

Student Gun Violence Prevention Workshops



New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence (NMPGV) facilitated gun violence prevention workshops at South Valley Academy Charter School, Los Puentes Charter School, Mark Armijo Charter School and John Adams Middle School during the 2022-2023 school year. The workshop was ten weeks long except for South Valley Academy, where the workshop met every Thursday throughout the entire school year as part of the student's community service.

In total, NMPGV reached over 100 students. Surveys were completed at the end of the year when attendance was lower at schools and only 72 surveys were completed. NMPGV partnered with Brittney Barreras who is the Public Outreach Specialist from the CABQ's Albuquerque Community Safety Department. Ms. Barreras assisted in the classrooms as well as helped to facilitate and expand on curriculum.

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Description of Workshop

Gun violence is having devastating effects on youth in New Mexico. Many of New Mexico's youth witness and experience gun violence on a regular basis-in their homes, on the streets of their neighborhoods and/or in their schools. Gun violence and its effects on the lives of our youth is a complex and multi-faceted problem. It exposes not only social inequities, but also a deeply embedded racism that permeates our state and country. The workshop takes a holistic approach in addressing gun violence in the lives of our young people. It gives our youth the opportunity to explore the root causes of gun violence as well as the impact gun violence has had on their lives. Our intention is to create a space where youth can reflect on how gun violence affects their lives and discover tools to minimize the negative impacts and keep them safe from harm. We began the workshop by facilitating exercises designed to begin a discussion and explore ways in which youth can reverse this trajectory of gun violence. The exercises and discussions empower our youth to become agents of change as they develop solutions to end gun violence in the communities in which they live. The program also gives participants the opportunity to explore the impact of gun violence through art projects that are then displayed in their school community to raise awareness on the issue.

The Workshop Includes:

Student Gun Violence Prevention Workshops



1) Weekly exercises that explore the root causes of gun violence.

2) **Guest speakers** from the community who have been affected by gun violence and/or who work in prevention. This was an integral part of the program. The speakers were credible messengers from their community with lived experience. The classroom setting created a safe environment where students could ask hard questions and feel safe doing so.

- UNM Trauma Surgeons

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- Survivors of Gun violence (4)
- Public defender
- Violence interrupters (2)

3) **Art projects**

The art projects offered the students an opportunity to analyze the issue and then create specific and powerful messaging to educate their peers and the public on how gun violence affects our youth and communities as well as what steps we can take to prevent it. The projects gave the students a space to articulate their concerns in a positive environment and encouraged their personal ingenuity, knowledge, and creativity. The process enhances their own personal development and growth as young people by challenging them to articulate their thoughts, to listen and communicate effectively to their peers and to problem solve. The very act of creating artwork for their community taught them the importance of civic participation and inspired them to be **agents of change**.

- **Gun Violence Prevention Canvases** were created with pictures of youth lost to gun violence and hung in schools to raise awareness.
- **Pinwheels for Peace Project** in which students included the names and ages of youth lost to gun violence. These were given to elected officials to raise awareness on the need for common sense gun violence prevention laws.
- **“Don’t Shoot Let Our Kids Grow Up” Sign Making Project.** These were hung at gun violence prevention events in the South Valley.

4) **Films On Gun Violence Prevention**

Films were watched throughout the workshop to facilitate discussions and explore different perspectives on prevention.

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5) Stop the Bleed Program

Two UNM trauma surgeons visited two of the schools and demonstrated the Stop the Bleed program. This life saving program teaches youth how to apply tourniquets and stop bleeding in gunshot wounds.

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Survey Results

Students were asked to complete a survey at the end of the workshops reflecting on what they learned, what they liked, and what they would change going forward. The following results include 72 surveys from four Schools in Albuquerque.

School	# Surveys Completed
Los Puentes Charter School	6
John Adams Middle School	42
Mark Armijo Charter School	8
South Valley Academy	16

Students were asked to rate their awareness of different gun violence concepts both before and after the workshop. **Students rated their knowledge on a 1-4 scale with 1 being “very low” and 4 being “very high.”** The chart below displays the average score for each concept across all students for their knowledge level before the workshop compared to after the workshop.

