



Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Webinar Series

Part 1: Evidence-based Theory and
Research on CVI



Chiraag Bains, Special Assistant
to the President for Criminal
Justice & Guns Policy at the
Domestic Policy Council



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



Dr. Maury Nation, Professor, Department of
Human and Organizational Development,
Vanderbilt University



Dr. Maury Nation is the Robert Innes Professor of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Nation's work has focused on understanding and preventing youth violence, and poor school outcomes among adolescents and young adults. His work utilizes community psychology and public health strategies to support communities and schools that have been systematically and structurally marginalized and are disproportionately affected by violence. He is involved in collaborations with numerous youth-serving organizations, school districts, and government agencies. Currently, he is Co-Principal Investigator for the Louisville Youth Violence Prevention Research Center funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Also, he is the Principal Investigator of the Nashville Longitudinal Study of Youth Safety and Wellbeing, a five-year study funded by the National Institute of Justice.

Leveraging Social and Structural Factors to Understand and Prevent Community Violence

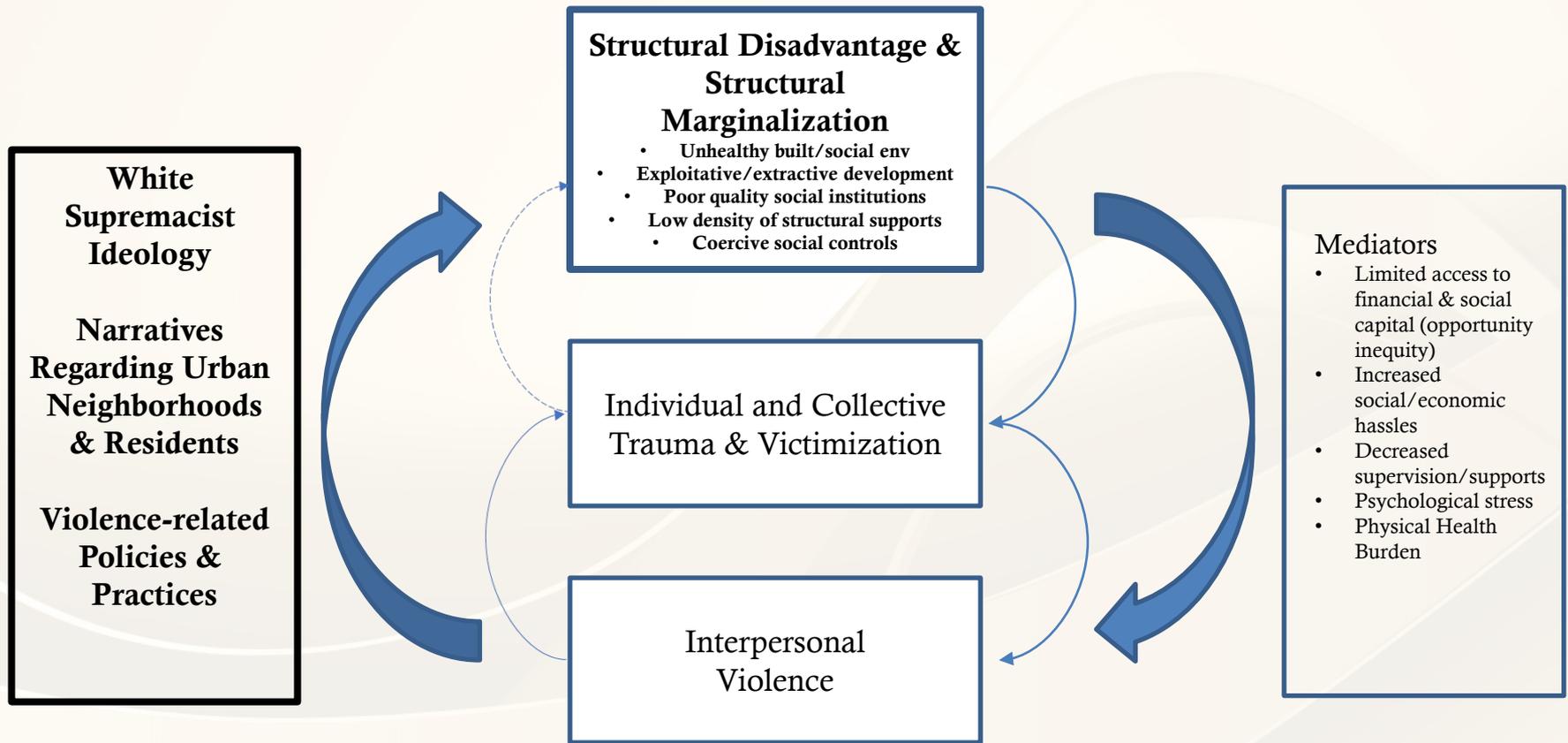
Maury Nation, Ph.D.

Robert Innes Professor of Human and Organizational
Development
Vanderbilt University

What is Community Violence?

- Includes a variety of modes of conflict, resulting in intentional injuries and/or deaths
 - Firearm/Gun Violence
 - Group Violence
- It is not randomly distributed
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities bear a disproportionate burden

Etiology of Urban Community Violence



Social Determinants of Community Violence

- Racism and discrimination
- Poor access to and/or poor quality:
 - Labor markets
 - Housing
 - Health care
 - Education
- Poverty – poor access to resources
 - Healthy food
 - Safe outdoor spaces
 - Educational experiences

Structural Determinants of Community Violence

Structural determinants are the strategies and tools used to regulate and/or maintain the distribution of the social determinants. Including:

