

# TURNING THE TIDE

---

## VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

2025 Summer Newsletter



Changing What's Possible



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Wow! This summer we are celebrating 4 years of Turning the Tide!

MUSC's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program (TTVIP) has served patients, families, the community, and MUSC Health care team members and trainees since July 2021. With critical funding support obtained, innovative partnerships within our health system and throughout the community, and an unwavering dedication to our patients and families, we are proud to be turning the tide against community violence in the greater Charleston area and serving as the only evidence-based hospital violence intervention program (HVIP) in South Carolina.

Others are taking notice, too. This summer, TTVIP had the honor of hosting Former Congresswoman and firearm violence survivor Gabby Giffords and current US Senator Mark Kelly, both of whom co-founded [Giffords](#), a prominent national gun violence prevention and advocacy organization. This was a memorable opportunity to educate their teams on how the HVIP model is implemented in practice at the local level and its impact on our patient care and community safety.

In other exciting news, Turning the Tide has been fortunate to welcome three new members to the team this year. Last Fall, [Kristen Moldenhauer](#) joined us as our Early Intervention Client Advocate for high-risk youth who are cared for at MUSC Health - Charleston. [Claire Jacoby](#) also joined as a Research Assistant to support the rigorous evaluation of TTVIP's impact on patients, loved ones, and healthcare providers. Most recently, [Herbert Jenkins](#) joined us as our newest Violence Intervention Client Advocate; check out Page 6 to get to know a bit more about Herbert.

In this season's newsletter, we are excited to share all that we've learned and how we've grown over the last year. From making important contributions to the field with our research activities and improving clinical care for violently injured patients with quality improvement projects, to providing true wrap-around services for high-risk youth and survivors, such as preventing evictions, re-enrolling students in school, and supporting emotional recovery via direct mental health services, *we are changing what's possible*. We hope that you'll join us in our efforts to make our communities safer for everyone.

In peace & service,

Ashley Hink  
Christa Green



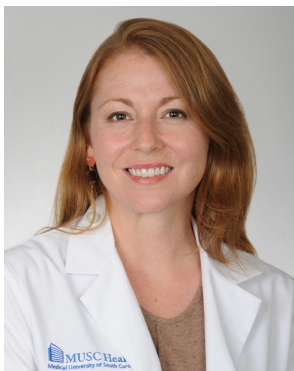
**Ashley Hink, M.D., MPH**  
Medical Director, Turning the Tide  
Violence Intervention Program  
Department of Surgery  
Medical University of South Carolina



**Christa Green, MPH**  
Program Director, Turning the Tide  
Violence Intervention Program  
Department of Surgery  
Medical University of South Carolina

# MEET THE TEAM

## PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Ashley Hink, M.D. MPH



Christa Green, MPH

## CLIENT ADVOCATES



Cat Yetman, BS  
*Violence Intervention*



Chantelle Mitchell  
*Violence Intervention*



Herbert Jenkins, D. Min  
*Violence Intervention*



Kristen Moldenhauer, MA  
*Early Intervention*

## INJURY PREVENTION COORDINATOR



Adrianna Bellamy, BSPH

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT



Claire Jacoby, BA

# 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. Last Fall, our program expanded to

provide early intervention services to youth 12-18 years old who are identified in our pediatric settings as being at high risk of experiencing community gun violence. Once enrolled in TTVIP, these youth receive the same services as our violently injured patients.

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.

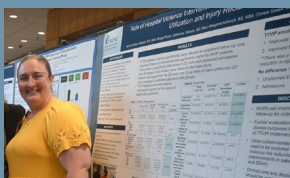
Services may include mentorship and encouragement, conflict mediation, and connecting patients to social services such as food, housing, education, employment, transportation, healthcare, mental health, substance abuse counseling, victims services, and community support.

# WHAT'S NEW



- ABC News 4, December 2024: 'Local police facing multiple fatal gun violence investigations as Holiday Season ramps up'

Christa Green, TTVIP Program Director, provides background on the factors that contribute to community gun violence and speaks to possible explanations for the recent uptick in violence being reported.



