

SCY 2014 Annual Report



A Year of People, Partnerships, and Progress

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY), a violence prevention program convened by Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, is excited to share our second annual report describing SCY's growth, accomplishments, and partnerships in 2014 with a look ahead to 2015.



Gains & Growth

By the Numbers

SCY's violence prevention coalition grew by over 50% in 2014 to 3000 individuals representing more than 700 organizations, agencies, and institutions. Social media also grew in 2014—[Facebook](#) Likes jumped 27% to 479 and [Twitter](#) followers increased by 174% to 340. SCY grew our [blog](#) with 44 posts in 2014 on a variety of topics including adultism, human sex trafficking, and community-law enforcement relationships. SCY invited a number of guest bloggers to contribute as well, including the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, Dr. Marjorie Fujara with John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Illinois Collaboration on Youth, LISC Chicago, and Assistant Professor Desmond Patton from University of Michigan.

Staff & Interns

SCY added two new [staff](#), Edward Boone, Community Programs Coordinator, and Matthew Berkley, Program Assistant. Ed is responsible for building relationships with key community organizations and institutions to cultivate support for and participation in community-based efforts. Ed also provides community-level coordination of SCY projects such as gathering information about community needs and resources, working with community partners to develop strategies, and providing training and support to community partners. Matt is a Masters of Public Health and Masters of Business Administration student at UIC. He started as an intern with SCY and transitioned to a part-time position in October. Matt works on a variety of SCY projects providing support through facilitating groups at community meetings, writing blogs and social media, and developing summary materials on various violence prevention topics.

In 2014, SCY hosted four interns from UIC, Northwestern University, and Tufts University. These interns worked on various projects, including assembling a white paper on juvenile justice and coordinated care, compiling secondary data for community meeting infographics, and supporting day-to-day operations.

Capacity Building

SCY hosted 11 [trainings](#) in 2014 attended by 262 participants, a 75% increase over 2013. Over the course of the trainings, 29 speakers, panelists, and moderators shared knowledge, experience, best practices, and lessons learned on topics including mental health services in schools, stakeholder engagement, and restorative justice hubs.

SCY's 2014 [quarterly meetings](#) were attended by 120 partners and focused on:

- ◆ Storytelling
- ◆ Youth engagement
- ◆ Partnering with law enforcement
- ◆ Policy agenda development

SCY 2014 Annual Report



Invited Presentations

SCY also participated as an invited speaker at a number of presentations in 2014, including Advocate Children's Hospital's Grand Rounds on "Firearm Violence as a Public Health Issue" in February and at Wheat Ridge Ministries' Chicago Anti-Violence Convening in April on "Connecting to Prevent Violence." SCY's Director provided testimony at a School Discipline Town Hall Meeting in July. In addition, SCY's Director was a panelist at Collaboraction's Crime Scene Chicago Performance/Town Hall Discussion in August and led the Coalition-Building Break-out Session at the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Summit hosted by Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence and Center for American Progress in October.



Policy & Progress

Policy Update

To support involvement in policy and advocacy activities, SCY created a Policy Update newsletter, which is sent out weekly when the Illinois General Assembly is in session and other times when there are topics on which urgent advocacy by SCY partners is needed. Sign up for the [Policy Update](#) at scy-chicago.org.

Illinois Legislation

Several bills supported by SCY passed the General Assembly and were signed into law in 2014, including:

- ◆ [SB2893 \(Public Act 98-1102\)](#): Requires transparency of data regarding school discipline
- ◆ [SB978 \(Public Act 98-637\)](#): Automatically expunges juvenile records under certain circumstances
- ◆ [HB5707 \(Public Act 98-669\)](#): Strengthens and clarifies requirements for schools' anti-bullying policies



Partnerships & Projects

Chicago Ideas Week

On behalf of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, SCY developed the Chicago Ideas Week Lab, "[Building Connections to Strengthen Chicago's Youth](#)." The Lab was based on the premise that connect- edness is a critical asset in preventing violence. During the Lab, people from across Chicago came together to build connections and generate new ideas to prevent violence and strengthen Chicago's youth. The Lab was conducted using the World Café approach, a powerful method for "engaging people in conversations that matter," facilitated by Lina Cramer of Wisdom Exchange and Renee Jackson of the Next Generation of Leaders. Through multiple rounds of discussion, participants considered a series of thought-provoking questions about how to build connections to prevent violence. At the conclusion of the Lab, concrete ideas for action were "harvested" from the small group discussions. SCY will work on implementing these ideas throughout 2015.