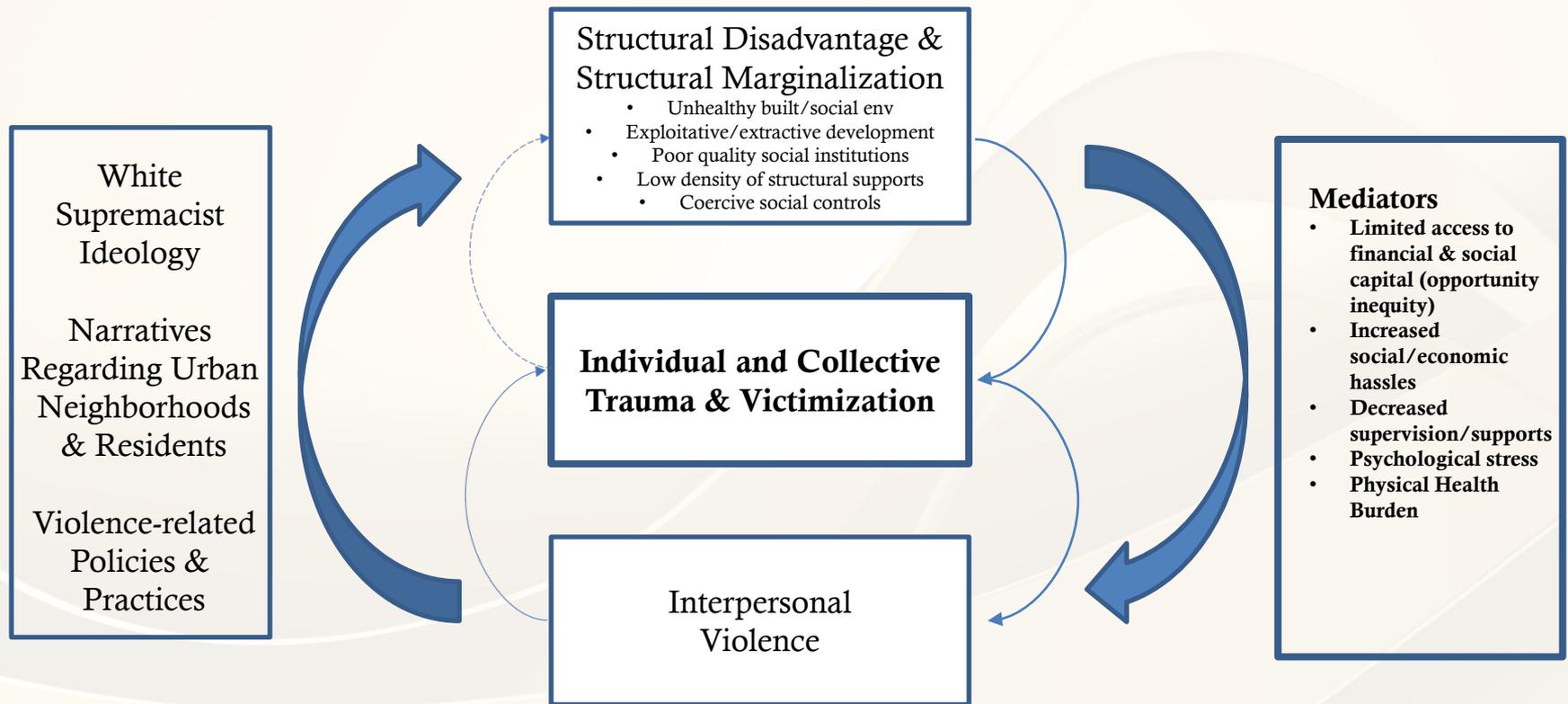
- Laws
- Policies
- Practices
- Values

Historical Determinants of Community Violence

Contemporary community structure is influenced by historical structure, including:

- Laws
 - Anti-miscegenation laws
- Policies
 - Segregated schools
- Practices
 - Racial steering
 - Race massacres
- Values
 - White supremacist ideologies

Etiology of Urban Community Violence



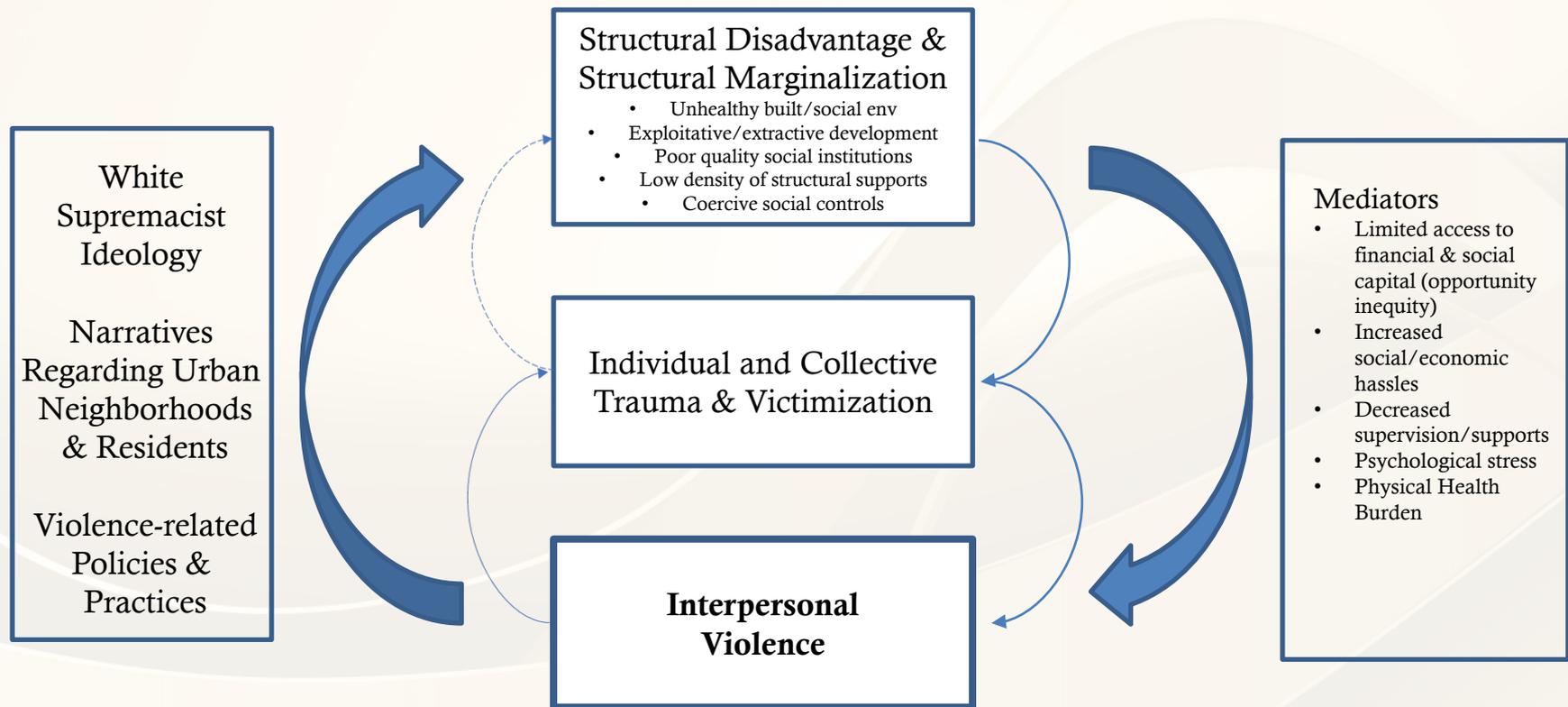
Direct Effects of Social and Structural Marginalization

- Collective Trauma
 - Posttraumatic slave syndrome (Degruy, 2005)
- Individual Trauma
 - Adverse Childhood Events
 - Higher exposure rates for Black and Latinx participants (Strompolis, Tucker, Crouch, Radcliff, 2019)
 - Poorer outcomes from exposure
 - Exposure to Violence
 - Greater for exposure for Black and Latinx youths (Crouch, Hanson, Saunders, Kilpatrick, & Resnick, 2000)
 - Exposure to Discrimination
 - Associated with stress and poorer mental health (Carter & Forsyth, 2010)

Indirect Effects of Social and Structural Marginalization

- Economic/Opportunity Inequity
 - Limited access to financial & social capital (opportunity inequity)
 - Poorly resourced schools
- Social Inequities
 - Increased social/economic hassles
 - Decreased supervision/supports
- Physical/Psychological Inequities
 - Psychological stress
 - Physical Health Burden