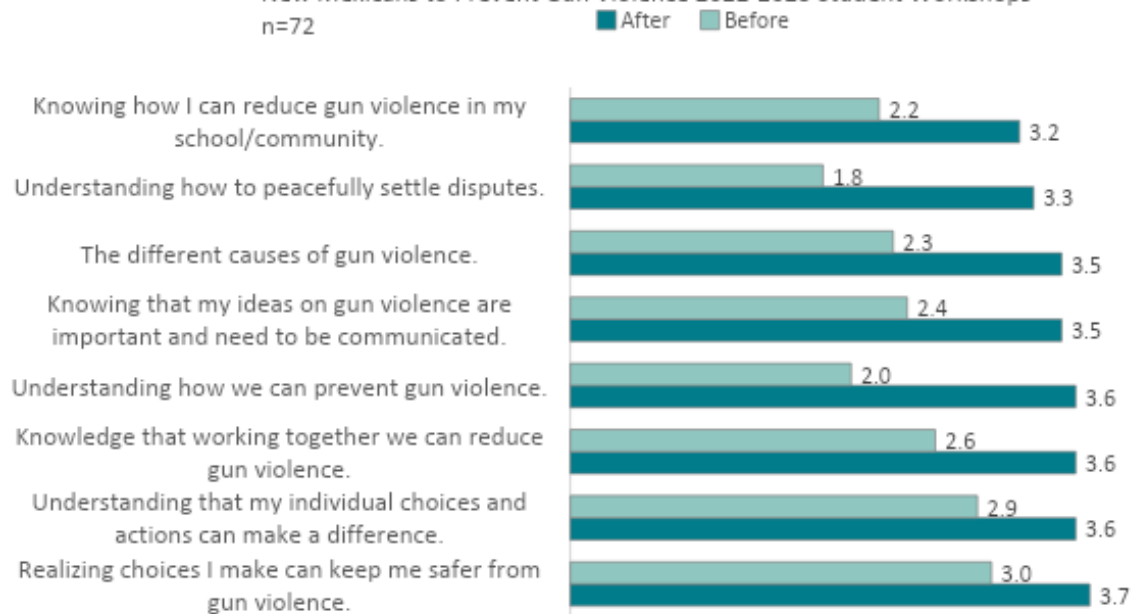
Very High = 4	Medium High = 3	Medium Low = 2	Very Low = 1
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Student Gun Violence Prevention Workshops



Student Knowledge of Gun Violence Prevention Grew In Every Area After Participating in the Workshops

New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence 2022-2023 Student Workshops
n=72



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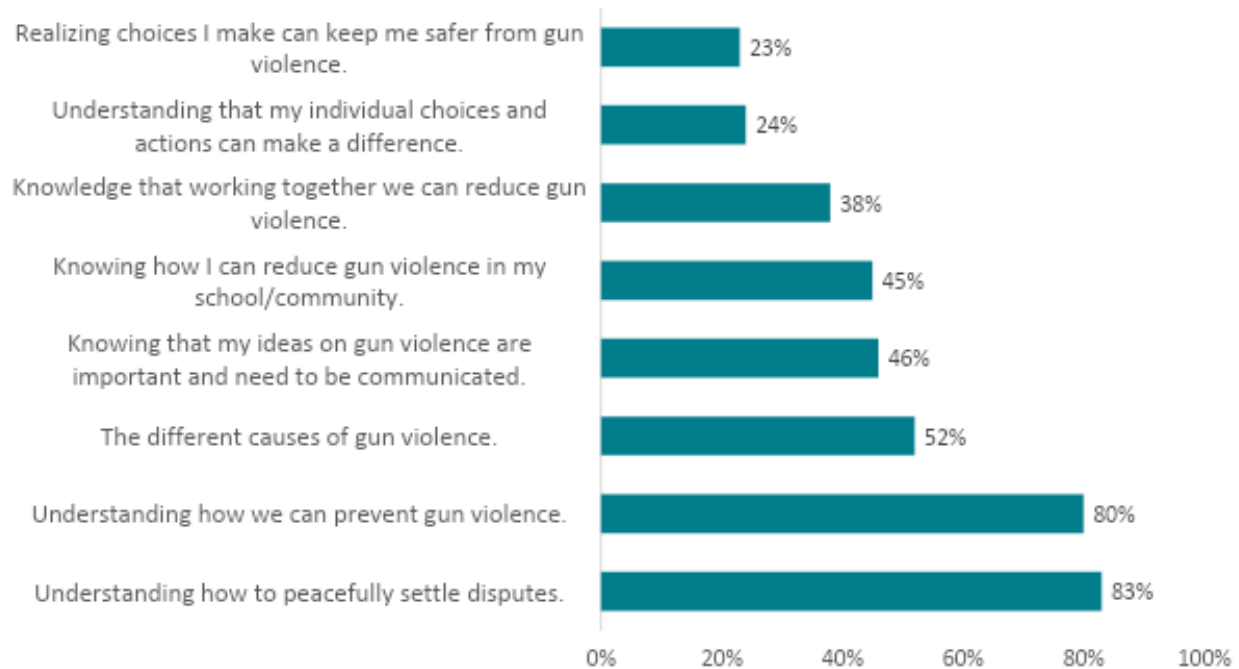
Students rated their knowledge on a 1-4 scale with 1 being “very low” and 4 being “very high” and an average score was derived (displayed in graph above). **The chart below displays the percent of growth from before the workshop compared to after the workshop.**

