

Trenton Prevention Policy Board

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Youth Violence Prevention Action Strategy Process

With the support and involvement of community coalitions, public agencies, and municipal authorities, the Trenton Prevention Policy Board is coordinating a citywide effort to develop an action strategy to address and combat youth violence in Trenton.

Building on the successful models of other similarly situated cities, we will implement a planning process that follows the model of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. This model, developed as a collaboration among cities and federal agencies in 2010, has provided transformative frameworks for struggling cities across the country to bring together key stakeholders to develop a shared vision and strategy to prevent and reduce youth violence. Combining data-driven analysis, the National Forum framework organizes work around four interrelated categories—prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry—to most effectively address youth violence at different points.

About Trenton Prevention Policy Board

The Trenton Prevention Policy Board (TPPB) is a data-driven, participant-driven planning board that is comprised of non-profit, government, faith-based, and community stakeholders from the greater Trenton area. As part of an initiative from the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, and facilitated by staff at The College of New Jersey, the Board was founded in 2009 to promote positive youth development and reduce juvenile delinquency in the Trenton community.

Why Focus on Youth Violence? Why Now?

Developing an action strategy that brings relevant organizations and agencies to the table will provide an infrastructure to enable more effective communication, coordination, and data-sharing among all involved. With significant involvement of organizations across disciplines and services, efforts to reduce youth violence and to support youth affected by violence can more effectively be delivered and the ecosystem of causes of youth violence can be addressed through concerted, coordinated action.

For more information and resources, see <http://tppb.pages.tcnj.edu/initiatives/tyvp/>

Structure

The National Forum model calls for working groups built around four categories:

- **Prevention:** Treatment, services, programs to general population; most may not be in extreme high risk category, with a focus on promoting protective factors. Programming examples include youth development and family support services, educational and community mentoring, and in-school and out-of-school activities.
- **Intervention:** Treatment, services, programs that intervene to reduce or eliminate risk behaviors; activities targeted to youth who have begun to demonstrate risk, destructive behaviors. Programs engage with high-risk and gang-involved youth in a range of settings, and may include educational, health, drug treatment, and other services.
- **Law enforcement:** Directly involved in law enforcement or has treatment, services, programs that work closely with entities who are directly involved in law enforcement. Efforts focus on the most serious, violent, and chronic youthful offenders and on crime hot spots.
- **Reentry:** Treatment, services, programs that work with youth returning from confinement to the community. Programs support youth offenders returning from confinement to the community and begin providing this support prior to their release.

For each issue area, and following review of relevant data, working groups will:

- Produce an inventory of existing relevant policies, programs, and practices;
- Determine 5-7 key data points to measure and track changes in this category;
- Prioritize 5 top challenges facing Trenton in addressing youth violence in the context of their category;
- Determine if, and how, Trenton is different in comparison to other cities to determine appropriate and effective strategies.

The final strategy will include the products of the working groups, as well as concrete steps and milestones to move forward in each of the four categories. Cross-cutting recommendations regarding systems and processes in relation to youth violence will also be included.

Framework

Step 1: Build Partnerships and Raise Awareness

- 1.1: Initiate a call to action.
- 1.2: Agree on a common vision of success
- 1.3: Organize a structure for developing the plan.

Step 2: Gather and Use Data to Inform Strategies

- 2.1: Review current youth violence research and evidence.
- 2.2: Collect and share local data on youth violence.
- 2.3: Use the data to inform strategy selection.
- 2.4: Identify resources and assets.

Step 3: Write the Plan

- 3.1: Develop strategies and goals.
- 3.2: Match resources to strategies and goals.
- 3.3: Develop measurable objectives and activities.

Step 4: Implement the Plan

- 4.1: Work the plan.
- 4.2: Revisit and update the plan.