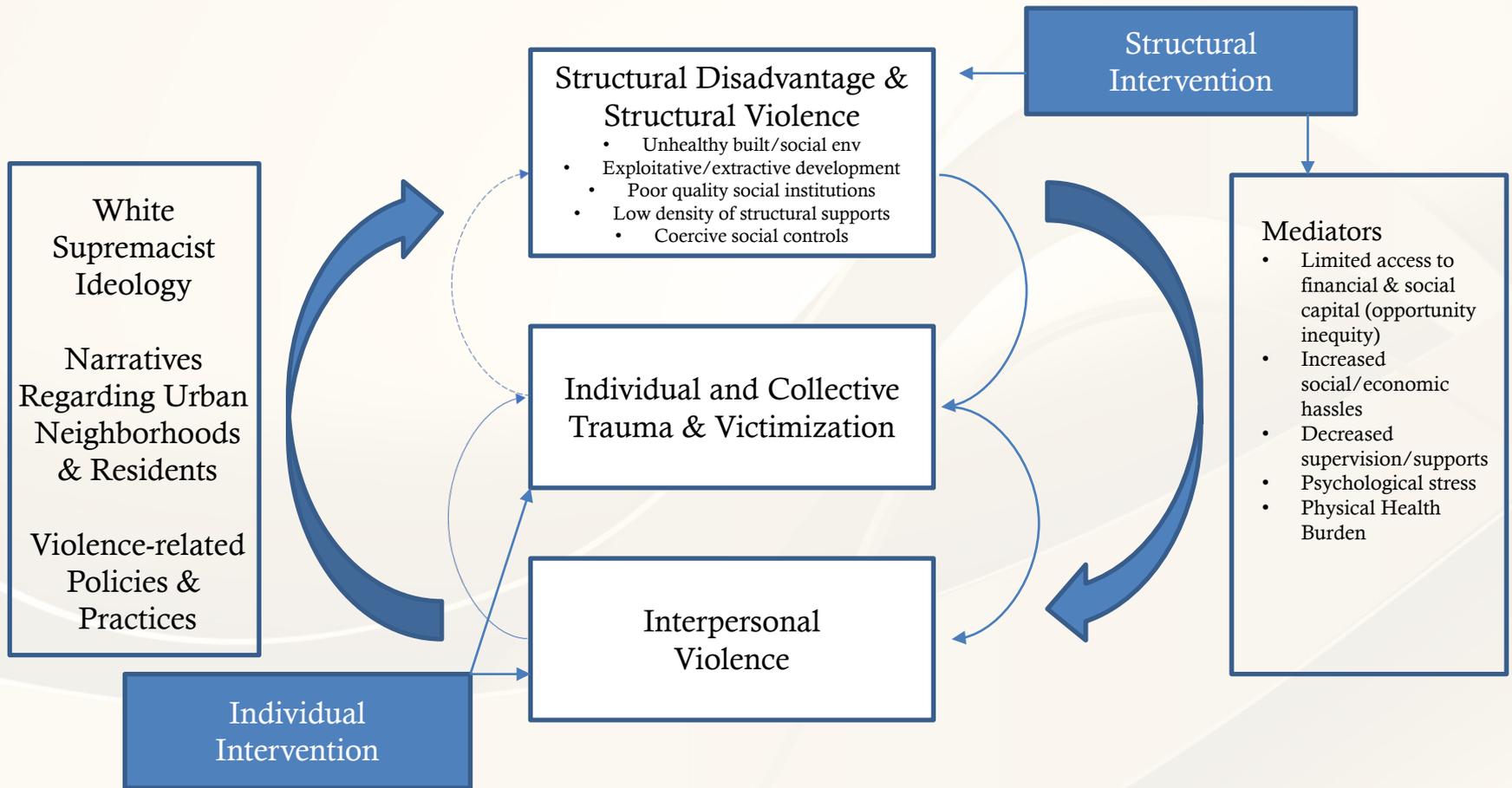
Etiology of Urban Community Violence



Individual and Interpersonal Risk Factors for Violence

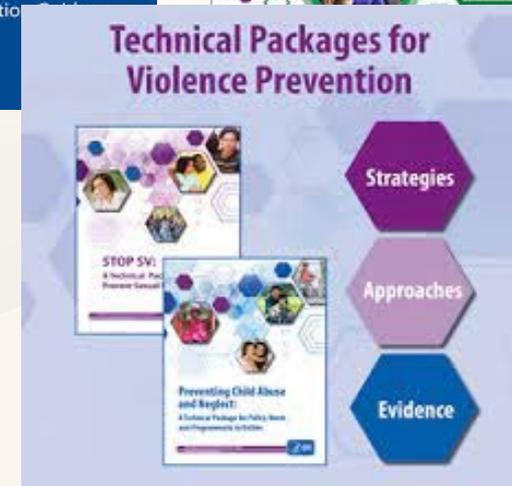
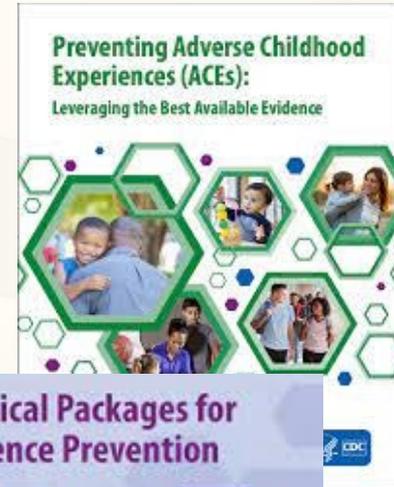
- **Individual**
 - History of victimization
 - High emotional distress
 - Poor behavioral control
 - Antisocial beliefs/attitudes
 - Exposure to violence
- **Family**
 - Low parental involvement
 - Low parental education/income
 - Parent substance abuse
 - Poor family functioning
- Lack of supervision
- Low attachment to parent/caregiver
- **Interpersonal**
 - Antisocial norms among peer group
 - Social rejection
 - Gang involvement
 - Lack of involvement in conventional activities
 - Low commitment to school/school failure

Urban Community Violence Interventions



Effective Community Violence Intervention

- Individual and Group Interventions
 - Schools
 - Hospitals
 - Communities
- Community-Level Intervention
 - Communities that Care
 - Community Greening
 - Pride, Peace, Prevention
- Structural Interventions





Dr. Shani Buggs, Assistant Professor, Violence
Prevention Research Program, University of
California, Davis



Dr. Shani Buggs is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of California Davis (UC Davis). A nationally known public health and policy expert in community violence, Dr. Buggs's primary areas of research include community-level gun violence prevention programs and policies and comprehensive approaches to reducing violence through initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels. Prior to joining UC Davis, Dr. Buggs worked for years with the Mayor's Office, Police Department, and other agencies and leaders in Baltimore, Maryland, to help coordinate efforts and provide technical assistance to enhance the city's violence prevention strategies. Dr. Buggs has secured federal and private funding to lead research projects that center the experiences of individuals most impacted by community violence in order to inform policies that reduce health disparities and promote safety and well-being for families and communities.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (CVI)