Student Gun Violence Prevention Workshops



% Growth

This Graph Displays the Percentage of Growth of Knowledge for Each Concept (before compared to After the Workshop)
New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence Student Workshops



Student knowledge grew the most from before to after in the following areas:

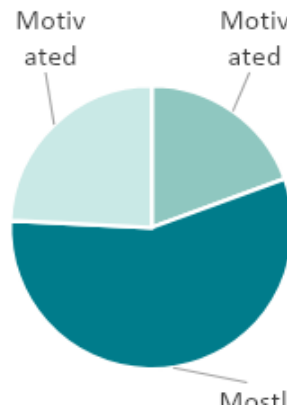
1. Understanding how we can prevent gun violence. *Growth of 1.6 points*
2. Understanding how to peacefully settle disputes. *Growth of 1.5 points*
3. And knowing the different causes of gun violence. *Growth of 1.2 points*

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Student Gun Violence Prevention Workshops

75.8% of Students said they were
"very motivated" or "mostly motivated" to continue working on
gun violence prevention

New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence Student Workshops (n=62)



What was the BEST thing about the gun violence prevention workshop?

- *"Learning from stop the bleed and different projects."*
- *"Spreading awareness with fun activities and guest speakers."*
- *"They actually worry about the safety of youth."*
- *"I liked learning how to put on a tourniquet."*
- *"Best thing was going to Santa Fe to listen to gun violence prevention speeches."*
- *"Helping to create awareness of the cause to keep NM safer."*
- *"Getting to make something about a cause that I believe in."*
- *"It shows gun violence but through an art project that helps other people realize."*
- *"The best thing was that we got to show our respect on the people who died from gun violence."*
- *"It makes me feel safer."*
- *"We get to talk and try to understand each other."*

