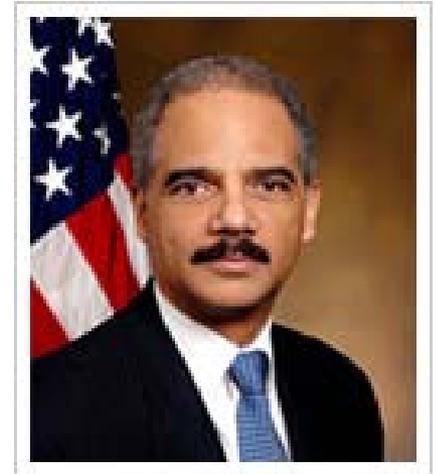


Defending Childhood

The Attorney General's Initiative on Children Exposed to Violence





- **Line prosecutor, US Attorney, Superior Court Judge**
 - **Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Administration**
 - **Holder led an interagency effort on CEV and convened National Summit that led to a blueprint for action:**
 - *Safe From the Start: Taking Action on Children Exposed to Violence*
-

GOALS



Prevent children's exposure to violence

Mitigate the negative effects experienced
by children exposed to violence

Develop knowledge about and spread
awareness of this issue



A national sample of youth reported that in the past year:

- A majority (60 %) of were exposed to violence, crime, or abuse in their homes, schools, and communities
- Almost 40% were direct victims of 2 or more violent acts and 1 in 10 were victims of violence 5 or more times
- Almost 15% of children experienced an assault with a weapon and were injured as a result
- 1 in 10 suffered some form of child maltreatment

USDOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Children's Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey* (Juvenile Justice Bulletin, Oct. 2009)



- **Devastating consequences**
 - Exposures to violence associated with long-term physical, psychological, and emotional harm
 - Children’s exposure to violence impacts families, as such children are more likely to have problems later in life with partnering and parenting
 - Children’s exposure to violence impacts communities, as such children are more likely to become delinquent or engage in criminal behavior.
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- **Broad DOJ involvement**
 - **\$12 million awarded in FY2010 to support:**
 - **Comprehensive demonstration projects**
 - **Research and evaluation**
 - **Training and technical assistance**
 - **Public awareness efforts**
 - **Action Partnerships with professional organizations**
 - **Fellowship**
-



- **8 localities funded for one year problem assessment and program planning period**
 - **Up to 4 will be selected to receive funding to implement comprehensive plans in FY2011 covering full spectrum of prevention and response for**
 - **children aged 0-17, witnesses and direct victims, violence in home and in community**
 - **Evaluation funded by NIJ**
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- **DOJ review of research highlighted importance of:**
 - Intervening with child and parent
 - Combining home-based and center-based approaches
 - Education across all system partners
 - Bridging research and practice
 - Screening for poly-victimization
 - Recognizing full range of violence exposures
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- **In 2011, DOJ intends to:**
 - Continue the comprehensive demonstration initiative
 - Hold a conference targeting law enforcement, US Attorneys, and their community partners
 - Expand grant opportunities and research projects
 - Expand public awareness efforts and outlets
 - Expand partnerships with other federal agencies
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“Through renewing and refocusing our efforts to serve our nation’s most vulnerable and most distressed children we can transform the country we love for the better – one child at a time.”

Attorney General Eric Holder
