



Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CPFS & KIDS™

Improving law enforcement / youth interactions in times of crisis



David Walker
Training Director, SFY



Jeffrey Aaron, Ph.D. - Juvenile Justice & Behavioral Health Program Manager
Virginia Dept of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

Note: All attendees have been muted. To submit questions, please use the chat feature in GoToMeeting.

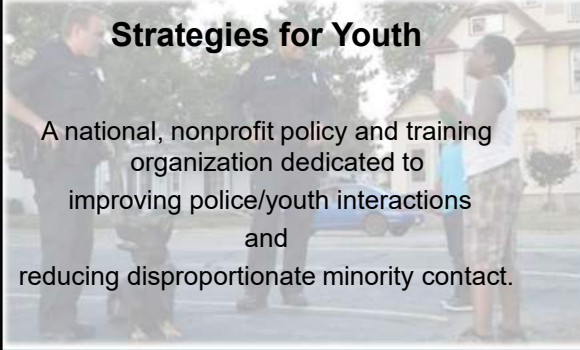
© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

1

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CPFS & KIDS™

Strategies for Youth

A national, nonprofit policy and training organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions and reducing disproportionate minority contact.




© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

2

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CPFS & KIDS™

Policing Kids is Hard!



© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

3

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

Juveniles' developmental characteristics include

impulsivity,
self centeredness,
and **resistance to authority...**

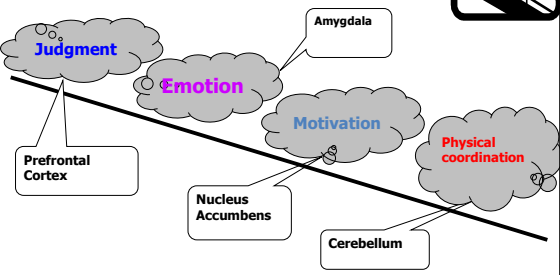


© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

4

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

Construction Ahead

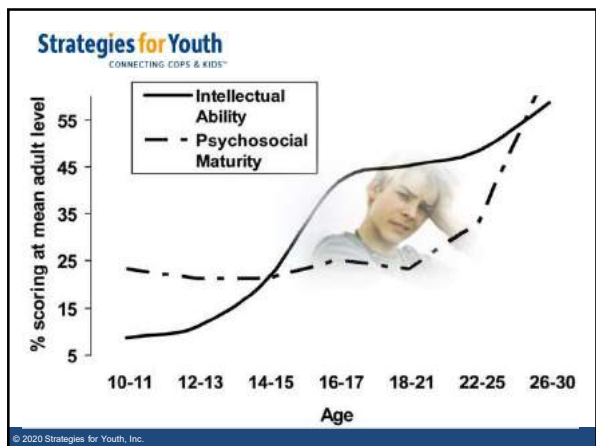


Judgment (Prefrontal Cortex)
Emotion (Amygdala)
Motivation (Nucleus Accumbens)
Physical coordination (Cerebellum)

Notice: Judgment is last to develop!

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

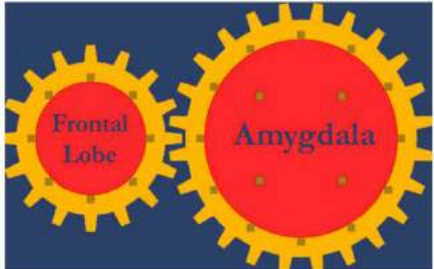
5



6

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

Adolescent Brain: Emotions Drive Processing




© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

7

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

“Hot and Cold” Cognition

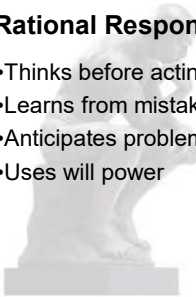
- By about age 15, most kids have the capacity to think in adult-like ways
- And yet their behaviors are so often immature and emotion-driven



© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

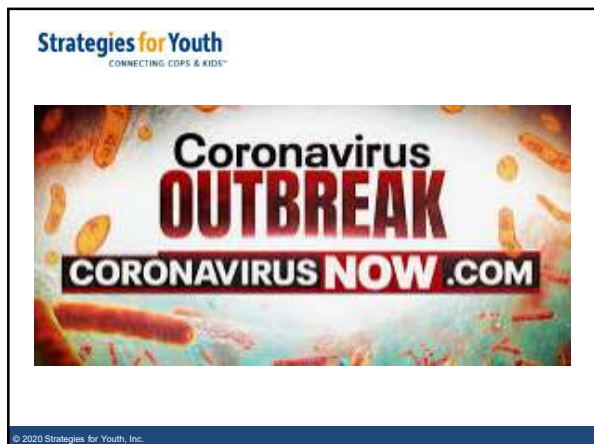
8

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

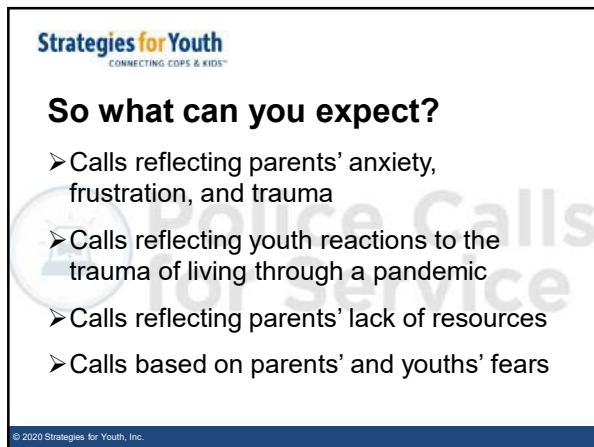
<h4>Rational Response</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Thinks before acting•Learns from mistakes•Anticipates problems•Uses will power 	<h4>Adolescent Response</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Impulsive•Self-defeating•No will power•Follows peer group. 
---	---

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

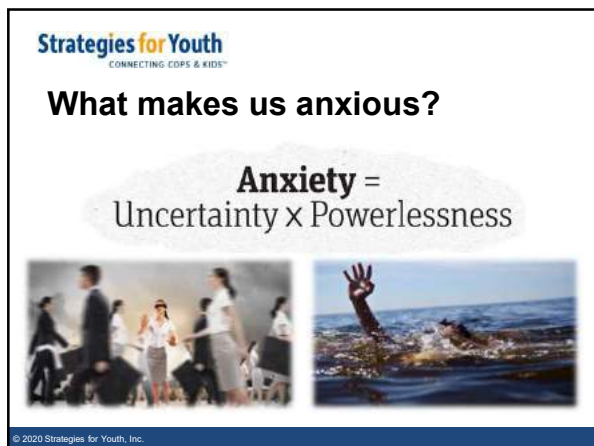
9



10




11



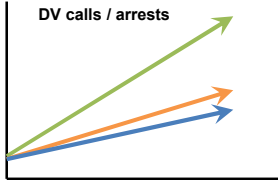
12

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CPS & KIDS™

Social isolation = Pressure Cooker!



DV calls / arrests



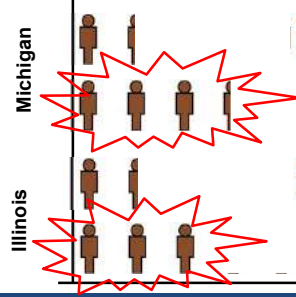
Houston, TX +35%
Boston, MA +22%
Seattle, WA +21%

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

13

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CPS & KIDS™

Disproportionate Minority Impact



Michigan

Illinois

While not all states report race data for COVID-19, Illinois and Michigan report that while African Americans make up ~14% of the population, 30% of confirmed cases affect this group.

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

14

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CPS & KIDS™

Defining Trauma

- an often serious and **body-altering** physical injury, such as the removal of a limb
- an **emotional or psychological injury**, usually resulting from an extremely stressful or life-threatening situation


© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

15

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

Impact on Young Psyches...

- Hyper-vigilant
- Anticipate harm
- Hyperactive
- Unemotional
- Intrusive thoughts
- Inability to forget




© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

16

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

Impact on Law Enforcement

- Concern
 - For yourselves
 - For your family
 - For your peers
- Frustration
 - With the system
 - With the public



© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

17

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™



© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

18

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CDPS & KIDS™

Adolescent Mental Illness

Approximately **1 in 5 youth** has a mental health disorder

About **3/4 of kids in the juvenile justice system** have a mental health disorder

National Alliance on Mental Illness

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

19

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CDPS & KIDS™

So what should you do? Best Practices


© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

20

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING CDPS & KIDS™

What do Youth Want?

- Voice
- Neutrality
- Respect
- Care
- Proportionality
- Not Predatory




© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

21

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

#1. Assume **TRAUMA**

- Acknowledge and validate the impact of the situation
- Be a calming influence
- Reassure all parties
- It is never wrong to assume trauma!



© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

22

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

#2. Be a **MEDIATOR**

- Goal = reduce conflict
- Talk to each person separately to identify and validate feelings
- Find out individuals' goals, "what can you live with?"
- Then bring them together to find a solution




© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

23

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

#3. Address **ANXIETY**

- Acknowledge and validate
- Recognize that loss of control leads to efforts to get more control
- Recognize that parents may not know how to talk about the pandemic



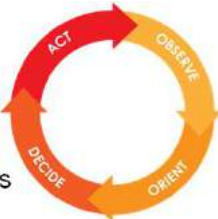
© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

24

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

#4. Help them *DEVELOP A PLAN*

- Agree on specific & measurable steps for the solution.
- Create escape valves
- Identify and plan for the re-emergence of problems
- Schedule “check-ins”



© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

25

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™

In summary...

- This is a difficult time for everyone
- Youth are at an emotional disadvantage
- The role of police has to expand
- **Acknowledge / Mediate / Plan**
- Questions?

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

26

Strategies for Youth
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS™



Strategies for Youth is a policy and training organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions through community engagement, police training & outreach programs for youth.

www.strategiesforyouth.org
info@strategiesforyouth.org
 (617) 714-3789

© 2020 Strategies for Youth, Inc.

27