

Partners

University of Michigan

School of Public Health
School of Medicine
School of Nursing

University of Pennsylvania

Penn Injury Science Center
Urban Health Lab
Cartographic Modeling Lab

Rutgers University

School of Public Health
School of Criminal Justice

Flint, Michigan

Genesee County Land Bank (Lead Organization)
Genesee County Health Department
Flint Police Department
Hurley Medical Center

Youngstown, Ohio

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corp.
(Lead Organization)
Mahoning County District Board of Health
Youngstown Police Department
St. Elizabeth Medical Center
Mahoning County Land Bank

Camden, New Jersey

Coopers Ferry Partnership (Lead Organization)
City of Camden
Camden County Department of Health and Human
Services
Camden County Police Department
Camden Special Services District
Cooper University Hospital
New Jersey Tree Foundation

U. S. Forest Service

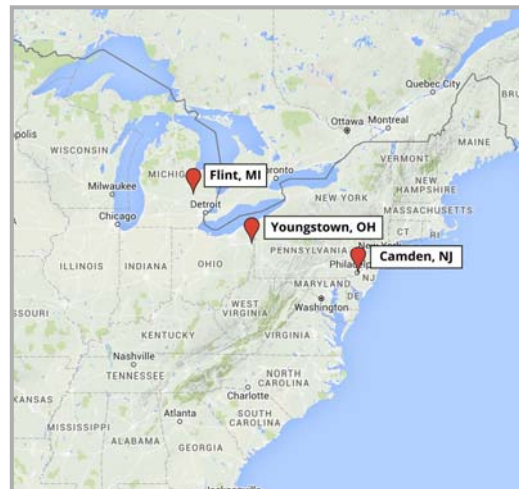
Center for Community Progress

National Association of County and City Health Officers

*“ If we take care of abandoned, empty
lots in our cities, clean them up and
create space for positive social inter-
action, we can help create safer
streets ”.*

—Marc Zimmerman, MI-YVPC Director

MI-YVPC Project Sites



Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center

1415 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
<http://yvpc.sph.umich.edu>



MI-YVPC

Community Engagement and Revitalization

<http://yvpc.sph.umich.edu>



What We Do

The Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center (MI-YVPC) is studying the effects of improving vacant properties on violence, property crimes and intentional injuries in three U.S. cities: Flint, Michigan, Youngstown, Ohio and Camden, New Jersey.

The Center works with community organizations that are engaging residents in caring for properties in their neighborhoods by mowing, planting gardens, or other greening activities.

Our multi-phase, 5-year study will explore the effects of community-engaged greening strategies on violence and identify best practices for implementing these strategies in other communities nationwide.

The Center is a collaboration among University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, economic development, land use, law enforcement, public health and community organizations.

MI-YVPC is funded by a grant from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U01CE002698).

Our Strategy

Our work builds upon previous research that indicates that caring for vacant properties can have beneficial effects on the health and safety of residents.

We are testing a novel approach that brings together three promising approaches to violence prevention:

- **Empowering** youth and adults to create change in their communities and improve their physical and social environments
- **Greening** activities, such as mowing and planting gardens, to revitalize neighborhoods and reduce crime and violence.
- **Creating Busy Streets** to provide safe spaces for residents to connect and communities to thrive

We will use the results of our study and lessons learned from a nationwide survey to develop a comprehensive guide for communities interested in developing greening programs to prevent violence and create safe and vibrant neighborhoods.



Our Communities

Our partner communities have established programs that engage youth and adult residents to care for and repurpose vacant lots.

Flint, Michigan

In Flint, the Genesee County Land Bank Clean and Green program supports innovative community groups and organizations in cleaning, maintaining and beautifying vacant properties. Clean and Green currently involves more than 50 community organizations and over 200 youth. The program maintains over 3,400 vacant properties.

Youngstown, Ohio

In Youngstown, the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) has repurposed nearly 300 vacant lots for gardens, side lots, native plantings, and green space through both targeted land reuse programs and citywide competitions.

Camden, New Jersey

In Camden, the Cooper's Ferry Partnership brings together public and private organizations to effect sustainable economic revitalization. The CFP supports a vacant-lot greening and maintenance initiative.

Contact Us

Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center

UM School of Public Health
1415 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48176
(734) 647-0219

michiganyvpc@umich.edu

Visit us on the web: yvpc.sph.umich.edu