

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Preventing Childhood Exposure to Violence



Overview of YVP Initiative in Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence was commissioned by the City Council in 2008. The Health Department leads and coordinates citywide efforts to implement the Blueprint using a public health approach to reduce and prevent youth violence.

Activities focus on

- planning and service coordination with jurisdictional partners;
- technical assistance to community-based agencies;
- data analysis and new program development to address service gaps

Our Public Health Approach

- A public health approach
- Identifies the issue using epidemiologic methods
- define risk factors and protective factors
- develop interventions
- Implement intervention
- Evaluation those interventions
- Interventions are multi-tiered but ultimately have a population or community base

Five Blueprint Goal Areas

The Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence Operates with Five goal areas:

- Foster violence-free social environments
- Promote positive opportunities and connections to trusted adults for all youth
- Intervene with youth and families at the first sign of risk
- Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
- Protect children and youth from violence in the community

A catalyst for cross-sector work

Partnerships

- Minneapolis Police
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Hennepin County Juvenile Corrections
- US Attorney's Office
- Minneapolis Employment and Training
- Youth Coordinating Board
- Community-based agencies
- Philanthropic community
- Business community

Mission and Vision

- Vision: All youth safe healthy and thriving
- Mission: To prevent youth violence through comprehensive approaches that support the development and successes of youth and families in their communities, encourage strong partnerships among organizations, and are culturally-grounded and asset-based.