Shani Buggs, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine

Violence Prevention Research Program

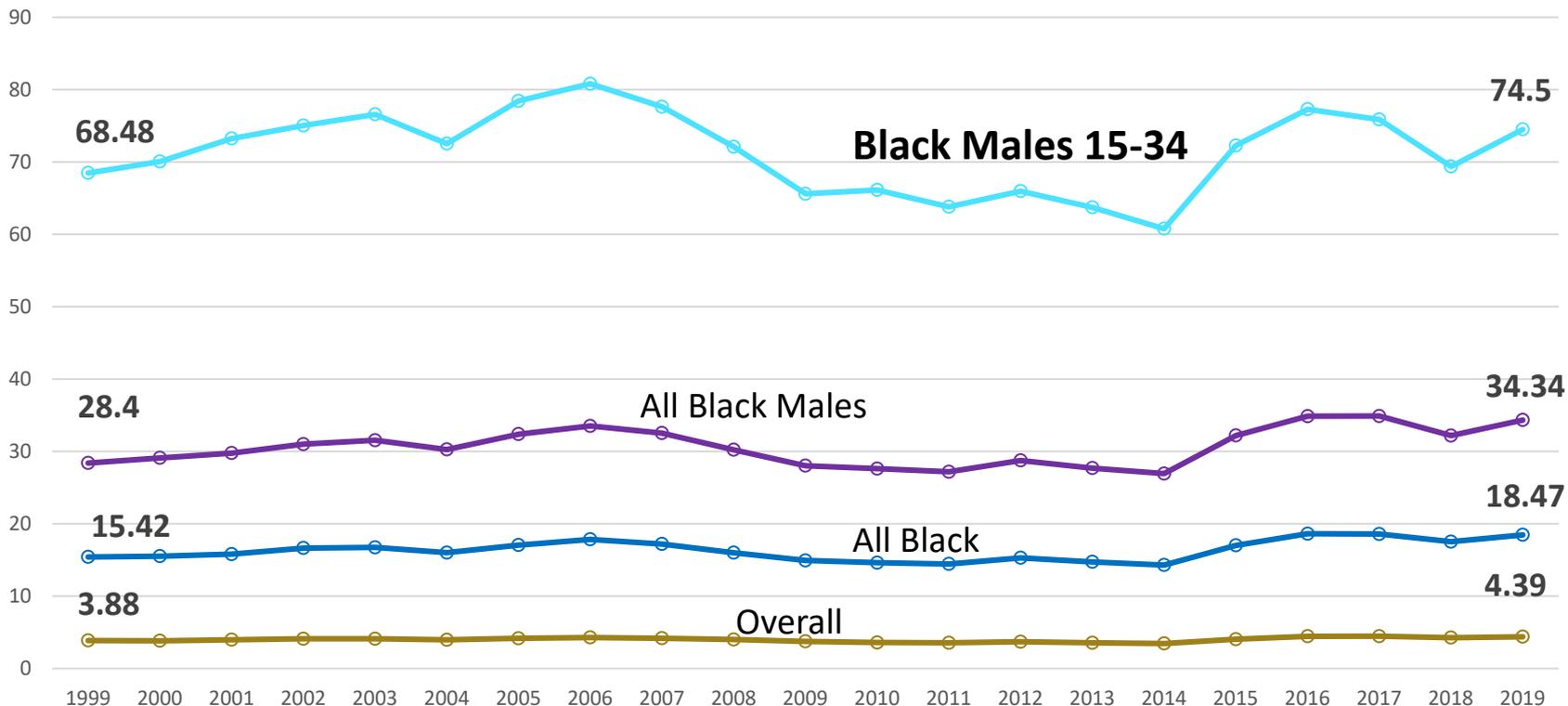
University of California, Davis

Community Violence Intervention Involves:

- Focusing on individuals at greatest risk for violence involvement.

