Preventing Violence in Houston

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FACT SHEET OVERVIEW*

Violence and Health Equity

Violence is a health equity issue, and preventing violence is an important component of achieving equity in health and in communities. Health inequities are related both to a legacy of overt discriminatory actions on the part of government and the larger society, as well as to present-day institutional practices and policies that perpetuate a system of diminished opportunity for certain populations. An overwhelming number of risk factors for violence have accumulated in some communities, without resilience factors to protect against violence. Some communities and groups are far more exposed to the poor neighborhood conditions that give rise to violence and other health inequities. Preventing violence has tremendous value, not just in saving money and lives, but also as a means to foster well-being, promote health equity, and strengthen communities.

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