Gang Violence killing in Omaha spike

In 2010, there were a total of 34 homicides in the city of Omaha, a total which is higher than the decade’s average of 32. In the statistics, it shows that gang or drug related killings in 2010 spiked from 2009. At least 16 of 2010 homicides were gang related, an increase from 2009’s number of seven homicides. In the first week of 2011 alone, three homicides were recorded.

Omaha police say that the movement of “No Snitching” in gang communities attributes with no solutions in solving gang related homicides. Many community efforts such as Empowerment Network and Enough Is Enough have helped control gang violence in the community that occurred at the beginning of 2010.

During the last seventeen days of May 2010, twelve people were shot in north Omaha. Two of those twelve victims died. Seven others were injured in shootings two months prior. Only eighteen people in Omaha who were killed in the year 2010 weren’t involved with gangs.

Other efforts shown to be effective in dropping the number of shootings in north Omaha neighborhoods have been programs in the summer to employ teens who may be at risk, and serious effort by officers to hunt down known offenders. Between April 2010 and June 2010, twenty-one non-fatal gang related drive-by shootings occurred. Between July through September, only nine drive-by shootings occurred. In northeast Omaha, fourteen shooting deaths transpired in the month of June alone, yet five shootings happened in that area over the rest of the year.

Omaha’s murder levels have declined to it’s lowest rates since the 1960s, with forty-four murders in 2008 being the highest in fifty years.

Community leaders remain confident that they can build on their efforts in a war against violence.
Gang Violence Editorials

Joslyn Metcalf

Violence is an unjust or unwarranted exertion of force or power, as against rights or laws. It is a rapidly growing issue in America. It acts as a negative influence in society, particularly in Omaha, Nebraska. Violence is a relevant theme in the Omaha community and places in hard and danger.

The first reason why I think that violence is dangerous is because it takes a variety of different forms including: robbery, sexual assault, homicide, and rape. Violence is most prominent within the African American community for males ages 15-24.

There have been many cases in which people have been shot. On one occasion a fifteen year old boy was accused of shooting one person and reportedly tried to kill a police officer. The real shooter confessed to a couple of inmates in jail, but prosecutors say the teen is the shooter and a known gang member needs to be tried as an adult. These kinds of events are common in Omaha, Nebraska.

Although one believes that violence is bad, many people think that it has a good connotation. People think that violence can protect others. However, I believe that there is no such thing as “good violence” because violence is bad in any form. The definition of violence is the unpleasant or destructive natural force or using physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone.

In conclusion, violence is harming the lives of many, and it is destroying families. Therefore it is a relevant theme in the community.

John Gomez

The other day I was reading a story on a kid who was walking to school while he was approached by a car full of gang members. They asked him where he was from, slang for what hood he represents, and he responded “I don’t rep no hood”, and kept walking. They followed him, shot him dead, and then drove away. He was 15 and an A+ student. He was planning on turning in his paper for American History, which they found folded up in his back pocket on his corpse.

Once again another victim of senseless gang violence. For what! Just so they could represent their hood. I was reading up on some of the origins of gangs and I found that a lot of them started as vigilantes trying to protect their neighborhood, friends or family. Instead, they put their whole community in harm’s way by placing them in gang territory. What may have started as a peaceful organization turned into a violent crime based one. Their intentions turned from protection to own selfish personal gain by murder, robbery, drug dealing and other illegal acts.

Gangs may have started with a positive state of mind, but over time turned into groups of criminals whose actions have severe repercussions on the innocent law-abiding people of their community. When gang violence happens nobody is spared. Not even the members of the community they originally swore to protect.
That's not love, that's abuse.

visit www.weboffriends.org

Youth Empowerment Project funding provided by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Children.
What FDA Regulation of Tobacco Products Really Means

The "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act" amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) to grant the FDA authority to regulate the manufacturing, marketing and sale of tobacco products. Tobacco products would not be regulated under the "safe and effective" standard currently used for other products under the agency's purview, but under a new standard – "appropriate for the protection of the public health."

