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THE VIOLENCE PREVENTION MODEL
(CARDIFF, GREAT BRITAIN)

Efforts at preventing violence can be implemented at individual, relationship, and community levels. The example of this is the Cardiff Model, a multi-agency approach to violence prevention that relies on the strategic use of information from health and law enforcement organizations to improve policing and community violence prevention programs. The Cardiff Model was created by Dr. Jonathan Shepherd, a surgeon and professor at Cardiff University in Wales, United Kingdom. The basis of the model is information sharing. In healthcare settings, violence-related injury data including location, time, date, and mechanism of injury are collected. These data are combined with information from law enforcement to help communities map where violence frequently occurs.

Key steps to starting the Cardiff Model in the law enforcement agency: establishing a violence prevention partnership with the local hospital and public health agency; n collaboration with hospital partner, determining most useful injury information to collect and map; help to develop a culture of decision-making based on real-time data; obtaining law enforcement leadership buy-in and support, permissions for sharing crime incident data with partners.

The Cardiff Model was replicated in the United States and Australia Since its development in 1996, the Cardiff Model has shown that sharing anonymous data describing the location of violence, weapon use, assailants, and time of violence can allow local police to improve their strategies to prevent street violence.

Police knowledge of violence depends on people reporting these offences, but that many of the injured do not report because they are afraid of reprisals, don't want their own conduct scrutinised, or because they don't think the police could take effective action if they do report. So the greatest benefit to implementing a Cardiff Model communications plan is to ensure transparency and trust with local communities.

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