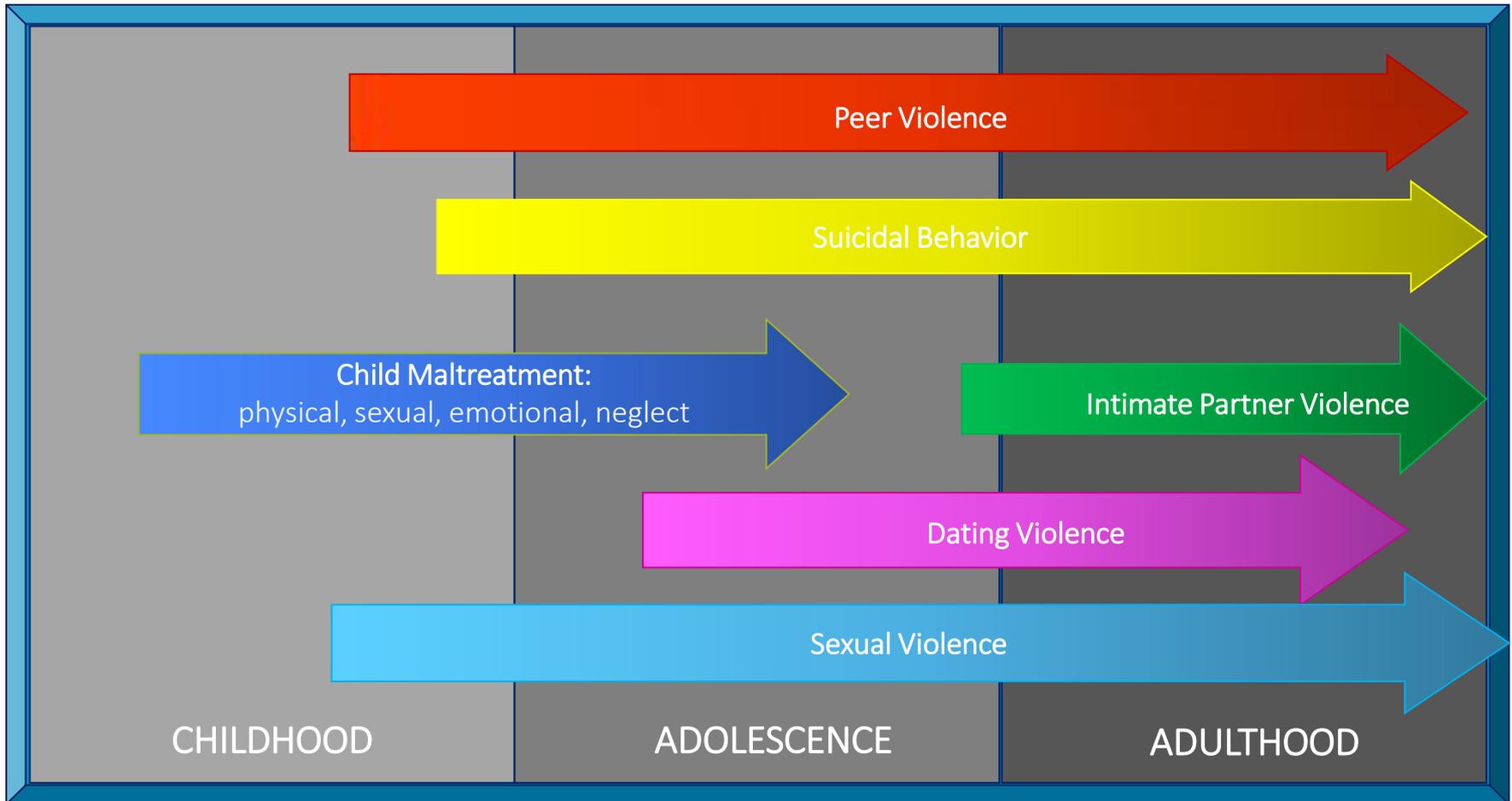
Childhood Exposure to Violence

- Better understanding of what is going on locally
- Convened cross-section of early childhood and domestic violence stakeholders together for series of meetings
- Two key recommendations
 - Increase awareness within community of impact of exposure to violence on childhood development
 - Sponsor mini-grants to build community capacity to work with young families 24 years of age and younger (multigenerational approach)

Definition of Childhood Exposure to Violence

- Childhood exposure to violence is defined as being a direct victim or witness to violence (physical and psychological/emotional) in the home, school or community between the ages of 0-9 years old.
- Periods of childhood that are most critical are prenatal to five because of the negative impact on early brain development.

Different Forms of Violence



Childhood Exposure to Violence

- National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence estimates
 - Up to 1 in 10 children in the US either witness or are victimized by co-occurring forms of violence



Local Year to date MPD Reports

- Total victims or witnesses to violent offenses ages 1-9 years old – 1,900
- 949 victims
- 137 witnesses
- 814 other person in incident

January – November YTD 2016

Top Categories by Primary Offense

- Child Neglect
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Assault in Fifth Degree (misdemeanor)
- Malicious punishment of a child
- Health and Welfare Holds



Trauma from violence changes children's lives

- When children grow up in environments where they don't feel safe, their brain cells form different connections with each other to better recognize and respond to threats
- Children living in a persistently threatening environment are more likely to respond violently (fight) or run away (flight) or withdraw/disassociate (freeze) than children who grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environment

Trauma from violence changes children's lives

- Too often, childhood trauma is misdiagnosed and misunderstood. Outwardly children may appear like typical kids. But inside, these children have been effected emotionally, mentally and even physically.
- Want to ensure parents as well as children don't merely survivebut thrive (understand the difference)

Recent Headlines

MINNEAPOLIS

A woman's plea for peace after fatal shooting of 2-year-old in Minneapolis

One woman pleads for peace after boy, 2, is killed.



By Natalie Daher Star Tribune | JULY 11, 2016 — 4:58PM



■ Video (01:33) : Minneapolis police are investigating a shooting involving two toddlers, one of whom has died.

MATT GILLMER

On a corner in north Minneapolis, a woman bellowed: "Stop killing our babies."

