

**Defending our Children:  
Connecting the dots between youth safety and future success**

**Stats, Research and Resources**

**Philadelphia :**

1. In 2012, 331 people were murdered in Philadelphia. Nearly 40% of those victims were youth 24 and younger. (Philadelphia Strategic Plan)
2. Between 2009 and 2012 homicides have increased by 27% and most of these are gun-related homicides; 48% of homicides in Philly are 14-24 youth.
3. Arguments are the leading motive for homicides
4. African Americans in particular are disproportionately affected: 75% of the homicide victims and approximately 80% of those arrested for homicide are black men, predominately young, between the ages of 17-22. (Philadelphia Strategic Plan)
5. While violence is a citywide problem, the most frequent and most violent crimes are concentrated in the poorest neighborhoods among the least educated population.
6. The Nutter Administration has determined that it will concentrate its efforts on 14-24 year olds in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Police District, west of Broad in North Philadelphia. Shootings are concentrated in a few police districts in North Central Philadelphia (22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 39<sup>th</sup>), with 36% of all shootings involving 26 year olds and younger occur in these four targeted districts
7. Philadelphia's per capita homicide rate is the highest among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. (see attached graph)
8. 30% of the city budget is for crime/violence: Police, District Atty, Courts, Probation, Prison
9. According to the Juvenile Defender Association of Pennsylvania, approximately 70% of youth who are incarcerated in Pennsylvania suffer from learning or emotional disability or both. (<http://www.pajudefenders.org/article/special-education>)

**Delaware Valley Region**

- Norristown, Coatesville and Pottstown are among the top Pennsylvania cities with violent crime rates higher than the state average.<sup>1</sup> From 2011-2012, Reading, PA ranked among the ten U.S.

cities with highest crime rates (with population of less than 100,000), competing with Camden, NJ, Compton, CA and Macon, GA. <sup>ii</sup>

### ***Norristown***

- Norristown ranks highest in Montgomery County for violent crime, juvenile crime, family violence and drug-related use and offenses. There have been 23 homicides in Norristown between 2009 and 2011. <sup>iii</sup>
- Norristown has also experienced an increase in related violence and membership in youth street gangs comprised of youth age 13-22.
- Norristown consistently has the highest rate of domestic violence related requests in the county as well as the highest rates of child abuse and neglect.

### ***Coatesville***

- Largely due to drug activity, Coatesville has the highest crime rate in Chester County. <sup>iv</sup>
- From 2005 to 2007, both the number of juvenile victims of crime and the number of juvenile offenders increased steadily in Chester County, with the greatest number and increase in Coatesville. <sup>v</sup>
- A comparison of arrests in Coatesville between 2005 and 2007 reveals that more young adults, age 18–24, were arrested for drugs than alcohol and assaults.

### ***Pottstown***<sup>vi</sup>

- Violent crime rate in Pottstown is one of the highest in the nation.
- Pottstown has one of the highest rates of motor vehicle theft in the nation.
- The chance of becoming a victim of a property crime is one in 22.

### ***Chester City***<sup>vii</sup>

- Violent crime in Chester is seven times the national average and is the second most dangerous city in America. <sup>viii</sup>
- The Chester Upland School District ranks at the very bottom of 2468 districts in the Commonwealth based on performance outcomes
- Almost 32% of the residents in Chester live at or below the poverty level, the 4<sup>th</sup> poorest in the Commonwealth

## **National Statistics**

- Sixty percent of American children were exposed to violence, crime, or abuse in their homes, schools, and communities. <sup>ix</sup>
- Almost 40 percent of American children were direct victims of two or more violent acts, and one in ten was a victim of violence five or more times.
- Children are more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than adults.

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, gunshot injuries rank second only to motor vehicle crashes as a cause of death for children ages 15 to 19. From 2001 to 2010, 29,331 children ages 0 to 19 years died of gunshot-related injuries; another 155,000 were injured seriously enough to undergo treatment in emergency departments.
- Specifically, children wounded by gunshots had the highest proportion of serious injuries (23%), major surgeries (32%) and deaths in hospitals (8%), along with the highest acute care costs, \$28,510 per patient. The next highest care costs, \$15,566, were for injuries sustained from being struck by a motor vehicle<sup>x</sup>
- A 2010 CDC survey revealed that 6% of high school students nationwide did not go to school on one or more of the 30 days before the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.