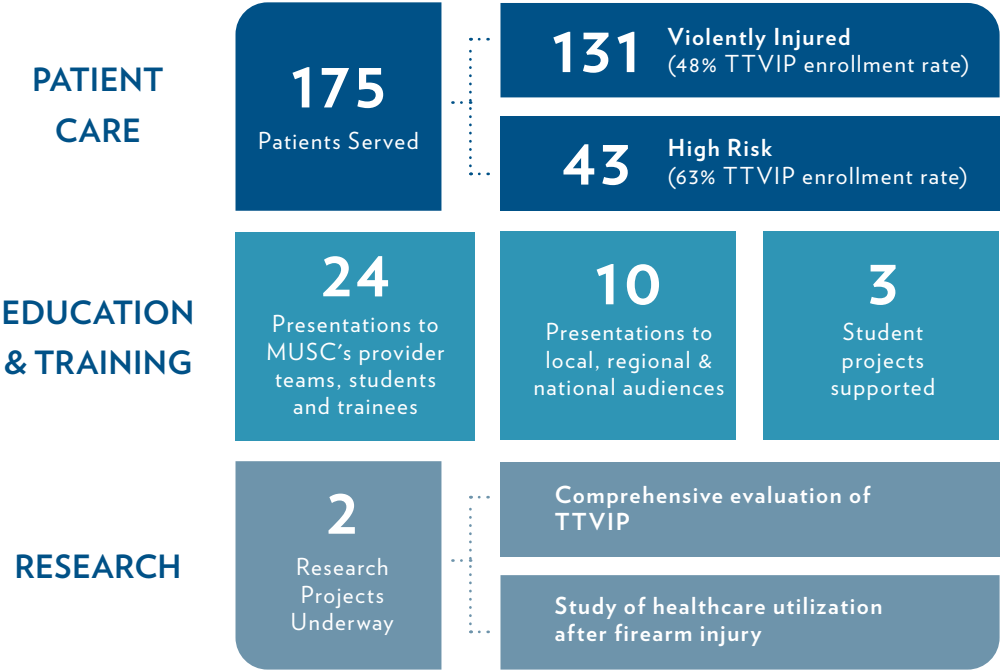
- Hannah Mixer-Kephart, M.D., an MUSC medical student who has been supporting TTVIP research activities, won "Best Poster Presentation" for her poster titled Role of Hospital Violence Intervention Programs in Post-Injury Healthcare Utilization and Injury Recidivism, at MUSC's Surgery Research Recognition Day 2025. Hannah also graduated this spring – Congratulations, Dr. Mixer-Kephart!



- Cat Yetman, TTVIP's longest serving violence intervention client advocate, just completed the HAVI's Violence Prevention Professionals certification training this Spring. Congratulations, Cat!

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

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



## TURNING THE TIDE TURNS 4!

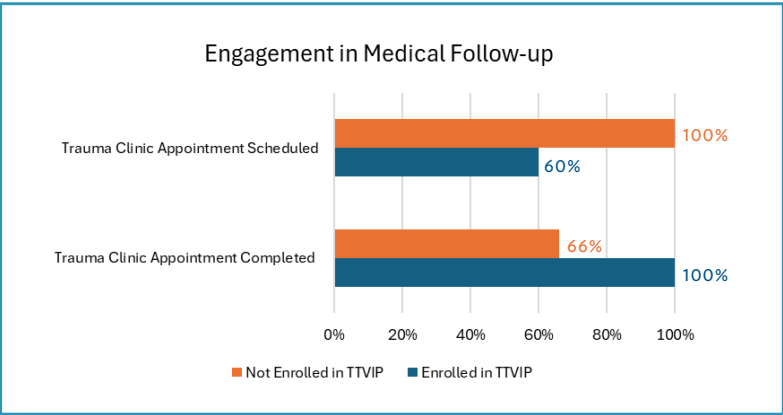
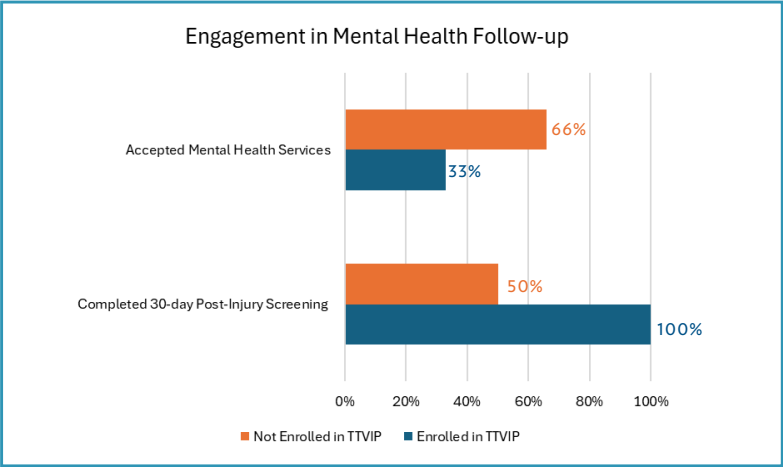
June marked 4 years of TTVIP implementation. In total, Turning the Tide's patient reach includes:



## RURAL INNOVATIONS OUTCOMES

In July 2023, TTVIP was awarded a grant to determine the feasibility of expanding services to patients that live in rural areas of the state who are transferred to MUSC Health – Charleston for treatment of their violent injuries (TTVIP typically focuses on patients living in the Charleston tri-county).

Rural patients enrolled in TTVIP had a 100% follow-up rate for their mental health and medical services (see graphs to the right). This finding highlights the impact client advocates have in supporting patients' care coordination immediately post-discharge. Better follow-up care reduces and prevents injury recovery complications, avoidable ED visits or re-admissions to the hospital, and the development of PTSD and depression.



# LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE

## CLIENT ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: HERBERT JENKINS

Turning the Tide welcomed [Herbert Jenkins](#) to the team this spring as our newest violence intervention client advocate. Herbert's passion for working with youth and young adults stems from his own challenges while growing up and seeing himself in today's youth. Now, as a member of MUSC Health – Charleston's care team, Herbert believes his role is to bridge the gap between a patient's violent injury and their recovery by supporting the "whole self," including the financial, emotional, educational, spiritual, and occupational challenges that arise after experiencing a violent assault.

When considering the ways in which Herbert can uniquely support Turning the Tide's patients and families, he identifies his study of the complex relationship between faith and anger and the stigma the Black community faces, particularly men and boys, when expressing emotion and healing from trauma. "My faith and my understanding of anger in its many forms grounds me in my ability to meet people where they are without judgment."

As he reflects on his role as a client advocate, Herbert recalls the African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." In the case of supporting youth and young adults after experiencing violence, Herbert offers his patients a chance to do that together. Whether it's ensuring his patients have a ride to their medical appointments, helping them open a bank account, or providing a safe space to be vulnerable, Herbert makes sure his patients know they don't have to go at it alone.



*"Though some healing happens in the hospital, the most crucial moments of recovery often come from the life the patient chooses to live once they discharge."*

*-Herbert Jenkins*

## TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH MIXER-KEPHART, M.D.

[Hannah Mixer-Kephart, M.D.](#), earned her medical degree from MUSC's College of Medicine this past spring, but as a busy medical student, she dedicated countless hours to supporting TTVIP's research activities. In early 2023, Hannah joined Dr. Hink's research team to examine the role TTVIP plays in improving access to follow-up care and reducing unplanned emergency department visits and hospitalizations after firearm injury. Hannah played a critical role in data collection and presented early study findings at the College of Medicine's Surgery Research Day in 2024, winning "Best Poster Presentation."

TTVIP is grateful for Hannah's commitment to our research and patients. Congratulations, Dr. Mixer-Kephart!



# A PATIENT'S JOURNEY THROUGH TURNING THE TIDE

## What it means to provide Wraparound Services

*Hop in! We're taking you along on a typical patient's journey with Turning the Tide. These journeys often have many twists and turns, speed bumps, and even detours. Sometimes the journey feels like you're in the express lane, meeting goals and addressing needs left and right. Other times, you might feel a lot like you're sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic, frustrated and looking for another way to get where you want to go. No matter what, you're always in the driver's seat and your TTVIP client advocate is always along for the ride, looking out for potholes and making sure you don't get lost.*

### 1 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT/ TRAUMA BAY

- Your client advocate (CA) is at your bedside when you arrive.
- They inform your loved ones and meet them in the waiting room.
- They comfort you while the medical team is treating your injuries.
- They work with your care team and liaise with law enforcement, so you know what's happening and what your rights are.
- Your CA asks about what happened so they can help you stay safe now and in the future.
- Your CA wants to get to know you and what's important to you!

### 3 COMMUNITY

- Your CA will continue to provide services in the community!
- Your CA may meet you at your house, school, or somewhere like a park so you can work together to meet your needs.
- While you're recovering, you probably have a few doctor's appointments - your CA will remind you and help you navigate them.
- Sometimes injuries can make it hard or overwhelming to get to appointments or access services; Your CA will pick you up so you don't miss these.
- After being injured, you might need support getting back to school or work. Your CA can help you get doctor's notes or request accommodations.
- If you're involved with the criminal justice system, or if this assault goes to court, your CA will be there to support and advocate for you.
- Your CA knows about tons of resources and services available in the community that can help you; things like food banks, jobs training, GED programs, housing assistance, and more!
- Over time, the goal is for you to feel good about accessing services and meeting your goals independently. When that time comes, you graduate from TTVIP!

### 2 ICU/FLOOR UNIT

- They spend time with you and your loved ones, making sure you feel safe, your pain is being managed, and your questions are being answered by the care team.
- They start to ask questions about your life, where you go to school or what you do for work.
- The CA tells you more about TTVIP and how they can support your recovery and help you meet your goals.
- The CA works with the care team to coordinate your discharge from the hospital.

# 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 helps sustain ongoing efforts for violence intervention and victim support in 2025 and beyond:

- Gildan. Based in Charleston, Gildan has generously donated clothing to stock TTVIP's patient wardrobe, which supports patients discharging from the hospital and clients experiencing financial hardship.
- South Carolina Center for Rural Primary Healthcare. This grant funded the pilot expansion project that supported victims of violence from rural SC communities who were treated at our Charleston trauma centers.
- SC Department of Public Health, Community Violence Intervention and Prevention. This grant provides essential ongoing support for 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.
- 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 [giving.musc.edu/surgery](https://giving.musc.edu/surgery).

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](mailto:greechri@musc.edu).

**Learn more at Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program**  
**[muschealth.org/TTVIP](https://muschealth.org/TTVIP)**

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