

AVERTING THE PREVALENCE AND CONSEQUENCES OF MASS SHOOTING AND URBAN GUN VIOLENCE



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United States
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Subcommittee
on Crime,
Terrorism, and
Homeland
Security;
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MASS SHOOTINGS AND URBAN VIOLENCE

Frequency and Lethality among Mass Shootings and Urban Gun Violence Patterns

		Lethality per incident	
		Low	High
Frequency	Low		Mass Shootings (Newtown, Aurora Movie Theatre, Columbine)
	High		Urban Gun Violence (New Orleans, Chicago, Flint, MI)

MAJOR INFLUENCES OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS

Urban gun violence

- Youth with low reading levels (often under 3rd Grade)
- Concentrated in a few urban environments
- Youth with a variety of untreated learning, mental health problems
- Youth involved in semi organized drug trade and armed
- Youth packing guns and gun availability
- Gang and drug economy vulnerability
- Immature moral development and

Mass Shootings

- Social isolates
- Immature sexual development
- Family moved in last three years
- Gun and ammunition availability and access
- Depression and other major mental illness
- Patterns of bullying and victimization
- Discontinuity in medications
- Suburban sprawl environments
- Sporadic mental health care
- Peer group conflict

TWO FACES OF MURDER: LINKAGES-HOW DIFFERENT?

School-Mass Shootings



Urban Violence



HOMICIDE RATES IN MAJOR U.S. CITIES

City	2011 Homicides	Population (est.)	Homicide Rate Per 100,000
New Orleans, LA	200	346,974	57.64
Detroit, MI	344	713,239	48.23
Baltimore, MD	196	626,848	31.27
Philadelphia, PA	324	1,530,873	21.16
Washington D.C	108	617,996	17.48
Chicago, IL	430	2,703,713	15.90
Dallas, TX	133	1,223,021	10.87
Houston, TX	198	2,143,628	9.24
Phoenix, AR	116	1,466,097	7.91
Los Angeles, CA	297	3,837,207	7.74
New York, NY	515	8,211,875	6.27

CONSEQUENCES: THE COSTS OF GUN VIOLENCE-SUSTAINABLE?

- Deaths may incur costs of <\$1,000,000 per incident
- Injuries may incur costs of <\$3,500,000.
- The following table outlines the cost of gunshot injuries found in Los Angeles:

Number of patients in study	34,893
Total cost of gunshot injuries	\$246,506,455
Cost per gunshot patient	\$7,580
Percent of costs borne by public funds	96%

NOW WHAT? HIGH MURDER CITIES THAT REDUCED MURDER RISKS: WHAT MIGHT BE LEARNED ?

City	Percent Difference 2005-2011	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Compton, CA	-74%	17.42	26.62	38.35	29.62	38.55	40.41	67.1
Washington, DC	-50%	17.48	21.94	23.85	31.43	30.77	29.06	35.3
Richmond, VA	-59%	17.42	19.91	18.21	15.53	26.59	38.83	43

FRAMES OF ACTION:

Prevention: Boston Ceasefire, Nurse Practitioner Programs, Teen Pregnancy, Gun Safety initiatives.

Threat response: peer awareness and reporting of active threats, changes in professional response to threats, community system responses

Aftermath: evidence based trauma response community strategies. Avoiding second wave violence

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.** Pass the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE) Act to provide prevention and intervention, and to fund evidence-based practices to prevent violence.
- 2.** Form mental health and substance abuse treatment partnerships to reduce endemic community violence.
- 3.** Support laws and funding to achieve increased access to mental health and addiction treatment and enact equity laws to provide for mental health services.
- 4.** Establish standards, funds and procedures to expand and train professionals, school personnel, workforce, clergy and community members in objective threat assessment and reporting.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

5. Promote proven effective approaches that support family and community cohesion to reduce risks of all forms of violence.
6. Analyze the impact of electronic and social media, video games and entertainment.
7. Create a task force to help define confidentiality, monitoring and mandatory reporting in the face of violent threats, in the context of therapeutic/educational relationships .
8. Enhance community-based services to responsibly identify risks to school and community safety.
9. Form community task forces and councils to guide effective violence prevention programs.

WHY YPA AS STRATEGY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE?

- **Comprehensive Approach: prevention, risk containment and a event aftermath**
- **Community focus**
- **Savings attained from violence prevention and response**
- **Enormous cost savings and social reinvestment gains**
- **Build upon proven effective (evidence based) research**
- **Strong accountability and performance metrics**