Recent Headlines

Watch: Alton Sterling's 15-year-old son says, 'The police in Dallas -- they didn't deserve that'

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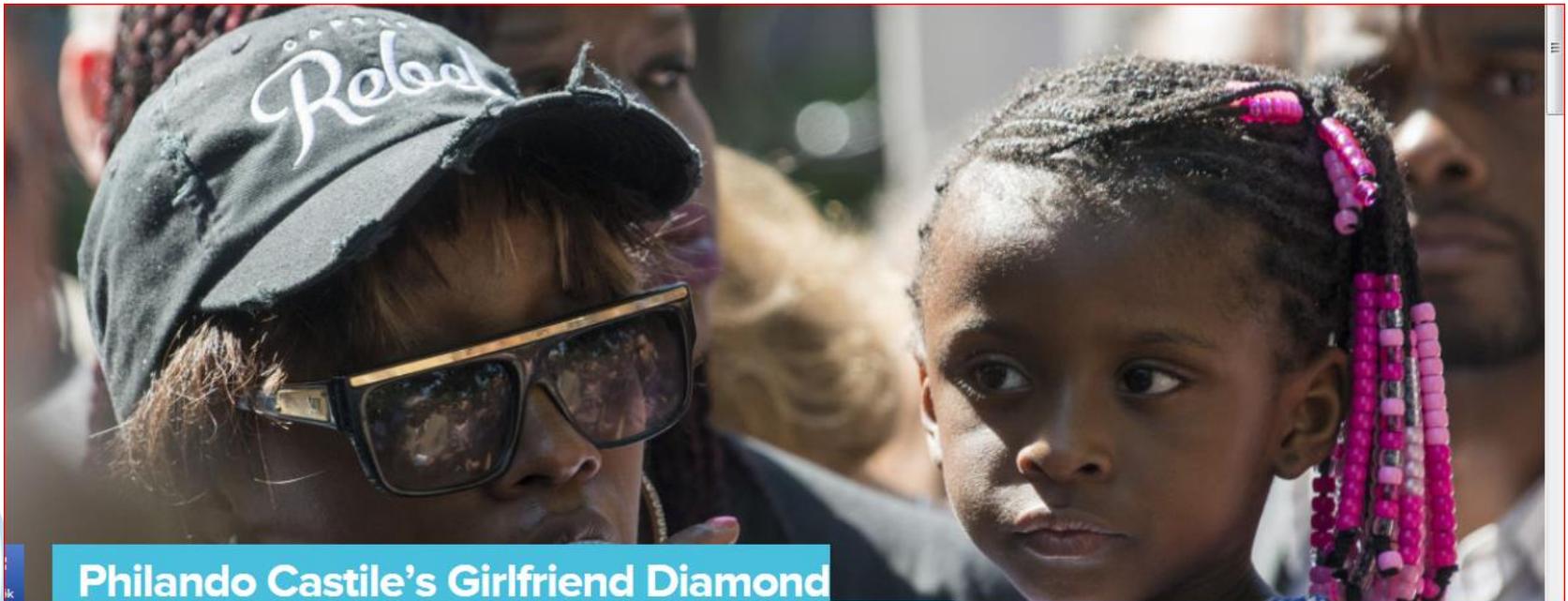
Bill Feig/The Associated Press

Cameron wept as his mother, Quinyetta McMillan, spoke about the shooting during a news conference and protest last week at Baton Rouge City Hall.

By **Liz Farmer** [Twitter](#) [Email](#)

Breaking News producer

Recent Headlines



Recent Headlines

MINNEAPOLIS

Mom of wounded Minneapolis 10-year-old describes life in the battle zone

Jon'tayasia Dillon-White wasn't safe in her bedroom from the violence outside.



By Pat Pheifer Star Tribune | JUNE 8, 2016 — 9:33AM

GALLERY GRID 1/6



LEILA NAVIDI - STAR TRIBUNE

Gallery: Jon'tayasia Dillon-White, 10, stands in her bedroom where she was hit

CDC Connecting the Dots

- Study looking at all forms of violence
- Risk and Protective measures
- Shared strategies that cut across various forms of violence
- Encourages communities to better align programs rather than work in silos i.e. DV, bullying, sexual assault etc.