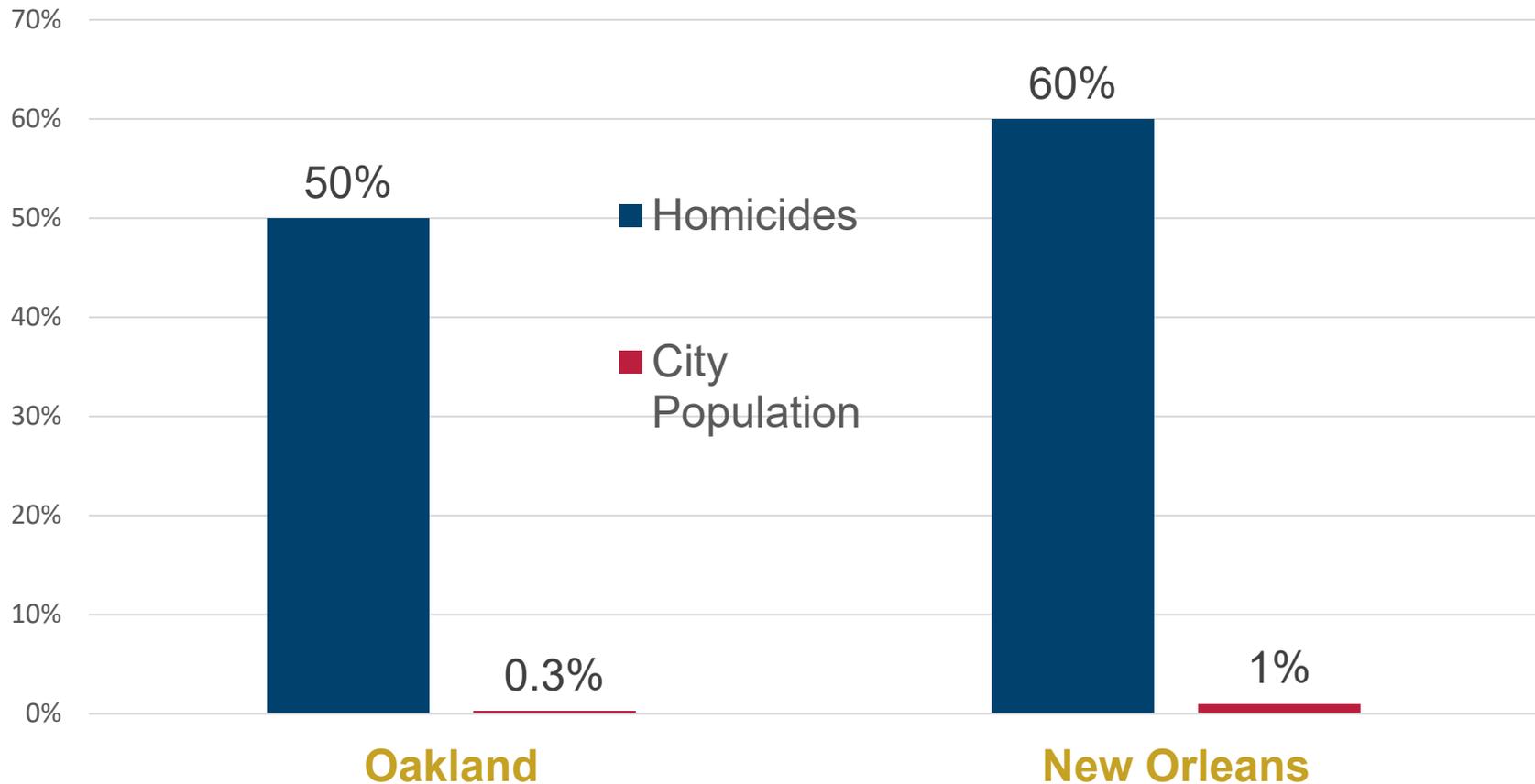
Concentration of Community Violence

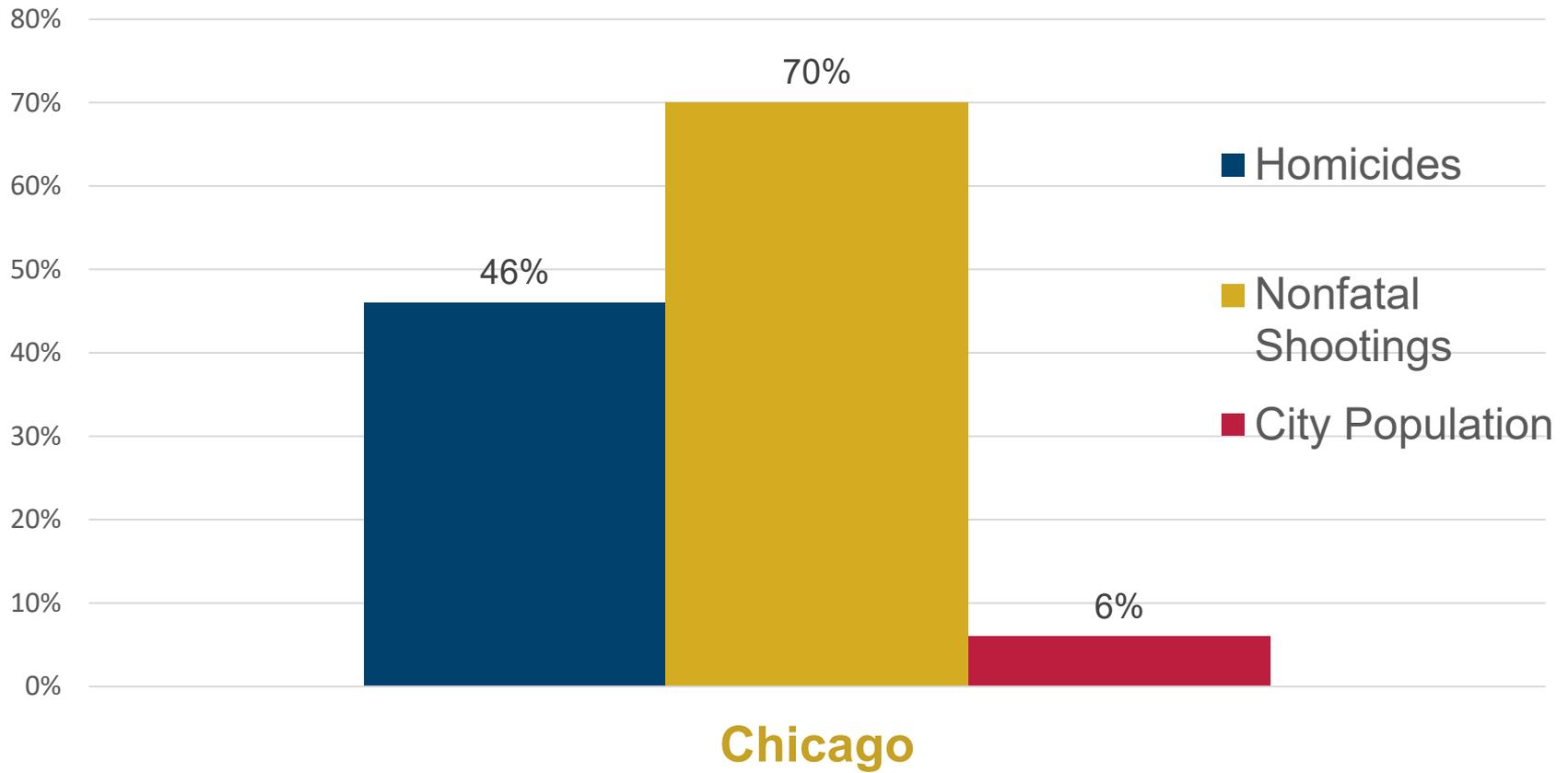
Annual Firearm-Related Homicide Rates in US, Overall vs. All Black vs. All Black Males vs. Black Males 15-34, 1999-2019

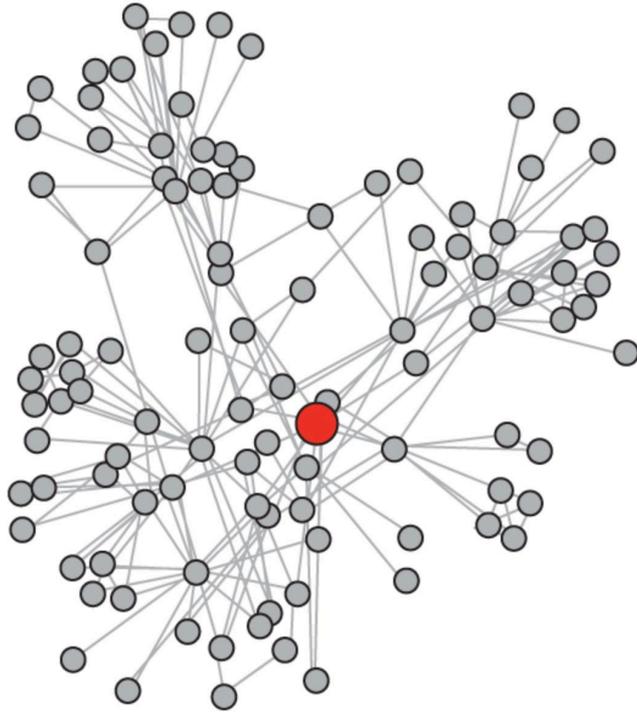


- Large share community violence committed by tiny fraction of population

**Even in communities with
high rates of violence**







Being in social network of a
homicide victim increases
homicide risk



900%

Community Violence Intervention Involves:

- Focusing on individuals at greatest risk for violence involvement.
- Addressing underlying risk.

“Hurt people hurt people.”

- In most community violence, the people who cause violent harm:
 - Have histories of violence, criminal legal system experience

“Hurt people hurt people.”

- In most community violence, the people who cause violent harm:
 - Have histories of violence, criminal legal system experience
 - Frequently have substance use disorders

“Hurt people hurt people.”

- In most community violence, the people who cause violent harm:
 - Have histories of violence, criminal legal system experience
 - Frequently have substance use disorders
 - Come from impoverished and difficult backgrounds

“Hurt people hurt people.”

