

# CDC is preventing violence in Illinois communities

Violence is one of the leading causes of death in the US. CDC has been the leading federal agency focused on preventing injury and violence for over 40 years.

## Violence is preventable. It's scientifically proven.

When traumatic events happen to children—such as experiencing abuse or neglect, living in a home with substance misuse, or witnessing community violence—these adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, can cause lasting, negative effects on health including an increased risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence later in life. CDC is uniquely positioned to help communities across the country prevent ACEs and other forms of violence, to ensure that all people are safe, healthy, and thriving.

**In 2024, Illinois received \$3,002,464 from CDC to prevent violence before it happens.** CDC funds states and communities to use data to implement proven prevention approaches with the greatest potential to reduce violence. CDC scientists provide data analysis, the latest research findings and additional expertise to support state and local health departments, community organizations, and others working to prevent violence. Their efforts help save lives and improve community safety and well-being.

## Violence prevention is critical for Illinois

Violence doesn't only affect victims and their families in the immediate term—it has long-term effects on their surrounding communities. Violence can lead to physical and mental illness, chronic diseases, fewer employment opportunities, childhood developmental delays, and premature deaths. Violence can discourage people from participating in neighborhood activities, limit business growth and prosperity, strain education, justice, and medical systems, and slow community progress.

### Example Prevention Approaches

- Safe routes to/from school
- Home visitation programs to support new mothers
- Mentoring and afterschool programs
- Job training programs
- Cleaning and maintaining vacant lots
- Programs in hospitals that provide social and job support to victims to prevent future violence

## Violence in Illinois, by the numbers

**1,171**

homicides in 2023

**16%**

of adults have experienced four or more ACEs in their lifetimes

**24%**

of women have experienced rape or survived rape attempts in their lifetimes



# CDC funded violence prevention programs in Illinois

CDC works closely with states to build, implement, and evaluate programs to reduce and prevent violence for entire populations.

Programs with a check mark below are active in Illinois and are using the best available evidence to inform prevention in the state. Programs without a check mark are other CDC programs that Illinois can apply for in the future.



**National Violent Death Reporting System** is CDC's flagship state-based data system that links up to 700 unique data elements about the "who, when, where, and how" of violent deaths and suicides and provides insights about "why" they occurred to inform prevention activities.



**Rape Prevention and Education** funds sexual violence prevention approaches such as bystander programs, anti-bullying, and anti-sexual harassment policies in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



**DELTA** funds state domestic violence coalitions to prevent intimate partner violence by engaging in statewide prevention efforts and providing training, technical assistance, and financial support to local community organizations.



**Essentials for Childhood: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences through Data to Action** supports states and communities to prevent ACEs by improving data collection to help put in place the best programs for their area to inform selection and implementation of proven prevention strategies.



**PREVAYL** recipients implement proven strategies that prevent youth violence, teen dating violence, and ACEs in communities with high violence rates.



**National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention** connect community leaders with research universities to create and study lasting youth violence prevention methods, such as programs that reduce rates of violence through bystander reporting, social media monitoring, and youth involvement in activities to improve community parks, vacant lots, and public spaces.



**FASTER: AVERT** provides near real-time data from emergency department visits for a range of violence-related injuries and mental health conditions to inform community-level prevention of violence and suicide.



**Rigorously Evaluating Approaches to Prevent Adult-Perpetrated Child Sex Abuse** recipients conduct research to learn what prevents child sexual abuse and sex trafficking, by rigorously evaluating different programs, policies, and practices.

## CDC Supports Illinois

Between 2019 and 2021 Illinois enacted six policies informed by the Rape Prevention and Education Program's (RPE) education efforts. The state enhanced organizational support for sexual violence prevention, improved the state's sex education program by including lessons on consent, amended Erin's Law, to include age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. They also implemented new campus sexual misconduct climate surveys to better understand prevalence of campus sexual violence, implement prevention programs, and evaluate campus-based sexual violence prevention activities. As part of their five-year RPE program funding, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault collaborated with rape crisis centers to extend prevention efforts beyond the school setting, reaching over 203,225 individuals statewide.