

Community-Academic Collaboration to Prevent Violence in Chicago

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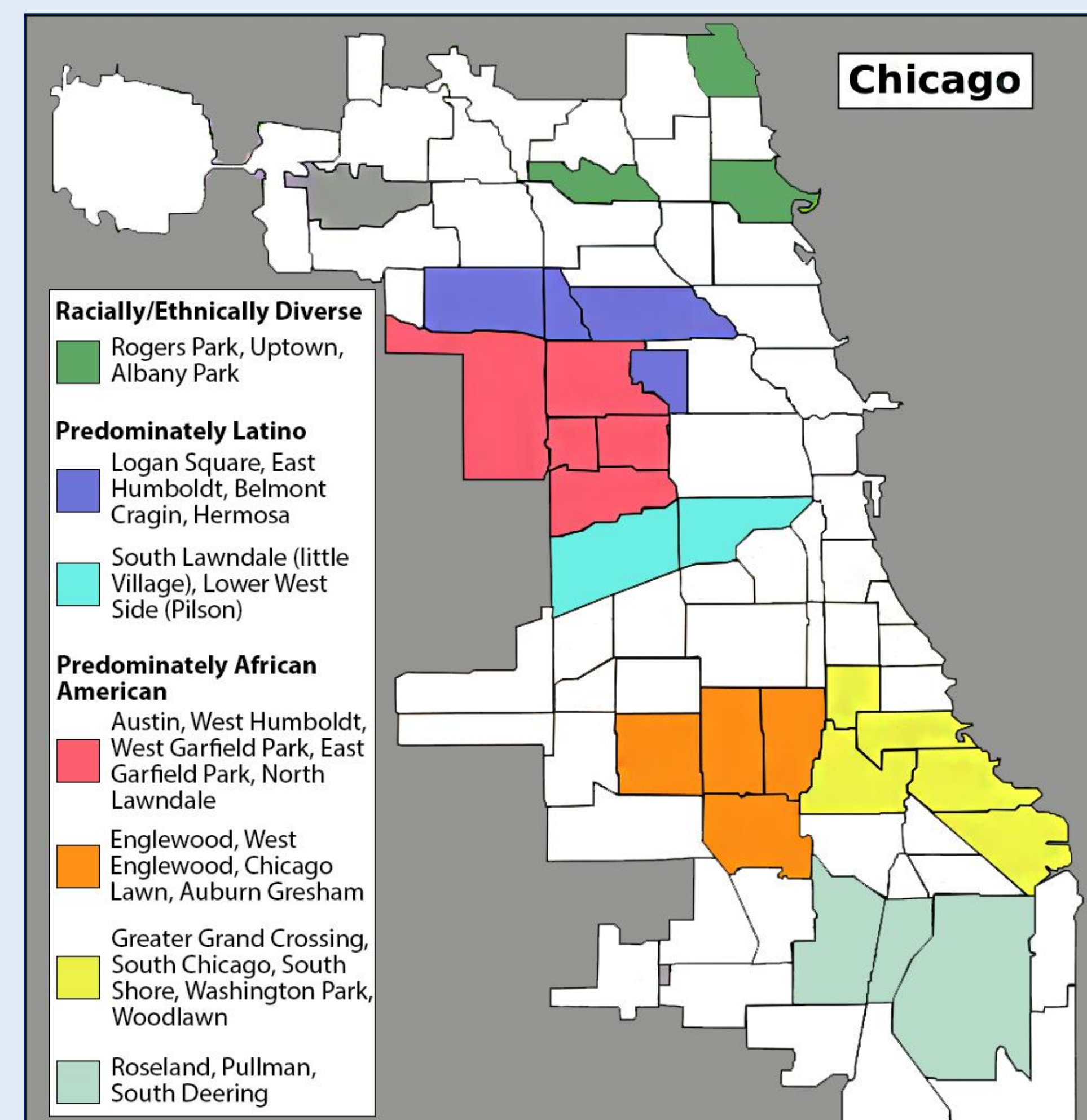
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Background

