Public Health and Preventing Violence

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A Public Health Approach to Violence

- Population-based
- Focuses on prevention
- Reduces risks
- Increases protective factors

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Public Health Roles

- Prevention & population
- Measurement & evaluation
- Coordination
- Capacity building
- Data-informed strategy
- Advocacy
- Convening
The Relationship Between Public Health & Criminal Justice

Three Intervention Levels

- **UPFRONT**
  - Education
  - Public Health

- **IN THE THICK**
  - Behavior Modification

- **AFTER THE FACT**
  - Punishment
  - Criminal Justice
Public Health Contributions to Preventing Violence

We know how to prevent violence before it occurs. There is a strong and growing evidence base, grounded in research and practitioner and community wisdom, that prevention works. Investments in preventing violence pay off, and reducing violence is an effective way to stimulate economic development in communities. The public health field complements criminal justice approaches and brings an important perspective to addressing the problem of violence that affects young people. This fact sheet summarizes important contributions made by the public health field.
Blueprint for Action:
Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis

◆ Connect all youth to trusted adults
◆ Intervene at the first sign of risk for violence
◆ Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
◆ Unlearn the culture of violence
Coordinated Approach

Minneapolis, MN

- Adopted the Blueprint for Action: a Multi-Sector Plan for Prevention.
- 64 percent decrease in homicides of young people aged 15 to 24 years.
- Number of youth suspects in violent crimes dropped by 62 percent.