A Report of the VIOLENCE PREVENTION ADVISORY TASK FORCE
January 1995

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#### ACQUISITIONS



#### MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention

January, 1995

Dear Governor Carlson and Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force and the Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention present the Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force Report for your consideration and action.

This report was prepared pursuant to Laws of Minnesota, 1994, Chapter 636, Article 9, Section 16. It provides an overview of violence in Minnesota, identifies factors contributing to violence, defines violence and violence prevention and inventories state violence-prevention programs. The report also offers recommendations for how state agencies and the Legislature can develop effective policies and programs for ending violence in Minnesota.

The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force took a comprehensive approach to violence in Minnesota. The Task Force members view this report as a "living document" that serves as a basis for effective violence prevention. In the effort to evaluate the progress and cost effectiveness of violence-prevention efforts from a longitudinal perspective, we will need to add new information and periodically update this report.

We look forward to discussing Minnesota's efforts to create safe, healthy and nurturing communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen

Co-Chair

Violence Prevention Advisory

Thinaw Jew Jus Delsen

Task Force

Senator Ellen R. Anderson

MALL

Co-Chair

Violence Prevention Advisory

Task Force

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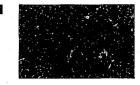
Minnesota Department of Public

\_Safety

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### The Report of the



## VIOLENCE PREVENTION ADVISORY TASK FORCE

### January 1995

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Minnesota Legislature established the Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force in 1994 to:

- Define violence prevention,
- Develop measurable violenceprevention goals,
- Inventory state violenceprevention programs,
- Develop a state violenceprevention policy and funding plan,
- Make recommendations to state agencies and the Legislature about how best to evaluate the effectiveness of state violence-prevention programs and fullfill state violence-prevention goals through budgeting and policymaking, and
- Make recommendations about how state agencies can assist communities in developing and employing effective violence-prevention strategies.

To eliminate violence in Minnesota, the Task Force recommends the following five goals:

- 1. Raise societal awareness about the impact of violence on Minnesotans.
- 2. Change public attitudes from tolerance of violence to nontolerance.

- 3. Improve the indicators of citizen well-being in Minnesota, especially indicators of child well-being.
- 4. Increase those factors that improve the safety and overall health of Minnesotans.
- 5. Reduce the personal, familial, and environmental risk factors associated with violence.

The Task Force completed an inventory of state violence-prevention programs, which is contained on pages 26 - 29 of this report.

The state violence-prevention policy adopted by the Task Force is as follows:

Minnesota state government will work in cooperation with citizens to create safe, healthy and nurturing communities and improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

(This policy statement is similar to the Minnesota Milestone "Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.")

To accomplish this, the state will:

Focus on long term, multisector comprehensive violence-prevention efforts



Violence is words and actions that hurt people.



Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force



Focus on long-term, multisector comprehensive violence-prevention efforts that are realistic and economically sustainable.



Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force that are realistic and economically sustainable.

- Implement policies and programs that develop the strengths, assets and capacities of all individuals, families and communities and foster strong relationships among people of all ages.
- Strengthen efforts that foster, support and maintain human relationships and connectedness among families, cultures, organizations and communities.
- Build on common values, virtues and community strengths by fostering mutual respect and human dignity, inclusiveness, personal and community responsibility, nontolerance of violence, equality and equity, accountability of offenders and opportunities for active involvement for all citizens,
- Ensure a network of culturally appropriate services which cover all developmental stages throughout the human lifespan.
- Evaluate progress regularly against clearly stated, measurable goals and objectives.

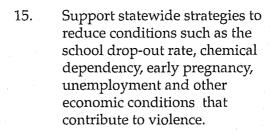
### The Task Force concluded with recommendations to the Legislature:

- Ensure long-term, stable funding for violenceprevention efforts.
- 2. Ensure that child development and parenting education, as well as family-support programs, are provided to all caregivers.
- 3. Adopt a statewide violenceprevention policy statement, as well as statewide violenceprevention messages (see policy statement, page 9).
- 4. Adopt an impact statement that reflects the economic and social impacts on children and families of state-funded programs and services. (The Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Families is developing such a family impact checklist.)
- 5. Target prevention of child abuse and domestic abuse as effective measures to help reduce violence in our society.
- 6. Ensure that state-funded programs and services are culturally competent and language appropriate.
- Continue and expand existing state-funded violenceprevention initiatives, such as violence-prevention education,

home visiting, high-risk youth programs, crisis nurseries, parent education and family collaboratives, that are demonstrating success.

- 8. Support greater flexibility and improved family functioning by extending the length of the school day and year, as well as encouraging employers to offer more flexible work schedules and encouraging service providers to offer extended hours.
- 9. Ensure that child victims of abuse or neglect receive supportive, therapeutic services to enable them to become healthy, caring adults.
- 10 Formulate a legislative structure that ensures that violence prevention is an important, central goal for Minnesota government.
- 11. Provide incentives for employers to offer extended leaves for new parents.
- 12. Enact and enforce stronger hand gun and automatic weapons control laws.
- 13. Support the Minnesota
  Department of Education's
  schools and community
  violence-prevention plan.
- 14. Require training for professionals and service

providers -- teachers, coaches, family doctors and family therapists, for example -- on violence prevention.



### Recommendations for Minnesota state agencies are:

- Coordinate prevention efforts among state agencies and other providers.
- 2. Adopt a common language and definition of violence and violence prevention. The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force has adopted the definitions in this report and urges all state departments to use these definitions.
- 3. Facilitate cross-disciplinary dialogue among service providers working with child abuse, battered women, violent adolescents, violent adult offenders and others to ensure that all groups recognize how interconnected their specific concerns are in the cycle of violence.



Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force



Mobilize the leadership and resources of diverse communities (cultural, religious, regional and business) ...



- 4. Approach media representatives to work cooperatively on a mass media campaign to promote awareness and prevent violence and its glamorization.
- 5. Integrate violence-prevention strategies into all state programs and services.
- Develop and support comprehensive capacitybuilding programs and services.
- 7. Mobilize the leadership and resources of diverse communities (cultural, religious, regional, and business, for example) within Minnesota to support violence-prevention policies, initiatives and programs by providing information about how violence adversely affects those communities.
- 8. Ensure that state programs meet the needs of diverse communities through partnerships with existing leaders and organizations.
- 9. Implement statewide strategies to reduce conditions such as the school drop-out rate, chemical dependency, early pregnancy, unemployment and other economic conditions that contribute to violence.

- 10. Continue and expand existing state violence-prevention initiatives, such as violence-prevention education, home visiting, high-risk youth programs, parenting education, family collaboratives and crisis nurseries, that have demonstrated success.
- 11. Provide comprehensive, longterm chemical dependency treatment to reduce drug- and alcohol-linked violence.
- 12. Reduce the barriers that limit access to available violence-prevention services by providing transportation, child care, employment opportunities and housing.
- 13. Support after-school and weekend activities for youth and their families.
- 14. Ensure that the majority of state programs are proactive in addressing violence.
  Currently, many state violence-prevention efforts are focused on limited populations or target intervention after violence has occurred.

## INTRODUCTION AND LEGISLATIVE CHARGE

The Minnesota Legislature established the Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force in 1994. Responsibility for coordination was placed with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention and the Chemical Abuse and Violence Prevention Council.

The Legislature charged the Task Force with the following specific responsibilities:

- Define violence prevention,
- Develop measurable violenceprevention goals,
- Inventory state violenceprevention programs,
- Develop a state violenceprevention policy and funding plan,
- Make recommendations to state agencies and the Legislature about how best to evaluate the effectiveness of violence-prevention programs, and fulfill state violenceprevention goals through budgeting and policy-making, and
- Make recommendations about how state agencies can assist communities in developing and employing effective violence-prevention strategies.

This report to the Legislature provides an overview of violence in Minnesota, identifies factors contributing to violence and inventories state violence-prevention programs. It offers recommendations for how state agencies and the Legislature can develop effective policies and programs for ending violence in Minnesota.

The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force is made up of 28 individuals from throughout the state, each with a unique perspective on violence in Minnesota. (A list of the Task Force members is provided in Appendix I.) The Task Force met four full days, from October through December 1994. This report includes the Task Force's deliberations and findings.

