

What is lynk?

lynk is an online, interactive youth violence prevention resource center. The site offers the essential “how to” that enables local government and community leaders to plan, implement, and assess their youth violence prevention efforts. The bottom line is...lynk informs planning and fuels action.

We call it lynk because it evokes the spirit of connection that is the purpose of the site – the connections between people that form communities; the connections between communities; and the connections to practical resources that help prevent youth violence.

What are the key values of lynk?

- lynk promotes a **community-wide approach to youth violence prevention** that involves and empowers all members of the community
- lynk supports **strong collaborative partnerships** that are essential for success in youth violence prevention
- lynk provides for **sustainable youth violence prevention efforts** by basing them within a broader strategic plan
- lynk facilitates **information sharing** across agencies, partners, communities, and governments
- lynk allows local communities to **promote** their own successful youth violence prevention efforts and **learn** what activities are successful in other communities

What does lynk offer?

- **Interactive training** on key elements of youth violence prevention and strategic planning, allowing all types of violence prevention planners, program staff, and researchers to move from research to practice
- **Personalized community workspaces** that guide violence prevention planners through a step-by-step process to develop a comprehensive youth violence prevention plan
- **Networking and collaboration tools** to connect individual communities to other cities, towns, and communities interested in preventing youth violence
- **Personalized tracking tools** to automatically organize and track each communities' efforts, showing their personalized goals and objectives for prevention
- **State-of-the-art resources** with hundreds of published documents from a variety of federal agencies on youth violence prevention topics so users are in constant contact with the latest efforts

Who can use lynk?

lynk can benefit any individual or organization who seeks to improve the health and quality of life of people in the community through the prevention of youth violence. Users can include leaders or members of a local neighborhood, parish, township, city, county, or government. Core users of lynk are:

- **Key decision or policymakers within local government**, including elected officials and their key staff, committed to implementation and sustainability of youth violence prevention activities.
- **Community leaders** and members whose participation and influence can contribute positively to planning, implementing, and/or evaluating community-wide youth violence prevention efforts.

What are the benefits?

- **Effective.** lynk helps users contribute to an overall improvement of health and well-being for people in their communities.
- **Connective.** lynk enables users to promote their own successes to other communities and to learn what other people are doing that works.
- **Comprehensive.** lynk provides visibility into virtually all topics needed to develop prevention plans to users in a community with a single, secure login.
- **Easy to use.** Users can be up and running very quickly. And lynk provides guidance on all the rest – from training to goal setting – lynk connects users to the steps they need to take to enhance their communities.
- **Always On.** Users can access anywhere, anytime over the Web, upcoming tasks, new data, and new resources that may help in prevention efforts.
- **Responsive.** lynk is being developed in phases. Its content and features will evolve based on needs and preferences from visitors to the site.

How can you get connected?

lynk connects people and helps strengthen communities. lynk provides access to resources, tools, and a strategic process to help youth violence planners develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive prevention efforts. Go to www.safeyouth.org and begin your journey through lynk today!