## **Resources**

### Local:

- Assault on Learning - Philadelphia Inquirer Series: [http://www.philly.com/philly/news/special\\_packages/inquirer/school-violence/inq\\_HT\\_SV2011\\_.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/special_packages/inquirer/school-violence/inq_HT_SV2011_.html)
- City of Philadelphia Strategic Plan
- Healing Hurt People: <http://www.nonviolenceandsocialjustice.org/Healing-Hurt-People/29/>
- CureViolence (formerly Ceasefire) Philadelphia: <http://cureviolence.org/>
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) - Resource Center for Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/juvenile\\_justice/5254/juvenile\\_justice\\_resource\\_center/495410](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/juvenile_justice/5254/juvenile_justice_resource_center/495410)
- Boston Youth Violence Prevention Funder Learning Collaborative: <http://www.bostonyvpfunders.org/>
- Local Violence Researchers/Resources: Jerry Ratcliffe (Temple), Caterina Roman (Temple), Maria Kefalas (St. Joseph's University), Jim MacMillan(guncrisis.org))

### National:

- Defending Childhood Report: <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/index.html>
- National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention: <http://findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/preventing-youth-violence/about-national-forum>
- Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach, National Academy of Sciences <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=14685>:
- Children's Defense Fund – The Call for Youth Justice: <http://www.cdfny.org/research-library/documents/call-for-youth-justice.pdf>
- Blueprints for Violence Prevention: <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/>
- Eduployment: Creating Opportunity Policies for America's Youth: <http://www.ytfg.org/documents/eduployment.pdf>

- [Youth Violence Prevention Funder Learning Collaborative: The Boston Model  
www.bostonyvpfunders.org](http://www.bostonyvpfunders.org)

## **Research**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study: <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/index.htm>

Related article on application of ACE study findings in educational setting: *“Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, WA, tries new approach to school discipline — suspensions drop 85%”*

<http://acestoohigh.com/2012/04/23/lincoln-high-school-in-walla-walla-wa-tries-new-approach-to-school-discipline-expulsions-drop-85/>

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform – resources: <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/resources.html>

Crimes Against Children Resource Center: <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/index.html>

U.S. Peace Index: <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/unitedstatespeaceindex/2012/>

Dr. Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research:  
<http://www.jhsph.edu/gunpolicy/>

Benefit-Cost Analysis for Crime Policy, Dr. Roseanna Ander and Dr. Jens Ludwig, University of Chicago Crime Lab; <http://www.nij.gov/multimedia/presenter/presenter-ander-ludwig/>

Understanding School Violence, [http://www.cdc.gov/violence\\_prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/violence_prevention)

## **Other Reading:**

Murder is no Accident, Prothrow-Stith and Spivak

<http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/html/home/home.shtml>

Don't Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-city America, David M. Kennedy

Private Guns Public Health, David Hemenway

All Alone in the World, Children of the Incarcerated, Nell Bernstein

To learn more about the role of faith communities in partnering with law enforcement to reduce violence:

[http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=a4iocjcab&v=001eur7dY8GMXfWIClhJgHI\\_MoD2\\_hJoCmRKnHd-h\\_jPkwAu-SIOj\\_XfDAYpjjm1bxPNTYw1mIPQp4-KAJMkpHwZsRtXnJnUrmDivUCM\\_mUESPE2KcA9niw7helfNWx1GqR](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=a4iocjcab&v=001eur7dY8GMXfWIClhJgHI_MoD2_hJoCmRKnHd-h_jPkwAu-SIOj_XfDAYpjjm1bxPNTYw1mIPQp4-KAJMkpHwZsRtXnJnUrmDivUCM_mUESPE2KcA9niw7helfNWx1GqR)

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- i <http://www.threatcore.com/pottstown-crime/>
- ii <http://os.cqpress.com/citycrime/2011/CityCrimePopRank2011.pdf>
- iii [http://contracts.pat treasury.gov/Admin/Upload/202218\\_Grant%2022884.pdf](http://contracts.pat treasury.gov/Admin/Upload/202218_Grant%2022884.pdf)
- iv [http://www.brandywinefoundation.org/sites/default/files/inquirer\\_021109.pdf](http://www.brandywinefoundation.org/sites/default/files/inquirer_021109.pdf)
- v [http://www.brandywinefoundation.org/sites/default/files/CYI\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.brandywinefoundation.org/sites/default/files/CYI_Plan.pdf)
- vi <http://www.threatcore.com/pottstown-crime/>
- vii <http://www.city-data.com/crime/crime-Chester-Pennsylvania.html>
- viii <http://ccityblogger.blogspot.com/2011/05/chester-pa-is-2nd-most-dangerous-city.html>
- ix <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>
- x [http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/10/14/guns-injuries-children/295557/?utm\\_content=buffer8950&utm\\_source=buffer&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=Buffer](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/10/14/guns-injuries-children/295557/?utm_content=buffer8950&utm_source=buffer&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Buffer)
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