONS
(e.g., health services and service gaps, socioeconomic conditions)

ACE Framework derived from logic model of the Prevention Research Centers

Sept 19, 2003
Assessing Merit and Accountability

Sample University
Sample ACE

General Information

Office mailing address

Shipping mailing address

Telephone

Fax

Website

Evidence to justify defined community?

Mission

Attachments

Defined Community

Size of community: 115,000
Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino
Race: African American or Black
Sex: No focus on sex
Setting or Site: City
Percentage below poverty: 25%-49%
Percentage speaks a language other than English as the primary language: 0%-24%
Percentage immigrated in the last 10 years: 0%-24%

Data sources:
- Injury FASTATS
- National Injury Survey
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)
Electronic ACE Data Collection

- **Information system used to:**
  - Monitor Center progress through work plans and progress reports
  - Encourage Sites to explicitly define goals, objectives, and activities
  - Initiate collection of evaluation indicators
  - Maintain on online repository of products

- **Challenges:**
  - Ensure data input is consistent across all ACEs
  - Ensure data collection is meaningful and useful
# Scope of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Center Average</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center Personnel</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigators</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Board/Coalition Members</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10-155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partners</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scope of Training

- Community Leaders
- Community Residents
- Community service providers
- School Teachers and Personnel
- Junior Researchers/Faculty
- Post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students
- University Colleagues
- Political Leaders
- Youth
- ACE Center Staff
- Medical Students
- Policy Makers
- Police Departments
- Public Health Departments
- Community Based Organizations
Content of Training Activities

- How to use data to inform decision-making and policy
- Theories of culture, immigration, and youth violence
- Evaluation theory and principles
- Research design and methodology
- How to mentor and train others
- How to provide technical assistance to community
How do you evaluate the intrinsic value/merit of a center program?
Centers of Excellence

- Research Translation
- Technology Transfer
- Technology Diffusion
- Knowledge Transfer
- Applied Health Research
- Behavioral Research
- Intervention Research
- Dissemination Research
What is the added value of a Center?

- Multiple activities and research projects
- Multi-disciplinary
- Responsive to community
- Unique opportunities
- Comprehensive/public health approach
"What some people fail to grasp, Larry, is the difference between ‘thinking outside of the box’ and just being a weirdo."