- Rates of violence are decreasing on average across Chicago but violence inequality is increasing¹
- Declines in violence are disproportionately in communities on the north side, while many predominantly African-American or Latino communities on the south and west sides experienced steady or increased rates of violence in recent years²
- Because different communities, and different populations within them, perceive and experience violence differently, those differences must be recognized and understood to effectively prevent violence
- Often violence prevention research is developed and carried out with little to no input from people who live in communities most affected by violence
- The Community-Academic Collaboration to Prevent Violence in Chicago (CACPVC) enhances connections between academic, philanthropic, and community partners to build capacity to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to reduce health disparities related to violence in Chicago

Methods – Communities

- A series of community meetings are being convened in seven community regions across Chicago (in collaboration with host organizations in each region) to solicit input from community stakeholders about the role of research in preventing violence in their communities



- Organization Networking Gatherings will allow community organizations, researchers, and funders to actively discuss community concerns and research priorities
- Open Community Forums will provide an opportunity for community residents to express their concerns and prioritize the questions they want asked

Methods - People

The project is guided by the direction of an Advisory Board whose work and expertise focus on issues related to violence prevention in Chicago, including representatives of:

- Community-based organizations (Claretian Associates, West Humboldt Park Development Council, Teamwork Englewood)
- Researchers (Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago State University)
- Funders (Polk Bros. Foundation)
- Doctoral students (University of Illinois at Chicago)



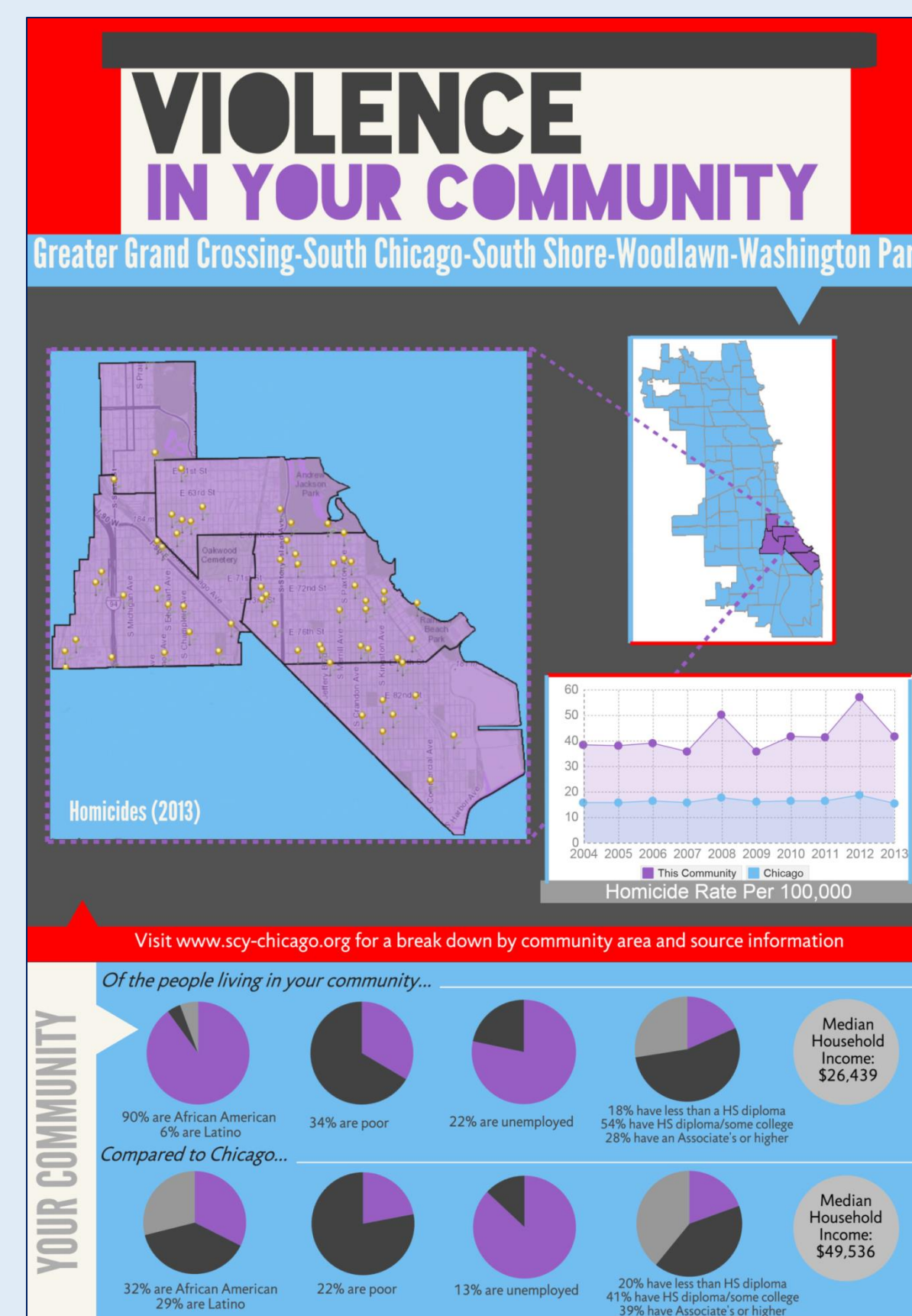
High school juniors and seniors have been recruited to serve as Youth Scribes; the youth participate in a training workshop prior to the community meetings and collect data during meetings