At the same time this Task Force was convening, the Department of Education was preparing a state violence-prevention plan to meet requirements of the federal Drug Free Schools Program, and the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis was updating its 1991 report, Breaking the Cycle of Violence. In a collaborative effort, these three entities jointly convened 12 focus groups, conducted telephone interviews and met with other individuals thoughout the state to gather community input. The Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention conducted a violenceprevention survey of 67 Community Violence Prevention Councils across



Societal
violence is
when our
nation,
institutions
and media
portray
violence as a
method of
resolving
conflict,
expressing
anger, and
controlling
others.



Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force



Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.

the state and reviewed existing literature and other reports on violence and violence prevention. (See Bibliography, Appendix II.)

The Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention also collaborated with Minnesota Planning and the Children's Cabinet to inventory state violence-prevention efforts. In all, nearly 400 individuals provided input to this report. (See the List of Agencies and Individuals Consulted by the Task Force, Appendix III.)

Tatanka Iyotaka (Şitting Bull)

# A DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE

In order to prevent violence, it is important to ensure that people attempting to solve the problem agree about what violence is. The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force developed a definition of violence to assure consistency.

Among the groups contributing to the common definition are the Ramsey County Initiative for Violence Free Families and Communities, the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee, the League of Women Voters of Minr eapolis and the Northern Minnesota Citizens' League. The Task Force offers the following definition as a common framework for those working on violence prevention.

Violence is words and actions that hurt people. Violence is the abusive or unjust exercise of power, intimidation, harassment and/or the threatened or actual use of force which results in or has a high likelihood of causing hurt, fear, injury, suffering or death.

This straightforward definition encompasses a variety of behaviors learned in families, schools, sports, cultures, neighborhoods, recreational programs, communities, religious institutions/groups, and in the workplace, as well as from media exposure. Violence can be perpetrated by or against individuals or groups.



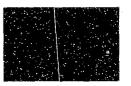
Violence is words and actions that hurt people. Violence is the abusive or unjust exercise of power, intimidation, harassment, and/or the threatened or actual use of force which results in or has a high likelihood of causing hurt, fear, injury, suffering or death.



Often, the historical context in which violent behavior takes place leads to violence that is considered acceptable, even institutionalized. People may not be aware of the harm being caused to others by violence. Violence is an act taken against another or, in its passive form, a refusal to act to prevent harm to another.

Key to all violence is the fear engendered in individuals or groups by a threat or perceived threat — a fear used to control. Power and domination are critical parts of violence. Violence includes oppressive acts rooted in sexism, homophobia, racism, classism,

Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force





Societal violence occurs when, through active or passive means, oppression and discrimination are condoned or the use of intimidation and violence is glamorized.

disability discrimination or any other belief system that views "different" as unacceptable. Violent acts are used to subjugate victims, ensure their silence and prolong the power of the perpetrator.

Violence includes abuse that is physical, verbal, sexual or emotional. It also includes social violence, such as economic oppression. Movies, video games, television and advertising glamorize violence and minimize its traumatic impact on individuals, families and communities.

The most severe acts of violence include homicide, rape, assault, robbery, suicide and hate crimes. Other acts of violence, adapted from the Ramsey County Initiative for Violence Free Families and Communities' list, include hitting; pushing; punching; beating-up; kicking; biting; bullying; threatening; harassing; name-calling; swearing; hazing; withholding food, shelter, clothes and medical care; having sexual contact with a child; and stalking.

Cordelia Anderson, Sensibilities

# VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY STATEMENT

The Legislature charged the Task Force with devising a violence-prevention policy that would define Minnesota's approach and establish the state's direction and priorities. The Task Force recommends that this policy statement be adopted into law.

Minnesota state government will work in cooperation with citizens to create safe, healthy and nurturing communities and improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

(This policy statement is similar to one of the Minnesota Milestones.)

#### To accomplish this, the state will:

- Focus on long-term, multisector, comprehensive violence-prevention efforts that are realistic and economically sustainable.
- Implement policies and programs that develop the strengths, assets and capacities of all individuals, families and communities and foster strong relationships among people of all ages.
- Strengthen efforts that foster, support and maintain human relationships and connectedness among families, cultures, organizations and communities.

- Build on common values, virtues and community strengths by fostering:
  - \* Mutual respect and human dignity,
  - Inclusiveness,
  - \* Personal and community responsibility,
  - \* Nontolerance of violence or its promotion at any level,
  - \* Equality and equity,
  - \* Accountability of offenders and
  - \* Opportunities for active involvement for all citizens.
- Ensure a network of culturally appropriate services which cover all developmental stages throughout the human lifespan.
- Evaluate progress regularly against clearly stated, measurable goals and objectives.



Minnesota state government will work in cooperation with citizens to create safe, healthy and nurturing communities and improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans.



Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force

### **GOALS**



We have already tried the alternatives ... moral exhortation ... neglect ... punishment and treatment. We have tried everything but improving our lives.

Elliot Currie

Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force To eliminate violence in Minnesota, the Task Force recommends the following five measurable goals:

- 1. Raise societal awareness about the impact of violence on citizen well-being in Minnesota.
- 2. Change public attitudes from tolerance of violence to nontolerance.
- Improve the indicators of citizen well-being in Minnesota, especially indicators of child well-being.
- 4. Increase those factors that improve the safety and overall health of Minnesotans.
- 5. Reduce the personal, familial and environmental risk factors associated with violence.

The Task Force strongly supports the notion of individual responsibility and accountability. At the same time, the Task Force recognizes that the eruption of violence is intertwined with societal conditions that must be addressed if lasting change is to occur. A comprehensive approach to violence prevention requires that environmental conditions which contribute to violence must be eliminated.

Fear often dictates government responses to violence, leading to punishment or prison expansion instead of prevention. This fear-driven emphasis on law enforcement and corrections has not had a noticeable effect on reducing violence. Minnesota must respond to violence proactively by confronting its causes and making substantial investments in children, familic and communities.

Elliot Currie, in his book <u>Reckoning</u>: Drugs, the Cities, and the American Future (see Bibliography, Appendix II.) notes that "We are reluctant to come to grips with the causes, in part because the task is both long-term and enormously challenging. It entails nothing less than altering an entire process of social development — one that has excluded millions of Americans from a productive and respected role in our common life, eroded the strengths of families and communities and blighted the prospects of an entire generation." He goes on to state that "the drug (and violence) crisis reflects a deeper crisis of culture and spirit, of family and community, as well as of material well-being ... We have already tried the alternatives ... moral exhortation ... neglect ... punishment and treatment. We have tried everything but improving our lives."

## WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO VIOLENCE?

Violence directly affects individuals, but its adverse impacts also spread to society as a whole. Many Task Force members and researchers believe that violence reflects a society in crisis; it erupts when materialism, individualism, productivity and personal gain are valued more than people.

As violence has reached epidemic levels within Minnesota communities, various people have searched for its causes, identifying such things as poverty, single parenting, public assistance and the high school dropout rate as influencing violence. But, does poverty cause violence? Do single parents cause violence? The direct connection between such risk factors and violence isn't clear. Most violent acts arise for a number of reasons. However, the Task Force members agree that violence flourishes when a constellation of such risk factors combine to produce negative outcomes.

The following lists represent a compilation of conditions documented as contributing to violence. While it is not all-inclusive, it contains information cited in research reports about violence, as well as information gathered from community surveys, focus groups and meetings throughout Minnesota.

#### Personal Factors:

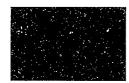
- Poor interpersonal and communication skills and peer relationships;
- Low levels of academic or social achievement in school, which result in school dropouts;
- Lack of respect and empathy for others;
- Alcohol and drug abuse;
- Personal stress (poor health or balancing family and work responsibilities, for example);
- Fascination with weapons and militaristic systems;
- Boredom;
- Low self-esteem resulting from ongoing "put-downs" and disrespectful treatment;
- Anger and rage, especially when impulsive or out-ofcontrol;
- Fear of injury, leading to violence as a means of selfprotection;
- History of victimization;
- A belief that violence is an effective way to solve problems; and
- Faulty moral and ethical reasoning when faced with stressful circumstances, rooted in lack of character development and the absence of spirituality.



Children
have never
been very
good at
listening to
their elders,
but they
have never
failed to
imitate them.



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#### **Family Factors:**

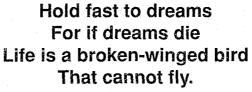
- The breakdown of family functioning, processes, traditions and relationships;
- Parental rejection of children, such as kicking a child out of the house or telling a child he/ she is worthless;
- Ineffective parenting, including lack of supervision, absent or inconsistent discipline, extremely harsh or abusive treatment, modelling or encouragement of aggressive or violent behavior and failure to support positive behavior;
- Insecure attachments between infants and their parents or other primary caregivers;
- Parenting at too early an age;
- Family violence, such as child maltreatment, sexual abuse and domestic abuse;
- High mobility (frequent changes of residence);
- Family stress (economic, marital or health, for example);
- Inconsistent or chaotic homelife; and
- Absence of positive role models.

