

Proposed Indicators for Targeting Youth Violence Prevention Efforts toward Priority Minneapolis Neighborhoods

The following table displays a proposed list of indicators that are relevant to the problem of youth violence in Minneapolis neighborhoods. Although the list of indicators is not exhaustive; the data for these indicators are readily available and allow for on-going monitoring and prioritization of neighborhoods. Resources for youth violence prevention efforts are limited; as a result, focusing resources can ensure that the youth who are at greatest risk of getting involved in violent behavior receive appropriate interventions and programming. The indicators fall within three categories, namely, levels of violence, neighborhood demographics and resources.

Category & Indicator Name	Geographic Level of Measurement	Source	Year(s) Available
Levels of Violence			
Homicides	Neighborhood	MPD	2007-2008
Violent Crime Maps	Citywide/ Neighborhood	MPD	2006-2008
Firearm-related, assault injuries	Zip Code Only	MN Hospital Association	2007
Demographics			
Proportion of under age 24 population compared to Minneapolis overall	Neighborhood	Census	2000
Proportion of Families Below Poverty w/ Related Children under 18 compared to Minneapolis overall	Neighborhood	Census	2000
Resources			
MPRB Recreation Centers	Citywide Map	MPRB	N/A

Homicides:

Besides the obvious tragedy of life lost at a young age, homicide has a traumatic impact on youth, their families and the entire community. Furthermore, homicides can beget more violence in the form of retaliation, so it is critically important to intervene early with youth. From a public health perspective, homicides are a form of intentional injury which is preventable.

Maps of Violent Crime:

Violent crime is comprised of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults. This indicator was selected because it is a measure of environmental exposure to violence. Violent crimes are the most personal and dangerous crimes and affect the community's perception of safety. Reducing the number of these dangerous crimes being committed by juveniles will increase the safety of the city and perhaps prevent the commission of more of violent crimes. Mapping incidents of violent crime allows for the identification of areas where youth are likely to observe, be perpetrators of or become victims of violent acts and behaviors. The maps include all violent crime incidents involving adults and juveniles.

Firearm-related, assault injuries:

Injury due to firearm-related assault is a measure of violence which is preventable. Resulting complications can vary from short-term injuries to lifetime disability to fatalities. The effects can be expensive in terms of life changes for individuals and healthcare costs for society. Because an assault injury may precipitate a retaliatory cycle of violence, outreach to a hospitalized individual offers an opportunity for intervention to interrupt this cycle.

Proportion of Population Age 14 and Under:

Census 2000 data on the proportions of children age 14 and under can be used to infer an estimate of the current proportion of youth and young adults in Minneapolis neighborhoods compared to Minneapolis overall. Children that were 14 years old in 2000, today would still fall under 24 years old. This indicator was selected because it allows for identification of neighborhoods that may still be comprised of disproportionate numbers of youth and young adults relative to Minneapolis overall.

Proportion of Families below Poverty with Related Children under 18:

Poverty has been shown to cause family disruptions, which in turn have a direct relationship to crime rates of juveniles (Hawkins, Laub, et al., 2000). This indicator compares the proportion of families (households) that are below poverty with related children under 18 in each neighborhood to that same proportion for Minneapolis overall.

Map of Minneapolis Recreational Centers:

This indicator was selected because it illustrates accessibility to youth programs that serve a relatively large number of youth and families. It also allows for comparison across different areas of the city.