

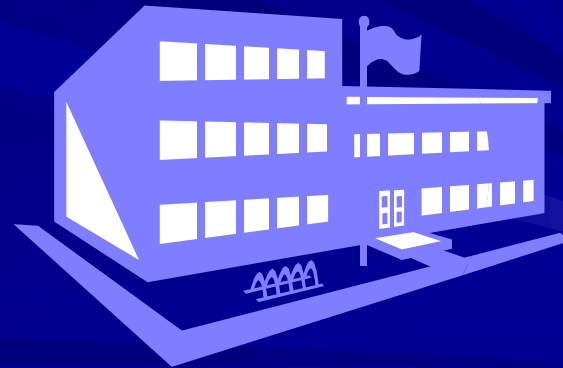
School Safety and Security

National Crime Prevention Council
2006



Objectives

- School safety and security issues
- Factors affecting school safety
- Key components of school safety planning
- Engaging the community for safer schools



School Crime and Violence

- Youth are the most victimized people in the United States.
- Youth were victims of about 1.9 million nonfatal crimes while at school in 2003.
 - Two-thirds of student victimization was by theft.
 - One-third of student victimization was by violent crime.



Source: *Indicators of School Crime and Violence*, U.S. Department of Education, 2005

School Crime and Safety

Students say

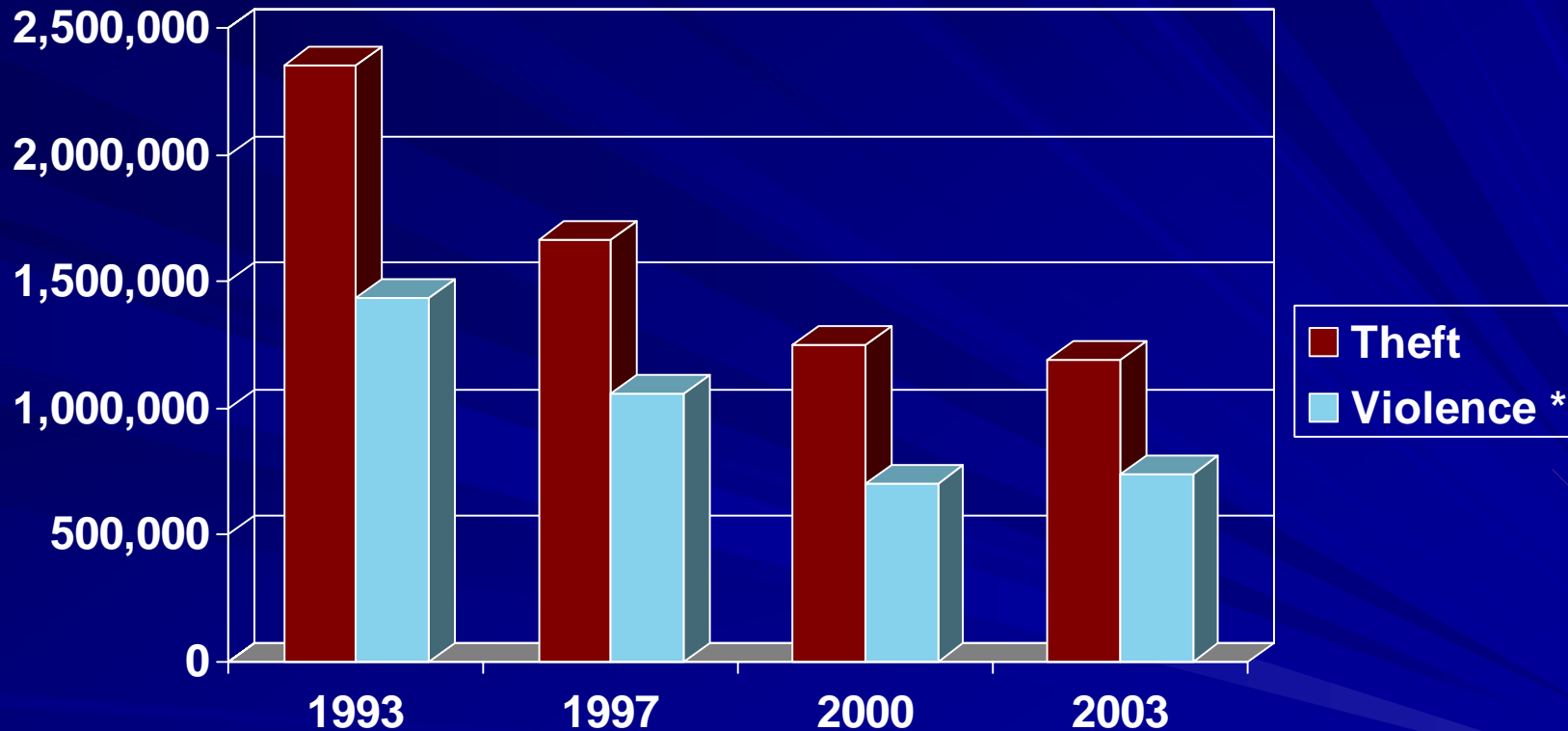
- 7% were bullied
- 9% were threatened or injured with a weapon
- 13% reported being in a fight on school property
- 21% reported gangs in their schools
- 29% were offered or given drugs
- 36% saw hate graffiti; 12% were the victims of hate speech



