2013 Gun Violence Prevention Youth Ideas

ROOT CAUSES OF GUN VIOLENCE

EMOTIONAL ISSUES

- Anger (popular response)
- Depression (popular response)
- Low self-esteem
- People bully others because their life is bad and they want others to feel sad with them.
- People bully out of anger
- Need for attention
- Hatred
- Stupidity
- Fear
- Pride/ego
- Suicides
- Jealousy
- A person’s blatant lack of respect for humanity
- Mental instability
- Not knowing how to handle what’s going on
- Mental or physical disability
- Medication

PERSONAL ISSUES OR CIRCUMSTANCES

- Problems at home (popular response)
- Lack of support
- Family death
- Family, people messing with someone else’s family
- Personal issues with another person
- Kids on the streets
- Easy access to weapons
- Protection
- Lack of parental involvement
- Don’t have everything
- Gambling
- Alcohol/drugs
- Medication
- Lack of education
- Homelessness
FINANCIAL

- Jobs or lack of jobs, unemployment (popular response)
- Money (popular response)
- Poverty or financial issues (popular response)
- Selling them [guns]
- Vehicle
- Gun purchasing

INFLUENCE

- Trend – following others (popular response)
- Peer pressure, influenced, or pushed into it (popular response)
- Bullying (popular response)
- Following friends
- Alcohol/drugs

CRIME

- Drugs (popular response)
- The wrong person having a gun
- Theft
- Trespassing
- Rape

SOCIAL

- Gangs or gang lands/disputes/rivalries (popular response)
- Fights/disputes (popular response)
- Revenge (popular response)
- Rumors, “he said, she said,” or words back and forth (popular response)
- Disrespect (popular response)
- The internet, social media, Facebook, Myspace, online chats, Twitter etc. (popular response)
- Misunderstandings
- House parties
- Personal issues with another person
- Show outs
- Disputes over girls
SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE

POSITIVE, RELATIONSHIPS, ACTIVITIES, AND INFLUENCE

➢ “Get a personal guard to protect you”
➢ “Don’t give out too much information about yourself on a social media website”
➢ “Don’t hang around the wrong people”
➢ “Youth express how uncool it is”
➢ “School assemblies on respect and bullying situations”
➢ “Teen to teen talks”
➢ “Start to help more”
➢ “Work with each other, not against each other”
➢ “Speak up”
➢ “Befriend a bully”
➢ “Try to stand up for yourself”
➢ “Creating network solutions in identifying bullies online, i.e. Bully Alert”
➢ “Positive activities”
➢ “Support groups”
➢ “Find a group of friends that appreciate”
➢ “Violence free zone”
➢ “Bring African American males together in a positive way”
➢ “Music”
➢ “Positive artwork”
➢ “If people want to get in a group make that group great and make it help the community not full of drugs, guns, or violence”
➢ “Home ownership”
➢ “God’s faith”
➢ “Be productive”
➢ “People could do other things to stay out of trouble and make a positive change in the world”
➢ “Charity work”
➢ “Stop trying to fit in/get fame”
➢ “Do more positive things”

MANAGE EMOTIONS & MENTAL HEALTH

• “Watch funny videos when you feel like bullying”
• “Therapy”
• “Apologize”
• “Laugh”
• “Sensitivity training for adults”
• “Mental health”
• “Respect”
• “Find another way to resolve conflicts”
• “Learn to respect each other”
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- “Talk about the root cause of bullies”
- “Larger and more frequent community activities”
- “Leaders talk it out with each other”
- “Provide places for them to stay”
- “Project Ujima”
- “Bring people together like today”
- “Parenting home center”
- “Daycare, counseling for parents, sex education, supplies for children like diapers”
- “Coming together”
- “Work together”
- “Raise money to get people out of the streets”
- “Clean up the streets!”
- “Youth need more opportunity to report bullying”
- “Youth feel like they can talk to adults”
- “We can send letters to places telling them how much people are dying from drugs”
- “Talk to mayor”
- “Begin community watch teams”
- “Get more community involvement”
- “Create more community centers or more advertisements for community centers”

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- “More parental supervision”
- “Listen to your parents”
- “Give examples of activities families can do together”
- “Family counseling”

GANG VIOLENCE

- “Have undercover police track the gangs’ hideouts”
- “Get people informed about gangs and try to get enough people to stop them”
- “We should have everybody involved with a gang sit and talk about what’s going on in the world”
- “Stop the gangs, get out of the groups”
- “Stop the crime in public places”
- “Spread news against gangs amongst teens”

DRUGS/ALCOHOL

- “They can stop selling drugs”
- “Rehab centers”
- “Stop the drugs that pass through the streets”
TARGET KEY AREAS/GROUPS

- “Start a bullying prevention group in that area”
- “Have positive events take place in the bad places” (place-making)
- “Group to help kids in hood”

RESTRICT ACCESS/DISINCENTIVIZE

- “Shut down sites that sell guns online”
- “Destroy computers”
- “Give them a fee of $50 or $1000”
- “Raise price” [of guns/bullets]

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- “Find better teachers that truly care about the students”
- “Stay in school”
- “Provide places for them to stay, school supplies, and education”
- “Better life opportunities”
- “Introduce kids to apprenticeships”
- “Understand that money is not the most important thing in the world”
- “Job placement centers”
- “Get more jobs in the community”
- “Job readiness programs”
- “More teachers to look out for it”
- “Better opportunities for youth”
- Work-related needs: “Work ethic, email address, education, references, experience, higher paying jobs”
- “Eliminate drug groups to push those people to try and get real-income jobs”
- “More strict education”

EMPOWER LEADERS

- “Give kids responsibilities so they play a real part”
- “Give felons a chance to redeem themselves”
- “Power”
- “Encourage youth assemblies”
- “Have former gang members talk to kids in school”
- “Take felonies away after a certain amount of time/progress”
- “Have probation officers on board to help bring more resources to re-entry men and women”
- “Higher paying jobs so drug sellers can’t make more selling drugs”
- “Leaders speak out about how gangs can change their lives”