THE FACE OF VIOLENCE ALL OF US PREVENTION LOOKS LIKE ALL OF US

Welcome! We will begin the meeting soon.

Violence Prevention Learning Lab Series

Sasha Cotton, Director

Office of Violence Prevention

May 6, 2021



Today's Learning Lab

- Welcome
 - Anthony Smith, Executive Director, Cities United
 - Sasha Cotton, Director, Office of Violence Prevention City of Minneapolis
- Overview from Cities United
- Cities United in Minneapolis
- Violence prevention initiatives
- Policy development and implementation

Transforming Community Safety... what does that mean?

Minneapolis is developing a new model for public safety, with community, for community, that is especially focused on ensuring the safety of **every member of our community.**

What does **safety** mean to you?

Our community safety model priorities



How we're developing the new model

Based on

- ✓ evidence-based research
- exploring opportunities
 for structural change
- community engagement and input



Violence prevention

Using a public health approach to break the cycle



Formal definition

Define the problem

Identify risk and protective factors

Develop and test prevention strategies

Assure widespread adoption



Factors and approaches

Ways we can protect against, prevent, and treat violence

Risk factors

- Exposure to violence and conflict
- Low parental involvement
- Diminished economic opportunities
- Involvement with drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- High level of transiency
- Low commitment to school



Protective factors

- Commitment to school
- Connected to family or adults
- Positive social orientation
- Parental/family use of constructive ways to cope with problems
- Involvement in social activities
- Skills for realistic planning



A note

Risk factors...

Do **not** automatically mean someone will

- behave violently or
- experience violence

Protective factors...

Do **not** necessarily automatically protect against

- experiencing violence or
- behaving violently



Violence is **preventable**

Violence is not inevitable.

Like other communicable diseases, we can

- Protect against
- Prevent
- Treat violence



Many factors

- \checkmark Violence is complex.
- ✓ Social conditions matter.
- ✓ Violence is much more than "bad" choices being made by "bad" people.
- Consider all factors that put people at risk for or protect from experiencing or perpetuating violence.



Violence is a cycle

How do we support individuals on a path toward healing and away from perpetuating violence they've experienced?



Many approaches

Violence is multifaceted. Solutions must be, too.

We all play a role in creating safe communities.





Understanding solutions

Violence prevention models and examples

Prevention Continuum



Prevention Pyramid

Focused on preventing further injury or additional violence with a focus on healing and restoration.

Lay the groundwork so violence does not emerge. Often involves infusing activities into the fabric of society. Long-term response to violence Tertiary Prevention

Early intervention or response to an immediate threat of violence

Secondary Prevention

Approaches that take place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization.

Primary Prevention

Addressed in the early stages, violence or associated risk factors are mitigated before all symptoms are apparent.

Next Step: Hospital-based violence intervention

https://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/support-services/next-step-program

Break the cycle of violence in partnership with hospitals

The Next Step program

- Connects victims of violent injury to resources and support
- Works in partnership with HCMC, North Memorial, and Abbott Northwestern hospitals
- Program staff
 - provide immediate bedside support for participants and their families
 - long-term community-based follow up for participants who want further support with changing their lives and stopping the cycle of violence



Image credit: Minnesota Public Radio



Project L.I.F.E.

www.northpointhealth.org/project-life

Group Violence Intervention program

- GVI Project LIFE Initiative
- Delivers an anti-violence message to active street groups
- Helps to provide pathways to exit the cycle of violence
- Eligible to group/gang involved individuals ages 18+
- ✓ Case management
- ✓ Individual development plan
- ✓ Referrals
- ✓Advocacy
- ✓ Coaching
- ✓ Basic needs assistance

Project LIFE

Working to address the actions of gangs/groups most responsible for driving serious violence in Minneapolis.

- Project LIFE is the local version of a national practice called Group Violence Intervention (GVI)
- Partnership between community members, social service providers, and law enforcement
- Addresses the actions of gangs/groups most responsible for driving serious violence
- Gives an authentic and credible offer of support for people who are ready to make a change



Impacts

Group member-involved (GMI) non-fatal shooting incidents May 4 to September 21, 2016-2019



2016 (before GVI): 93 GMI non-fatal shootings in Minneapolis between May 4 – September 21

2017 (the first year of GVI implementation) The number dropped to 42

2018

The number dropped again, to 25 for the same period

2019

There were 27 during the period

MinneapolUS strategic outreach initiative

Modeled on Cure Violence Global

MinneapolUS Strategic Outreach

- Trusted community members work as outreach workers who use informal mediation and de-escalatation to calm violence.
- Pilot phase launched in South and North Minneapolis in fall 2020.
- Pilot was a timely, visible, positive, and peaceful presence in communities to help reduce concerns around violence.
- We are using expert technical assistance as we move closer to launch of the next phase of implementation in 2021.

Community-driven strategies for violence prevention

- Violence Prevention Fund for communityled solutions to violence-related problems. Examples of projects include:
 - Community art projects/neighborhood activation
 - Youth skills training
 - Community outreach
 - Trauma awareness and resilience training
 - Race/restorative justice conversations
 - Community meals
 - Resource referrals

In 2019, the Office of Violence Prevention invested **\$325,000** in 10 agency projects that:

- Hosted over 100 events
- Engaged over 7,400 people in programs
- Served over 5,700 meals
- Provided stipends and meaningful skills training to 44 young people
- Had 1,600 outreach connections to resources
- Reported over 160 partnerships across the City

Thank you

Sasha Cotton Director Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention



100