Source: *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*, U.S. Department of Education, 2005



School Crime and Safety

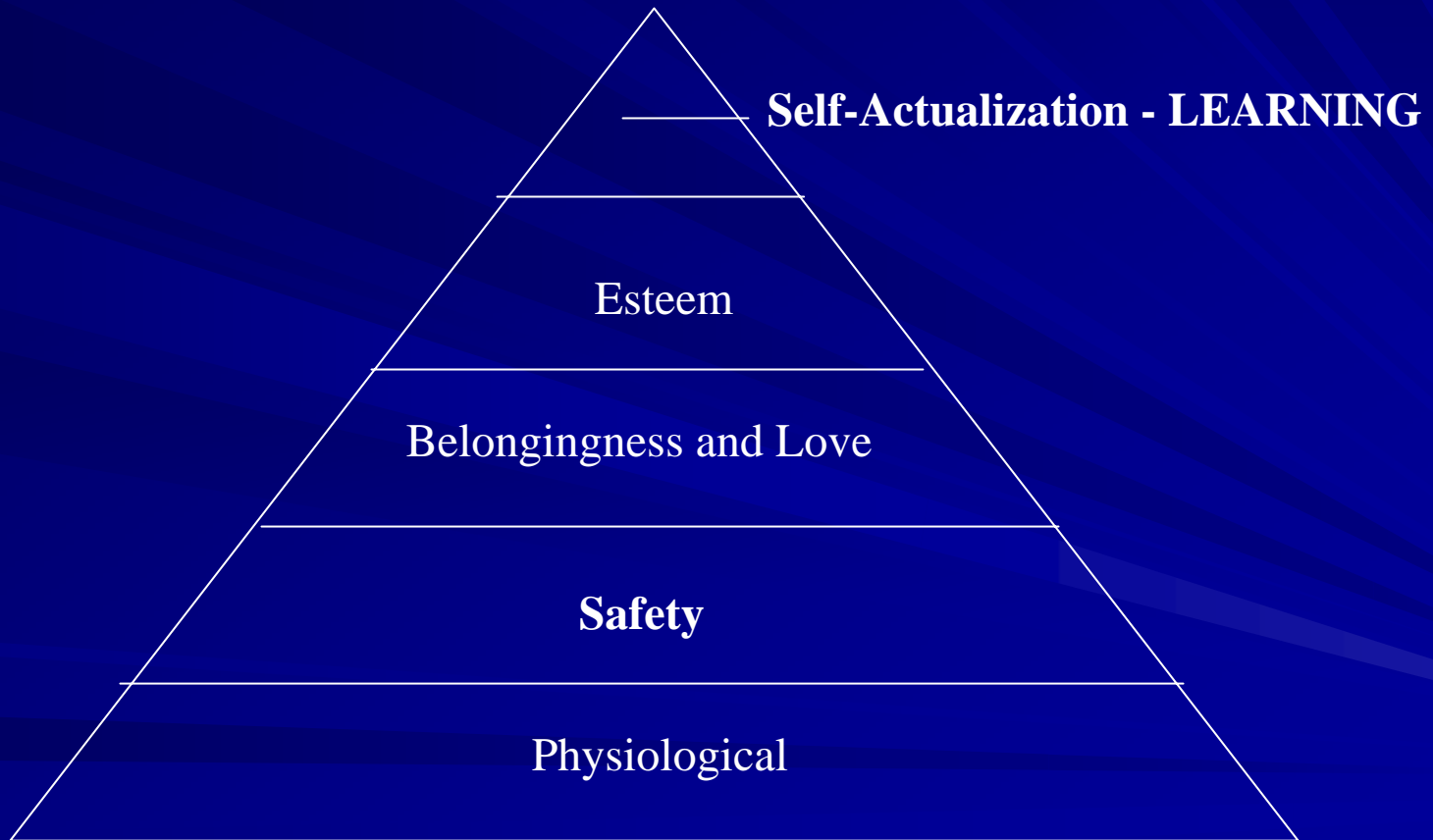


*Violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, simple assault, and aggravated assault.

Source: *Indicators of School Crime and Violence*, U.S. Department of Education, 2005



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Impact on Achievement

“Theft and violence at school and while going to and from school can lead to a disruptive and threatening environment, physical injury, and emotional stress, and can be an obstacle to student achievement.”