## Environmental/Institutional Factors:

- Poverty and socioeconomic inequality — the increasing gap between the "haves" and "have-nots";
- Racism:
- Sexism;
- Homophobia;
- Classism;
- Disability-related discrimination;
- Ageism;
- Unemployment, overemployment (excessive overtime, working more than one full-time job), underemployment or constantly changing work schedules (such as shift work);
- Overcrowded, unsafe or poorly designed housing and school conditions;
- Rigid behavioral standards and the demand for conformity (peer pressure);
- Weak or ineffective sanctions for violence (offenders "get away with it");
- Mass media promotion of violence and materialism, creating stereotypes as well as false images and expectations of people;
- Promotion of a "me-first" attitude and denigration of altruistic behavior;
  - Easy access to weapons;

- Institutional/systemic policies, procedures and services that thwart rather than empower people;
- Societal stress, such as fear, poverty, discrimination and anxiety about rapid technological changes;
- Systems that have not adapted to social change, such as schools that schedule days off during most parents' work hours or employers refusing to allow or explore flexible hours;
- Society's ambivalence about violence (mixed messages from parents, peers and mass media); and
- Lack of cultural inclusion in organizations and institutions, such as schools, workplaces and government programs that exclude certain people from meaningful involvement.





Hold fast to dreams For when dreams go Life is a barren field Frozen with snow.



# RISK INDICATORS IN MINNESOTA



There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies.



The majority of those involved in interviews with the Task Force believe that the risk factors listed in the previous section profoundly affect the prevalence of violence. The following statistics demonstrate the presence and impact of these factors in the lives of Minnesotans.

- In 1993, the Minnesota infant mortality rate was 7.5 per 1,000 live births. (Minnesota Department of Health)
- In 1993, 1,859 children were born to mothers under the age of 18. (Minnesota Department of Health)
- In 1991, 9.1 percent of children of color were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, as compared with 4.9 percent of white infants. (The overall prematurity rate is 5.5 percent.) (Minnesota Department of Health)
- of Minnesotans under the age of 18 lived in poverty. This represents a 21.6 percent increase since 1980. Children of color are disproportionately represented in these statistics: 45 percent of children of color lived in poverty, compared to 9.7 percent of white children (see Table I). (U.S. Census data)

Race	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty		
American Indian	54.8		
African American	49.5		
Asian/Pacific Islander	37.1		
Hispanic	30.7		
Other Ethnic	37.5		
White	9.7		

- In 1992, 18,096 children were in out-of-home placement in Minnesota (a 54 percent increase since 1984). Children usually enter out-of-home placement because they are victims of child abuse or neglect (see Table II). (Minnesota Department of Human Services)
- In 1993, 27,856 juvenile delinquency petitions were filed (a 33 percent increase since 1988), of which 9,644 (35 percent) were for felonies. (Minnesota Supreme Court)
- During the 1992 93 school year, 13,640 students (3.9 percent) in grades 7-12 dropped out of school in

Minnesota (see Table III). (Minnesota Department of Education)

Those working in social service settings observe the connections among these risk indicators and the cumulative effect of these factors. For example, the high school drop-out entering the juvenile justice system often started out in poverty with a parent deprived of health care or proper nutrition who did not have the parenting skills to care for a child. If the early risk indicators could be mitigated, it is likely that the violent behaviors that arise from a lifetime of social and economic neglect could be eliminated.

	i radulti.	
Race	Number of Children in Out-of Home Placement	Percentage
White	11,337	62
African American	3,459	19
American Indian	2,130	12
Hispanic	412	2
Asian	304	2
Not Reported	454	3

Transferred and an armonic transferred				
Race	Number of drop-outs	Percentage		
White	9,211	2.9		
African American	2,081	17.8		
American Indian	999	18.4		
Hispanic	656	13.1		
Asian	693	6.6		

(Percentages are for the specific population, for example 2.9 percent of the white population dropped out of school.)

Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force

# HOW MUCH VIOLENCE DO WE HAVE IN MINNESOTA?



The number of children living in poverty and out-of-home placement is greater now than at any time in this decade.



The public perception is that violent crime has increased dramatically, yet the data show that the crime rate has remained fairly constant over time. However, the incidence of violence among juveniles has increased. The number of children living in poverty and cut-of-home placement is greater now than at any time in this decade. Poverty and child maltreatment are major factors contributing to the increase in violence; these figures suggest that more children are at risk of becoming involved in violent activities now than in the past.

The following statistics indicate the level of violence occurring in Minnesota.

- violent crime (murder, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults) accounted for 8 percent of all criminal offenses in 1993, a 0.87 percent increase for the state over 1992. Total criminal offenses were 199,691, a decrease of 3.5 percent from 1992. (Minnesota Department of Public Safety)
- Violent offenses known or reported to police increased 30.6 percent from 1987 to 1993, while arrests for violent offenses increased 40.7 percent. The number of adult felony court cases increased 47.2 percent during that time, while the prison population increased 64.6 percent. (Minnesota Planning)

- The highest rate of homicides in Minnesota, based on data from 1988 to 1992, occurs in children under age one (6.2 per 100,000 population), indicating that our most vulnerable citizens are at the greatest risk. In Minneapolis, the rate is 26.7 per 100,000 population. (Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support)
  - Racial incidents constituted 74 percent of all bias-motivated crimes in 1993, reflecting the use of violence as a way to resist Minnesota's growing diversity. (Minnesota Department of Public Safety)
- The 1993 Minnesota Crime Survey discovered that 31 percent of respondents reported being a victim of crime in 1992 (the numbers increase to 45 percent in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties).
- In 1992, 17 percent of students in sixth grade reported they had been physically abused or had witnessed abuse involving other family members. In ninth grade, it was 21 percent and in twelfth grade, it was 18 percent. (Minnesota Department of Education)
  - In 1992, 6.9 percent of twelfthgrade girls reported

intrafamilial sexual abuse and 15.8 percent reported extrafamilial sexual abuse. Women or girls in institutional settings were twice as likely to have been sexually abused as women or girls in the general population. (Minnesota Department of Education)

- One in every 42 Minnesotans age 12 and older is on probation (89,008 persons as of December 1993, including one of every 26 juveniles).
   (Minnesota Department of Corrections)
- More than 2,200 incidents of sexual harassment were reported to Minnesota school administrators during the 1993
   1994 school year. (Minnesota Attorney General's Office)

- The number of school suspensions for the 1993 94 school year in Minnesota was 32,476, a 39 percent increase over 1991 92. (Minnesota Department of Education)
- The Minnesota adult prison population was 1,200 in 1974 and 4,040 in 1993. Another 2,140 prison beds will be added by 1998, which will constitute a 400-percent increase since 1974.

  (Minnesota Department of Corrections)

These statistics, while not individually startling, collectively reflect a climate of violence in Minnesota. The sense of security which has pervaded Minnesota communities in the past has been seriously undermined by the violence evident in these statistics.





Violence is anything that denies human integrity and leads to hopelessness and helplessness. Violence is whatever damages us as human beings or limits or hinders us.



## MINNESOTA CRIME **STATISTICS**



This 1993 data came from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, except where indicated.

For additional background information about crime statistics, contact the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, (612) 296-3967 or 296-2407.

> Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force

Type of Crime	* Total	Crime Rate (per 100,000 Populátion)	Average per Day
Aggravated Assault	7,923	177	22.0
Bias-motivated Crimes	377	8	1.0
Child Maltreatment*+	11,217	250	31.0
Domestic Violence****	(estimate) 132,000	2,946	361.0
Driving under the Influence	32,518	725	89.0
Homicides	145	3	0.4
Missing Children	12,370	276	34.0
Narcotics	9,263	207	25.0
Property Crimes			
Burglary	37,951	847	104.0
• Larceny	128,964	2,879	353.0
• Arson	1,058	23	2.8
Motor Theft	15,408	343	42.0
Rape	2,713	61	7.0
Robbery	5,085	114	14.0
Suicide**	498	11	1.4
Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment*++	1,377	31,	4.0
Workplace Assaults***	890	60	2.4

Minnesota Department of Human Services statistics +

1992 statistics

Minnesota Department of Health statistics

1991 statistics

Minnesota Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Worker's Comp. Claims)

Minnesota Department of Correction statistics

### **COSTS OF VIOLENCE**

There are no statistics that reflect the human costs of violence -- the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual suffering sustained by the victims of violence, as well as their families, friends and co-workers. However, the following statistics illuminate some of the economic costs of violence in Minnesota.