This law will restrict marketing and sales to youth

One year after being signed into law, specific restrictions on youth access and marketing will go into effect. The FDA also has the authority to take additional actions in the future to protect the public health. These regulations:

- Ban all outdoor tobacco advertising within 1,000 feet of schools and playgrounds
- Ban all remaining tobacco-brand sponsorships of sports and entertainment events
- Limit advertising in publications with significant teen readership as well as outdoor and point-of-sale advertising, except in adult-only facilities, to black-and-white text only. Require retailers to verify age for all over-the-counter sales and provide for federal enforcement and penalties against retailers who sell to minors
- Grant FDA authority to restrict tobacco marketing The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) is given authority to develop regulations that impose restrictions on the advertising and promotion of a tobacco product consistent with and to the full extent permitted by the First Amendment to the Constitution. These regulations would be based on whether they would be appropriate for the protection of the public health. This authority gives the agency the flexibility to respond to inevitable tobacco industry attempts to circumvent restrictions.
- Require detailed disclosure of ingredients, nicotine and harmful smoke constituents Tobacco companies are required to provide the FDA with information about their products. This information allows the agency to determine how best to reduce the harm they cause and to better educate the public about the health effects of tobacco use and the dozens of toxic substances in tobacco products. Tobacco companies are required to disclose to the FDA the ingredients in each existing tobacco product by brand and by quantity in each brand, including all smoke constituents. They must also inform the FDA of any changes to the product.
- Allow FDA to require changes to tobacco products to protect the public health – The FDA has the authority to require changes in current and future tobacco products, such as the reduction or elimination of harmful ingredients, additives and constituents, if it decides that these changes would protect public health. FDA is also granted the authority to change nicotine yields; only Congress can ban nicotine from the product.
- Strictly regulate "reduced harm" claims about tobacco products – This law prohibits the use of descriptors, such as "light", "mild" and "low," to characterize a product on labels or in advertising. In addition, a manufacturer must first file an application and receive an order before they market any tobacco product as presenting a "modified risk." FDA has authority to review the marketing of such products and determine if the applicant demonstrates that the product, as actually used by consumers, will significantly reduce harm and the risk of tobacco-related disease to individual tobacco users and benefit the health of the population as a whole – taking into account both users of tobacco products and persons who do not currently use tobacco products.
- Require bigger, stronger health warnings – The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act mandates that warning labels cover the top 50 percent of the front and back of a package of cigarettes. Under the law, the FDA will also issue regulations that will require the tobacco companies to put graphic warning labels on their products in the future. Warnings must bear the word "warning" in capital letters and 17-point type, and the FDA is empowered to revise labeling requirements including text and format size. The same warning labels are required in advertising and must comprise at least 20% of the advertisement's area. The authority to revise the labels will allow the agency to require labels based on the best available evidence of effectiveness without new action by Congress.
NOAH Wordsearch

V G B I D C Q Q F T G E I G H
U N S J G Y D O I N C H T O X
L I R Q M U G T A A X O I N F
A K P U G Z G N O B Q A P B
R O Z U N R M C I A T F V V P
E M V I O L E N C E Z Q O B A
N S G O X R V C B A A V D G L
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GANG
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YOUTH
FAMILY
LUNG
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(in the Northwest corner of Baker’s Place strip mall)

Time: Mondays 5:30-7 PM

Call (402) 559-2666 for an appointment!

Walk-ins Welcome!

Cost: $15, No Insurance Needed!
Fee waivers available, you won’t be turned away because you can’t pay!

Testing, education, and treatment (medicine) for chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, herpes, syphilis, and trichomonas included for $15.
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Fee waivers available, you won’t be turned away because you can’t pay!

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**Tongue Tied by Isaiah Lewis**

Sit back thinking about the days of the week
And my shyness is causing me to sink there
Deeper and then there's ground level deep
My social inequality is making me weak I try
To break but it's like my tongue has a chain
On my teeth so I say the words that are easy
To speak here it comes
let's see if I can
Squeeze off a wink my head starts to spin so
It's like I'm locked in a night mare of bad
Dreams so I unlock my iPod and do my
Favorite thing happy the world so people say I'm
Hard of listen and reply I'm just not hearing
The nonsense your spitting they say the world
Is slowly spinning but I'm froze in the
Begging stuck waiting on an ending...

**Second Mourning by Antonio Negron**

I swear I'm leaving', these people stand for things I
don't believe in
I will not stand for violence and I don't approve of theivin'
A war zone in the streets and the teenagers are bleedin'
From the bullet wound they got when they shoulda been
home readin’
You know there are two kind of mornings but we only need the
first
But we end up with the second when you hear the pistols burst
It's a shame to see the news with the little children dyin’
I will never know the pain of the momma at home cryin’

**Struggles of Life Poem by Ashlynn Walker**

Many struggles and there's no one to understand,
but you continue to tell others, “take me as I am or Leave me where I stand”. Day by day
struggles but you can only remain standing tall, tryna to keep yo head held high, hoping it
does not fall.
The world seems as if hell rose up on Earth,
many things changing, many people getting hurt.
Females actin like hoes,
boys beefin over hoods,
no one to tell them it's wrong, only that it's good.
People getting raped,
people dying in these streets, the economy is getting worse, what
happened to when it was just peace?
Nothing to eat, no home,
no job, no sleep, so you turn to yo friend
and they put you on wit some weed.
No one can be trusted, so you stay strapped wit yo heat, now livin wit yo girl and two babies to feed.
You then just realize the drug biz aint whats right, now you try goin back to school and start a new life.
Why Teens Start Smoking

Almost 70% of adult smokers began smoking before they turned 18. Most smokers try their first cigarette around the age of 11, and many are addicted by the time they turn 14. So why do kids start smoking in the first place?

