



Preventing School Violence

Speakers:

Col. Harry Corbitt
Director of Safe Schools and Violence
Prevention, Albany City School District

Ira Baumgarten, MA
Co-Director, NYS & CSEA Partnership for
Education and Training

Thanks to our Sponsors:

- School of Public Health, University at Albany
- NYS Department of Health
- NYS Community Health Partnership

Special Thanks to

- NYS Association of County Health Officials
- NYS Nurses Association

Viewer Call-In

Phone: 800-452-0662

Fax: 518-426-0696

Evaluations

Please visit

www.t2b2.org

to fill out your evaluation and post test.

Nursing Contact Hours, CME, CHES
are available.

Thank you!



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

For more information please contact the
University at Albany School of Public Health

518-402-0330
www.t2b2.org

Definition of a Gang

- Group of individuals
- Constantly Recruiting
- Share a common identity
- Engage in criminal activities
- Create fear
- Promote violence
- Control a territory



Trends Albany, NY School District

- Heavy emphasis on recruitment
- Increase in violence among girls
- More weapons
- Use of internet to promote gang activities



National Perspective

- Larger gangs such as the Bloodz, Crips and Latin Kings are starting to unite for the purpose of building organized criminal enterprises.
- Violent actions are becoming more graphic and frequent. Gang wars tax health professionals and police.



Juvenile Crime

- Gang members account for two to three times as many crimes as their shared counterparts. (SUNY-Albany study)
- Gang members committed 58% of crimes and more than half of the minor assaults, thefts, drug trafficking and property crimes. (University of Washington)

Cont.

Juvenile Crime Cont.

- Juvenile gang members accounted for 70% of drug sales.
- Juveniles committed three times as many serious and violent offenses as non-gang juvenile offenders.
- Most major cities report evidence of gang activity in the communities and schools



Health Implications

- **A buck fifty** (150 stitches to innocent person-gang initiation ritual)
- **Blood in** (Cut someone – usually not a gang rival – gang initiation ritual)
- **Beat in** (Allow a group of gang members to beat you for 60 seconds without defending yourself – gang initiation ritual)

Cont.

Health Implications cont.

- **Hell week** (Commit random acts of violence for a week – gang initiation)
- **Sexed in** (Have consensual sex with a select group of gang members – usually all that are interested – gang initiation)

Profile of Gang Members

- Person seeking acceptance
- Person seeking power
- Person seeking to break poverty cycle
- Person rebelling against systemic racism
- Person seeking protection
- Person seeking excitement
- Person seeking recognition

Gangs and Mental Health

Thomas P Kelley, Wayne State University, Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice, Vol 1, (2003 Sage Publication), purports that youth violence is primarily a function of generally poor mental health of American youth.

You join a gang and you will end up:



Dead
In prison
Addicted to drugs
Killing someone
Robbing someone
Watching your friends die
Visiting your friends in prison



Exit Strategy from a Gang

- Beat out
- Blood out
- Killed
- Relocate

The Need for Intervention

Communities need to pool resources and work together in a collaborative way, to design intervention programs, by empowering those most vulnerable that will reduce poverty levels and provide life skill training.

Best Practices

- Build Trust
- Practice good bed-side manner
- Heal the body, spirit and mind
- Build a strong referral base

National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI)

- NCBI moves individuals and organizations toward a just, inclusive society, through training and leadership development
- Founded in 1984, NCBI is an international non-profit leadership training organization which teaches people to see themselves as leaders who take initiative to counter the mistreatment of any group

National Coalition Building Institute NCBI

- Hundreds of chapters exists worldwide in cities, colleges schools, and organizations.
- Each chapter is composed of local leaders who are trained to provide prevention-based programs to reduce prejudice and inter-group conflict

FBI Study on Gun Violence

- Students have access to guns
- Students had experienced a form of public humiliation (victims become perpetrators)
- Students told someone what they were going to do before they did it

Building A Caring School Environment

- Anti-Violence
- Welcoming Diversity

NCBI – A Unique Model

- Train students and staff to lead together
- Builds stronger relationships between students, staff and school groups
- Healing Methodology

Transmitting Pain

Pain that is not transformed is transmitted

Against self or others

A Definition of Violence

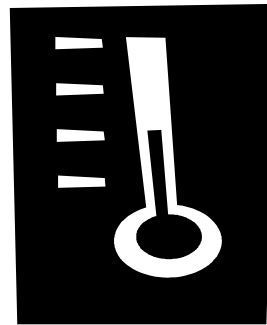
- Violence is physical, emotional, institutional and other kinds of behavior that can be construed as hurtful to oneself, to others, to nature or the world around us.

Reducing Violence

- To be able to reduce violence we need to be able to speak honestly about the violence and conflicts in our everyday lives.

Anti-Violence Thermometer

What heats things up and what cools things down?



The Chain of Violence

- Person A gets violent with Person B who then acts violently back to Person A
- Person A gets violent with Person B who then acts violently against Person C
- Person A gets violent with Person B who then acts violently against him/her self

Roles of Violence

- Aggressor
- Victim
- Witness
- Peacemaker

Roles of the Peacemaker

- Self check yourself to reduce your violent reactions
- Listen out to someone who has experienced violence
- Create a space for the parties in conflict to talk and listen to each other

Pledge of Non-Violence

- I promise that I will do my best to refrain from participating in acts of violence in my home, school and in my community.
- I also promise to stand with other human beings who are treated unfairly

Pledge of Non-Violence

Cont.

- I will remember that I want to live in a peaceful world, and by taking this pledge I will be doing my part to achieve this goal

Martin Luther King

“People don’t get along because they fear each other

People fear each other because they don’t know each other

They don’t know each other because they have not properly communicated with each other”

Key Messages for Public Health

“It takes a village to raise a child”

- Get involved
- Talk, listen, share, be an ally
- Consider systemic elements
- Get involved with community groups
- Promote resources
- Give your support
- Have hope

Resources

- Cops Care (Choosing to Lose)
1-888-856-4787
- Albany Gang Prevention Program
1-518-434-5351 (Ron Barrett)
- AmeriCorps School Success
1-518-434-5723 (Matt Clerico)
- Wave Riders – Hospice 1-518-694-4968
(Cathy Gayron)

36

Resources

- MODEL (males 12 to 16 years of age
1 518 542 4863 (Tyrell Hughes)
- Trinity Institute – Juvenile arrest diversion
program 1 518 449 5155
- Youth Violence Intervention – Restorative
Justice (jcutro1nycap.rr.com)
- YMCA (Washington Ave. Branch (Black and
Latino Achievers Program 1 518 449 7196
- Council for Unity Program-starting date to be
announced.

37

NCBI

National Coalition Building Institute
Ira Baumgarten, Facilitator
518-441-3535

www.ncbi.org
www.teachingtolerance.org

Evaluations

Please visit

www.t2b2.org

to fill out your evaluation and post test.

Nursing Contact Hours, CME, CHES
are available.

Thank you!

March 15, 2007

Public Health Works

Speaker:

Jo Ivey Boufford, MD

President

New York Academy of Medicine