

Violence Prevention Among African American Adolescent Males

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Objective: To test psychosocial mediators of the effects of an intervention in reducing the rate of growth of violence among adolescents. **Method:** Five hundred and seventy-one African American adolescent males participated in this randomized trial. Multilevel modeling techniques were used to ascertain both intervention and mediated effects. **Results:** Intervention significantly reduced rate of growth of violence and 5 social and psychological factors in the treat-

ment group relative to the control group. Four of these social and psychological factors were found to be complete mediators between the intervention and its preventive effects. **Conclusion:** Changing psychological mediating variables is central to reducing youth violence.

Key words: violence reduction, mediating variables, mediation mechanism, African American youth

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