



Research Week 2023

Healing hurt people and Oregon Health & Science University: a partnership to reduce violence in Portland, Oregon

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Keywords

Hospital-based violence intervention program, gun violence, injury prevention, trauma care

Abstract

Background. Communities of color in Oregon have experienced systematic disinvestment and suffer a disproportionate impact of gun violence as a result. Healing Hurt People (HHP) is a hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) run by the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center and offered at Oregon Health & Science University. Intensive Case Managers intervene with young people of color within hours of violent injury and provide wraparound support services. HVIPs have been shown to reduce violence recidivism, hospital costs, and criminal justice system involvement among victims of violence. However, facilitators and barriers to successful implementation of HVIP programs are relatively undocumented, as are methods to collect and leverage data and patient stories to bolster program adoption and maintenance.

Methods. Lessons learned from the adoption of HHP at OHSU; development of the relationship between HHP, OHSU, and researchers at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health; and stories of patient success have been documented. A database of HHP participant data from the OHSU Trauma Program and HHP is being developed to describe patient participation and outcomes.

Results. Lessons learned from the OHSU-HHP partnership reflected themes of cultivating relationships between Intensive Case Managers and clinicians, developing co-managed data collection systems, and establishing regular communication protocols and shared goals. Past HHP participants have become Intensive Case Managers with the program and pursued educational and employment opportunities. Between March 2022 and December 31, 2022, 160 patients were admitted to the emergency department for violent penetrating injuries and 33 were eligible to receive services with HHP. Of those

eligible, 11 were “high risk” and received long-term case management. Twenty-two were “90-day patients” and participated in short-term services.

Conclusions. Recent Oregon legislation will fund the expansion of HHP to hospitals across Oregon. This work will help facilitate successful implementation and maintenance of these HVIP programs in the years ahead.