- In most community violence, the people who cause violent harm:
 - Have histories of violence, criminal legal system experience
 - Frequently have substance use disorders
 - Come from impoverished and difficult backgrounds
 - **Overwhelmingly have had extensive trauma in their own lives**

Community Violence Interventions

- Community (“street”) outreach and mentorship

Community Violence Interventions

- Community (“street”) outreach and mentorship
- Violence interruption and crisis management

Community Violence Interventions

- Community (“street”) outreach and mentorship
- Violence interruption and crisis management
- **Group Violence Intervention**

Community Violence Interventions

- Community (“street”) outreach and mentorship
- Violence interruption and crisis management
- Group Violence Intervention
- **Hospital-based violence intervention programs**

Community Violence Interventions

- Community (“street”) outreach and mentorship
- Violence interruption and crisis management
- Group Violence Intervention
- Hospital-based violence intervention programs
- **Individualized wraparound services**
 - Intensive case management, housing/financial assistance, legal services, therapeutic services, grief counseling, substance use disorder treatment, job training, etc.

Community Violence Intervention Involves:

- Focusing on individuals at greatest risk for violence involvement.
- Addressing underlying risk.
- Having a fair and just system for holding individuals accountable for violent behavior.

Community Violence Intervention Involves:

- Focusing on individuals at greatest risk for violence involvement.
- Addressing underlying risk.
- Having a fair and just system for holding individuals accountable for violent behavior.
- **Eliminating inequities and advancing justice across communities to prevent future violence.**

Successful Community Violence Reduction Efforts in New York, Oakland, and Los Angeles

- Less focus on strict application of any particular CVI model

Successful Community Violence Reduction Efforts in New York, Oakland, and Los Angeles

- Less focus on strict application of any particular CVI model
- Authentic community engagement and feedback

Successful Community Violence Reduction Efforts in New York, Oakland, and Los Angeles

- Less focus on strict application of any particular CVI model
- Authentic community engagement and feedback
- Extensive wraparound services for program clients

Successful Community Violence Reduction Efforts in New York, Oakland, and Los Angeles

- Less focus on strict application of any particular CVI model
- Authentic community engagement and feedback
- Extensive wraparound services for program clients
- Inclusion of life coaching, supportive healing, case management, restorative justice principles, and community empowerment

Successful Community Violence Reduction Efforts in New York, Oakland, and Los Angeles

- Less focus on strict application of any particular CVI model
- Authentic community engagement and feedback
- Extensive wraparound services for program clients
- Inclusion of life coaching, supportive healing, case management, restorative justice principles, and community empowerment
- **Prioritization of productive and positive police-community engagement**

Successful Community Violence Reduction Efforts in New York, Oakland, and Los Angeles

- Less focus on strict application of any particular CVI model
- Authentic community engagement and feedback
- Extensive wraparound services for program clients
- Inclusion of life coaching, supportive healing, case management, restorative justice principles, and community empowerment
- Prioritization of productive and positive police-community engagement
- **Substantial, dedicated resource allocation to programs, participants, and staff**

Effective CVI requires **intentionality** and **focus** to drive shifts in both behavior and perceptions of safety.

It also requires access to vital **supports** and **services** that alter social and economic conditions.



Dr. Deborah Gorman-Smith, Dean and Emily Klein
Gidwitz Professor, Crown Family School of Social
Work, Policy, and Practice, University of Chicago



Dr. Deborah Gorman-Smith is the Dean and Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice at the University of Chicago. She is also the Principal Investigator and Director of the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention, one of five Youth Violence Prevention Centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Center, based at the Crown Family School, is devoted to studying and stemming the underlying causes of youth violence through evidence-based, collaborative interventions that focus on families and communities, linking them with schools, the justice system, social service agencies, and policy makers. Dr. Gorman-Smith is currently or has been Principal or co-Principal Investigator on several longitudinal risk and prevention studies funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the William T. Grant Foundation. She has published extensively in areas related to youth violence, including the relationship between neighborhood characteristics, family functioning and risk and the effects of family-focused, school-based and community-level preventive interventions.



Community-Based Violence Prevention

Deborah Gorman-Smith
Dean and Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