Survivors of one form of violence are more likely* to be victims of other forms of violence

■ Girls who are sexually abused are more likely to:

- suffer physical violence and sexual re-victimization
- engage in self-harming behavior
- be a victim of intimate partner violence later in life

■ Youth who have been physically abused by a dating partner are also more likely to have:

- suffered abuse as a child
- been a victim of sexual assault
- witnessed violence in their family

■ Women and girls involved in gangs:

- often experience physical, emotional abuse by other gang members
- are more likely to have been physically or sexually abused as children



and sexual

*Likelihood refers to the probability of re-victimization as compared to non-victims. It never means always.

...(Cont.) Survivors of one form of violence are more likely* to be victims of other forms of violence

□ Youth who report attempting suicide:

- are approximately five times more likely to have been in a physical fight in the last year

□ Children who have been bullied:

- are at greater odds for becoming violent (e.g. weapon carrying, physical fighting)



*Likelihood refers to the probability of re-victimization as compared to non-victims. It never means always.

Source: Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). **Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence.** Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

Survivors of Violence are at Risk for Other Negative Health Behaviors/Outcomes

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

As ACEs “score” goes up, so does risk for...

- Risky Behaviors
 - Physical Inactivity, Smoking, Abuse,
- Chronic Disease
 - Obesity, COPD, Asthma, Disease, Heart Disease
- Other Health Outcomes
 - Teen Pregnancy, STDs, Miscarriage, Depression, Suicide Attempts, Early Death, Job Problems/Lost Time from Work, Perpetration of IPV



Although most victims of violence do not behave violently, they are at higher risk for behaving violently

- **Children who experience physical abuse or neglect early in their lives are at greater risk for committing:**

- violence against peers (particularly for boys)
- bullying
- teen dating violence
- child abuse, elder abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence later in life



- **Youth who have witnessed parental violence are more likely to:**

- bully others

What are Myths about Witnessing Violence?

- Myth: The younger the child, the less the child will be effected by exposure to violence.
- Fact: Young children are not immune to the effects of violence. Clinical experiences suggest that young children are deeply effected by witnessing violence, particularly if the perpetrator or victim of violence is a family member.



Myths

- Myth: Young children will not remember the violence they have witnessed
- Fact: Children do not forget what they have witnessed. Children's vivid accounts of violent events stand in contrast to parent's reports that their children did not see the violence or were unaware

Myths

- Myth: Violence is an urban problem and only children living in urban areas witness violence.
- Fact: Violence can occur anywhere... in suburbs rural etc.



Myths

- Myth: Violence is a racial problem affecting primarily Black and Hispanic children
- Fact: Research suggests that community violence is a function of poverty not race.

How do we minimize the impact of exposure to violence?

- Strategies/activities that enhance community support & connectedness
- Coordinated services
- Strategies that support families under stress
- Strategies that connect youth with supportive adults, pro-social peers, and their schools
- Strategies that build youth and families' skills in solving problems non-violently



City Efforts – Trauma and Families

- Minneapolis Violent Crime Hot Spots
 - Launched in 2015
 - Follow up home contacts on 911 DV related calls
 - 1018 Home visits April 2015-September 2016
 - 69% success rate
- Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma
 - SAMHSA funded initiative
 - Assist high-risk youth and families that have recently experienced civil unrest
 - Community driven

Changing Minds Campaign

- The Changing Minds Campaign is a national public service advertising (PSA) campaign created by Futures Without Violence and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in partnership with the Ad Council. The Changing Minds campaign was created to equip caring, consistent adults with five everyday gestures that they can practice with children exposed to violence to help them begin to heal and thrive.

Changing Minds Campaign

- www.changingminds.adcouncilkit.org/assets/online-videos/
- <http://changingminds.adcouncilkit.org/assets/online-videos/>

Changing Minds Campaign

- <http://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/what-do-kids-need/supporting-parenting/resources-for-families/>
- 5 simple gestures –
 - Celebrate
 - Comfort
 - Listen
 - Collaborate
 - Inspire

Questions?