SCY 2014 Annual Report



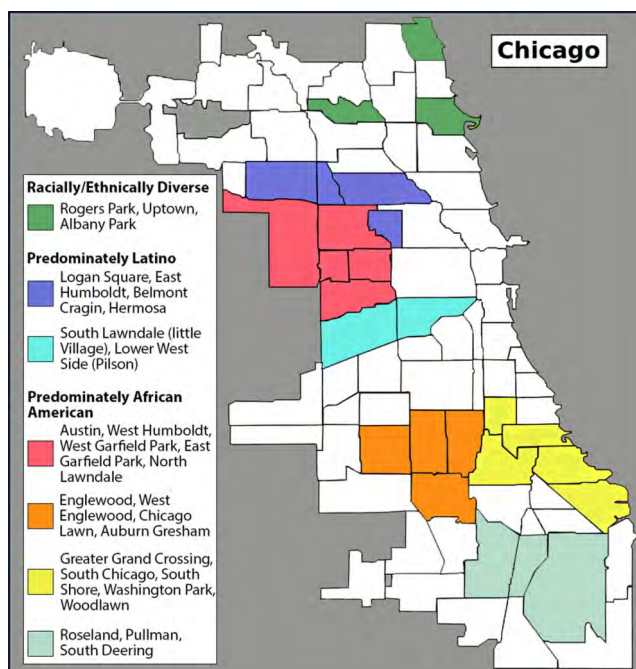
Community-Academic Collaboration

SCY continues to lead the Community-Academic Collaboration to Prevention Violence in Chicago ([CACPVC](#)), funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institutes of Health under Grant R13HD075478 ([scy-chicago.org/resources/cacpvc](#)). The goal of this project is to identify the highest priorities of community residents to improve knowledge about violence in Chicago using community-based participatory research (CBPR). In 2014, SCY partnered with Gary Comer Youth Center, Teamwork Englewood, and Kelly Hall YMCA, to host Organization Networking Gatherings in three groups of communities:

- ◆ Southeast (Greater Grand Crossing, South Chicago, South Shore, Washington Park, Woodlawn)
- ◆ Southwest (Englewood, West Englewood, Chicago Lawn, Auburn Gresham)
- ◆ West (Austin, West Humboldt Park, West Garfield Park, East Garfield Park, North Lawndale)

These gatherings bring together professionals, including direct service providers, city-wide funders, and researchers, working in violence prevention to shape the violence prevention research agenda. Open Community Forums were also held in these regions to give community residents an opportunity to provide their input on these topics. SCY presented a [poster](#) describing this project and some initial results at Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement's Building Health Equity throughout Chicago through Community Engaged Research Symposium and was awarded an honorable mention distinction. In 2015, SCY will host meetings in four other groups of communities:

- ◆ Far South (Roseland, Pullman, South Deering)
- ◆ North (Rogers Park, Uptown, Albany Park)
- ◆ Southwest (Little Village, Pilsen)
- ◆ Northwest (Logan Square, East Humboldt Park, Belmont Cragin, Hermosa)



In the final year of the project, which begins in late 2015, SCY will convene a research collaborative made up of representatives from community organizations that have been actively involved in the project to develop a CBPR violence prevention agenda with short- and long-term activities. This collaborative will serve as the foundation of a permanent infrastructure to facilitate implementation of CBPR projects to address and eliminate health disparities related to violence.

National Youth Violence Prevention Week

National Youth Violence Prevention Week was April 7-11 in 2014 and SCY focused efforts around a social media campaign to achieve awareness and action through mobilization of our collaboration. For each day of the week, SCY asked a community partner to write a guest blog themed according to SCY's [Focus on Five](#): Sustained Investment in Children and Youth, Equitable Access to High Quality Mental Health Services, Common Sense Approaches to Gun Violence, Juvenile Justice System That Reflects What We Know about Adolescent Development, and Sustained Investment in Strong Communities. Additionally, SCY enhanced its presence on Facebook, generating significantly more posts, shares, and likes, and its presence on Twitter, increasing its tweets, retweets, and mentions of partners, growing our total social media reach by nearly 70%.

