



Research on Lowering Violence in Communities and Schools

What is ReSOLV?

- The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) created the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI) to improve knowledge about the root causes of school violence, develop strategies to increase school safety, and rigorously evaluate innovative school safety strategies.
- In support of the CSSI, American Institutes for Research (AIR), in partnership with Arizona State University, The Wandersman Group, Dawn Chorus, and a group of nationally recognized school safety experts, is conducting Research on Lowering Violence in Communities and Schools (ReSOLV). This longitudinal study will examine the association between school and community safety and student outcomes with school and community-based risk and protective factors, and the readiness of individuals, organizations and the wider community to work together to prevent violence and increase safety.
- The study is being conducted in three locations in California: one rural, one urban, and one large urban county, from 2014 through 2023.

What is ReSOLV trying to learn?

- How risk and protective factors flow across community and school settings, and what is needed to manage this relationship so all youth can thrive in and out of the classroom.
- How individuals, organizations, and communities mobilize together to prevent or reduce violence impacting communities and schools, and what can be done to increase the readiness to work together on solutions.
- How the COVID-19 pandemic and the movement to address racial equity in policing practices has influenced innovations in the approach to school and community safety, and what can be learned from these experiences.
- How rural, urban, and large county contexts influence school and community safety issues and the readiness of individuals, organizations, and communities to mobilize together to find solutions. in these diverse settings.

How can ReSOLV be useful to schools and communities?

- Research results will help schools understand how risk and need factors in the community influence student engagement and outcomes in school, while helping community leaders understand how violence prevention efforts in the community may benefit educational outcomes for youth, which in turn can prevent future violence.
- Research results will provide insights on building the readiness for individuals, organizations, and the broader community to work together to address violence and safety issues using inclusive, equitable, and comprehensive strategies that are rooted in evidence of effectiveness.

What kind of information is ReSOLV collecting?



- **Student achievement data** will provide information about student outcomes before and during the study period.
- **School safety and discipline data** will provide information about safety incidents and student discipline before and during the study period.
- **Community crime data** will show the level of risk from crime and violence in the neighborhoods that comprise a given school district.
- **Community health and economic data** will show the level of risk and need in the neighborhoods that comprise a given school district.
- **Community mapping data** will show businesses and spaces associated with pro-social positive youth development and those that may carry greater risk for crime and violence.
- **Student, parent, and school staff surveys** will measure individual, school, and community-level risk and protective factors for school violence, relationships with school and community law enforcement, and the readiness for individuals, organizations, and the community to work on shared solutions to prevent violence and improve safety.
- **Youth, parent, and school staff interviews and focus groups** will provide greater context on issues of racial and ethnic equity affecting school disciplinary practices, student and parent connectedness in school, and experience with school safety practices, including relationships with law enforcement, as well as offer opportunities to expand on survey results.
- **Community stakeholder interviews** with government leaders, law enforcement, family services, community organizers, and local business leaders will provide insights into the broader community safety landscape and how these different actors view their role when it comes to school and community safety, what should be done to address safety concerns, and how they work together to arrive at shared solutions that benefit community and school.
- **Policy, communication, and social media reviews** to understand current practices, expectations, messaging, and reactions to current conditions and desires for change.



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