

# Minneapolis Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence



*"Our work is about a collective value system in this community that says YES, we will raise our children in peace. We have not yet reached our ultimate goal of not a single homicide in the city, but the Blueprint and the work of many people have had a powerful and significant impact on making this community safer."*

*~Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak*

## TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

- ❖ 2003-2006: Homicide is leading cause of death for youth aged 15-24 in Minneapolis
- ❖ 2006: Working with The Minneapolis Foundation, community meetings were held to identify gaps and opportunities related to preventing youth violence
- ❖ 2006: City Council adopted a resolution declaring youth violence a public health issue
- ❖ 2007: YVP Steering Committee reviewed best practices research
- ❖ 2008: Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence adopted and YVP Coordinator hired
- ❖ 2008: Juvenile Supervision Center established. 1,515 youth seen in 1st 6 months. 950 received services
- ❖ 2008: YouthAreHere buses serve over 500 riders – City co-sponsors
- ❖ 2008: Park Board extends summer hours for youth programming until 10 PM
- ❖ 2008: Juvenile Offender Gun Initiative launched
- ❖ 2009: Youth Violence Prevention Act in Minnesota
- ❖ 2009: Congressional Field Hearing on impact of Blueprint
- ❖ 2009: Street Reach: Utilization of park staff for outreach to youth
- ❖ 2009: SpeakUp: Anonymous youth tip line launched to report weapons
- ❖ 2009: School Resource Officers: Close coordination with police juvenile unit and School Resource Officers
- ❖ 2009: Brooklyn Park adopts Blueprint for Action

# Minneapolis Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence

## YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence is widespread in the United States. It is the second leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 24. 4,828 young people ages 10 to 24 were victims of homicide—an average of 13 each day. Nationally in this age group, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans; the second leading cause of death for Hispanics; and the third leading cause of death for American Indians and Alaskan Natives. While the City of Minneapolis has seen a significant decrease in violent crimes and overall juvenile crime over time, there still remains much work to be done to eliminate youth violence. Homicides are the leading cause of death for Minneapolis youth ages 15 to 24. Youth violence disproportionately affects inner city minorities, specifically African Americans. In Minneapolis from 2003-2006, 59% of youth victims of homicide were African American. This rate compares to 9-12% of youth homicide deaths for each of the other ethnic groups: Hispanics, whites, Asian Americans, and American Indians.

## A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

In 2006 the City of Minneapolis decided to attack youth violence from a public health perspective. In an effort to address youth violence the City developed a comprehensive plan under Mayor R.T. Rybak and the City Council's **Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence**. Through the implementation of a multi-faceted, multi-sector, multi-year master plan, the City of Minneapolis' Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence is helping to reduce and prevent youth violence in Minneapolis by using a public health approach. The public health approach is population-based, targets all city residents and treats violence as a disease or an epidemic, such as tuberculosis, polio or smoking. The public health approach uses strategies that reduce the factors that put people at risk for experiencing violence and increases the factors that protect people or buffer them from risk.

## THE BLUEPRINT OUTLINES FOUR MAJOR GOALS:

**Goal 1: Connect youth to trusted adults**

**Goal 2: Intervene at the first sign of risk**

**Goal 3: Restore youth that have gone down the wrong path**

**Goal 4: Unlearn the culture of violence**

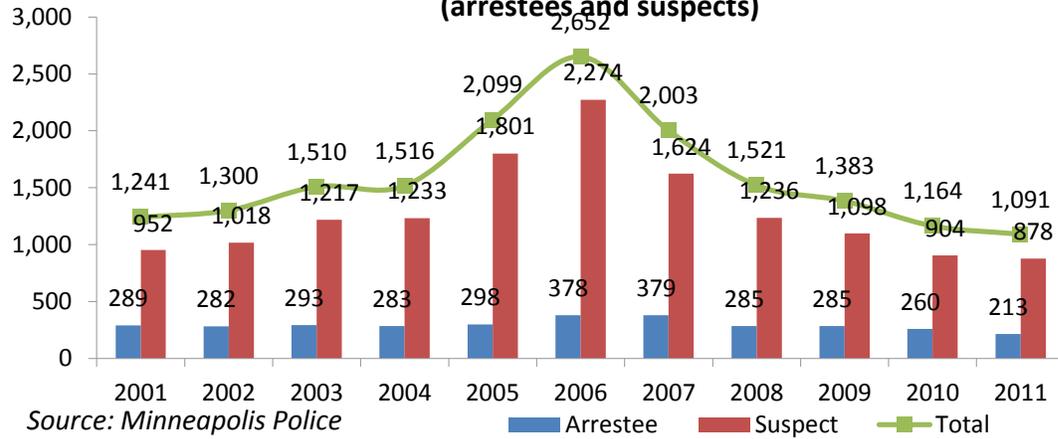
## MAKING PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Minneapolis has had five years of activity under the Blueprint, with citywide collaboration that is both broad and deep. Collaborators report activities and progress made on addressing Blueprint recommendations as part of the Youth Violence Prevention quarterly report. The timeline highlights salient accomplishments as a result of the Blueprint for Action's impact in Minneapolis.