Methods - Agenda

The meetings are guided by an agenda that includes:

- 1) Distribution and discussion of infographic that shows how violence affects that community compared to Chicago, including socioeconomic context and racial/ethnic disparities
- 2) Community organization panel discussion focused on effective violence prevention strategies and the role of research in violence prevention
- 3) Small group discussions about violence-related research priorities and how to support community involvement in violence research
- 4) Survey on satisfaction with the meetings and how the meetings affected knowledge and attitudes about violence and health disparities
- 5) Project team debriefing to reflect on discussion and ensure that meeting notes represent discussion as accurately and thoroughly as possible
- 6) Networking for community-based organizations, researchers, and funders; resource table for community residents

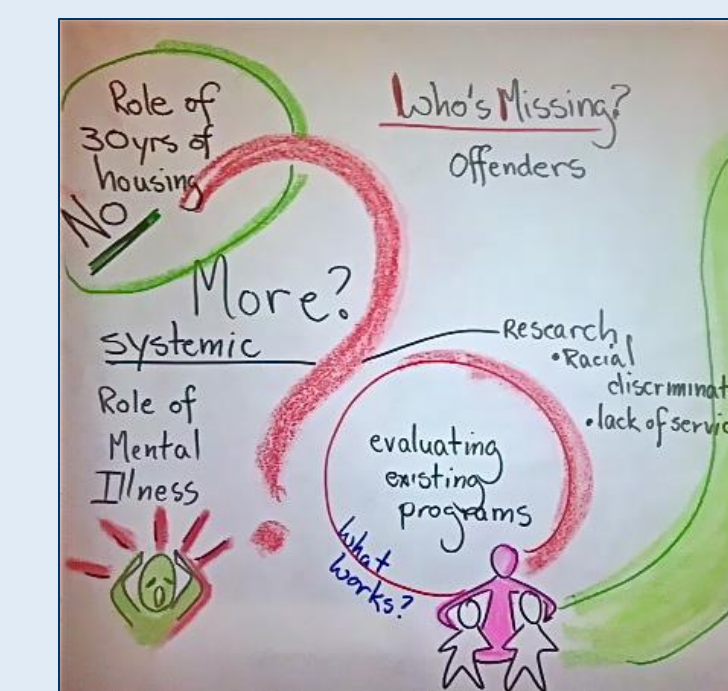
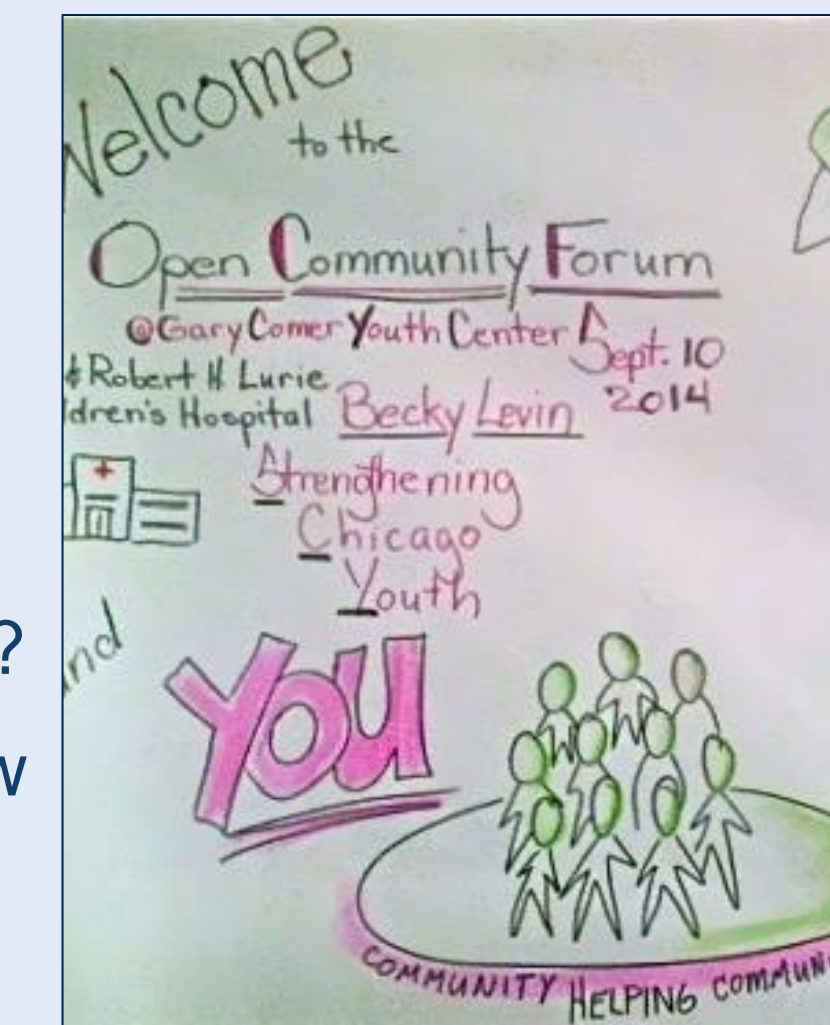


