



PREVNET: Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network

What is this research about?

The Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network (PREVNet) is a nationwide initiative in Canada. It seeks to promote healthy relationships and prevent bullying among children and youth. Over the past 2 decades, there has been an increased concern for bullying and violence among children and youth. There are many activities at the local, provincial, and national level to prevent bullying. However, these activities are largely uncoordinated and often developed without evidence of being effective. How has PREVNet emerged as a national network with a strategic plan for knowledge mobilization (KM)?

What did the researcher do?

PREVNet seeks to bridge the gap between research and practice to prevent bullying and promote safe and healthy relationships for children and youth. The four pillars towards meeting this goal are:

- The education and training pillar: develop awareness and knowledge, change attitudes, and build commitment to promote healthy relationships and address bullying;
- The assessment and evaluation pillar: provide assessment tools to evaluate bullying problems, children's relationships, and the effectiveness of programs;
- The prevention and intervention pillar: provide empirically-based tools and strategies to reduce

What you need to know:

Childhood bullying can lead to mental health problems for those who are victimized, as well as for those who bully. Bullying can have a long-term impact through adolescence and into adulthood. PREVNet's strategic plan focuses on improving the practices of those who work with children and youth through knowledge mobilization. By collaborating to challenge everyday bullying, Canadians can create safe, secure, and equitable spaces for all children and youth. Thus, PREVNet can foster and nurture healthy relationships and work towards eliminating violence.

bullying problems and promote healthy relationships;

- The policy and advocacy pillar: stimulate policy development and provide evidence-based guidelines to ensure a child's right to be safe and supported in all contexts.
- This plan was accomplished through the growth of the network over the past decade. PREVNet has supported networking activities among researchers and promoted new partnerships with receptor communities. Participation in network activities allowed PREVNet to work intensively with 12 to 14 partners each year. This collaborative effort led to an increase in KM and enhanced goals for PREVNet. PREVNet also reviewed and summarized the resources that were developed in collaboration with partners.

What did the researcher find?

The most effective way to promote healthy relationships and prevent bullying for children and youth is to improve the practices of all adults who are responsible for them. These adults play a critical socializing role by serving as role models, mentors, guides, and teachers. Building partnerships with national organizations has also been highly effective for spreading knowledge relating to children and youths' healthy development and the importance of relationships for healthy development. The main focus of PREVNet's efforts is on all adults involved in the lives of children and youth. These include: parents, professionals and volunteers. The secondary focus is on children and youth. The overall goal is for social-cultural change within Canada and beyond.

How can you use this research?

The KM provided by PREVNet will enable parents, practitioners, and policy makers to develop a common understanding of bullying. With a common understanding there can be increased and coordinated efforts at local, provincial, and national levels. With a common, evidence-based approach, children and youth can receive consistent messages and support to prevent bullying and promote healthy relationships. This KM should extend to all the places where youth live, learn, play, and work. This can be accomplished through PREVNet's partners who are knowledge stakeholders and can identify critical issues and unmet needs.

PREVNet offers different types of resources such as: training tools and manuals, brochures, pocket guides, web-based materials, computer games, and tool kits. Parents, educators, and other adults involved with children and youth may all find these tools useful.

PREVNet is committed to sustaining knowledge partnerships by engaging researchers, students and youth-serving organizations and governments. Partnerships between researchers and receptor communities are strengthened through: direct consultations with partners, graduate student activities, project interactions, collaborative research, working group meetings, and conferences. It is through these mechanisms that

KM resources are co-created and adapted by different stakeholders. PREVNet's experience can also help inform future KM projects that seek balance between the needs and actions of distinct partners.

About the Researchers

Debra Pepler is a Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology in the Faculty of Health at York University and a Senior Adjunct Scientist at The Hospital for Sick Children.
pepler@yorku.ca

Wendy Craig is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Queen's University.
wendy.craig@queensu.ca

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Research Impact

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