



# Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center

## 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

### For more information:

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## Community Engagement and Revitalization

The MI-YVPC is studying the effects of vacant property improvements on violence, property crimes and intentional injuries in three U.S. cities: Flint, Michigan, Youngstown, Ohio and Camden, New Jersey.

The Center is focusing on supporting work that engages residents, particularly youth, in caring for properties in their neighborhoods by mowing, planting gardens, or other “greening” activities.

We are assessing whether involving community youth and adults in greening reduces violence to a greater degree than either professional greening or no maintenance. This work builds upon and supports programs developed by local land use organizations and previous research that indicates that caring for vacant properties can have beneficial effects on the health and safety of residents.

The goals of the research are to:

- evaluate and support the implementation of community-level strategies to improve vacant properties and analyze the relationship of changes in the physical environment to youth violence;
- test the effects of alternative approaches to greening on police incidents, youth intentional injuries, conditions of nearby properties, and resident’s perceptions of their neighborhoods;
- document the process of community readiness and capacity needed to implement community-engaged greening programs; and
- identify lessons learned that support community and youth engaged greening programs, and share the results with local, state, and national audiences through a wide variety of methods, including a freely available implementation guide.

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### Selected Publications:

Reischl, T. M., Krusky, A. M., Zimmerman, M. A., Aiyer, S. M., Kruger, D. J., Franzen, S. P., & Lipton, R. (2016). Assessing Physical Disorder in Urban Neighborhoods: Reliability and Validity of the Parcel Maintenance Observation Tool. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 44(1), 7–21. <http://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.21730>

Krusky, A. M., Heinze, J. E., Reischl, T. M., Aiyer, S. M., Franzen, S. P., & Zimmerman, M. A. (2015). The effects of produce gardens on neighborhoods: A test of the greening hypothesis in a post-industrial city. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 136, 68–75. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2014.12.003>