



# Violence Prevention

**Updated on October 20, 2022**

WHEREAS, in 2021, more than 797 people in Chicago were murdered, the vast majority with firearms, and there were 3,561 police-reported shootings<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, murder victims are disproportionately young, with the majority being 28 or younger<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, violence in Chicago has a greatly disproportionate impact on African American and Latino youth, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Black children and teens in Illinois are 15 times more likely than their white peers to die by guns<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism means children of color are more likely to be exposed to violence, experience economic and social disadvantage, and have reduced access to healthcare and other supports, negatively impacting health<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, illegal gun trafficking and illicit gun markets are the primary source of firearms used in crimes<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that more than 37% of American children and adolescents were exposed to violence in the past year and more than 51% in their lifetime<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, a large body of research shows that adverse childhood experiences and early exposure to trauma, including exposure to violence, parental separation due to the carceral system, and substance use and mental health issues in

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<sup>1</sup> Chicago Police Department, 2021. CompStat 12 Months Ending 31-Dec City Wide. [online] Chicago: Chicago Police Department, p.1. Available at: <<https://home.chicagopolice.org/wp-content/uploads/CompStat-Public-2021-Year-End.pdf>> [Accessed 22 August 2022].

<sup>2</sup>Graphics.suntimes.com. 2022. Homicides in Chicago: A list of every victim | Chicago Sun-Times. Analysis of 4-year average of homicide victims from 2018-2021. [online] Available at: <<https://graphics.suntimes.com/homicides/>> [Accessed 22 August 2022].

<sup>3</sup> EveryStat. Illinois Data: Gun Violence Among Children & Teens. Available at: <<https://everystat.org/#illinois>> [Accessed 6 September 2022].

<sup>4</sup> Boynton-Jarrett, R., Raj, A., & Inwards-Breland, D. J. (2021). Structural integrity: Recognizing, measuring, and addressing systemic racism and its health impacts. *EClinicalMedicine*, 36.

<sup>5</sup> Webster DW, Vernick JS, Vittes K, McGinty EE, Teret SP, Frattaroli S. *The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America*. Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, Baltimore, MD, October 2012. Available at [https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper020514\\_CaseforGunPolicyReforms.pdf](https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper020514_CaseforGunPolicyReforms.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Finkelhor, David, and Turner, Heather. National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence III, 1997-2014 [United States]. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2016-09-29. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36523.v1>.



the home, have a negative impact on brain development and are substantial contributors to poor health, including many adult diseases, and disabilities;<sup>7</sup> and

WHEREAS, victims of one form of violence are likely to experience multiple forms of violence in their lifetime.<sup>8</sup> And different forms of violence, including child abuse and neglect, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and elder abuse, are interconnected and often share root causes<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 an estimated 1,750 children died from abuse and neglect in the U.S. and approximately 7.1 million children were reported to be abused.<sup>10</sup> Of the more 3.1 million children receiving protective services in 2020, 76.1% were neglected, 16.5% were physically abused, and 9% of child maltreatment cases involved sexual abuse;<sup>11</sup> and

WHEREAS, child exposure to violence, including domestic violence, can negatively affect child health and brain development.<sup>12</sup> In 2021, more than 32,000 individuals contacted the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline, with more than 12,000 of these from Chicago alone. Chicago had an almost two-thirds surge in domestic-related killings and shootings from the previous year<sup>13</sup>. There were 10,095 domestic violence related arrests made by the Chicago Police Department in 2019. In the same year, there were 193,800 domestic violence related calls made to the Chicago Police Department and 24,400 calls made to the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline<sup>14</sup>.

WHEREAS, in 2017, 19% of public high school students nationally (and more than 21% in Illinois) reported being bullied on school property and about 15% nationally reported being bullied electronically (and more than 17% in Illinois) over the preceding year<sup>15</sup>; and

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<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Connecting the Dots, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/connectingthedots.html> [Accessed 30 September 2022].

