

Facilitator Script

(Read the text in the boxes as you go through the PowerPoint slides)

Today's topic is violence. Violence can happen in many ways. You or someone you know can be a victim of violence. People can see something violent happen and/or they can commit violent acts themselves. We should all work to make our communities safer and prevent violence.

What is Youth Violence?

Harmful behaviors that can start early and continue into adulthood

Harmful behaviors such as:

- ◎ Bullying
- ◎ Gang-Related Violence
- ◎ Slapping
- ◎ Hitting
- ◎ Robbery
- ◎ Assault

Violence that begins during childhood and adolescence can also continue into adulthood. Some harmful behaviors include: bullying, gang related violence, slapping, hitting, robbery, and assault. “Young people can be involved with violence as victims, perpetrators, or witnesses.”¹

Some Facts on Violence

- © In the United States, violence kills more than 13 young people everyday²
- © Homicide is the #1 reason why young black people die³
- © Most die from gun violence



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The New York Times | U.S.

A Weekend in Chicago

Three days, 64 people shot, six of them dead: Memorial Day on the streets, and the violence that has engulfed families and neighborhoods.

JUNE 4, 2016

Chicago's 'Out of Control' Violence Produces 762 Homicides in 2016

By J.J. GALLAGHER and EMILY SHAPIRO · Jun 3, 2016 11:48 AM ET

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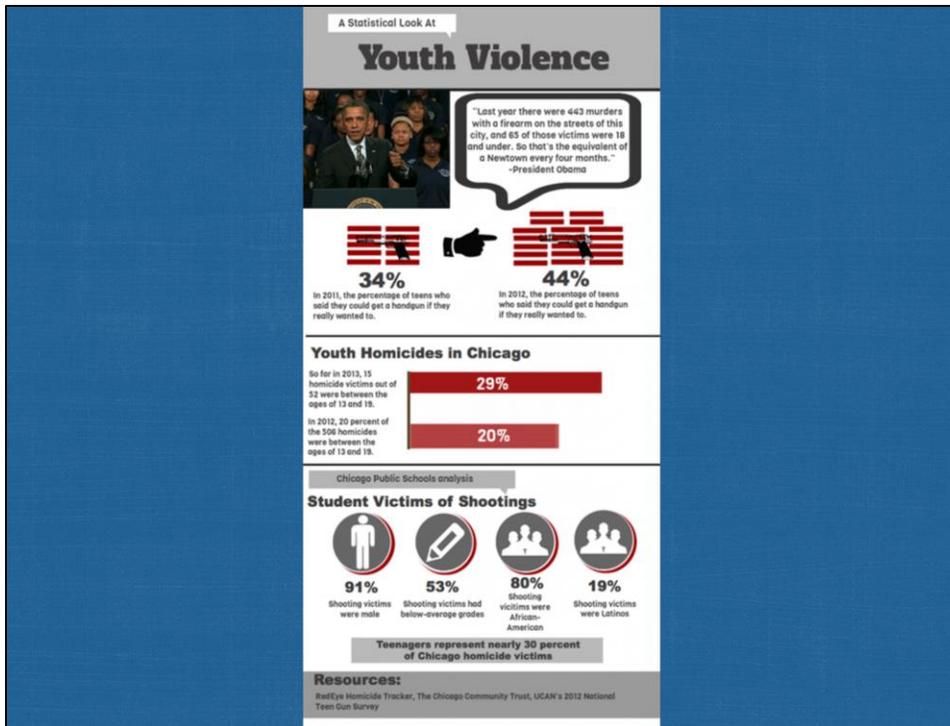
Chicagoans, each bearing the name of a murder victim, sit on the sidewalk along Michigan Avenue before the start of a Dec. 31 march to draw attention to Chicago's rising murder rate. (Photo: Scott Olson/Getty Images)

Violence in the Chicago Area

As you may know, Chicago has often been highlighted in the media for the amount of shootings and violence in its neighborhoods. News articles and headlines such as this one often describe the high incidence of shootings.

