Our Mission:
To reduce the incidence of youth violence through education and behavior modification

The Violence Prevention Institute provides Education, Research, Prevention and Intervention programs designed to address the increasing incidence of violent youth behavior.
The institute uses evidence based research models to assist states, cities, law enforcement, and school boards in designing strategies to address the increasing societal problems associated with violent behavior in youth and young adults.

Participants are taught corrective skills to change attitudes about gun violence, gang activities and other negative social behaviors, in order to improve school performance, family relationships, reduce criminal activities, and acquire skills that maximize their ability to effectively negotiate peer relationships and other social interactions.

The Importance of Research and Intervention
In order to evaluate the effectiveness of its programs, an important part of the VPI’s objective is to follow the activity of program participants over a number of years.

The Statistics:
The average cost of emergency treatment and inpatient hospitalization for critically injured gunshot victims is $322,000. (Source: The Brady Campaign)
The leading cause of death in African Americans between the ages of 10 and 24 is homicide. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)
For women, the chances of going to prison were 6 times greater in 2001 (1.8%) than in 1974 (0.3%). (Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics)
About 1 in 3 black males, 1 in 6 Hispanic males, and 1 in 17 white males are expected to go to prison during their lifetime, if current incarceration rates remain unchanged. (Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Educating Youth
The Medical and Legal Consequences of Gang Related Crimes and Gun Possession
Emergency department physicians treat victims of violent crime. They have a different perspective on violence and share a powerful message with students.
The reality is not complicated – knife and gunshot wounds hurt. Nobody walks away from being shot or stabbed without painful medical treatment and recovery. Victims often never recover from an injury.

Doctors conducting the VPI programs show students slides of real victims and their injuries. They explain the procedures used in treating these injuries in graphic detail and demonstrate how surgical instruments are used in an emergency room. Criminals are also frequently hurt during the commission of a crime, or when they are trying to escape police. In the real world, police officers are the first to respond when someone is injured. In our Violence Intervention Program, officers tell students of their experiences responding to violent crime scenes.

“This program should be seen in every school in the entire State of New Jersey.”
Student

“The Statistics:
After seeing this presentation, why would anyone want to be in a gang?”
Student

“Thank you Dr. Dyson for turning my life around.”
Student

“Keep showing it until the public gets the message.”
Teacher

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