

TURNING THE TIDE

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

2024 Summer Newsletter



Changing What's Possible



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

July 1st marked Turning the Tide's 3-year anniversary since launching at MUSC Health – Charleston's adult and pediatric trauma centers in 2021! To date, we've responded to and supported nearly 500 violently injured patients and their families. Our team of violence intervention client advocates are at the heart of what we do, and their unwavering dedication shows us daily that we're changing what's possible for our patients and families, and our collective community. Head to Page 5 for a more detailed report on Year 3.

We are also thrilled to announce two vital grants that TTVIP was awarded this year:

In partnership with MUSC's College of Nursing faculty, Dr. Ruggiero and Dr. Davidson, TTVIP was a subrecipient of a Duke Endowment award this year aimed at improving the equity, quality and accessibility of mental health care for trauma-impacted youth and young adults in the Carolinas. As a result, we've expanded our capacity to provide mental health care directly to our patients and families served by TTVIP, and hired our first mental health clinician to the team, **Beverly Crittendon**. By integrating the evidence-based Trauma Resilience and Recovery Program (TRRP) treatment model into TTVIP's scope of work, we are seeking to improve mental health care accessibility and engagement among victims of community firearm violence. Beverly joins us with years of impressive experience and a distinct passion for working with trauma-impacted youth and young adults. Head to Page 6 to learn more about Beverly's notable career and her decision to join Turning the Tide.

Alongside patient care and support, research is a critically important activity TTVIP engages in to ensure we're providing our patients with the most relevant, evidence-informed services and treatment. This spring, we were awarded a research grant from Kaiser Permanente's Center for Gun Violence Research & Education. This 3-year research project titled, "Advancing the Evidence for HVIPs in the Southeast: Comprehensive Patient-Centered Outcomes & Stakeholder Insights," will rigorously evaluate TTVIP's shorter- and longer-term impacts on patients, loved ones, and healthcare providers. Not only do we expect this study to improve our own practices, but it will also significantly contribute to the literature with HVIP representation in the Southeast. Check out a short video on the project at the link on Page 4.

We have an exciting year ahead of us! We are grateful for our partners, stakeholders, funders, and leaders for the support and encouragement we've received thus far, and look forward to continuing this lifesaving work, together.

In peace & service,

Ashley Hink
Christa Green

TURNING THE TIDE



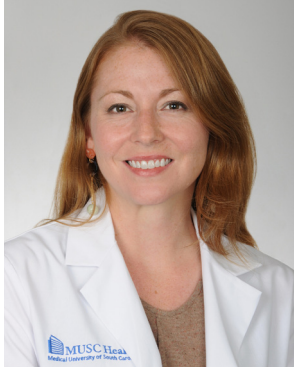
Ashley Hink, M.D., MPH
Medical Director, Turning the Tide
Violence Intervention Program
Department of Surgery
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Christa Green, MPH
Program Director, Turning the Tide
Violence Intervention Program
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MEET THE TEAM

PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Ashley Hink, M.D. MPH



Christa Green, MPH

CLIENT ADVOCATES



Chantelle Mitchell



Keith Smalls



Cat Yetman, BS

INJURY PREVENTION COORDINATOR



Adrianna Bellamy, BSPH

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN



Beverly Crittendon, LPC-A

WHO WE ARE

The MUSC Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program is an evidence-based, multi-disciplinary program that supports youth and young adults that are at risk of or experience violent injury with the aims of reducing risk factors for violence, preventing injury and re-injury, and improving patient-centered outcomes.

Core principles to this model include:

- A public health approach to address the social determinants of health and root causes of violence;
- Culturally competent, trauma-informed services to improve trust and communication;
- Community partnerships with community-based organizations and agencies that provide services to comprehensively support patients' needs.

Who do we serve?

MUSC's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program aims to improve the care and recovery of violently injured patients to prevent future violence and improve quality of life. We currently serve patients 12-30 years

old that suffer gunshot injuries from community-based violence, and are treated at MUSC Health Charleston's Adult and Pediatric Trauma Centers.

Full wraparound services are offered to enrolled patients and families. Homicide survivor support services are also available to families and friends that experience the loss of a loved one at MUSC. A key component of this program is the long-term intensive follow-up provided up to a year post-injury.

What are Wraparound Services?

Wraparound services are inclusive of whatever the patient and family need to address unmet needs and risk factors for violent injury, and will promote recovery, reduce repeat violence, and improve their health, social, and economic outcomes.

Services may include mentorship and encouragement, conflict mediation, and connecting patients to social services such as food, housing, education, employment, transportation, healthcare, mental health, substance abuse counseling, victims services, and community support.

IN THE NEWS



- *MUSC Catalyst News, May 2024: [Surgeon awarded grant to study impact of hospital violence intervention programs in SE](#)*

Ashley Hink, M.D. was awarded a three-year \$600,000 grant from the Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education for her study aiming to evaluate the MUSC TTVIP, one of the few HVIPs in the Southeast



- *Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education, August 2024: [Spring 2024 Grantee Video](#)*

Dr. Hink and the TTVIP team are highlighted in this documentary-style video describing a newly awarded research grant that will rigorously evaluate TTVIP outcomes.

