A Public Health Approach to Youth Violence Prevention

The Minneapolis Experience

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The Context: High rates of youth violence and deaths

- From 2003-2006, approximately 80 Minneapolis residents between the ages of 15 and 24 died as a result of homicide.

- Homicide was the leading cause of death for Minneapolis residents in this age group, accounting for almost half the deaths.
How we got started

- Council member interest
- Commissioner experience with violence prevention as a public health approach
- Support from police chief
- Insight from the community
Why the Health Department?

- Violence is a preventable cause of death and disability that disproportionately affects young people and people of color
- Our experience working collaboratively with community partners was valuable
- Use of data to target activities and measure results is a department skill
- We know how to develop and implement plans to address an issue
- Working to prevent youth violence gives urgency to youth development efforts
Benefits of using a public health approach to violence prevention

- For community members – it is valuable to have a framework that recognizes the factors beyond policing that lead to violence
- A plan of action creates hope around a common vision and builds on work already underway
- It fosters alliances and relationships across agencies and between community organizations and government
- Violence is a component of addressing other health issues
Key building blocks

- Building community co-ownership
- Engaging Leadership
  - Philanthropic
  - Elected leadership
- Developing a plan of action
- Securing resources
  - Seeding the effort with grants to the community
  - Collaborating with community foundation
  - Identifying a core funding source for coordinator
  - Aligning community, city and county resources
  - Leveraging our plan to help compete for grant opportunities
Changing Trends

- From 2003-2006, approximately 80 Minneapolis residents between the ages of 15 and 24 died as a result of homicide.
- Homicide was the leading cause of death for Minneapolis residents in this age group
- Since 2006
  - the number of youth suspects committing violent crime has declined by 62%
  - the number of youth arrested for violent crime has declined by 52%
Recalibrating the Response to Violence – The Financial Case for Prevention

- The average cost for a single incident of homicide is estimated to be $3 million and the cost for one non-fatal paralyzing injury from gun violence averages $2-5 million over the victim’s lifetime for health care, living expenses and lost productivity.

- ER Cost of Shooting: $21,480

- Cost of Incarceration: $44,000
The Tenets of the Blueprint for Action: 4 Primary Objectives & 33 Supporting Strategies

- Connect youth to trusted adults
- Intervene at the first sign of risk
- Restore youth going down the wrong path
- Unlearn the culture of violence
Operationalizing the Blueprint

- **Goal 1: Trusted Adult**
  - Increase the number of quality mentoring opportunities for young people, along with proper training for mentors of all ages and backgrounds.
  - Increase the number of private businesses providing jobs through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP.
  - Reduce the number of second children to teen parents by connecting every teen parent with health, education and parenting resources.

- **Goal 2: Intervening at first sign of risk**
  - Develop a standard protocol for parks, schools and health care facilities in the aftermath of critical violent incidents.
  - Establish and promote a youth help line to give young people a safe, confidential way to report trouble or seek help.

- **Goal 3: Restoring Youth**
  - Better coordinate different parts of the juvenile justice system to support young offenders.
  - Ensure that each youth returning from out of home placement has a comprehensive plan to re-enter their community.

- **Goal 4. Unlearn the Culture of violence**
  - Work with local experts and youth to develop a local public education campaign to ensure that young people and our entire community see their roles and responsibilities in stopping violence, while providing the knowledge and tools to reduce violence and safely intervene when violence occurs.
  - Recognize that youth violence is a national problem and Minneapolis should lead the discussion by partnering with other mayors and leaders in other cities to form a national coalition against youth violence.
Staffing the Blueprint

- Created YVP Coordinator
- Initial Duties:
  - Refining and prioritizing recommended action items in the *Blueprint*.
  - Identifying possible public and private resources to support the
    recommended action items in the *Blueprint*.
  - Identifying community partners to take responsibility for aspects of the *Blueprint*.
  - Instituting the evaluation of indicators and outcomes to measure progress.
  - Reporting on progress to the Mayor and the City Council.
Building a Community/City Partnership

COUNTY

CITY
- Health Dept.
- Mayor
- CPED
- Police
- City Council

FOUNDATION

BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

FAITH
CBOs
YOUTH SERVING ORGS
PARKS
SCHOOLS
BUSINESS
Innovation Through Community Partnerships

- StreetReach – Minneapolis Parks and Police
- Speak Up Minneapolis – Minneapolis Public Schools, The Minneapolis Foundation
- Minneapolis Youth Violence Intervention Program (MY VIP) – HCMC and North Memorial
- Gang Assessment Report – Health Department
- BUILD – Parks, YMCA, Health Department
- North4 – Health Department, Emerge
Blueprint Neighborhoods
2008-2009

- Folwell
- McKinley
- Jordan
- Hawthorne
Evolution of Blueprint: New Neighborhoods and Partnerships 2010

- (Holland)
- (Cedar Riverside)
- (Hawthorne, McKinley)
- (Folwell, Webber-Camden, Cleveland)
- (Jordan, Willard-Hay, Near North, Harrison)
- (Whittier, Phillips West, Ventura Village)
- (Central, Bryant, Regina, Bancroft)
- (East Phillips)
- (Standish)
Legislative Activity

- H.F. 1328 Youth Violence Prevention Act of 2009
- Congressional Field Hearing
- Juvenile Mortality Review
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