

42nd Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 4A: UNARMED:
Gun Violence Education
Program

March 13, 2026
Hilton Columbus at
Easton Town Center
Columbus, OH

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

KATIE SILLUP ETTORRE, MS, is the Director of Clinical Services, Research & Development for UNARMED: Gun Violence Education Program.

RYAN TIRA is a judge at Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.

UNARMED: Gun Violence Education Program

Katie Sillup Ettorre, MS

*Director of Clinical Services,
Research & Development*

UNARMED: Gun Violence Education Program

Hon. Ryan Tira

*Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas
Pennsylvania*



UNARMED: From Development to Impact

Ohio InterCourt Conference
March 13th, 2026



Katie Sillup Ettorre, MS, BS
Unarmed Developer

Honorable Ryan M. Tira
Juvenile Court - Lycoming County, PA

Educate for Safety, Empower for Change

Statistics

- Firearm-related injuries are the leading cause of death for children & adolescents in the United States, surpassing even car accidents (CDC, 2023)
- In 2022, someone was killed by a gun every 11 minutes (Johns Hopkins, 2023)
- On average, 7 young people are dying every day from gun violence (Johns Hopkins, 2023)

Why Unarmed?

Rising youth
gun-related
charges

Increased youth
exposure to gun
activity

Traditional
responses alone
are not enough

Purpose of Unarmed



Skill-based, educational approach



Accountability with attitude change



Focus on safer decision-making

Development of Unarmed



RESEARCH-BASED
FOUNDATION



YOUTH FOCUS
GROUPS



STAKEHOLDER
COLLABORATION

Continued Development



Pilot



Feedback



Revisions



Training



Rollout

What Youth Experience in Unarmed

Small group setting

Structured discussion

Real-life scenarios

Skill practice/Activities

Pre & Post Tests

Session Satisfaction Survey

Ice Breaker/Team Builder

Homework



Activity Example: The Ripple Effect

To understand the far-reaching
impact of gun violence on
individuals, families, and
communities

(Lesson THREE, Unarmed)

Judicial Perspective



Observation/Feedback



Examples



Q&A

Evaluation Process



Evidence-informed



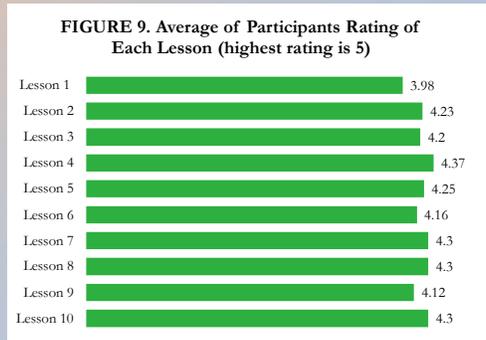
Science-backed



Moving toward evidence-based

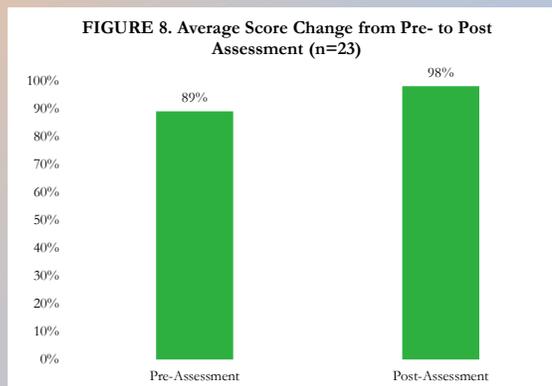
Early Evaluation Findings

- Out of 79 youth who have participated so far, 91% have successfully graduated from the program
- Participants rated each session highly, with an average rating of 4.21 out of 5, meaning that youth agreed that they learned something and that the lesson was helpful

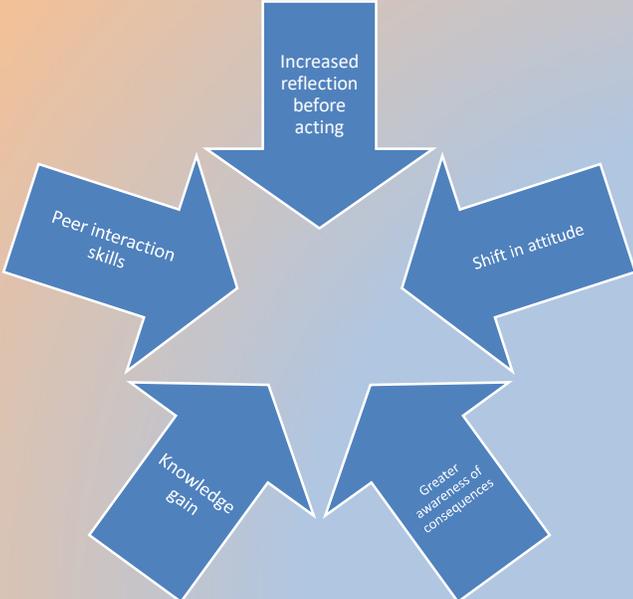


Pre & Post Assessment Scores

- There was a significant increase from pre-assessment scores to post-assessment scores, meaning that participants demonstrated significant knowledge and skill change
- The biggest gains included
 - Responsible gun ownership and gun safety
 - Healthy conflict resolution strategies



Observed Impact



What's Next for UNARMED

-  Continued youth & stakeholder input
-  Academic partnerships
-  Grant expansion & fidelity monitoring

Youth Testimonial & Final Reflection

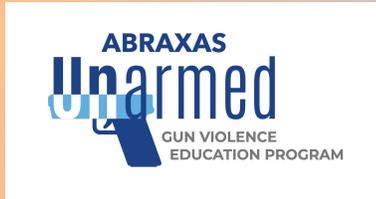
- unarmed.org
- Web Reflection



Questions & Comments



Contact Information



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