The total Minnesota state and local justice expenditures for 1991 were over \$1.0 billion. This amounts to \$241 per capita. (Taken from U.S. Census data from Crime State Rankings, 1994, Crime in the 50 United States, Morgan, Morgan, & Quinto, 1994 and "Minnesota's Justice Price Tag Climbed Past \$1 Billion," Minnesota Planning, 1994.)

#### Contributing costs included:

- Police protection, \$514.6 million
- Corrections, \$284.0 million
- Judicial and legal services,\$271.7 million
- In 1993, Minnesota's response to child maltreatment cost \$295,992,014. The majority of these costs are attributable to child maltreatment, but the figures include placement of children for other reasons, such as medical condition of the parent.

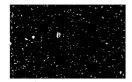
- A new study estimates that each murder costs the public about \$2.4 million for medical, law enforcement, court system, incarceration and other costs. The study estimates that the economic damage of each rape is \$60,000 and each robbery or assault more than \$20,000 (National Public Services Research Institute). Applying these estimates to Minnesota crime statistics, the 1993 costs of murders in 1993 would be \$348,000,000, rapes \$162,780,000 and robberies and assaults \$260,160,000.
- In 1992, the Hennepin County Medical Center treated 165 people for gunshot wounds, of whom 90 percent survived. The hospital charges for these patients totaled \$2.5 million, much of it paid with public dollars. The average hospital stay was six days. The average patient cost was \$15,300. These costs do not include physician charges, clinic follow-ups or rehabilitation. (Star Tribune article, February 3, 1994.)
- The average 1993 annual direct cost per prisoner in Minnesota state correctional facilities was \$27,803. (Minnesota Department of Corrections)



I'd rather invest \$30,000 in a one-to-one tutor for an individual so that he or she can complete high school ... than spend money later for a prison cell.



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- Alcohol-related costs in Minnesota for 1991 totaled \$1,737,000,000. Total cost for each state resident: \$397. (The Cost Burden of Alcohol Use in Minnesota During 1991, Minnesota Department of Health.)
- Minnesota provides approximately \$2 million annually in reparation for economic losses suffered by Minnesota crime victims.
- Minnesota does not have cost data available for lifetime suffering of victims and their families, lost productivity costs for victims and perpetrators of crimes, lost quality of life due to fear of crime, and costs of time spent

by the Minnesota Legislature and its supporting agencies addressing the issues associated with crime. (MN Department of Health - Alcohol Abuse in Minnesota: Social and Economic Costs, 1994.)

All of the expenditures described indicate that vast numbers of state dollars are being spent to deal with the end result of violence instead of alleviating the conditions that contribute to it. To prevent violence instead of paying for its effects, Minnesota will have to strengthen its existing capacities and develop new ones.



Vast numbers of state dollars are being spent to deal with the end result of violence instead of alleviating the conditions that contribute to it.



# MINNESOTA'S STRENGTHS AND CAPACITIES

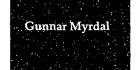
The state of Minnesota is regarded as a leader in many areas, including education, health care and chemical-dependency treatment. It is important to recognize that violence prevention depends upon the enhancement of strengths and capacities already present in Minnesota communities. The following list outlines some state factors that help prevent violence.

- Minnesota believes in and supports education, which is demonstrated by the 93 percent graduation rate in state high schools in 1993.
- The state created and implemented a health-care program (MinnesotaCare) for children and uninsured working families.
- The state created the Children's Trust Fund to undertake primary and secondary prevention of child maltreatment by developing a statewide, community-based prevention infrastructure.
- Minnesota has a history of longterm stability and good fiscal management.
- Minnesota is recognized for its leadership in alcohol and drugtreatment programs.
- The state has a good business climate and a strong nonprofit sector.

- The state's health care system, with its strong health maintenance organizations and emphasis on primary care, is the envy of the nation.
- In several areas of the state, the concept of community policing has been implemented and has succeeded in improving public safety.
- Minnesotans' 1993 life expectancy was 76.2 years, an indicator of a relatively high quality of life.
- In 1994, the Legislature approved a more collaborative approach to helping families by enacting a bill requiring that schools, social-service agencies, health agencies and others work cooperatively to better serve families.
- Minnesota was the first state in the nation to require human relations training (diversity training) for public school teachers.
- The state tries to determine the paternity of newborns, thereby increasing the involvement of the male parent.
- Minnesota is recognized for Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Learning Readiness programs.



Development should be defined as a movement upward of a whole system of interdependent conditions.



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## PREVENTION: WHAT WORKS



Wisdom consists of the anticipation of consequences.



An effective, long-term violenceprevention plan must focus on building safe and healthy communities that prevent the seeds of violence from being planted, while providing services for victims and perpetrators of violence.

This means that policies and services supporting strong human relationships, building individual and community strengths and fostering interdependence will be essential. Six key components must be included in any successful prevention plan:

- Prevention is essentially a local activity that focuses on local conditions and concerns.
   Community participation promotes ownership and vested interest in violence prevention and increases the commitment to achieving and maintaining positive change.
- Government, whether local, regional, state or federal, cannot achieve violence prevention alone. It is crucial to mobilize all sectors of the community, including schools, families, religious institutions, the business community, cultural institutions, health-care providers and youth to assure that violence-prevention activities are a success.
- Violence prevention must be done in concert with efforts to assure public safety. Without

homes and neighborhoods in which all citizens feel safe, the task of preventing violence will be difficult to achieve.

- Violence prevention must be approached from two directions: programs must reduce or eliminate the risk factors that lead to violence and strengthen the protective factors that resist violence.
- Mobilization of the leadership, strengths and resources of diverse cultural and regional communities is the best way to make sure that violence-prevention programs succeed.
- Evaluation measures that assess
  the effectiveness of prevention
  efforts must be incorporated
  into all prevention plans.
  Without knowing what works,
  it is difficult to identify
  strategies that can be used
  across disciplines and
  statewide.

The Task Force has identified methods for reducing risk factors that lead to violence and building protective factors that prevent violence. These methods can be used universally, but serve as particular guides for state program design.

# EFFECTIVE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Effective prevention strategies include:

- Ensuring that children receive love, have nurturing relationships with parents and live in an environment of caring individuals, organizations and communities.
- Ensuring that children are exposed to cultural traditions and values early in their lives, to help build a positive identity and a sense of belonging.
- Helping children and adults develop close personal relationships.
- Teaching children empathy and respect for self, others and the environment.
- Ensuring that children's competencies, including basic education and life skills, are developed.
- Ensuring that children develop positive alternatives to deal with anger and adversity.
- Ensuring that all citizens understand what actions constitute violence and realize its adverse impact on everyone.
- Helping children develop hope for the future.
- Honoring and appreciating diversity.

- Affirming the value of fun, the ability to enjoy life's simple pleasures.
- e Ensuring that parents receive parenting education and support to help them understand their children's growth and development and improve their parenting skills. Also ensuring that they are nurtured as parents and learn how to discipline their children without the use of verbal, emotional or physical punishment. Education could be offered in various locations, such as schools, hospitals or clinics, and churches.
- Changing the way young men are trained and encouraged to believe that violence is a successful way to obtain or maintain personal power.
- Ending racism and other forms of discrimination.
- Ensuring the availability of recreational alternatives, including events in community centers, clubs, employment or service opportunities or afterschool activities.
- Holding people accountable for their actions.



The time is short, the hour is late, the matter is urgent. It is not incumbent upon us to complete the task; but neither are we free to desist from doing all we possibly can.



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# DEFINITIONS OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION



The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.



Violence prevention must occur at many points in the lives of individuals and groups. The following definitions clarify different levels of violence prevention.

#### **Primary Prevention**

Programs or services that promote health and social well-being and the development of nurturing support systems.

The key aspects of primary prevention are:

- It is offered to all members of a population.
- It is voluntary.
- It attempts to influence societal forces which affect parents, children, families and communities.
- It seeks to promote positive family functioning, rather than just preventing problems.
- It is culturally competent or culturally specific.
- It promotes a sense of belonging.
- It enhances strengths and protective factors.

#### **Secondary Prevention**

Programs or services that minimize the effect of characteristics which identify individuals as members of high-risk groups.