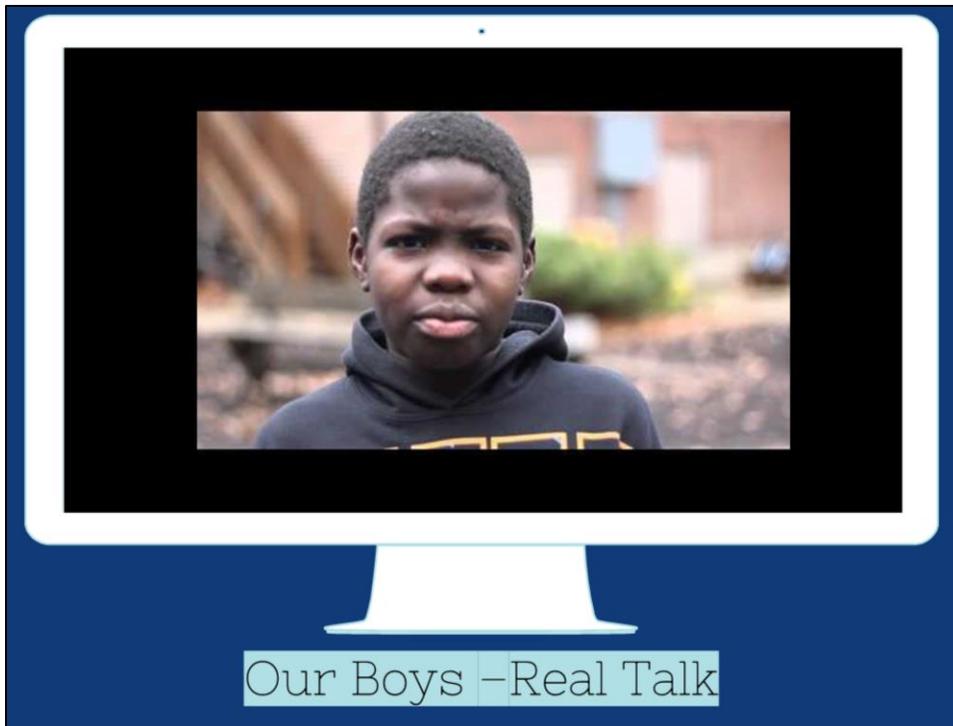


A high percentage of those who are shot or killed are people under the age of 24.



Access to guns plays a role in the number of shootings deaths as more and more teens have access to guns. As we see here, the percentage of teens who said they could get a gun if they really wanted to increased from 34% in 2011 to 44% in 2012.

When looking at Chicago public schools, 91% of shooting victims were male and 80% of the shooting victims were African-American. Overall, thirty percent of Chicago homicide victims are teenagers.



Violence is real and it affects the lives of many people. To demonstrate the impact violence has we are going to watch a short video called “Our Black Boys – Real Talk.”

(PLAY VIDEO)

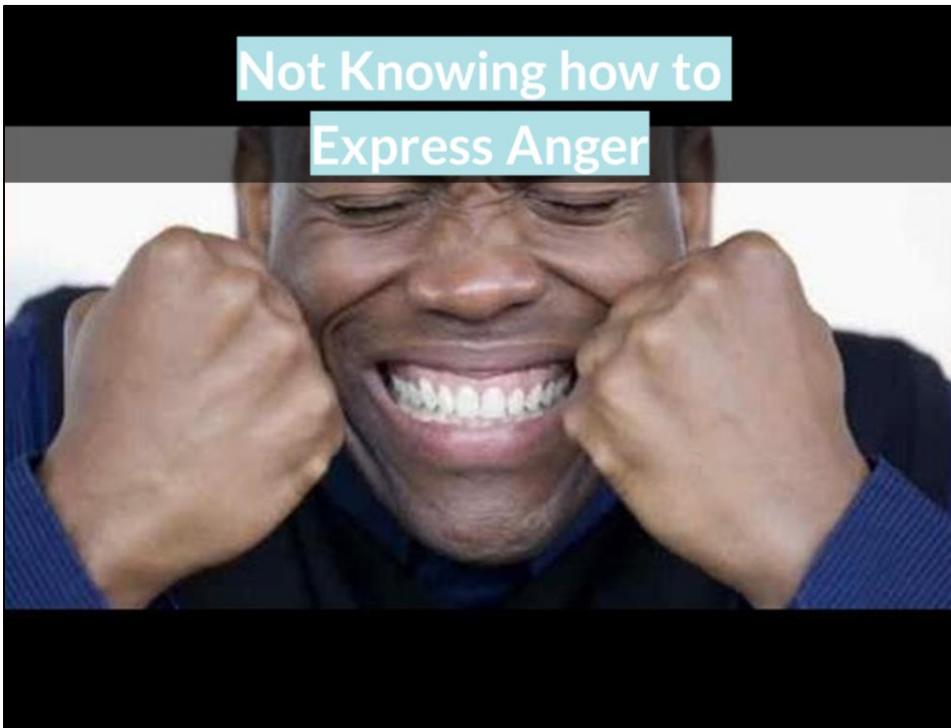
We care about violence because your life matters and no one should have to live in fear or feel like a target simply because of who they are.



What can make a person violent?

In order to understand youth violence it is important to consider the factors that make a person violent. What do you think are some things that can make a person violent?

(WAIT FOR ANSWERS)



Not knowing how to express anger can make someone violent by leading them to resort to violence to solve their problems rather than communicating or using other forms of conflict resolution.



Alcohol and drug use can increase aggression and violent behavior.¹¹



“Gang conflicts are a major source of violence in Chicago. In 2008, an estimated 36% of all Chicago homicides stemmed from gang altercations. Young people make up a large portion of these gangs. Nationwide, 40% of all gang members are [youth] under the age of 18.”⁴

Involvement in gangs or having friends who commit violent acts may make someone feel pressured to commit violent acts in order to fit in.

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Although the spread of violence can sometimes seem out of our control, there are things we can do to help prevent violence in our communities.

What are some things you think you can do to help prevent violence?

(WAIT FOR RESPONSES, THEN GO TO NEXT SLIDE)



“In 2010, 1,109 school-aged children were shot--an average of three per day.”⁴

We can help to reduce these numbers by respecting ourselves and the lives of others. This means staying away from weapons that could end lives.