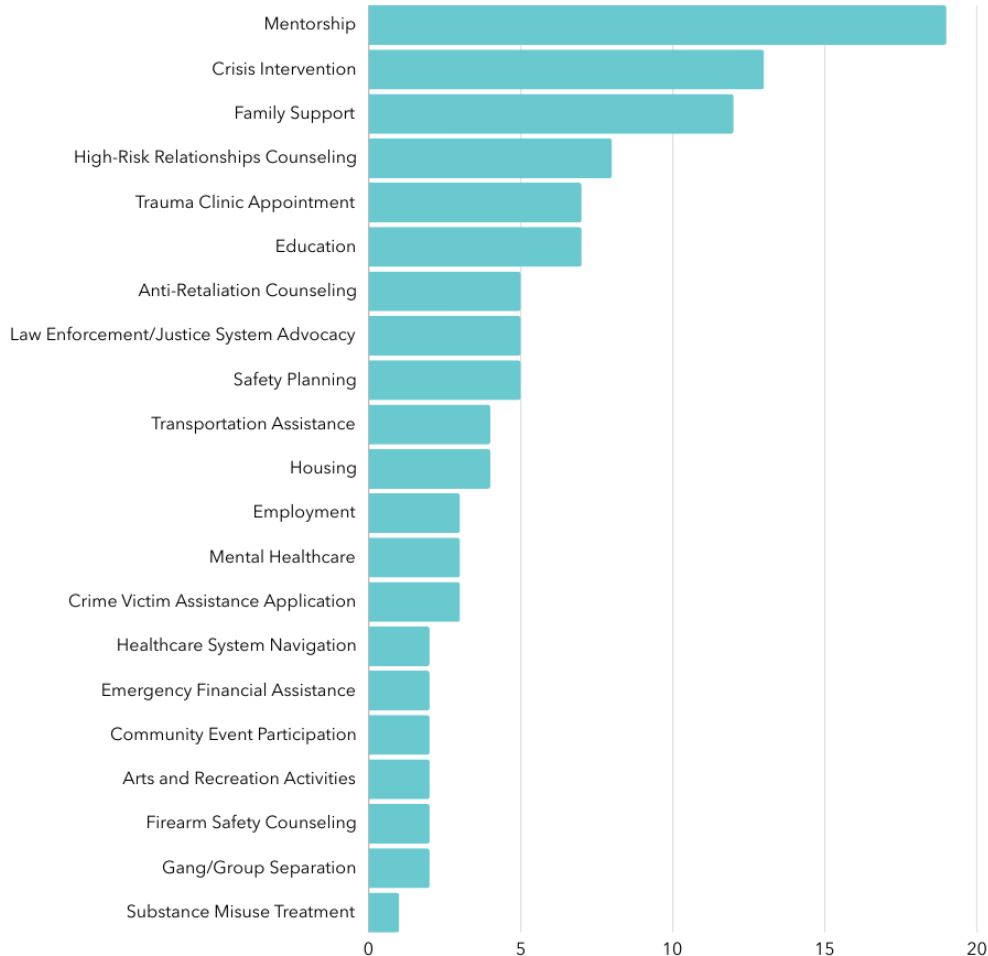


- *Everytown Community Safety Fund, May 2024: [The Power of Prevention](#)*

This blog post highlights Turning the Tide and their exciting expansion that provides direct mental health treatment for program participants.

MUSC Health **Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF ENROLLED PATIENTS RECEIVING INTERVENTION SERVICES MONTHLY



TTVIP AVERAGE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT STATUS

160
Patients
Supported

60%
Met Enrollment
Criteria

50%
Accepted
Services

TTVIP's IMPACT AND INFLUENCE BY THE NUMBERS

Enrolled Patient Statistics:

- **20 Years Old** Average Age
- **90%** Non-Hispanic Black
- **92%** Male
- **76%** From Charleston County
- **>40%** live in the city of North Charleston
- **84%** Assault-related gunshot wounds
- **55%** Medicaid Recipients
- **33%** Uninsured
- **Most patients discharged same-day** from the emergency department, though average hospital stay is **5 days** for those admitted.

Community gun violence disproportionately impacts young Black boys and men across the US and here in our community, too. Community violence, in general, in the greater Charleston area follows seasonal trends, where cases spike in the spring and remain elevated throughout the summer.

TTVIP is the only hospital-based violence intervention program in South Carolina, which exclusively supports patients injured by community violence. With TTVIP's client advocates by their side, our patients are securing jobs, earning their GEDs, engaging in mental healthcare, preventing evictions, and connecting with pro-social community events and programs – all protective factors that reduce the risk of experiencing repeat violence.

LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN SPOTLIGHT: BEVERLY CRITTENDON

As a subrecipient of a Duke Endowment award, TTVIP has expanded the program's capacity to provide direct mental healthcare to patients and families served by TTVIP. **Beverly Crittendon** joined TTVIP in May 2024 as the program's first Mental Health Clinician. Beverly's role integrates the evidence-based stepped-care model for emotional recovery after traumatic injury, Trauma Resilience and Recovery Program (TRRP), into the repertoire of services provided directly by Turning the Tide.