The key aspects are:

- It is offered to a pre-defined group of "at-risk" individuals.
- It is voluntary.
- It is more problem-focused than primary prevention.
- It seeks to prevent future violence by reducing the impact of specific risk factors.
- It is culturally competent or culturally specific.
- It seeks to promote positive individual/family functioning.

#### **Tertiary Prevention**

Programs or services that are provided after violence has occurred which are designed to prevent its recurrence.

The key aspects are:

- It is offered to victims or perpetrators of violence.
- It is voluntary.
- It seeks to prevent future violence by providing help and/or treatment to offenders and victims.
- It is culturally competent or culturally specific.
- It seeks to promote positive individual/family functioning.

#### Intervention/Treatment

Programs or services that are treatment focused and offer an opportunity for rehabilitation.

The key aspects are:

- It is targeted to perpetrators of violence.
- It is involuntary.
- It is focused on treating identified problems and underlying issues.
- It is culturally competent or culturally specific.
- It seeks to eliminate future violent behaviors.

#### Intervention/Incarceration

Restrictive monitoring or incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders within community-based correctional or institutional facilities.

The key aspects are:

- It is limited to convicted offenders.
- It is involuntary.
- It is punishment-oriented and/ or rehabilitative.
- It is culturally competent.
- It isolates and restricts perpetrators from the general public.
- It seeks to rehabilitate offenders and eliminate future violent behaviors.

It is probable that some programs or services include many levels of prevention (primary, secondary and tertiary) and may even provide some treatment services. Such programs would be defined as multi-pronged violence-prevention efforts.

The public education system does not fall into any of these prevention definitions because it is not a voluntary program. The state mandates that children attend school until the age of 16. The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force recognizes that high-school graduation is a major protective factor that reduces violence and promotes state efforts to ensure that Minnesota's high-school graduation rate remains high. Therefore, public education would stand alone as a mandated service to promote the academic and social well-being of children.

The list on the following page provides an inventory of current Minnesota state agency programs dealing with violence and violence prevention. Each is categorized to show which prevention modes are key to the program.



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## AN INVENTORY OF STATE VIOLENCE-PREVENTION SERVICES



PRIMARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

INTERVENTION/
TREATMENT

INTERVENTION/
INCARCERATION

		<b></b> 5
Program	Budget	Type of Prevention
NA SIBBLE GO S DIRECTO	LILOKIMEN GIEV	TERAL.
Campus Security Plans	0	
Sexual Harassment Survey	0	
atoguniini	PLANNING	
Family Services Collaboratives	(See below)	
idiwiayrinyianni (	DE HTUNYIANNI SÍÐ	
Family Safety Centers	200,000	
Children's Trust Fund	1,100,000	
	475,000	
Crisis Nursery Programs		
Parents Anonymous	90,000	
Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention	73,125	
Asian-American Juvenile Grants	500,000	
Sexual Health and Response Program	5,000	
Family Services Collaboratives	1,750,000	
Special Family-based Drug Treatment Prog.	929,000	
Family Support Program for Families of Infants with Life-threatening Conditions	23,361	
Training for Child Care Center Staff and Family Child Care Providers	1,814,000	
Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters	29,763	
Children's Mental Health Collaboratives	560,000	
Model Child Protection/Enhanced Probation for Female Offenders	850,000	
Child Protection Services	400,000	
High-risk Youth/Pregnant Woman Treatment Program	850,000	

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Program	Budget	Type of Prevention
DIEPARTITATEAN (O)		
Victim Services	10,885,571	
Sexual Offender Treatment Program	3,338,000	
Chemical Dependency Program	937,000	
Sentencing to Serve	4,203,267	
Intermediate Sanctions	870,000	
Intensive Supervision	1,787,957	
Institutional and Probation Services	155,908,000	
INIGHER EDUCATION (	OORIDIINAVIII	NG BOAND
Campus Security and Plans	0	
Multidisciplinary Program Grants for Professional Education on Violence and Abuse	120,000	
Higher Education Center on Violence and Abuse	120,000	
Collaboration Training	80,000	
IDEPARTIMENT	OF INDIVICATING	DIN
Harassment Policies	0	<b>2</b> 3.
Violence Prevention Education	2,500,000	
Dangerous Weapon Incident Reports	0	
Community Violence Prevention Councils	200,000	
Drug Free Schools and Communities	6,043,079	
Learning Readiness	9,579,000	
Early Childhood Family Education	11,822,000	
Co-location of Services to High Risk Children and Youth	224,000	
Early Childhood Screening	1,318,000	



State agencies
used the
definitions of
violence
prevention to
categorize each of
their violenceprevention
programs. The
inventory reflects
how state agencies
currently spend
their violenceprevention
dollars.

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## INVENTORY OF STATE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)



PRIMARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

INTERVENTION/
TREATMENT

INTERVENTION/
INCARCERATION

Program	Budget	Type of Prevention
Way to Grow	475,000	
D.A.R.E.	176,000	
Family Services Collaboratives	2,500,000	
High Risk Youth Violence Prevention	2,200,000	
Early Childhood Special Education	7,000,000	
Part H (0 - 2) Disabled School-aged Child Care, Youth Development, Youth Service	3,334,000	
HIV/AIDs Prevention	265,000	
ADEN MEN METER	rioja iedealcii.	
Violence Prevention Work Group	0	
Action Benefitting Children	300,000	
Fairview/MDH Violence Prevention Initiative	Fairview Foundation	
Home Visiting Projects	300,000	
Institute for Child and Adolescent Sexual Health	150,000	
Fetal Alcohol Prevention Program	174,000	
Chemical Health Promotion/Violence Prevention Program	120,000	
I DEPARTIMENT O	PIRUIBILITO SVAVE	画水
Violence Prevention	60,000	
Crime Victim Services	2,500,000	
Community Crime and Drug Prevention	2,000,000	
Community Based Policing	600,000	
D.A.R.E. Training Center	100,000	

Program	Budget	Type of Prevention
DAMANDA LINGHANDEN PROPERTY (CARALOGICA)	ije savitetia ((	CONTRAÇÕED)
Safety Education Officers	559,064	
G.R.E.A.T.	40,000	
Gung Intervention Program	38,700	
DEPARTMENT OFFEC	OMOMIC SIN	TÜRÜNY
Head Start	52,000,000	
Comerstone	100,000	
Youth Intervention Program	550,000	
Minnesota Youth Program	2,500,000	
YouthBuild	300,000	
City Grants Program	1,100,000	
Bonding Initiative Truancy and Curfew Center	500,000	
Juvenile Justice Program - Delinquency Prevention	800,000	
Juvenile Justice Program - Post Adjudication	270,000	
Job Training Partnership Act - Title III Summer Youth Employment and Training Program	10,000,000	

### TOTALS

Primary Prevention	\$ 62,410,765	20%	
Secondary Prevention	\$ 63,092,996	20%	
Tertiary Prevention	\$ 16,672,239	5%	
Intervention/Treatment	\$ 5,651,667	2%	
Intervention/Incarceration	\$162,769,224	53%	

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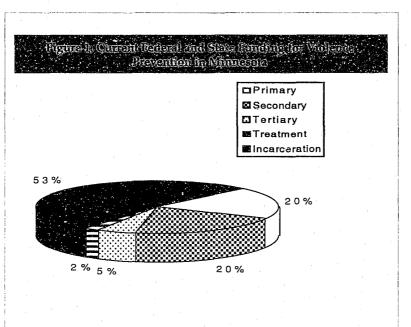
### **FUNDING PLAN**



Cultivate the inner self; its power becomes real.
Cultivate the home; its power becomes abundant.
Cultivate the community; its power becomes greater.

R. L. Wing

Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force Figure 1. illustrates how current federal and state funding sources are used for violence prevention efforts in Minnesota.



Currently, the majority of the resources directed toward violence prevention fund the intervention/incarceration category (52.4 percent). An additional 1.8 percent goes to treatment and 5.4 percent to tertiary prevention. Primary and secondary prevention, which hold the greatest hope for long-term effectiveness, receive 20 percent each, for a total of 40 percent of violence-prevention dollars. This figure and the next reflect only state funding, not the entire amount spent by local governments and other organizations.

By comparing dollars spent to the number of individuals served, it becomes clear that a disproportional amount of funding is being directed to a small number of individuals. (See

> Figure 2., next page.) And studies suggest that this movement of funds toward incarceration will escalate.

