



Our Mission

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) is convened by Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to address the issues of violence that impact the health and safety of Chicago youth. Every day children are exposed to violence in their communities, schools and homes, and the effects of exposure to violence can last throughout a lifetime. Therefore, we must build communities' and families' capability and skills to raise safe, resilient, emotionally healthy youth.

SCY's mission is to build capacity among stakeholders to connect, collaborate and mobilize around a public health approach to violence prevention—adopting consistent messaging about the preventability of violence, promoting use of evidence-based violence prevention strategies and fostering multi-sector collaboration. SCY encourages partnerships that strengthen existing efforts and benefit the children of Chicago.

To prevent violence, SCY takes and encourages action around five focus areas:

- Sustained investment in children and youth
- Equitable access to high quality mental health services
- Common sense approaches to gun violence prevention
- Juvenile justice system that reflects what we know about adolescent development
- Sustained investment in strong communities

SCY pursues violence prevention through four strategies that emphasize building connections among violence prevention partners. These strategies and SCY's 2017 activities are:

STRATEGY	2017 ACTIVITIES
Coordinate efforts around the SCY policy agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for SCY policy agenda by educating policymakers, testifying at hearings, and participating in awareness campaigns. • Support SCY partners' advocacy around the policy agenda by providing updates on pending legislation and regulations, offering training and technical assistance, and developing sample advocacy tools and resources. • Convene the Juvenile Justice Collaborative, a group of youth service providers implementing a care coordination model for justice-involved youth in Cook County, and undertake a demonstration project.
Facilitate sharing of knowledge among and provide technical assistance and training to community organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host quarterly meetings and offer regular trainings and educational seminars. • Communicate with partners through bimonthly newsletter, social media, and website. • Participate in coalitions, attend events, and meet with violence prevention stakeholders to grow SCY's network of connections.
Encourage conversations about the preventability of violence and how every individual and organization can play a role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Lurie Children's call for all Chicagoans to "roll up their sleeves" to help prevent violence. • Support Chicago media in covering violence in a more comprehensive, data-driven manner that emphasizes root causes of violence and proven strategies to prevent violence. • Support community assessment and effective coalition building in the South Suburban Safe and Thriving Communities Project, and explore spreading this approach to Chicago neighborhoods.
Foster connections between community and academic partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and disseminate a violence prevention research agenda and recommendations to support community-engaged research as part of National Institutes of Health-funded "Community-Academic Collaboration to Prevent Violence in Chicago." • Facilitate connections among researchers and provide training and technical assistance to enable community partners to make better use of data to inform public policy.