**CROWN FAMILY SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK, POLICY, AND PRACTICE**

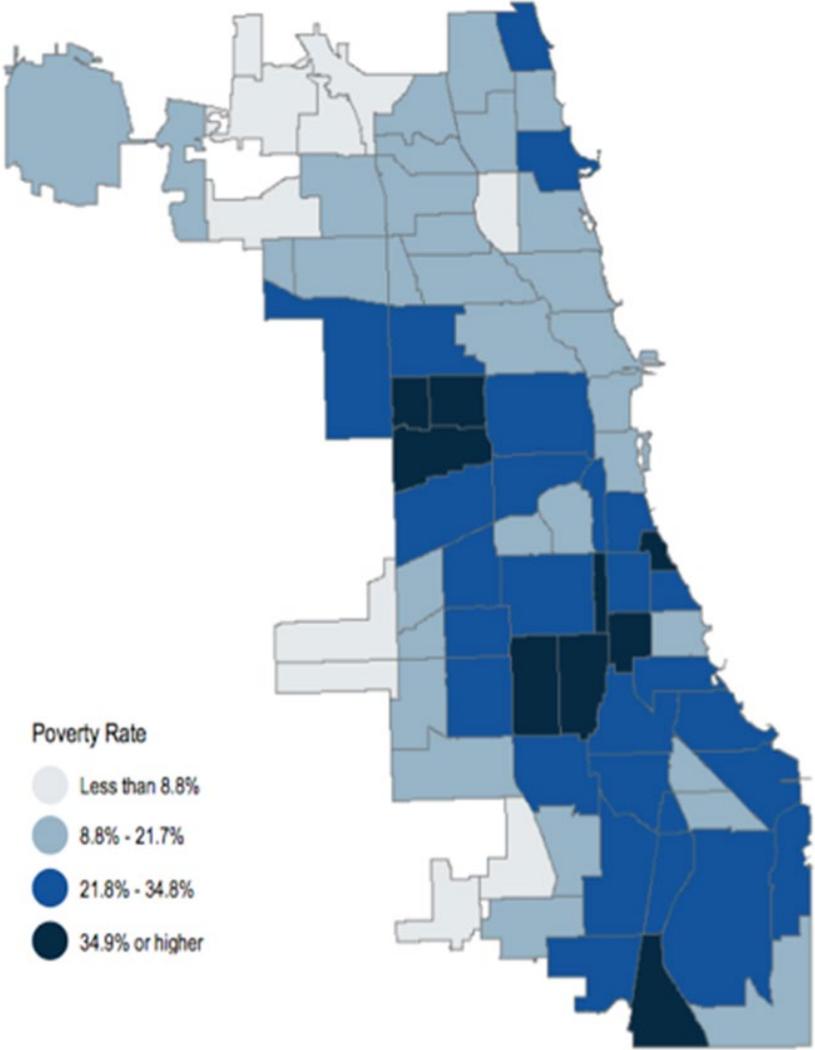
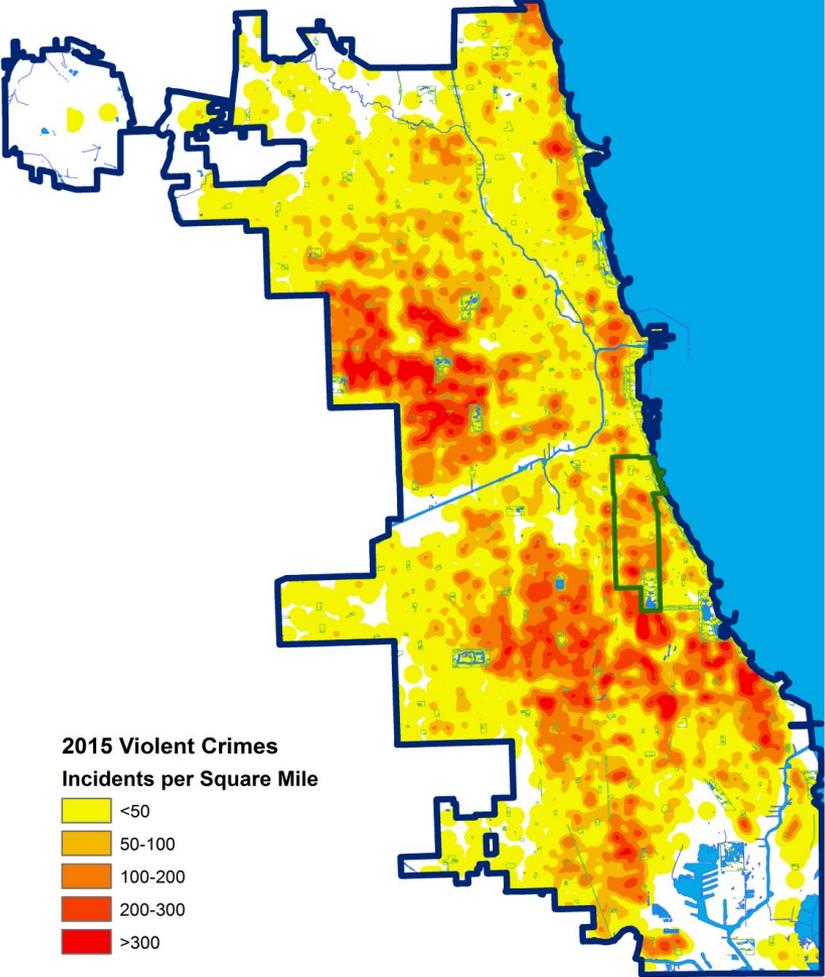
Advancing a More Just and Humane Society

This Presentation: Research Has Shown

- Violence is *preventable*
- No single solution to reducing and preventing violence
- Need to combine short- and long-term strategies within communities
 - Use of Street Outreach and Violence Interruption to reduce violence so the other work can succeed
 - Hospital-based programs; opportunity to intervene
- Impact of trauma
 - Youth, families, residents served and those providing the services

Violent Crime in Chicago

Poverty in Chicago



Chicago Youth Exposure to Violence (Adolescents 15-17 years old)



Type of Exposure	Ever	Past Year
▪ Seen someone shot or killed	18%	8%
▪ Close friend or family member murdered	32%	17%
▪ Any type of serious violence	87%	64%

*Data from 600 families across 30 neighborhoods/census tracts in Chicago
Neighborhood Matters, funded by CDC*

Impact of Trauma

- Exposure to violence and trauma related to:
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic disorders
 - School failure
 - Failure in jobs/work
 - Serious medical problems
 - Engage in criminal and violent behavior
- Exposure to this type of trauma can result in changes in brain physiology and function

Implications for Workforce

- Understanding the impact of trauma
 - For clients and workers
- Professionalization of Street Outreach
 - Training
 - On-going support and supervision
 - Salary
 - Job security
 - Pathway for professional development

CDC's Youth Violence Prevention Centers

Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention

- **Cure Violence**

- Public health approach to change community norms, mobilize and engage neighborhood residents
- Outreach work with high-risk individuals to change behavior, provide support to obtain services (e.g. job training, drug counseling)
- Interrupt escalation of violence, mediate conflicts

- **Schools and Families Educating Children**

- **(SAFE Children)**

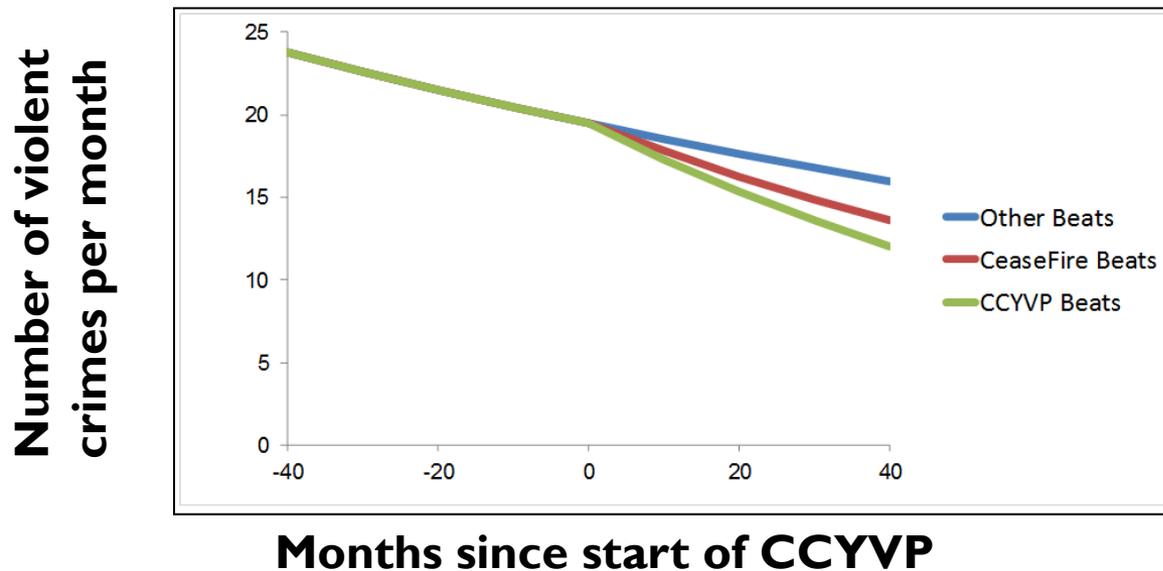
- Families of at-risk 1st graders; improve parenting and family functioning, parental involvement in school, child academic functioning and behavior
- Delivered in multiple-family groups to increase networks of support

- **GREAT Families**

- Families of high-risk 6th graders; improve parenting and family functioning, parental involvement in school, child academic functioning and behavior; delivered in multiple-family groups

Violent Crime Reduction

- **Significant reductions in violent crime**
 - Compared with all other police beats in Chicago, and other police beats where Cure Violence was present



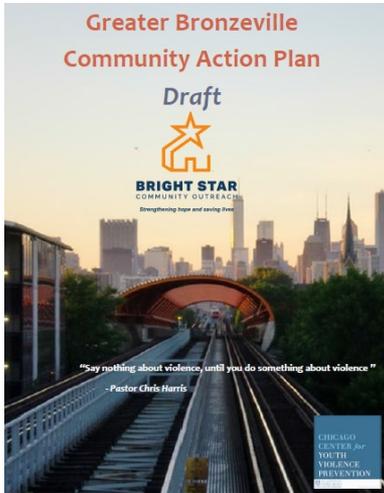
Collective Impact

Community-level approach to:

- Comprehensive and coordinated;
- use data to inform decision-making;
- build capacity;
- enhance community collaboration;
- enhance community social organization (collective efficacy) and norms regarding violence.