Intergovernmental Perspectives projects that half of the U.S. population will be incarcerated by the year 2053 if the current trend toward expanding prisons continues. If

Minnesota follows this road toward enforcement and incarceration, more and more state resources will be shifted into corrections.

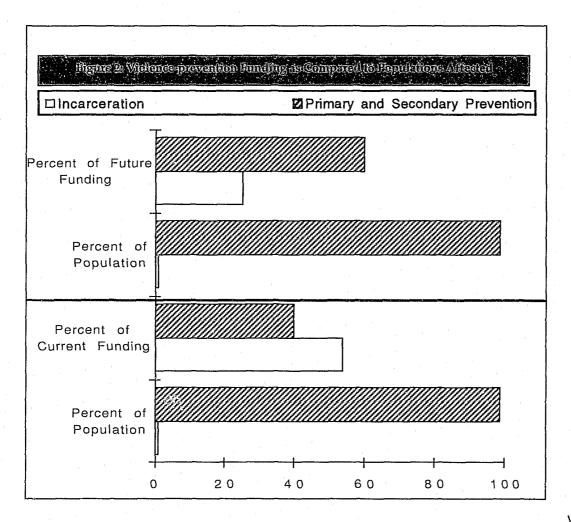
Violence infringes on quality of life in many ways, including economically. Among the results of a spending pattern that neglects to fund primary and secondary prevention efforts are:

- More resources spent on prison costs.
- More segregation and isolation.

- Continued loss of safety.
- Increased violence.

Primary and secondary violenceprevention efforts hold the greatest promise for long-term, positive change. The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force recommends that State funding related to violence be shifted so that more resources are directed to primary and secondary prevention.







The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force recommends that funding for violenceprevention efforts be reallocated so that 60 percent is directed toward primary and secondary prevention efforts within the next five years.



Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force recommends that funding for violence-prevention efforts be reallocated so that 60 percent is directed toward primary and secondary prevention efforts within the next five years.

In addition, the Task Force recommends that each state agency spend at least 10 percent of its total budget on primary and secondary prevention.

From a policy perspective, Minnesota faces difficult choices in addressing violence. The most challenging choice that confronts policymakers is whether the state will react to fear and adopt a "lock-them-up" approach, which will involve spending more resources building prisons and lengthening sentences, or confront violence and invest in the future through prevention.

There are five ways to ensure that adequate funding goes to primary and secondary prevention:

- Shifting current violenceprevention funding from incarceration to primary and secondary prevention. Among the methods possible to accomplish this shift:
  - Establishing a moratorium on increased sentencing of offenders or reducing sentences for some crimes. The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission is suggesting that the length of sentences for some

- crimes be reduced to avoid future overcrowding of prisons and the early release of prisoners.
- Establishing a moratorium on expanding prison space.
- Raising additional funds for primary and secondary prevention activities. Some Task Force members recommend an increase in the resource pool for the long-term, even if reallocation is used to solve the immediate problem. The Task Force believes that children have been neglected, and that we must make up for lost time. Investing more money in prevention will not necessarily mean a decrease in spending overall. In fact, initially additional resources will be needed to effectively implement preventive efforts.
- Several promising small demonstration projects have shown that it is possible to prevent violence. However, these projects, because of limited funding, are only reaching a small number of people. To have maximum impact on reducing violence, these programs should be expanded statewide. (See list of programs, Appendix IV.)
- Pooling funding resources (e.g., Prevention and Intervention

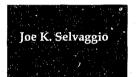
funding process), reducing administrative overhead, helping streamline the application process for funding, and assuring that funding is being targeted in the most effective manner.

Reallocating funds from other state activities into violence-prevention activities. This requires prioritization of activities and a determination that violence prevention is a high priority.

Another option is to do nothing about the current allocation of resources. Under a "no action" scenario, additional resources will be needed to cover the steadily increasing cost of law enforcement and incarceration in the future.



If we don't invest in a healthy community, we'll have to invest in a sick community.



### RECOMMENDATIONS



The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

> Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force

A successful approach to violence prevention must involve all parts of the community. The Task Force was asked to pay attention to the roles that the Legislature and state agencies can play in assisting Minnesota communities with violence-prevention efforts. This section includes ideas that are as pertinent to nongovernmental agencies and individual citizens as to government entitites.

#### Recommendations to the Legislature:

#### Recommendation #1

Ensure long-term, stable funding for violence- prevention efforts.

- Increase the overall level of funding directed to violenceprevention efforts.
- Redirect funding so that 60
   percent of violence-prevention
   dollars will be used for primary
   and secondary prevention by
   the year 2000 by moving dollars
   from long-term incarceration to
   primary and secondary
   prevention.
- Form partnerships to ensure that violence-prevention programs are reimburseable under health-care plans.
- Mandate that each state agency direct 10 percent of resources to prevention efforts.

### Recommendation #2.

Ensure that child development and parenting education, as well as family-support programs, are provided to all caregivers.

• Implement child development and parenting education in public schools.

### · Recommendation (3)

Adopt a statewide violenceprevention policy statement, as well as statewide violence-prevention messages (see policy statement, page 9).

### Recommendation 2

Adopt an impact statement that reflects the economic and social impacts on children and families of all state-funded programs and services.

 The Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Families is developing such a family-impact checklist.

#### Recommendation dis

Target prevention of child abuse and domestic abuse as effective measures to help reduce violence in our society.

#### Recommendation 46

Ensure that state-funded programs and services are culturally competent and language appropriate.

#### Recommendation #

Continue and expand existing statefunded violence-prevention initiatives, such as violenceprevention education, home visiting, high-risk youth programs, crisis nurseries, parenting education and family collaboratives, that are demonstrating success.

#### Recommendation #8

Support greater flexibility and improved family functioning by:

- Extending the length of the school day and year. An extended school day may not involve an increase in the academic day, but can involve a co-location of recreational and other programs to complement the academic day.
- Encouraging employers to offer more flexible work schedules.
- Encouraging service providers to offer extended hours.

#### Recommendation #9

Ensure that child victims of abuse or neglect receive supportive, therapeutic services to enable them to become healthy, caring adults.

### Recommendation (110)

Formulate a legislative structure that ensures that violence prevention is an important, central goal for Minnesota government.

Establish a permanent
 Subcommittee of the Senate
 Crime Prevention and House
 Judiciary Committees to oversee
 violence-prevention funding
 and ensure a more coordinated
 statewide approach to violence
 prevention

#### Recommendation #11

Provide incentives for employers to offer extended leaves for new parents.

### Recommendation (1)2

Enact and enforce stronger hand gun and automatic weapons control laws.

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Support the Minnesota Department of Education's schools and community violence-prevention plan.

 Support the national education goal to ensure that all Minnesota schools are free from drugs and violence by the year 2000.



Require training for professionals and service providers -- teachers, coaches, family doctors, family therapists, for example -- on violence prevention.



Support statewide strategies to reduce conditions such as the school drop-out rate, chemical dependency, early pregnancy, unemployment and other economic conditions that contribute to violence.

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# Recommendations for Minnesota state agencies:



Coordinate prevention efforts among state agencies and other providers. Ways to accomplish this would include:

- Providing technical assistance
   — Sharing with communities
   what is working and adapting successful programs to fit local needs.
- Centralizing data collection and analysis Improving the state's capacity to measure and evaluate violence-prevention efforts and provide timely access to data for local policymakers and service providers.

Including child abuse, domestic abuse and suicide data in the Minnesota Crime Report.

Including data about the relationship of alcohol and drug abuse to violence in Minnesota.

Including input from local policymakers and service providers in collecting and analyzing data.

Identifying resources —
 Developing a centralized clearinghouse available and accessible to the entire state containing community

resources, funding resources, existing violence-prevention programs and speakers, for example. This would include a 1(800) violence-prevention number as a community service.

- Training Providing training to individuals, organizations and communities about violence prevention. This would include training for state employees about recognizing and reducing violence in the workplace.
- Redesigning organizations —
   Assisting nonprofit and
   government agencies to
   redesign services to better meet
   people's needs.
- Establishing a state violenceprevention policy coordinating body, comparable to the Chemical Abuse and Violence Prevention Council.

#### Recommendation #2

Adopt a common language and definition of violence and violence prevention. The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force has adopted the definitions in this report and urges all state departments to use these definitions. (See violence definition, page 7 and violence prevention definitions, page 24.)

# Recognization (3

Facilitate cross-disciplinary dialogue among service providers working with child abuse, battered women, violent adolescents, violent adult offenders and others to ensure that all groups recognize how interconnected their specific concerns are in the cycle of violence.

