

PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE BEFORE IT OCCURS

In late summer 2007, UNITY convened young people and representatives from cities across the country to prioritize strategies to prevent violence *before* it occurs. City representatives identified a set of key strategies from across the prevention continuum, labeled by Philadelphia youth and adopted here as *Upfront*, *In The Thick*, and *Aftermath*, respectively. *Upfront* strategies are those that everyone needs. Strategies *In the Thick* are aimed at those who may be at increased risk, and *Aftermath* deals with the consequences of violence after it has occurred to reduce the chances it will reoccur. These strategies are designed to prevent violence in cities and should be prioritized locally and nationally with substantive resources and supportive policies. They are:

Primary Prevention UPFRONT	Secondary Prevention IN THE THICK	Tertiary Prevention AFTERMATH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive early care and education • Positive social and emotional development • Parenting skills • Quality after school programming • Youth leadership • Social connections in neighborhoods • Quality education* (including universal school-based violence prevention strategies) • Economic development* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring • Mental health services** • Family support services • Conflict resolution and interruption (including bystander skills) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health services** • Successful reentry

* For broad categories which are largely under the purview and mandate of specific agencies, the focus should be on delineating the elements within that category that will specifically address violence.

** e.g. therapeutic foster care, functional family therapy, multisystemic therapy

In addition to prioritizing these specific strategies to prevent violence, city representatives underscored the need for supportive infrastructure (e.g. collaboration, data and evaluation, training, staffing, funding and effective communication). These kinds of elements are detailed in the *UNITY RoadMap*. Along with supporting the above strategies, resources and policies are equally needed to implement and sustain infrastructure and collaboration.

For more information about UNITY, please visit our website, www.preventioninstitute.org/UNITY.html or contact us at 510-444-7738.

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Violence is not the problem of one neighborhood or group, and the response and solutions are not the responsibility of one sector of the community or of one agency, professional group, or business. Coming together and owning this problem and the solutions are central.

—Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith