

Concern Statement Worksheet

1. Developing Concern Statements

- ▶ **Concern Statements** are clear and consistent interpretations of the issues that should be used to guide the work of the Blueprint for Action.
- ▶ **Concern Statements** like recommendations identify particular areas that require focused attention and priority for addressing youth violence at many levels (individual, family, community, society) and across many areas (prevention, intervention, re-entry and enforcement)
- ▶ “We are concerned that youth in north Minneapolis...” or “We are concerned that American Indian families ...”

2. Criteria for Strong Concern Statements

A Concern Statement should:

- ▶ Be a complete, relevant and concise sentence
- ▶ Be based on one of the Blueprint Goal Areas or National Forum Areas
- ▶ Be specific and concrete in a way that can lead to targeted services and interventions
- ▶ Be a concern that is appropriate for the Blueprint to address

3. Prioritizing Concerns

Concern Statements that will need to be organized and prioritized into a manageable few.

Step One: Group Concern Statements into categories of related statements.

- look for redundancy and to combine statements if they are saying the same thing in different ways.
- identify Concern statements specific to a single topic area (media violence, mentoring, out of school time, youth employment, etc.)
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Step Two: Criteria for Prioritization of Concern Statements

1. Clearly relates to your groups Blueprint Goal and National Forum Area
2. Is agreed upon by a majority of the team members that this is a serious or widespread area of concern
3. Balance of those that address the needs of the most adversely affected communities, cultures, youth and families vs. entire population
4. Can be confirmed through additional data collection, if needed
5. Is a concern that could realistically be addressed within 5 years