

Hospital-based intervention program can help prevent violence reinjury or recurrence

A recent study led by a Boston University School of Public Health researcher found that a hospital-based intervention program in Boston can help prevent violence reinjury or recurrence. For survivors of gunshot and knife wounds treated in the emergency department of the Boston Medical Center, Boston University's main teaching hospital, the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP) provides post-discharge help with mental health and family support services and assistance, if necessary, with connections to housing, food, employment, education, and other needs. The study found that consistent engagement with the program could reduce the likelihood of being revictimized, or committing violence, by 50 percent two to three years after discharge. The study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, analyzed the records of over 1,300 shooting or stabbing survivors, ages 16 to 34, who were at high risk of violence. BU's VIAP is one of more than 60 hospital-based violence intervention programs nationwide.

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