## MEASURING RESULTS

Youth Violence Results Minneapolis, an annual city-wide shared results accountability process, tracks 22 indicators identified around the four Blueprint goals, including youth homicide victims, hospitalizations from assault injuries, perception of safety in school and teen pregnancy rates.

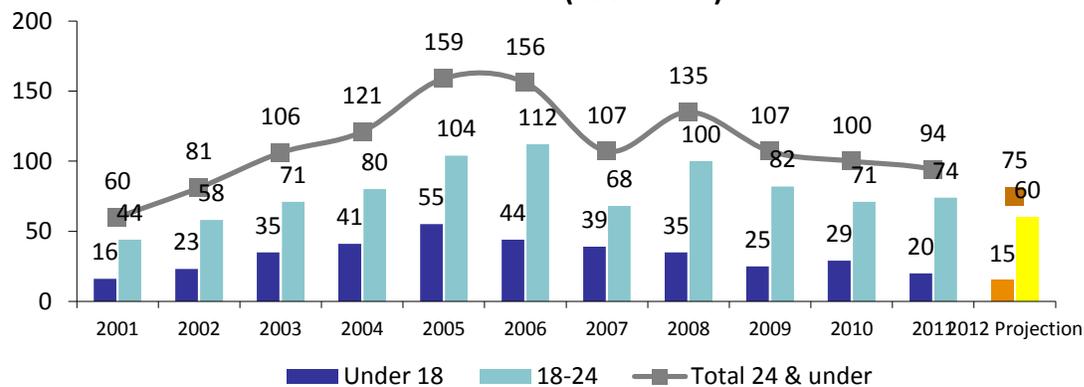
**Juveniles Involved in Violent Crime (arrestees and suspects)**



## FROM 2006 - 2011, MINNEAPOLIS SAW a...

59% reduction in juvenile violent crime, 66% reduction in incidents involving guns and juveniles, 39% reduction in firearm-related injuries in youth and young adults, 57% increase in number of youth in STEP-UP and other City jobs programs and a significant drop in teen pregnancy rates.

**Firearm-related Assault Injuries of Minneapolis Youth and Young Adults (2001-2011)**



Source: MN Hospital Association; includes hospital in-patient and out-patient visits. 2012 projection is the same as the previous 2011 projection.

## 2013 AND BEYOND

Minneapolis joined the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention in 2012 a federal effort that brings cities together in order to share information and support local efforts to prevent and reduce youth violence. Joining the Forum in 2012 brings continued focus and energy to Minneapolis and allows the organizations working on the Blueprint to take the plan to the next level of expansion. Minneapolis is charged with updating its a strategic plan in 2013 to prevent youth violence, which will allow the City to continue to develop the Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis and expand it to take us to 2016.

- ❖ 2010: Minneapolis Parks and Recreation receives OJJDP Gang mentorship grant.
- ❖ 2010: MYVIP: Hospital protocol to reach out to youth victims of violence
- ❖ 2010: North 4 Program: Collaboration with City and community organization to engage and employ gang affiliated youth
- ❖ 2010: MDHFS awarded OJJDP grant to implement gang prevention curriculum in several sites
- ❖ 2011: Youth Violence Prevention Conference with Attorney General Eric Holder in May
- ❖ 2011: Summer 612 Media Campaign; Foundation funding of youth driven effort to counter the culture of violence
- ❖ 2011: BUILD gang prevention and intervention program implemented
- ❖ 2011: Launched Operation BackPack Recover community crisis protocol in aftermath of shooting
- ❖ 2011: STRYVE (CDC) features Minneapolis as city success story
- ❖ 2011: MDHFS co-hosts community forum on alcohol use & youth violence
- ❖ 2011: MPD Juvenile Unit - new partnership w/Henn. Co. Human Services & Public Health
- ❖ 2011: SBC health educators hired to promote new teen pregnancy prevention work
- ❖ 2012: National Youth Violence Prevention Week held
- ❖ 2012: Picturing Peace --partnership with Hennepin County Libraries and Downtown Improvement District
- ❖ 2012: Congressional Tri-Caucus briefing on youth violence as a public health issue
- ❖ 2012: Applied to and awarded entry to National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

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*By seeing youth violence as the public health crisis that it is, we are better able to work across agencies, communities and jurisdictions with youth, parents, teachers, clergy, health providers, and others to protect youth, reduce injuries and deaths, and prevent more acts of violence from ever happening in the first place."*

- *Minneapolis Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE MINNEAPOLIS BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION  
TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE**

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