Violence is a Public Health Issue

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UC Davis, California Pacific Public Health Training Center
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Image Source:
http://www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org/communities/hamilton-county-oh
Please Answer the Polling Question

What field do you work in?

A. Education, K-12
B. Higher Education
C. Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement
D. Funder
E. Health or Public Health
F. Social Services
G. Faith Community
H. Local Government
I. State or Federal Government
J. Advocacy
K. Other
Please Answer the Polling Question

How many years of experience do you have working in the violence prevention field?

A. 0 years
B. 1-2 years
C. 2-5 years
D. 5+ years
In America’s cities, kids are killing kids over sneakers and other sports apparel favored by drug dealers. Who’s to blame?

BY RICK TELANDER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIRKO ILIC
IS URBAN VIOLENCE A VIRUS?

Gang killing persists like a terrible infectious disease in our cities. Maybe it should be treated like a disease. BY ALEX KOTLOWITZ
Making the Case

Violence as a Public Health Issue

- Violence is a leading cause of injury, disability and premature death.

- Violence is a significant disparity, disproportionately affecting young people and people of color.

- Violence increases the risk of other poor health outcomes.
What Is Needed?

A Public Health Approach to Prevent Violence:

- Population-based
- Works to increase protective factors
- Works to reduce risks
- Focuses on prevention
The Prevention Continuum

Up Front
Approaches that take place
BEFORE violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization

In The Thick
Immediate responses
AFTER violence has occurred to deal with the consequences in the short-term

Aftermath
Long-term responses
AFTER violence to deal with the lasting consequences and treatment interventions
The Prevention Continuum

**Up Front**
- Parenting skills,
- Quality after-school programs,
- Youth leadership,
- Conflict resolution,
- Social connections in neighborhoods,
- Economic development

**In The Thick**
- Mentoring,
- Family support
- Violence services,
- Conflict resolution
- Social connections in neighborhoods,
- Economic development

**Aftermath**
- Mental health services,
- Successful re-entry
Relationship Between Public Health & Criminal Justice

Three Intervention Levels

Primary Prevention
UPFRONT

Secondary Prevention
IN THE THICK

Tertiary Prevention
AFTER THE FACT

Responsibility

Public Health

Education

Behavior Modification

Punishment

Criminal Justice
The public health department led:
- community-strengthening efforts
- neighbor-to-neighbor bartering
- youth economic development programs

More than 40% reduction in violent crime in the neighborhood.
What violence prevention strategies are you currently using?
Prevention Works

Baltimore, MD

- Street outreach and violence interruption, based on the Chicago CeaseFire model

- Number of homicides cut by half, with no violent deaths in nearly two years at one site

Jefferson Steele/UrbaniteBaltimore.com
The 3 Keys Framework for Preventing Violence
Resilience and risk factors must be addressed.
Risk Factors

- Poverty and economic disparity
- Community deterioration
- Discrimination and oppression
- Firearms
- Illiteracy and school failure
- Incarceration and re-entry

- Experiencing and witnessing violence
- Media violence
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Mental illness
- Gender socialization
Resilience Factors

- Economic capital and opportunity
- Social capital
- Built environment
- Quality services and institutions
- Artistic and creative opportunities
- Positive relationships and attachments
- Opportunities for meaningful participation
- High expectations
- Positive social-emotional development
- Good mental health
Preventing violence requires a comprehensive approach.
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<th>Level</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Red</td>
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<td>Orange</td>
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<td>Green</td>
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<td>Purple</td>
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The Spectrum of Prevention

- Influencing Policy & Legislation
- Changing Organizational Practices
- Fostering Coalitions & Networks
- Educating Providers
- Promoting Community Education
- Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills
Schools can reduce violence by 15% in as little as 6 months through universal school-based violence prevention efforts.
The Spectrum of Prevention

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CeaseFire Chicago

DON'T SHOOT.
I want to grow up.

CeaseFire Hotline
866-TO-CEASE
www.ceasefireillinois.org

www.ceasefirechicago.org
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Educating Providers
Educating Providers
The Spectrum of Prevention

1. Influencing Policy & Legislation
2. Changing Organizational Practices
3. Fostering Coalitions & Networks
4. Educating Providers
5. Promoting Community Education
6. Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills
Violence Intervention & Prevention

Boston, MA
The Spectrum of Prevention

- Influencing Policy & Legislation
- Changing Organizational Practices
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Library Cards for All

Salinas, CA
## The Spectrum of Prevention

### Influencing Policy & Legislation
- Changing Organizational Practices
- Fostering Coalitions & Networks
- Educating Providers
- Promoting Community Education
- Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills
Los Angeles, CA

- Zoning ordinances shut down 200 liquor stores in three years.

- An average 27-percent reduction in crime within a four-block radius of each closed liquor outlet.
The Spectrum of Prevention

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- Changing Organizational Practices
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Preventing violence requires an integrated strategy for action.
Strategic Plans

Community Action Partnership
Crescent, California @ April 2008

Strategic Action Framework for Empowered & Thriving Youth

Blueprint

A vision for a world where all people feel safe and all young people live safe and opportunities deployed by caring adults, communities and organizations.

Prepared in partnership by Prevention Institute with funding from The California Endowment.

Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis

January 7, 2008
Minneapolis Blueprint for Action

Core goals:

- Connect all youth to trusted adults
- Intervene at the first sign of risk for violence
- Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
- Unlearn the culture of violence
Minneapolis Blueprint for Action

- 64 percent decrease in homicides of young people aged 15 to 24 years.
- Number of youth suspects in violent crimes dropped by 62 percent.
UNITY Web Pages

A Web-Based Tool for Cities

www.preventioninstitute.org/UNITY
UNITY RoadMap

THE UNITY ROADMAP IS A RESOURCE TO HELP CITIES PREVENT VIOLENCE BEFORE IT OCCURS BY MAPPING OUT SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY AND SUSTAINABLY PREVENT VIOLENCE.

» WHO does it take to prevent violence before it occurs?

» WHAT does it take to prevent violence before it occurs?

» HOW can we maximize and sustain efforts to prevent violence before it occurs?

BROWSE THE ELEMENTS

Organized by Partnerships, Prevention, and Strategy, the UNITY RoadMap has nine elements, each selected for its importance in sustaining efforts to prevent violence.

CLICK ON EACH OF THE ICONS ALONG THE TOP OF THE PAGE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OF THE ELEMENTS. EXPLORE CITY EXAMPLES, AND BROWSE MORE TOOLS AND RESOURCES OR EVALUATE YOUR CITY’S EFFORTS WITH THE ROADMAP GAUGE

www.preventioninstitute.org/UNITY
Mayor R.T. Rybak presented “The State of the Blueprint Report” at the Blueprint for Action Youth Violence Prevention Conference in Minneapolis, in May 2011. He described Minneapolis’ plan to prevent violence affecting youth, the Blueprint for Action, and he highlighted important gains made over the initial years of implementing this initiative. The following narrative is excerpted from his remarks.

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak’s top priorities are creating opportunities for youth, growing Minneapolis’ economy and making Minneapolis a safe place to call home, all within the framework of reform and fiscal responsibility. Mayor Rybak co-founded the highly successful Minneapolis Promise, and is

www.preventioninstitute.org/UNITY
Making the Case

Links Between Violence and Other Issues

FACT SHEET
Violence and Chronic Illness

FACT SHEET
Violence and Mental Health

FACT SHEET
Violence and Learning

Prevention Institute