Source: *Elliott, Hamburg, and Williams, 1998*



Factors Affecting Safety

- School security
 - Hardware, technology, protocols, and policies
- School design
 - Access control, natural surveillance, and territorial reinforcement
- School climate
 - Values, norms, and attitudes



School Climate Issues

- Bullying, intimidation, and isolation
- Harassment and prejudice
- Social cliques
- Theft and graffiti
- Lack of connectedness
- Disrespect between teachers/staff and students
- Lack of student reporting of crime and safety issues



Safe Schools

- Positive school climate and atmosphere
- Clear and high academic and disciplinary expectations of students
- Strong student attachment to the school
- High levels of both student participation and parent involvement
- Values and practices that make everyone feel included; appreciation of diversity



Source: *Trends and Issues Affecting School Safety*, 2001

Safe Schools

- Building and grounds are well maintained.
- Students feel safe reporting crime and safety problems to staff.
- Disciplinary and safety problems are quickly and appropriately addressed.
- Access is controlled and visitors are monitored.
- All staff actively supervise students both inside and outside the classroom.
- All areas are safe by design or by staff supervision.



Safe Schools Planning

- Establish a team.
- Assess needs.
- Prioritize needs.
- Develop and implement a plan.



Who Should Be Involved?



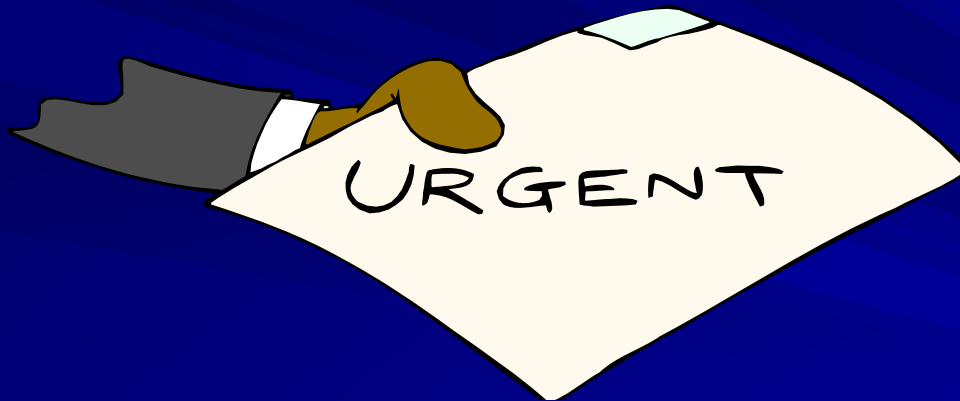
Needs Assessment

- Collect existing indicator data.
- Survey parents, staff, and students about their safety concerns.
- Assess climate, security, and design.
- Conduct an inventory of assets.



Prioritize Needs

- What's important?
- What's feasible?



Develop a Plan

- Set measurable objectives that include
 - Time frame
 - Desired change.
- Select effective programs and strategies.
- Break the plan down step-by-step.



Engaging the Community

- Involve community members on the planning team.
- Gather their feedback through surveys.
- Involve them through a forum.
- Consult them as needed for expertise.
- Ask for their support of measures.



Parents and Caregivers

- Program development and implementation
- Cultural/diversity programming
- Mentoring and volunteering (can serve as hallway, playground, and lunchroom monitors)
- Visitor check-in table
- Safety patrols to and from school
- Advocacy to elected officials and school board

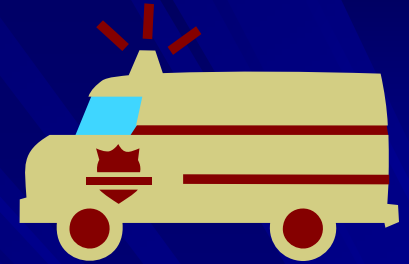


Community Service Providers

- Identifying learning and behavioral problems
- Counseling
- Resolving conflicts and providing alternatives to violence
- Conducting parent education programs
- Teaching social skills
- Providing afterschool and in-school programming
- Providing safe havens for kids



Law Enforcement and First Responders



- Information-sharing and collaboration
- Training for staff in emergency response
- Training for staff and School Resource Officers in warning signs
- Law-related education for students
- CPR and first aid classes for staff and students
- Mentoring and tutoring



Legal and Business Communities

- Legal alternatives and advice
- Supervise student courts and train students how to run them
- Afterschool employment or internships
- In-kind or monetary donations
- Mentoring and volunteering
- Staff training and education
- Safe havens for kids



Community and State Leaders

- Speak at awareness-building events
- Provide influential leadership
- Build support in the community
- Provide expertise on available alternative and supplementary resources



Resources

- *Stopping School Violence: A Dozen Things* – A set of six reproducible tip sheets, one each for parents, students, teachers, law enforcement, principals, and others
- *Caregivers' Guide to School Safety and Security* – An informational guide for parents and community members
- *Safer Schools: Strategies for Educators and Law Enforcement Seeking To Prevent Violence Within Schools*
- *School Safety and Security Toolkit* – A step-by-step guide to school safety planning; includes tools for assessing needs and developing an action plan (CD-ROM)



Resources

- National Crime Prevention Council

www.ncpc.org

- Youth Crime Watch of America

www.ycwa.org

- National Criminal Justice Reference Service www.ncjrs.gov



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Presenter Contact Information