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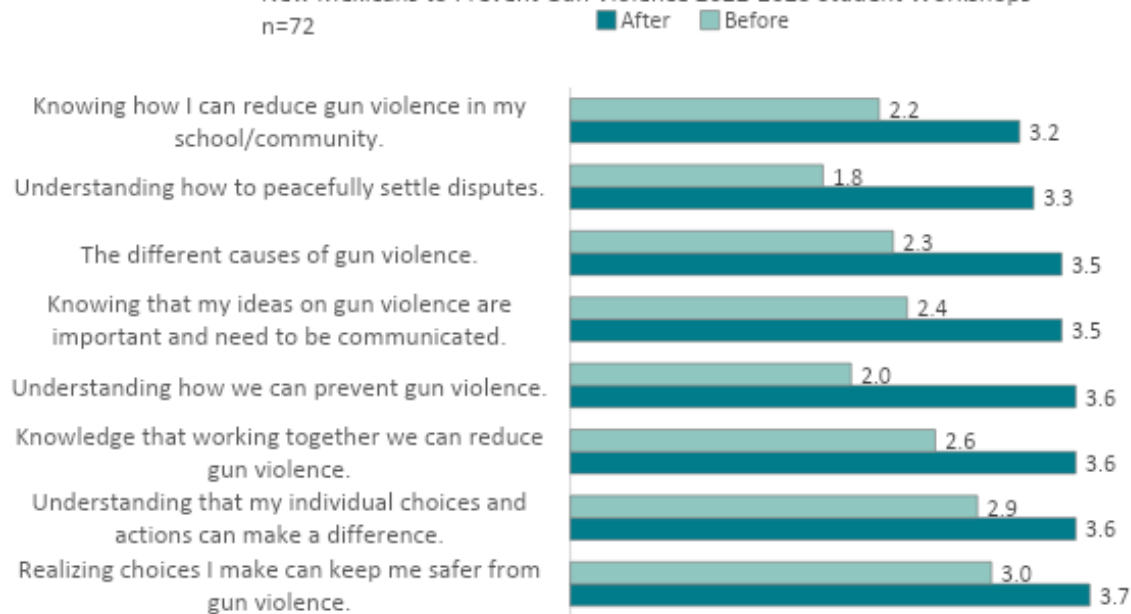
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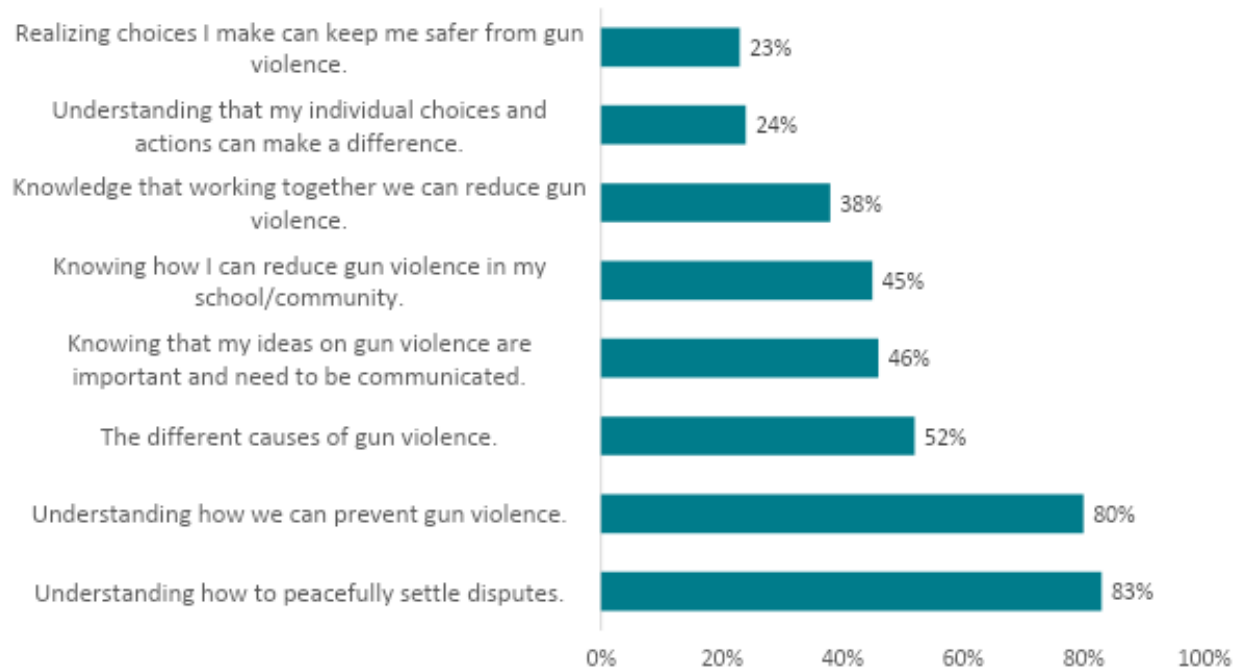
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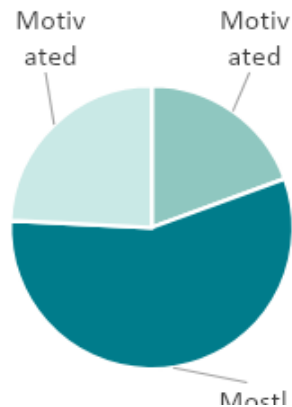
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