- Their parents are smokers.
- Peer pressure – their friends encourage them to try cigarettes, and to keep smoking.
- They see smoking as a way of rebelling and showing independence.
- They think that everyone else is smoking, and that they should, too.
- Tobacco advertising targets teenagers.

The majority of children in elementary school and the early part of middle school have never tried a cigarette. Most will tell you that they will never smoke cigarettes. But as they get older, some will become more open to the idea of smoking. Cigarette companies shape their advertising campaigns to portray smokers as cool, sexy, independent, fun, attractive, and living on the edge – images that are appealing to many teens. As a result, they try smoking and many get hooked. Only 5% of high-school-age smokers believe they'll still be smoking 5 years after graduation but they don't understand how difficult quitting can be. Research shows that after 8 years, 75% of those smokers will still be using some form of tobacco.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on June 22, 2009, contains several provisions aimed at preventing young people from starting to smoke.
2011 UNMC Summer Intern Profiles

**Marissa Lewis**—16 years of age. Currently attending Omaha Northwest, former Omaha South High Packer. “I joined this program because I thought it would be a great introduction to the medical field.

**Antonio Negron**—Going to UNO this fall. “I joined this program to get valuable experience and to decide what I wanted to do as a career. Career Plan: Hospital Administrator

**Shelby Limpach**—17 years of age. Graduate of Benson High School, attending Creighton University. “I joined to figure out what medical career I found interest in and to interact with the community. Career Plan: Pharmacist.

**Depree Seavers**—Attending Iowa Western Community College. “I joined this program because heard it was a great program that will be a helpful learning situation for my career.” Career Plan: Paramedic

**Kris Berry**—Attending UNO. “I joined this program to get better knowledge of the medical field” Career Plan: Dentist

**Daisy Gonzalez**—Going to UNO in the fall. “I joined the program so that I can better acquaint myself with the medical field and to gain further knowledge.” Career Plan: Bioinformatics

**Joslyn Metcalf**—Going to UNO in the fall “I joined the program to get knowledge of the medical field” Career Plan: Undecided, something to do with biology.

**Johnathan Gomez**—Currently attending Benson High School. “I joined the program to learn more about the medical field and gain insight on what I want to do as a career.

**Eboni Thomas**—20 years of age. Attending Chadron State College. “I have rejoined this program in hopes of obtaining more information from physicians whom I will be shadowing in upcoming weeks.” Career Plan: Going into my sophomore year of college. Thinking of possible changing my major from Clinical Laboratory Science to something else in the healthcare field. As a plan B, I am also debating on whether to join the Air Force and do medical there.

**Ashlynn Walker**—17 years of age. Currently attending Benson High School. “I joined the Summer Intern Program because I wanted to do something this summer dealing with the medical field for my career in the future. I believe this program would be a great opportunity. Career Plan: Pediatric Nurse or Physician

**Isaiah Lewis**—Currently attending Omaha Northwest High. “I joined the program to learn more information about the medical field” Career Plan: Dentist.

**Jaylin Jones**—Currently attending Omaha North High Magnet School. “I joined the program for money and experience.” Career Plan: Plan to attend Morehouse after my senior year in high school, and major in Political Science.

**Shaquan Davis**—Currently attending Benson High School. “I joined the Summer Intern program for the experience. Career Plan: Air Force

**Tierre Cabbell**—18 years of age. 2010 graduate of Omaha South High Magnet School, currently attending Metro Community College, looking to transfer to UNO in 2012 to major in Secondary Education (Physical Education). “I am in my third year of the summer intern program. I rejoined the program this year to further enhance my knowledge on the program, and to also apply what I know to assist new interns” Career Plan: High school teacher and coach
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Pastor Wayne Banks
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Pilgrim Baptist Church
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Pastor Cedrick Perkins
Pastor Selwyn O. Rochus
Pastor Adam Burton
Pastor Jon Vosler

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