### Reconstitution (2)

Approach media representatives to work cooperatively on a mass media campaign to promote awareness and prevent violence and its glamorization. Some ways to accomplish this include:

- Promoting a consistent, repetitive media message that affirms non-violent behavior.
- Establishing community
   standards that promote nontolerance of violence, including
   more news reporting that
  focuses on positive outcomes.
- Convincing the media and public that violence prevention can be as successfully marketed as violence has been.



You must work -- we must all work -- to make this world worthy of its children.

Pablo Casals

Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force



#### Recommendation (5

Integrate violence-prevention strategies into all state programs and services.

#### Recommendation (16

Develop and support comprehensive capacity-building programs and services. Examples include:

- Promoting community-based cooperative and collaborative efforts.
- Combining categorical sources of funding into broader-based flexible funding pools.
- Developing program and funding criteria that address the continuum of violenceprevention strategies, but give priority to primary violence prevention. Criteria should include:
  - community plan
  - community need
  - collaboration/cooperative efforts
  - evaluation plan
  - cultural competence/language specific
  - family/community support systems
  - strong mission statement
  - outcome/results orientation

- long-term focus
- cost effectiveness
- Promoting early screening and identification of risk indicators and making resources available to help alleviate conditions of risk.

### Regional continues 77

Mobilize the leadership and resources of diverse communities (cultural, religious, regional and business, for example) within Minnesota to support violence-prevention policies, initiatives and programs by providing information about how violence adversely affects those communities.

#### - Kyadominiamikidomikib

Ensure that state programs meet the needs of diverse communities through partnerships with existing leaders and organizations.

### Racionalitatelación (I)

Implement statewide strategies to reduce conditions such as the school drop-out rate, chemical dependency, early pregnancy, unemployment and other economic conditions that contribute to violence.

#### Recommendation #10

Continue and expand existing state violence-prevention initiatives, such as violence-prevention education, home visiting, high-risk youth programs, parenting education, family collaboratives and crisis nurseries, that have demonstrated success.

#### Recommendation SIII

Provide comprehensive, long-term chemical dependency treatment to reduce drug- and alcohol-linked violence.

#### Recommendation (#12

Reduce the barriers that limit access to available violence-prevention services by providing transportation, child care, employment opportunities and housing.

#### Recommendation (II)

Support after-school and weekend activities for youth and their families.

#### -Recommendation III

Ensure that the majority of state programs are proactive in addressing violence. Currently, many state violence-prevention efforts are focused on limited populations or target intervention after violence has occurred.

- Expand successful pilot programs into comprehensive, statewide long-term services.
- Make a paradigm shift that moves away from crisis intervention to prevention.

It is helpful to have a list of critical program components that assure inclusiveness and effectiveness when evaluating violence-prevention efforts. For a list of critical program components, see Appendix VI.

# **EVALUATION: MEASURING OUR PROGRESS**



The Task Force recommends that greater effort be refocused on measuring violence-prevention program effectiveness (see Appendix V. for a listing of areas where improvement is needed), including comparative analysis of data on specific populations and communities. Several specific ways to achieve this -- both by using current data and collecting new data -- are as follows:

- Assessing crime/violence statistics, to detect any measurable decrease in crime.
- Surveying Minnesotans to determine whether reported victimization declines.
- Surveying students, as is currently done by the Minnesota Department of Education, to help determine what level of violence children encounter and whether risk indicators are increasing or decreasing.
- Evaluating school data, such as school incident reports, school attendance, school graduation rates, school suspensions, referrals for conduct disorders and achievement data, to determine information about risk indicators and protective factors.
- Continuing the Children's Report Card (compiled by Minnesota Planning) on child well-being indicators, including:

- \* Immunizations
- \* Infant mortality
- \* Child maltreatment
- \* Childhood poverty
- \* Birthweight
- Out-of-home placements
- Initiating a Community Report Card, to assess risk factors, violence and services available or needed. See Appendix VII. for an example, developed by the Wilder Foundation.
- Supporting Kids Count, prepared by the Children's Defense Fund and Congregations Concerned for Children, which gives a countyby-county breakdown of various statistics that reflect the well-being of children.
- Building on Minnesota
   Milestones, which sets up
   measures of success or progress
   for state government.
- Reviewing alcohol-and-drug abuse reports, currently collected by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, such as the Substance Abuse Monitoring System (SAMS).
- Commissioning longitudinal studies of prevention programs, best accomplished by involving colleges, universities and other research organizations.

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- Conducting user satisfaction surveys to allow current programs to evaluate effectiveness.
- Computing percentages of parents who have received child development and parenting skills education; few current means measure this and a new method must be devised.
- Measuring percentage of parents receiving home-visiting services. A new measurement method must be devised.
- Measuring percentage of population at each age level that has completed conflict resolution skills/mediation training. A new measurement method must be devised.
- Tracking Human Rights
   complaints/discrimination
   cases, to measure whether the
   risk factors of racism, sexism,
   homophobia and other forms of
   discrimination are declining.
- Tracking equity measures (available from U.S. Census data):
  - \* Income levels
  - \* Educational levels
  - \* Home ownership rates
  - Career levels

- Assessing unemployment (available from the Department of Economic Security), underemployment, overemployment and jobs involving shift work or changing hours. A new measurement method must be devised for employment measures other than unemployment.
- Computing health care costs of violence. While data is available, actions should be taken to compile and analyze statistics.



# Appendix I.



#### VIOLENCE PREVENTION ADVISORY TASK FORCE ROSTER

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# Appendix II.



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# Appendix III.



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Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force

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### Appendix IV.

# PROGRAMS AND CONDITIONS THAT ARE WORKING TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

Programs and conditions that have been identified by professionals in the field as successful in either reducing risk factors leading to violence or building up protective factors that prevent violence include:

- Home visiting by public health nurses and paraprofessionals;
- Family-life education;
- Crisis nurseries;
- Respite care;
- Parent education, such as Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE),
   Minnesota Early Learning Design (MELD) and fathering programs;
- Head Start;
- Mentoring peer mentoring and adult/child mentoring;
- Availability of good employment opportunities;
- Skill development;
- High school graduation;
- Arts programs;
- Grandparenting programs;
- Community policing;
- Workplace violence initiatives, such as Ramsey County's program;
- Curfew enforcement;
- Education-focused child care;
- Violence-prevention education;
- Parents Anonymous and self-help support groups;
- Child visitation centers;
- Victims' services and battered women's/children's advocacy; and
- Youth leadership development programs.



# Appendix V.

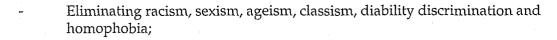


#### AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED

After reviewing many of the current programs and services available for violence prevention, the Task Force identified a number of areas in which state programs can improve performance. Things that prevention programs need to do better include:

- Working with entire families, not just individuals;
- Establishing program accountability to ensure that programs and agencies are meeting the needs of people;
- Recognizing connections between violence and drug and alcohol abuse;
- Using available technology to share information about violence-prevention trends and effective programs;
- Reaching various cultural populations;
- Assuring availability of child visitation/safety centers;
- Working toward awareness and training about violence and violence prevention for all age groups and occupations;
- Treating perpetrators effectively, especially violent sexual offenders and drug-addicted offenders;
- Involving the business community in seeking solutions;
- Recognizing that the lack of transportation, child care, housing, telephone service and employment are barriers to participation in violenceprevention efforts;
- Supporting people willing to break the silence about the impact of violence;
- Training professionals (medical and mental health professionals and others), about violence, particularly in the areas of child maltreatment and domestic abuse;

- Establishing universal home visiting for parents of newborns;
- Involving parents with schools at all ages and grades;





- Providing comprehensive long-term chemical-dependency treatment;
- Assuring that religious institutions do not ignore legal offenses such as child maltreatment, child sexual abuse and domestic violence or protect members from the consequences of illegal actions;
- Supporting after-school/weekend programs and activities and maximizing year-round multiple use of school facilities;
- Starting a dialogue with creators of violent videos, magazines and movies;
- Demanding media responsibility and self-restraint;
- Building a conviction in the community that prevention will work;
- Assuring the availability of Head Start on a full-day, year around schedule throughout the state for all children;
- Assuring that the majority of state programs are comprehensive and proactive in addressing violence. Currently, many violence-prevention efforts are focused on limited populations or intervention following violence or abuse;
- Preparing schools to cope with the emotional, physical and academic needs of today's students; and
- Eliminating system failures in responding to child maltreatment, domestic abuse and elder abuse (neglect cases, for example, are neglected by the system).

