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Youth Violence Data Brief



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Youth Violence: A Serious Public Health Threat

Youth violence is a serious public health threat. It is one of the leading causes of injury, disability, and premature death in the United States. It includes violent acts such as hitting, slapping, bullying, and more violent acts such as robbery and assault which can lead to serious injury and/or death. Nationally, more than 4,000 youth between the ages of 15 and 24 die by homicide each year. Homicide is the third leading cause of death for this age group in the United States.

Consequences of Youth Violence

- Nearly 700,000 young people ages 10 to 24 are treated in emergency departments each year for injuries due to violence.
- About 16 youth are murdered every day in the United States.
- Youth violence affects our community by increasing the cost of health care, reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services.

Violence involving young people is a critical issue for the City of St. Louis. In 2013, youth aged 15 to 24, had a non-fatal assault rate of 2,005.0 assaults per 100,000 youth compared to 809.8 for Missouri and 1,145.7 for the United States. The City's non-fatal assault rate for youth is 43% higher than the national average. From 2004 to 2014, homicide was the leading cause of death among City of St. Louis residents age 15-24 years, accounting for 53% of deaths in this age group. The rate of youth killed by gun violence in the City is three times higher than the national average. The negative repercussions of such violent acts affect entire communities and reverberate throughout the City.

Youth Violence in the City of St. Louis

- For youth, aged 15 to 24, the non-fatal assault rate in 2013 was 2005.0 assaults per 100,000 youth compared to 809.8 for Missouri and 1,145.7 for the United States.
- In 2013 youth in the City were injured by firearms with the intent of assault at a rate of 92.3 per 100,000 youth compared to 15.8 for Missouri and 64.6 for the United States.
- In 2013, across all age groups and races, African Americans aged 15 to 24 experienced the highest non-fatal assault rate (2891.7 per 100,000).

The City of St. Louis – in collaboration with East St. Louis and St. Louis County and in concert with over 100 community partners- responded to the high rate of youth violence and injury through the creation of a Youth Violence Prevention Community Plan in 2013. The plan's strategies was organized around the PIER (Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Reentry) framework and was intended to be comprehensive and inclusive of regional efforts to reduce risk and increase resilience for youth living in the St. Louis metropolitan

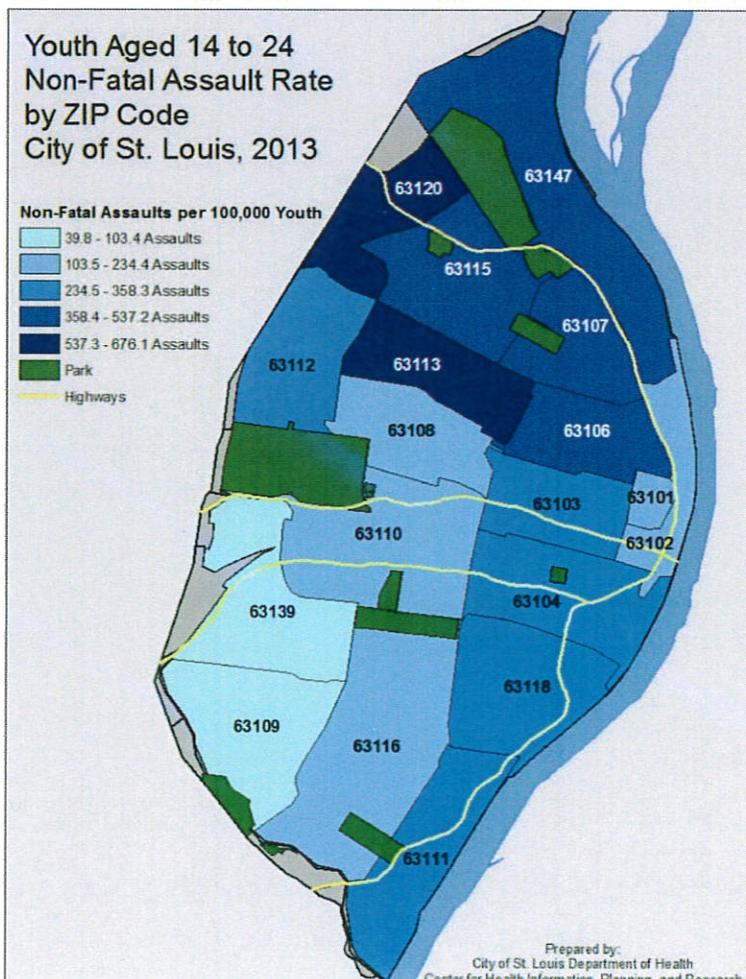
area.

This approach emphasizes primary prevention – that is, prevention taking place before the onset of injury or death. Primary prevention identifies behavioral or environmental risk factors associated with youth

violence and takes steps to educate the community to protect them from these risks. This approach empowers City residents and the community to reduce the risk factors leading to violent behaviors.

Department of Health Response to Youth Violence

- Working with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and receiving technical assistance from American Institute for Research (AIR) to identify and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies.
- Collaborating with St. Louis County to obtain valuable information from teenagers aged 12 to 18 on risk factors that result from self-destructing behaviors such as violence, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Building Community Capacity through the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Collaboration, led by Washington University in St. Louis and the United Way, to provide support and resources to local initiatives that are combining efforts to combat gun violence.
- As part of PIER (Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Re-Entry), the City's Comprehensive Crime Plan, booklets focusing on 15 neighborhoods within the City were developed to highlight health needs identified in each neighborhood and available resources to help meet those needs.
- Addressing the root cause of trauma by working with Alive and Well to create a trauma informed community.
- Implementing a \$1,000,000 grant to reduce crime in the Near Northside (Carr Square and Columbus Square) through the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED); restorative justice, and youth employment.
- Partnering with UNITY (Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth) City Network and regularly collaborates with other urban areas that participate in the STRYVE (Striving to Reduce Youth Violence



As a part of PIER, the City's comprehensive Crime Plan, the Department of Health is creating booklets focusing on 15 different neighborhoods to highlight health needs and available resources to address crime, reduce disparities, and improve overall quality of life for City residents. The Health Department will be holding a series of PIER Events for these 15 neighborhoods starting with O'Fallon Park on May 14, 2016.

The Youth Violence Prevention Partnership continues to meet monthly to address new concerns, review the effectiveness of YVP initiatives, and adjust initiatives based on partner feedback. They will continue to expand membership, explore additional funding opportunities, and provide updates to the community. The Department of Health also plans to update the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Data Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

using valuable input from community focus groups to further identify health concerns and develop additional strategies to address the communities concerns.