Results - Lessons Learned

Feedback from the project team from the first four community meetings confirmed many anticipated outcomes of this community-engaged research process:

- Infographic and community panel helped stimulate discussion about conducting collaborative research with community partners
- Community stakeholders gave feedback on which types of data are helpful and how to present
- Community residents felt there are questions not being asked about violence and related research such as:

- 1) How are community violence and domestic violence connected?
- 2) What is the impact of Chicago Housing Authority policies on crime?
- 3) Who benefits from violence and how should that inform prevention strategies?



- Each community responded differently to notions around violence and how to conduct research within those communities— further underscoring that diversity should be reflected in research partnerships and priorities

Results - Challenges

Through these initial community meetings, we have encountered several challenges in the process and have developed innovative solutions for some :

- IRB's unfamiliarity with community-engaged research
- Youth scribes had more difficulty than anticipated taking high quality notes
 - ✓ Additional trainings, including practice sessions, developed to prepare youth for note-taking roles
- Logistical burdens of forming partnerships and recruiting participants
 - ✓ Additional time and resources invested in recruiting community stakeholders to attend meetings
- Community understanding of violence research (as distinguished from violence prevention)
 - ✓ Discussion guide and meeting content modified to focus more on research
- Advisory Board investment and accountability
- Mistrust of institutions, including but not limited to research institutions, related to violence

Conclusions – Next Steps

- Using insight from community meetings, CACPVC will create a Community-Based Participatory Research agenda for violence prevention that reflects the diversity of Chicago neighborhoods and establish a permanent infrastructure to facilitate its implementation
- A group of representatives from community organizations who have been actively involved in the project will be established and convened in a series of Research Collaboration Meetings. The group will serve as the foundation of a permanent infrastructure to facilitate implementation of CBPR projects to address and eliminate health disparities related to violence
- The group will also develop a plan to disseminate the CBPR agenda to community organizations, researchers, and funders throughout Chicago

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- 2) Hertz, D. (2013) We've Talked About Homicide In Chicago At Least One Million Times But I Don't Think This Has Come Up. City Notes, Accessed: <http://danielhertz.wordpress.com/2013/08/05/weve-talked-about-homicide-inchicago-at-least-one-million-times-but-i-dont-think-this-has-come-up/> on October 2, 2014

