

Summary

Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center was contracted by the City of Hartford to coordinate a collaborative hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) initiative. This HVIP Strengthening Collaborative of Hartford includes the three level 1 trauma centers (TrinityHealth, Hartford Hospital, Connecticut Children's) and three community agencies with many years of experience in this work (Hartford Communities That Care, COMPASS Youth Collaborative, and Mothers United Against Violence). In the six short months of implementation we have seen increased collaboration and communication across systems.

Hospitals & Community Partners

The HVIP Strengthening Collaborative of Hartford has made steady progress since its formal March 1st inception. A common communications tool was adopted to work across systems with all meeting notices and documentation now kept on Basecamp, an online collaboration tool (no protected health information is shared on this site). With exception of quarterly workshops, all regular meetings occur on Zoom.

All three hospitals now have active and engaged HVIP Specialists who intervene with every patient who ends up needing care for a gunshot wound. The HVIP Specialists, along with front-line staff from Hartford Communities That Care, COMPASS, and Mothers United Against Violence, meet in a daily huddle to exchange information and assess any needed supports for individuals and families. Quarterly meetings of all members of the strengthening collaborative provide an opportunity to explore and resolve systems level challenges.

Data

While the Collaborative is working to develop and strengthen its data tools, we do know that in the first six months (January thru June), the three hospitals saw 111 gunshot wound victims and 76 stabbing victims in their trauma centers. Of these trauma victims, 114 of the 187 victims were connected to support services.

While our data, and ability to share detailed data is still limited, data sharing will become easier over time as we implement two new processes:

- 1) Release of Information Authorization - All HVIP patients will be asked to consent to services by signing a release of protected health information. This release allows for the HVIP Specialists to share detailed information with our community partners.
- 2) Shared Data Portal – Both COMPASS and HCTC have data systems in place for detailed client tracking. COMPASS maintains data through a customized CRM data platform and Hartford Communities That Care through a new implementation of the Penelope system.

Upcoming Milestones

- Implementation of a shared intake data portal for the three hospitals
- Trauma Informed Care (TIC) training for clinical team members at the partner hospitals
- Cross-badging/training of HVIP Specialists at each hospital-site
- VPP credential training for team members from the six partner agencies

Table 1: Strategy Summary Table

Strategy	Description	Evidence-Based (HRET, 2015)	Target
i. HVIP Specialists to liaise with community	A dedicated HVIP Specialist will liaise with community agencies as the interface with the hospital	Secondary, Tertiary (case management, screening)	CV, IPV
ii. HVIP Specialists to work within hospital structures	Support clinical and non-clinical team members in providing appropriate care by proactively linking patients/families to services	Tertiary (case management, social services)	CV, IPV, Suicide
iii. Care coordination	Long-term follow-up to families and individuals providing goal concordant care focused on addressing SDOH	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary (BH, social services, long-term case management)	CV, IPV, Suicide
iv. Trauma Informed Care Training	Training for all providers and social workers by leveraging ACS COT	Secondary (trained to recognize trauma)	CV, IPV, Suicide
v. Modeling: Evaluation and Outcomes	Data collection and evaluation of services will be prioritized to build a replicable hospital-based VPI model	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	CV, IPV, Suicide
vi. Training Support	HVIP/HAVI training will be the baseline training for our teams	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	CV

Organizational Capacity

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center (Connecticut Children’s)

Opened in 1996 in Hartford, Connecticut, Connecticut Children's Medical Center (Connecticut Children’s) is an academic, free-standing, non-profit, 187-bed teaching hospital dedicated to clinical care, education, research, and advocacy on behalf of children. Connecticut Children’s is the home of the pediatric residency program and 11 pediatric medical and surgical subspecialty fellowships for the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine (SOM), and is the major clinical venue for attending physicians, pediatric and surgical residents and fellows, and medical students in the UConn SOM Departments of Pediatrics, Pediatric Surgery, Pediatric Urology, and other surgical subspecialties. Offering a full range of pediatric services from birth to 18 years old, Connecticut Children’s brings quality care to children and families throughout the state. Located in Hartford, Connecticut Children’s is a powerful presence in the community through its Office for Community Child Health (OCCH). OCCH has been a major presence and convener for a number of neighborhood initiatives including the North Hartford ASCEND Pipeline. The Injury Prevention Center (IPC), a division of OCCH, will coordinates the efforts of the Hartford HVIP Strengthening Collaborative. The IPC has more than twenty-five years of experience in implementing violence prevention programs, from firearm violence prevention to school-based social-emotional learning based violence prevention programs (www.connecticutchildrens.org/ipc). The Injury Prevention Center also provides injury prevention services to Hartford Hospital via contract. Connecticut Children’s through the Injury Prevention Center is an existing partner working within the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention (HYVPI) Workgroup. In addition, Connecticut Children’s Center for Care

Coordination provides an array of services to support families and their needs and will strengthen those services. These efforts are coordinated by Dr. Borrup who is a member of City of Hartford's HYVPI Workgroup, a Co-Lead of the Department of Public Health's Injury and Violence Action Team. Much of the IPC's work has been published in the peer-review literature and is available here (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=p1EK5hIAAAAJ&hl=en>).