As a licensed therapist, Beverly has many years of experience in crisis intervention, advocacy, and counseling. Whether it be at the Department of Social Services, The Charleston Center, or as a law enforcement victim advocate specialist, Beverly has dedicated her career to serving children and families in community settings through trauma-informed care. Beverly felt that her passion for caring for others and her trauma-informed approach would make her a perfect fit for TTVIP's patients, and we couldn't agree more.

Beverly acknowledges that "healing can be hard and stressful, and it takes time." Mindful of this, Beverly takes a unique approach to our violently injured patient population, focusing on building the therapist-client alliance, which she describes as the "foundation" of the work. On that foundation, she empowers her patients to gain the coping and processing tools that they need to recover. Beverly's goal is for patients and families served by TTVIP to be able to say:

"I have been through a hard thing, and I survived."



"My hope for the people I work with is that they become so empowered that their healing, self-worth, and dreams are like grass: Green and Growing."

-Beverly Crittendon

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: SARAH LAVOIE

Turning the Tide welcomed **Sarah LaVoie** to the team this summer as an undergraduate intern. She is a rising senior at the College of Charleston, studying political science with a concentration in pre-law and philosophy. Sarah pursued an internship with Turning the Tide to match her personal and professional goals and interests related to gun violence prevention.

Over the course of this summer, Sarah worked on two projects that directly support our client advocates' provision of services to our patients and families.





LETTING KIDS BE KIDS

The public health approach to gun violence prevention incorporates activities that not only reduce one's risk of experiencing violence again but also promote protective factors that can increase one's safety. This summer, we're highlighting the impact pro-social activities like summer camps have on TTVIP's school-aged youth.

Take Joey for instance: a young high school student that was assaulted last year and has been working with TTVIP client advocate, Cat Yetman, ever since. For most kids, summer break means hanging with friends and family, free from the pressures of homework and testing. It also often means a lack of routine, schedule, or supervision, leaving youth to entertain themselves.

In her search for positive and productive summer activities to occupy Joey, Cat found a week-long camp at Pet Helpers, a local pet adoption center and spay/neuter clinic. TTVIP supported Joey's participation by addressing two major barriers to entry: TTVIP's scholarship fund paid the registration fee and Cat provided transportation to and from the camp each day.

"Everybody [at Pet Helpers] was nice. Everyone had a smile on their face, even when the puppies pooped," Joey told Cat, recalling his camp experience with a smile. Joey described how the camp allowed him to meet and play with dogs and cats (his favorite part) and taught him about event planning and fundraising. Joey even offered suggestions, like selling t-shirts with adoptable animals' faces on them to

raise funds for the organization.

When asked what he learned from the camp, Joey noted, "The animals aren't bad; people do bad things to the animals..."

"If people treated others how they want to be treated, it would all be good."

Joey described the different adoptable dogs to Cat, like the small brown dog that was all alone. "I had to go pet him, so he didn't feel alone," Joey explained. This empathy came as no surprise to Cat, who has noted his thoughtfulness for others during his time in the program. And Cat wasn't the only one who noticed Joey's kindness – the staff at Pet Helpers gave Joey high praise, noting how friendly and engaged he was throughout the week.

Once Joey completed the camp, he started the process of becoming a volunteer. "I want those puppies," he gushed.

It may seem simple to some, but engaging youth in pro-social activities like summer camps can change the trajectory of their lives. Yes, addressing unmet needs like housing, education, employment, and food security are essential to TTVIP's mission. However, we also believe those are grown up problems, and while many of the youth served by Turning the Tide are forced to grow up too quickly, we strive to take every opportunity to just let kids be kids.

**Name has been changed to protect identity.*

Gratitude

Your generous support is changing what's possible.

We'd like to give recognition and thanks to recent contributors to the MUSC TTVIP. Their support will help ongoing efforts for violence intervention and victim support in 2024 and beyond:

- Everytown Community Safety Fund Sustainer Grant. TTVIP was awarded a third year of funding that provides critical ongoing support of TTVIP implementation.
- Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education. This 3-year research grant supports the evaluation of TTVIP with a focus on patient-centered outcomes and impact.
- The Duke Endowment. In partnership with MUSC's College of Nursing, TTVIP is expanding services to include direct mental health care for violently injured patients and families.
- US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This grant expands TTVIP's services to include early identification and wraparound interventions for high-risk youth in the tri-county.
- And, to all of our individual donors for their support which allows TTVIP to care for our patients and families!

Thank you.

Because of you, the tides are turning!

If you'd like to join our efforts and support the TTVIP that is creating positive change in our community, please visit connect2.musc.edu/surgery and select "MUSC Violence Prevention Program."

Learn more about how you can support the Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program by contacting Christa Green, MPH, TTVIP Program Director, at greechri@musc.edu.

Learn more at Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program
muschealth.org/TTVIP

[Join Us! Support the MUSC Health TTVIP Program!](#)