<sup>9</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Connecting the Dots, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/connectingthedots.html> [Accessed 30 September 2022].

<sup>10</sup> Child Maltreatment Report 2020, Published 2022. Child Maltreatment Report. [online] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Available at: <<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/child-maltreatment-2020>> [Accessed 22 August 2022].

<sup>11</sup> Child Maltreatment Report 2020, Published 2022. Child Maltreatment Report. [online] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Available at: <<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/child-maltreatment-2020>> [Accessed 22 August 2022].

<sup>12</sup> Baker, L., and Campbell, M. (2012). Exposure to Domestic Violence and its Effect on Children's Brain Development and Functioning. Learning Network Brief (2). London, Ontario: Learning Network, Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children. [www.learningtoendabuse.ca/learningnetwork/network-areas/childresexposure](http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/learningnetwork/network-areas/childresexposure).

<sup>13</sup> The Network, 2022. Measuring Safety: Gender-based violence in Illinois Data Report 2021. [online] p.23. Available at: <[https://the-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/TheNetwork\\_Measuring\\_Safety\\_2022.pdf](https://the-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/TheNetwork_Measuring_Safety_2022.pdf)> [Accessed 22 August 2022].

<sup>14</sup> Data Report: State of Domestic Violence in Illinois. July 2020. The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence. Retrieved from <https://the-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Data-Report-State-of-Domestic-Violence-in-Illinois.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Wang, K., Chen, Y., Zhang, J., and Oudekerk, B.A. (2020). Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2019 (NCES 2020-063/NCJ 254485). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC.



WHEREAS, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that over 9% of Illinois high school students (and nearly 13% in Chicago) missed school at least once in the 30 days before the survey because they felt unsafe at school or traveling to and from school, compared to 8.7% of students nationally. That survey also found that 10.6% of Chicago high school students reported being victims of dating violence in the previous year, nearly 65% higher than the national rate<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 women have been the victim of attempted or completed rape; 1 in 14 males were forced to sexually penetrate another person and 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence<sup>17</sup>; and

WHEREAS, a strong, equitable, accessible mental health system is necessary to address the needs of those at risk for violence victimization and perpetration, especially youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are at greater risk of violence victimization; and

WHEREAS, juvenile violent offenders have often experienced a lifetime of trauma and systematic disadvantage and the juvenile justice system could provide an opportunity for intervention and treatment to prevent further delinquent behavior; and

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth are at greater risk of violence victimization and suicide-related behaviors; and

WHEREAS, gun manufacturers, dealers and the industry at large must be held accountable for their products through the state liability statute, and

WHEREAS, the best approaches to violence prevention take a life course and developmental perspective; reflect the ecological model of health, addressing the levels of the individual, family, community and society; and address multiple types of violence; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated public health approach to violence prevention—adopting consistent messaging about the preventability of violence, promoting use of evidence-based violence prevention strategies and fostering multi-sector collaboration—is recommended by national experts including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2019 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <<http://yrbs-explorer.services.cdc.gov/>> Accessed on [22 August 22].

<sup>17</sup> Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., Chen, J. (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>18</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2022. The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention. [online] Available at: <<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/publichealthapproach.html>> [Accessed 16 September 2022].



WHEREAS, Lurie Children's has joined in a national campaign with more than 1,000 hospitals and health associations led N.Y.-based Northwell Health that encourages parents to ask about gun safety. The campaign aims to reduce deaths caused by guns among children by encouraging parents to ask other parents and caregivers about gun safety and access.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago engage in policy, program and research initiatives to prevent violent injury to children and adolescents and reduce their exposure to violence; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that Lurie Children's engage in initiatives to support evidence-based gun violence prevention policies; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Lurie Children's engage in initiatives to address the disproportionate impact of gun violence on Black and Brown youth, and be it further; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Lurie Children's engage in initiatives to support juvenile justice policies that reflect evidence regarding adolescent brain development.