

Violence Prevention Webinar Series Part 1: What is Violence Prevention

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Welcome to our Violence Prevention webinar for our Summer Youth Employment Program 2014. Today we will be covering what violence is defined, we will be talking about gun violence, intimate partner violence, suicide prevention, electronic aggression, and how to prevent violence.

What is violence? Violence is an epidemic in our nation. Like many illnesses, it has preventable causes that we must target.

The definition reads: The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

And as you can see from the chart on the screen, there are some leading causes of death in youth 15 to 18 years of age. Now, these numbers are from 2010, but they haven't changed significantly in the past couple of years. And if you notice, the number 2 and 3 reason are homicide and suicide. So do you think the leading causes of death are significantly different from younger teens than what we have on the screen right now? Do you think it's different for children? Is it different for

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adults? Is it different for the elderly? It's all something that we need to pay attention to in our journeys through our lives to make sure that we are paying attention to violence and how we can prevent it in our lives.

Violence impacts infants to senior citizens. Individuals. It can bother the mental health of a person. It can impair the sense of security and safety. It can hinder the time spent outdoors or interacting with others. Or it can even cause loss of school or workdays. And it can also increase medical bills.

For families, it can cause broken homes or families. It can require court intervention and lawyer fees. It can cause an emotional toll on family members. And in the -- an emotional toll on family members. And in the communities, there could be increased spending on public safety. There could be less tourism or business. It can lower property values. And it can cause less new businesses to begin.

Society in general, it creates higher healthcare expenses. It can cause healthcare worker shortage. Or it can be a burden on the social welfare system.

Let's talk a moment about what the types of violence are. We have self-directed violence. That's towards your own body.

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It's like maybe you are a cutter and you start doing things to harm yourself.

Interpersonal is how most violence occurs. It could be your parent. It could be your child, your sibling, your sister or brother, or someone that you may not have even ever met.

Collective violence is like mob action. And it causes disruption to the entire community.

Let's pull out a poll here. Have you ever been the victim of a bully? Please take a moment to answer the question.

All right. I am going to hide that poll now. And let's move on.

Who is violent? Often bully and violence are sometimes interchangeable terms. If you look at the picture, you can't really tell who a bully might be. Now they are all smiling, but you don't know who they are. It could be your parent. It could be your child. It could be someone that you think is your friend. It could be a classmate, your cousin, your sibling (your brother or sister). It could be a total stranger.

At work, some of the statistics show that 48% of bosses are bullies. 45% of coworkers are bullies. And 31% of customers are bullies.

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So how do you recognize violence? You may not actually see the violence. It can begin with somebody just invading your personal space. Maybe they hit or kick, push, steal or hide your belongings. Maybe they try to make somebody do something against their will.

Body language is a big factor with violence and bullying. It can start with name calling or teasing, insulting people, threatening somebody with physical harm, or spreading rumors or untruths. It also has a lot to do with cyberbullying, which we'll be talking about later.

How you say what you say is also very important. By refusing to talk to somebody, that's a form of bullying or a potential form of violence. Making somebody feel left out or rejected, or encouraging others to bully in some way.

Some of the research that we found is that emancipated and transitional age youth -- now, emancipated and transitional are usually youth that are coming out of the foster care system. Those youth are at a heightened risk for becoming victims and perpetrators of violence. Children and youth in the child welfare system are at a greater risk for involvement in violence. And children who witness violence are more likely to

perpetuate violence later in life.

Women and girls are much more vulnerable as victims but are increasingly becoming perpetrators themselves.

Without support, people who are coming out of the penal system are at a higher risk for violence. And the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community is at greater risk for violent hate crime victimization than any other victims of hate crimes.

Gang affiliation increases the risk for involvement with violence as well.

So what can we remember from this section of our presentation? Violence is very intentional. Violence affects anyone of any age. Violence can be self-directed, interpersonal, or collective. Violent offenders and bullies can be the same and can be anyone that you know.