Partnership to Develop and Implement a Community Action Plan



- **More than 30 partners at the table**
- **Using data collected by the community:**
 - Student survey (21 schools - 1,673 students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades)
 - Neighborhood resident survey (400 residents)
 - Existing administrative data (e.g., crime, housing)
 - Conversations with key community leaders
- **Resource assessment and gap analysis**
- **Community identified targets**
- **Implement and evaluate programs**

CHICAGO CENTER *for* YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The goal: Reducing violence and strengthening community

Violence prevention

through youth,
family and
community
programs

Mental Health/Trauma

Faith-led support
and counseling

Education

Community
Action Council
(CPS)

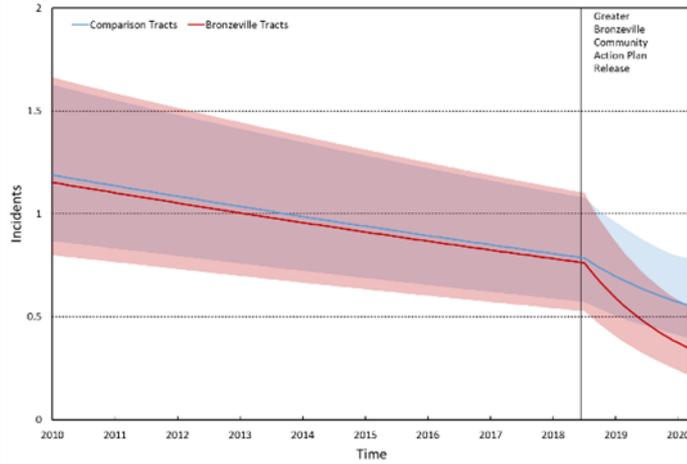
Workforce Development

Employment and
career
opportunities

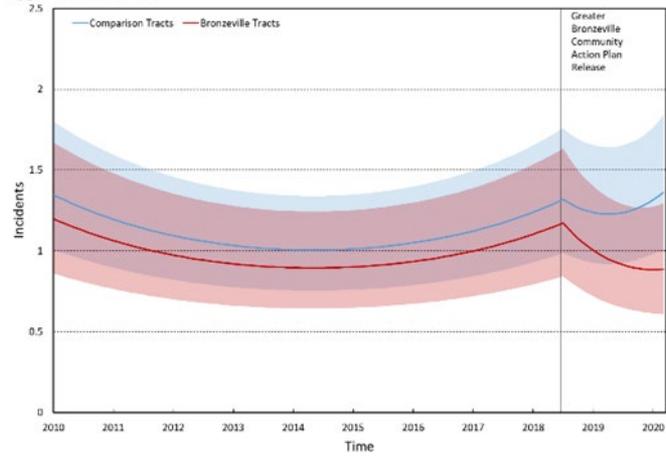
CCYVP provides programming, evaluation, and technical support.

Effect on Community-Level Crime and Violence

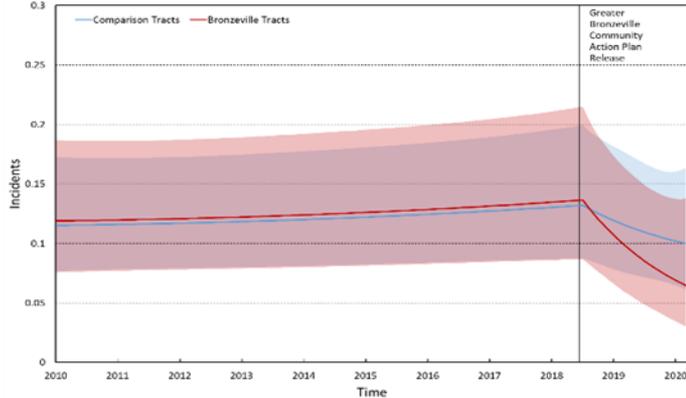
Robberies



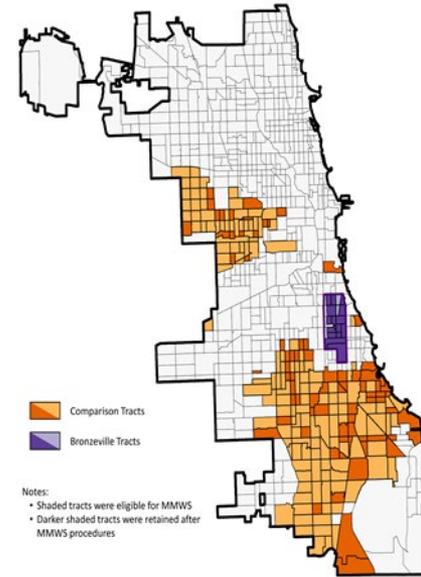
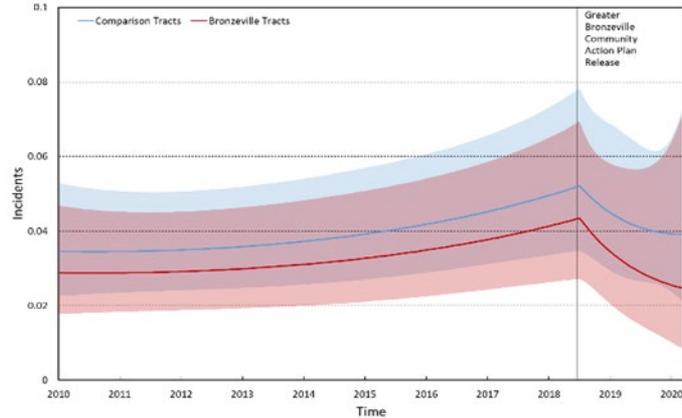
Aggravated Assaults



Shootings



Homicides



- Notes:
- Shaded tracts were eligible for MMWS
 - Darker shaded tracts were retained after MMWS procedures

Research Evidence Supports

- Use interventions like Cure Violence/Street Outreach to address immediate threats of violence
- Undertake longer term strategy, in partnership with community, to address structural and other levels of risk
- Work earlier in youth's development to prevent behaviors that lead to the need for interventions like Cure Violence
- Importance of supporting community-based organizations to build capacity



Thank
You!

