

09

**HOSPITAL REFERRAL TO A COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH INJURED BY VIOLENCE: A FEASIBILITY STUDY**

doi:10.1136/injuryprev-2012-040580f.9

<sup>1,2</sup>C Snider\*, <sup>2,3</sup>A Nathens. <sup>1</sup>Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of the Keenan Research Centre, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada; <sup>3</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Canada

**Background** Youth violence is an immense burden in Canada. Violence is a recurring condition—20–40% of youth injured by violence will be reinjured within the next year.

**Aims/Objectives/Purpose** To assess the feasibility of referring youth injured by violence to community based intervention programmes.

**Methods** Youth presenting to St. Michael's Hospital Emergency Department and Trauma Service were approached to participate in the study. Information about the study was conveyed using a computer tablet. Youth completed an online baseline survey. If a youth consented to participation, a research coordinator linked the youth with their chosen community partner.

**Results/Outcome** Sixty youth (27% of eligible patients) were approached and 19 (32%) chose to participate. 92% were male and the average age was 19.3. In the prior 6 months, 71% of participants had been in a physical fight, with 35% of all participants having visited an emergency department for a fight related injury. Fourteen youth (70% of enrolled) chose a community programme; however, five were unable to be contacted the following day to facilitate the referral.

**Significance/Contribution to the Field** This feasibility study demonstrates the complexity of recruiting and referring a high-risk population to community resources. The results from this study will be used to develop a larger study to determine the effectiveness of these referrals in reducing future intentional injury.