

Youth impacted by crime and violence can have unique and complex needs. Our programs help to prevent youth delinquency and violence, and address the needs of impacted youth.

MAV and CJOOS

PEI Kids' programs work with at-risk, court-involved, and adjudicated youth to prevent delinquency and recidivism, reduce anger and aggression, and decrease the chances of deeper system involvement or formal charges being filed for court-involved youth.

Our **Managing Aggression & Violence (MAV)** program helps youth at-risk of juvenile justice involvement improve interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, and violence-avoidance skills. Through experiential learning, day trips, and structured sessions using an evidence-based curriculum, MAV helps youth gain new skills, experience new places and opportunities, and contribute to a safer community. Referrals are accepted from Family Court, schools, parents/caregivers and youth-serving organizations.

The **Comprehensive Juvenile Offenders Outreach Services (CJOOS)** program has helped over 2,500 first- and second-time youthful offenders change the trajectory of their lives. This 16-week group program equips youth with conflict-resolution and violence avoidance skills, self-reflection and better decision-making that puts them back on track for educational attainment & career preparation--factors that impact their quality of life now and in the future. And through community-service projects, CJOOS helps youth meet requirements to successfully discharge from probation. Program referrals are accepted from Juvenile Probation and Family Court.

Community-based Violence Intervention

A small number of disruptive students can impact the school climate and make it difficult to cultivate an environment that fosters learning and achievement. CbVI is a school-based program that works with the most "spirited" youth identified by school administration to address the root causes of disruptive behavior.

Our **CbVI program** is based on a three-pronged approach to youth safety:

- 1) Our Violence Interrupter teams provide safe passage for students in and around their schools;
- 2) Facilitators conduct in-school Violence Intervention Groups (VIGs) for students exposed to violence; and
- 3) Our Licensed Professional Counselor delivers one-on-one mental health counseling as part of the school day for students struggling with trauma, anger, grief and/or loss due to violence.

Through the CbVI program, we provide clinical intervention that addresses emotional needs, advocate for students facing tough circumstances, and provide conflict resolution, violence-avoidance, and emotional regulation skills.

In addition to working closely with the student population, our CbVI team delivers risk management and safety strategies that help the schools' administrative teams curate a safe and supportive environment for the entire school community.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Justine--a 12-year-old girl in our weekly Violence Intervention Group (VIG)--was missing school and cheer practice, and she was being bullied due to a visible medical problem. Due to a violent victimization she experienced, Justine was left with a severely impacted tooth that was pushed up into her mouth and stuck in her upper gums, causing pain, discomfort, and deformation in her face.

Our Care Manager, Ariana, discreetly asked Justine if she had seen a dentist or dental surgeon for care, and she had, but explained that her mother's insurance through Medicare was not going to cover the cost of the procedures she needed. Ariana recalled sitting in on a presentation where KinderSmile presented about their free and near-free oral, maxillo-facial and dental emergency services for the community. She put mom in contact with KinderSmile, making a warm hand-off to their Chief Medical Officer.

Ariana explains, "Several weeks later, I spoke with Justine who told me she had gone to see KinderSmile and was able to arrange for oral surgery affordable for her and her mother. What a moment of satisfaction that was...to see the remarkable difference we could make in Justin's self-esteem and social life!"

This small act changed the trajectory of a 12-year-old girl's life and she's now experiencing the joy of childhood that is no longer stolen by an act of violence.

Success Story



Quick Facts:

- Our Violence Interrupters provide 1,301 instances of violence intervention/de-escalation last school year, an average of six incidents per day.
- Through our G-VIGs (Girls Violence Intervention Groups) at Trenton's Dunn Middle School, King Middle School, and Hedgepeth-Williams Intermediate School, we served a total of 91 girls impacted by violence through small-group, evidence-based, programming.
- For youth needing a higher level of care, we provided 1:1 mental health counseling to address trauma, grief, loss, anger management and other violence-related symptomology. On average, our CbVI clinician has 321 individual sessions/interactions for 43 youth/ counseling clients each school year.



Helping the toughest
childhoods take flight.