SCY 2014 Annual Report



JTDC Alternatives Collaborative

In 2014, SCY partnered with youth service providers and government stakeholders in Cook County on the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) Alternatives Collaborative to initiate the development of a care coordination model for justice-involved youth. The mission of the [JTDC Alternatives Collaborative](#) is to minimize further involvement of arrested youth in the justice system and reduce racial disparities by facilitating and coordinating access to comprehensive support services that meet adolescents' developmental needs.

The JTDC Alternatives Collaborative partners currently include the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) and 9 community-based youth service providers:

- ◆ Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center
- ◆ BUILT, Inc.
- ◆ Children's Home + Aid
- ◆ Heartland (Human Care Services)
- ◆ New Life/Urban Life Skills
- ◆ SGA Youth & Family Services
- ◆ UCAN
- ◆ Youth Guidance
- ◆ Youth Outreach Services

The Collaborative completed its initial design phase in 2014 and is currently undertaking a more detailed implementation planning phase. These preliminary phases are funded in part by Polk Bros. Foundation and The Albert Pick Jr. Fund.

MIPA Summit

In October, SCY co-hosted the 2014 Midwest Injury Prevention Alliance ([MIPA](#)) Summit with MIPA and the Injury Prevention and Research Center ([IPRC](#)) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. The Summit was sponsored by the Center for Injury Research and Policy of the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Minnesota Department of Health and University of Michigan Injury Center. The 2-day summit featured national, state, and regional experts in injury prevention and this year's Summit topics included a focus on translation of research into practice through community partnerships, policy initiatives, and implementation models. As the violence prevention collaborative within IPRC, SCY had a pivotal role in organizing and facilitating the Summit and was able to shape several components of the Summit to focus on violence prevention, featuring the work of partners such as Cure Violence and the Illinois Department of Public Health.



Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago

In 2014, SCY joined the [Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago](#), a group of over 130 community and faith leaders, practitioners, subject matter experts, city staff, parents, and youth focused on developing a strategic plan to prevent youth violence in Chicago. The [report](#) was released in early 2015 and SCY will help disseminate the recommendations and follow-up discussions regarding implementation through our newsletter, social media, and our first quarterly meeting of 2015.



Looking Forward—2015

Activities

In 2015, SCY's efforts will focus on revised [strategies](#): 1) coordinate efforts around SCY's revised [policy agenda](#), 2) facilitate sharing of knowledge among and provide technical assistance/training to community organizations, 3) encourage conversations about the preventability of violence and how every individual and organization can play a role, and 4) foster connections between community organizations and researchers. Our focus areas have not changed, but we will be undertaking new activities to support these refined strategies.

Quarterly Meetings

Save the dates for SCY's 2015 [quarterly meetings](#):

- ♦ **Feb 5 – Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago**
Focused on strategic plan recommendations to address youth violence and ways that community-based organizations can be involved in implementation of the report.
- ♦ **May 14 – Community Café: Bringing the Reports to Life**
Focused on findings from two recent reports: 1) Enhanced Transparency in the Cook County Juvenile Court: A Pathway to Reform and 2) Juvenile Justice Needs Assessment.
- ♦ **August 19 – Tentative Topic: Early Childhood**
- ♦ **November 10 – Tentative Topic: Girls & Violence**

Midwest ACEs Summit

In 2015, SCY will also co-host the Midwest Regional Summit on Adverse Childhood Experiences: Building Partnerships across Generations for Healthy Futures March 12-13. The 3rd Annual Regional Summit will bring together national, regional and local leaders to explore emerging research, policy and practice implications of abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences—Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)—that occur among individuals under the age of 18.

Illinois Violent Death Reporting System

SCY is also collaborating with the Injury Prevention and Research Center at Lurie Children's on the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System ([IVDRS](#)). IVDRS is part of the National Violent Death Reporting System, which pools information about the "who, when, where, and how" of violent deaths to provide a more complete picture and develop insight into "why" they occur. This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Grant Number 1U17CE002590-01) and the Illinois Department of Public Health.



Stay Connected with SCY

Social Media and Contact Information

facebook.com/StrengtheningChicagosYouth | twitter.com/SCY_Chicago | scy-chicago.tumblr.com
225 E. Chicago Ave, Box 157, Chicago, IL 60611 | 312-227-6678 | info@scy-chicago.org | scy-chicago.org

Download an electronic copy with working links at scy-chicago.org/scy-news