# Appendix VI.



#### CRITICAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Task Force also has identified some key features in any violence-prevention plan or program. Violence-prevention programs should:

- Incorporate a child-development perspective into the design and evaluation;
- Be culturally competent;
- Start in early childhood;
- Include parenting and child-development education (home visiting, as well as classes and support groups);
- Involve positive role modeling by caring adults;
- Be community-based;
- Include human relations training;
- Enhance protective factors;
- Include conflict resolution/mediation training;
- Be accessible (materials must be in appropriate languages and available in formats for people with disabilities);
- Reduce risk factors (alcohol and drug use, home and school overcrowding, and others);
- Create family and community support systems;
- Address victims of violence;
- Promote interdisciplinary training on recognizing and preventing violence;
- Address after-school and recreation activities;

- Involve youth in leadership opportunities;
- Be flexible;

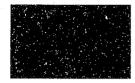
- Include early identification of children with emotional/behavioral problems, aggressive behaviors or a history of victimization. and
- Focus on long-term outcomes and results;

If the program is treatment-focused, it should:

- Provide health services for perpetrators and victims, and;
- Include after care and follow-up services.



# Appendix VII.



#### **COMMUNITY REPORT CARD**

The following pages include a recently developed community report card format from Wilder Foundation.

#### **Community Report Card**

Part 1: Risk Factors

Community:					
Reporting period:	Year:				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Community Composition	Number	Percent or Rate			
1. Total population		NA			
2. Age: Under 5					
3. 5-14					
4. 15-24					
5. 25-44					
6. 45-64					
7. 65 and older					
Diversity					
8. Ethnicity: Hispanic					
9. non-Hispanic					
10. Race: Black					
11. White		·			
12. Asian					
13. Native American					
14. Other					
15. Religions (list)					
•					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Economic Stress					
16. Percent single parent families					
17. Percent below poverty					
18. Percent unemployment	:				
19. Adults with high school diploma					
20. School attendance					
21. School dropout					
Health					
22. Low birth weight babies					
23. Mothers under age eighteen					
Alcohol and other Drugs					
24. Driving under the influence: Teens					
25. Adults					
26. Narcotic crime reports					
27. Adolescent alcohol use					



### **Community Report Card**

Part 2: Violent Events

Community:			····	:			
Reporting period:		Year:					
Violent Crimes	Number	Rate	Adult Offenders	Juvenile Offenders			
<ol> <li>Murder and manslaughter (total)</li> </ol>	1						
2. Domestic							
3. Nondomestic							
4. Rape							
<ol><li>Aggravated assault (total)</li></ol>							
6. Domestic							
7. Nondomestic			T				
8. Robbery							
Less Serious Crimes	,						
9. Minor Assaults (total)	T :						
10. Domestic							
11. Nondomestic		***************************************					
12. Sexual Offenses		···					
Other information				i			
13. Weapon							
14. No weapon							
15. No weapon information		************					
16. Bias Crimes			<u> </u>				
17. Orders for protection				-			
Child Abuse			<del></del>	<del></del>			
18. Physical abuse (total)			T	T			
19. Substantiated			<del></del>				
20. Unsubstantiated			<del> </del>	<del> </del>			
21. Unable to substantiate				<del> </del>			
22. Sexual abuse (total)	+ ;		<del> </del>	<del> </del>			
23. Substantiated	<del>~    </del>		<del>                                     </del>				
24. Unsubstantiated	<del></del>						
25. Unable to substantiate			<del> </del>	-			
26. Emotional abuse (total)	<del>- </del>		·				
27. Substantiated			<u> </u>	ļ			
28. Unsubstantiated							
			<del></del>	<del> </del>			
29. Unable to substantiate 30. Neglect (total)			<u> </u>	<del> </del>			
A			<del> </del>	<b></b>			
			<u> </u>				
32. Unsubstantiated			<del>                                     </del>				
33. Unable to substantiate		<del></del>	<del></del>	<u></u>			
Elder Abuse				·			
34. Elder abuse (total)							
35. Substantiated							
36. Unsubstantiated			<u> </u>				
37. Unable to substantiate			<u> </u>				
Suicides							
38. Adult			T				
39. Adolescent and child							

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### **Community Report Card**

Part 3: Service Availability and Accessibility

Community:	·	<u>.</u>		Maria de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya de l
	-	-		
Reporting period:		<del></del> -		Year:
Interventions	Yes	No	Accessibility	Comments
Hot line	1			
Hospital	1			
Police	1_			
Mental health services				
County adult and child protection				
Ambulance				
Mediation				
Safe houses for children				
Group homes for teenagers			-	
Shelters for domestic abuse victims				
Rape and sexual assault counseling	7			
centers		!		
Respite care for caregivers for the	1			
elderly				
Foster care				
Services for victims of violent crime				
State and Federal civil rights offices				
Juvenile detention facilities				
Treatment				
Chemical dependency				
Gambling dependency				
Domestic abuse				
Other offender services				
Prevention and Public Education	•			
Prenatal and child health services	1			
Quality recreational activities for young	1			
people				
Workplace programs on assault,	1			
substance abuse, suicide,				
harassment, and diversity				
Firearm safety programs for adults and	-			
children	:			4
Parenting classes				
Caregiver education and support				
School programs				
Alcohol/drug prevention				
Violence prevention/conflict	:			
resolution	1			
Suicide prevention				1
Media coverage that educates	T			The state of the s



Rating Service Accessibility

To assess the accessibility of services, ask the following questions about each service listed in Part 3 of the report card. We've proposed a scoring system to help you rate the accessibility of each service. Please note that the system is very subjective. Our only intent is to give you a starting point and way of comparing the relative accessibility of the services.

Criteria	Score
<ol> <li>Does access require driving a car?</li> <li>No = 0 Yes = 2</li> </ol>	
<ol> <li>If a car is required, how many minutes does it take to reach the service?</li> <li>20 minutes = 0 20-40 minutes = 1 &gt; 40 minutes = 2</li> </ol>	
3. Does access require a phone? $N_0 = 0$ Yes = 2	. <u></u>
4. If a phone is required, is the call long distance? $N_0 = 0$ Yes = 2	
5. If the service involves the provider coming to the victim, does the average response time match the victim's needs? No = 0 Yes = 2	
6. Is medical insurance required to receive services? $N_0 = 0$ Yes = 2	
7. Is the cost of services affordable to the victim? No = 0 Yes = 2	
8. Are referrals regularly offered—does the initial contact (police, emergency room, health professional, counselor) provide referrals to other appropriate services (especially between police, medical, victim services, county protection)? Yes = 0 No = 2	
9. Are professionals adequately trained to respond to violence? $No=0$ $Yes=2$	
10. Is the service available during hours when the client can conveniently use it (for example, after work and on weekends)? No = 0 Yes = 2	
11. Do clients wait or get turned away from services? No = 0 Yes = 2	1
TOTAL SCORE	



#### **Community Report Card**

Part 4a: Community Comparisons

Year					
Risk Factors	Your Community	Your County	Comparison Community	Comaparison County	State
Population					-
Percent below poverty					
Percent white					*************
Percent single parents					
Percent of mothers under 18			1		
Percent low birth weight	İ				
Percent unemployment					
Percent of adults with a high school diploma					
Suicide rate					
Driving under the influence rate					
Narcotics crimes rate					
Violent Events		***************************************			
Serious crimes					
Murder rate	1				1
Rape rate			1		
Aggravated assault rate—domestic					:
Aggravated assault rate—nondomestic					
Robbery rate					
Less serious crimes					
Bias crimes		***			
Orders of protection					
Minor assaults rate—domestic					···········
Minor assaults rate—nondomestic			T		
Sexual offenses rate					
Child abuse rate (al. reports)			-A	1	
Physical abuse rate					
Sexual abuse rate					
Emotional abuse rate					
Neglect rate		1	1	:	
Elder abuse rate (all reports)					
Suicide Rate			<del> </del>		

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NOTE: All crimes, abuse, and risk factors are calculated as rates per 1,000 when possible.

# NOTES



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#### REPORT COSTS

Staff time, DPS Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention Staff time, DPS Public Education and Media Relations				
Printing costs	4,000			
TOTAL	\$24,000			

This report can be provided in other formats, including large type, Braille and audiotape.

Přepařed by



Minneson Department of Public Safety ... Office of Drug Policy and Wiolence Prevention



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