“Youth who attend school regularly are much less likely to engage in violence.”⁴ Not only does staying in school occupy your time, but it can help you to focus on your future plans and career goals.



Get Involved in After School Activities

Getting involved in after school activities can also help you avoid violent behavior and other negative activities by serving as an outlet for you to channel your talent and skills.

The people you meet in after school activities can also be another form of support in your life.



Honoring those who have paved the way reminds you to stay away from violence as you work to carry on their legacy and be the best you can be.



Knowing your cultural roots allows you to learn from the past and build for the future. By understanding your rich history you can continue to promote growth within our community.



Surround Yourself with Positive Role Models

Surrounding yourself with positive role models can help you to avoid violence by providing you with people to look up to and people who can keep you on a positive path.



Building strong family ties can help you realize that you have a support system and people you can go to when you have problems or concerns.



By knowing yourself and your spirit you will know when you make need to step away from a situation that may result in violence. You will also have a greater sense of purpose for your life and who you want to become.



Get Involved

Although the media often highlights violence and negativity, there are also people and organizations in Chicago working to prevent youth violence. You can help stop youth violence by educating yourself and volunteering in the community.

Let's explore some opportunities to get involved in Chicago.

YMCA Urban Warriors



“Urban Warriors is a program of the YMCA of Metro Chicago’s Youth Safety and Violence Prevention initiative. The program pairs combat experienced veterans with youth exposed to violence in Chicago neighborhoods.”⁵

“These two groups share common life experiences—surviving in hostile environments and striving to cope. Together they discuss and process their experiences with violence, develop and share coping skills, and identify the strengths they have developed and how they can channel them to benefit their communities.”⁵

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“Youth violence in Chicago, typically peaks in the summer, when young people are out of school and outdoors. The One Summer Chicago program aims to reduce summer violence by providing youth ages 14-24 with productive jobs for the summer.”⁴

“A study shows that summer jobs help reduce violent crime arrests of participating youth by 43%.”⁶



One Summer Chicago

This video showcases some of the work young people have done through One Summer Chicago.

(PLAY VIDEO)

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“Youth who attend school regularly are much less likely to engage in violence. However, when students are afraid of becoming the victims of violence it is difficult for them to attend and engage in school.”⁴

“Through the Safe Passage program community members are stationed along pre-defined safe routes to keep students safe as they travel to and from school.”⁴



“In the Becoming a Man (B.A.M.) program, counselors work directly in Chicago Public School with groups of 7th - 10th grade boys to teach them how to positively express their anger and take responsibility for their behavior.⁴”

The program works to reduce violence and increase graduation rates.



This is a picture of the Becoming a Man group at violence prevention night with the Chicago Bulls basketball team.



In addition to participating in programs or organizations you can educate yourself through reading or watching documentaries such as ***The Interrupters*** which premiered in 2011.

The film showcases “members of the activist group CeaseFire [as they] work to curb violence in their Chicago neighborhoods by intervening in street fights and showing youths a better way to resolve conflicts.”⁸

You can watch the film online for free with wifi.

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You can also watch the documentary, *I Am for Peace*, “which tells the story of three Chicago public high school students who organized one of the largest student-led peace marches in city history to protest escalating gun violence killing their peers.”⁹



Another action step could be watching training videos from Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere.

The videos can help you understand some of the risk factors for youth violence and figure out ways you can help your community.⁷



Finally, if you want contact politicians such as a state legislator about gun violence the Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence provides a “toolkit with tips, sample letters and student petitions to help kids get involved.”¹⁰



Black Family Pledge

by Maya Angelou

- ♥ Because we have forgotten
our ancestors our children no
longer give us honor
- ♥ Because we have lost the path our ancestors
cleared, kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our
children cannot find their way
- ♥ Because we have banished the God of our
ancestors, our children cannot pray

To wrap up our presentation on youth violence we are going to read the Black Family Pledge by Dr. Maya Angelou. This is a pledge that we can all take to help us become better people who don't engage in violent behavior.

Let's say it together first and then...

Let's have 8 different volunteers read it one line at a time.

- 
- ♥ Because the long wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying
 - ♥ Because we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering, our befuddled children give birth to children they neither want nor understand
 - ♥ Because we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates, and holds up to the mirror of the world, shouting, Regard the loveless.

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♥ Therefore, we pledge to bind ourselves again to
one another;

To embrace our lowliest,

To keep company with our loneliest,

To educate our illiterate,

To feed our starving,

To clothe our ragged,

To do all good things knowing that we are more than
keepers of our brothers and sisters.

We are our brothers and sisters.

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♥ In honor of those who toiled and implored God with golden tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out of hopeless desolation,

WE MAKE THIS PLEDGE!!

What does this pledge make you think about?

(WAIT FOR RESPONSES)

Questions to Think About....

- © What would you say to someone who wanted you to look at a gun?
- © When would you fight someone if you were having an argument?
- © How can you avoid hitting someone who makes you mad?
- © Are you ever a coward if you walk away from a fight?

As you reflect on the topic and information that was shared here are some questions to think about.

(END OF PRESENTATION)