


# COLLATERAL DAMAGE: THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

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## Collateral Damage

- damage for deaths injuries or other damage inflicted on an unintended target. In military terms, used for the incidental killing or wounding of non-combatants or damage to non-combatant property during an attack on a legitimate military target.

**"You hear about the shootings, but you don't hear about the aftermath. It's like you're killing 10 other people when you kill one. It's just slowly."**

— Annette March-Grier, executive director of Roberta's House, a grief support center that borders on the Broadway East and Oliver neighborhoods.

## Community Violence

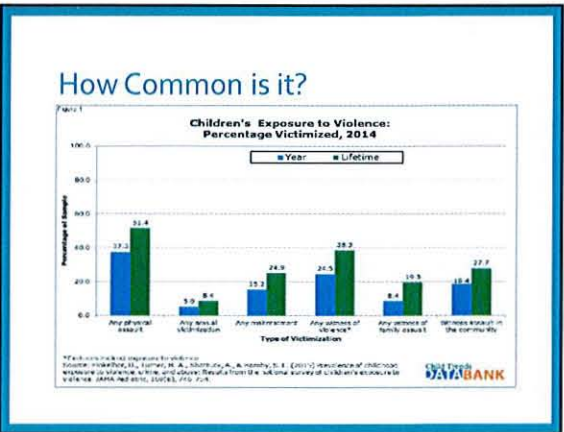
- Community violence can be defined as exposure to intentional acts of interpersonal violence committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim. Common types of community violence that affect youth include individual and group conflicts (e.g., bullying, fights among gangs and other groups, shootings in public areas such as schools and communities, civil wars in foreign countries or "war-like" conditions in U.S. cities, spontaneous or terrorist attacks, etc.).
- Some types of trauma are accidental, community violence is an *intentional* attempt to hurt one or more people, including homicides, sexual assaults, robberies, and weapons attacks (bats, knives, guns, etc.).

**Instances/threats of personal harm or witnessing personal harm within one's neighborhood or community**

(Kennedy & Ceballo, 2006)

## Other Forms of Community Violence

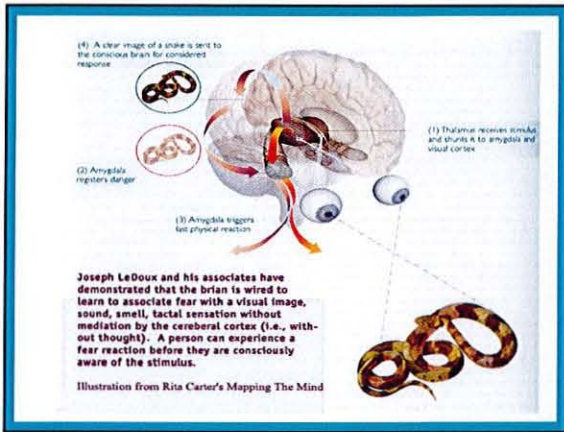
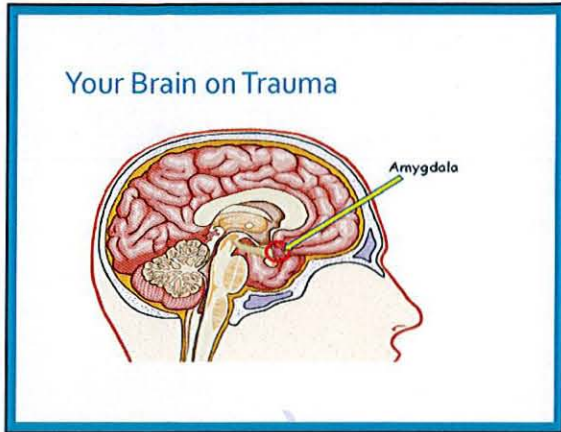
- School/community shootings
- Domestic violence
- Sexual abuse
- Peer bullying
- Media/videogame violence



### Uniform Crime Reports

US Dept of Justice 2013 per 100,000 people

	Population	Violent Crime	Murder	Aggravated Assault
United States	313,914,040	386.9	4.7	242.3
Florida	19,317,568	478.1	5.2	330.9
West Palm Beach	102,422	801.6	16.6	428.6
Riviera Beach	33,309	1321.9	33.0	1002.7
Lake Worth	35,788	1,288.1	22.4	625.9



### Systemic Issue

- The average perpetrator of a simple assault is Black 12-20 years old, not under the influence of substances. His victim is male, below 25 years old, could be known or unknown
- Blended perpetrator

Overall crime has been reduced but violent crime stayed the same nationwide

Prevalence of gangs, drugs, and poverty in urban neighborhoods

Access to weapons

Parenting practices and supports

Individual factors (academic achievement, emotion dysregulation, aggression, personal relationships)

### Racial Disproportion

- Homicide is the most common cause of death for young African American females as well as for young African American males.
- The probability of a young African American female dying by homicide is **four times** that of a non African American female.
- A young African American male is **11 times** more likely to die by homicide than a non-African American male.

(APA, 2015)

### Continuous Stress

- Perpetual trauma where a person has an inability to escape
- No safe haven for the reparative work of therapy to take place
- Can we change institutionalized racism, poverty, and other societal issues that influence the effects of living daily with trauma?
- Historical racial trauma interacts with ongoing high levels of violent crime (Roach, 2013)

## Poverty

- Violence rates in central cities are 41.3 per thousand, but in suburbs and nonmetropolitan areas they are 25.2 per thousand. In comparison to nonminorities, higher proportions of ethnic minority populations live in cities.
- Not only do the poor in America lack the basic necessities, but they are aware that they do not have things most other Americans have and that they lack the opportunities needed to obtain them in the future.
- Violence and victimization rates for all ethnic groups are higher among the young, those who have not completed high school, are unmarried, who do not own their own homes, and who have the lowest incomes

## Outcomes

- Depression
- Anxiety
- PTSD-like symptoms
- Aggression
- Truancy
- Desensitization
- Somatic Symptoms
- Distrust
- High risk taking behaviors

(Ng-Mak, Salinger, Feldman, & Steuve, 2004; Alwood & Bell, 2008)

## Associated Behaviors

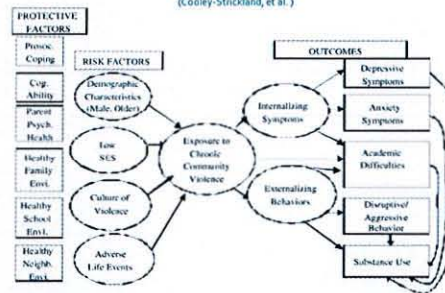
Aggression, delinquency, depression

"Depression sometimes in urban neighborhoods may not look like you're sad or blue or despondent. It looks like anger, overeating, irritability or problems sleeping"

Dr. Harolyn M.E. Belcher, director of research in the Family Center at the Kennedy Krieger Institute

## Outcomes

(Cooley-Strickland, et al.)



## How Can We Help?

- Become aware of the impact of community violence
- Begin healing through relationships
- Support and validation
- Foster resiliency

## Fostering Resiliency: 7 C's

- Connection
- Character
- Contribution
- Competence
- Confidence
- Coping
- Control



## Treatment Options

- Multi-Modal Treatment Approaches
- Combined Home and Center-based Approaches
- Parent-Child Dual Approach
- Parent Training and Psychoeducational Services

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