



Violence Prevention

May 30, 2013

WHEREAS, in 2012, 506 people in Chicago were murdered, the vast majority with firearms, and there were 2,460 police-reported shootings; and

WHEREAS, murder victims and offenders are disproportionately young, with the majority being 25 or younger;

WHEREAS, illegal gun trafficking and illicit gun markets are the primary source of firearms for juveniles and criminals; and

WHEREAS, the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that over 60% of American children and adolescents were exposed to violence in the past year; and

WHEREAS, a large body of research shows that adverse childhood experiences and early exposure to trauma have negative impact on brain development and are substantial contributors to many adult diseases; and

WHEREAS, over 1,500 children died from abuse and neglect in the U.S. in 2010, every year nearly 6 million children are reported to be abused and 9% of child maltreatment cases involve sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, 20% of high school students nationally reported being bullied on school property and 16% reported being bullied electronically in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 15% of Chicago high school students 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 5% of students nationally; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 18.5% of Chicago high school students reported being victims of dating violence in the previous year, almost twice as high as the national rate; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Police Department receives about 200,000 domestic violence-related calls annually and there were 8,700 domestic violence-related arrests in 2010; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the U.S. report being raped at some time in their lives; 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, 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, violence in Chicago has a greatly disproportionate impact on African American and Latino youth, families and communities; and

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

WHEREAS, the best approaches to violence prevention take a life course and developmental perspective; reflect the ecological model, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE 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 be it further

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

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