

Violence Prevention & Intervention

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Problem: Many communities are not connected and deal with violence and discrimination. Gang violence, violent crimes, and gun violence are up across Oregon and especially within the Portland Metro area. Communities experiencing gang violence or violent crime do not have resources to intervene and reduce crime within their communities.

Solution: Still building out this recommendation in collaboration with community.

DRAFT:

- More **education in K-12** around gang prevention: connect students with mentors that may have been involved in the past.
- For current gang members a solution can be to connect them with “OG’s” from their neighborhood that now want to make a positive impact through peer support/peer mentorship and prevention work.
- Resources also need to be provided in hard hit areas, such as northeast Portland & the Salem metro, targeting high school students and newly graduated adults providing them opportunities and exposure to attainable career paths and show the youth there are other ways to make a living outside of crime.

Later focus:

- Funding of county behavioral health programs who are more in touch with the community needs around gang intervention and prevention to allow them to develop culturally-specific programs.

Compelling Statistic and/or Quote:

“Intentionality of building community is good- parks, market, etc. community garden. It’s different from what’s here before (in Columbia villas). Impact of crime and violence- last week 3 young people were shot and killed. We don’t know if it was random, or a dispute. No previous involvement in anything- just teenagers. Last year a bullet came through the window while I slept.” [HEAL meetings agendas and notes_coded_public](#) Page, 50

“Need something that’s not punitive. Community solutions.” [HEAL meetings agendas and notes_coded_public](#) Page, 50

“Investment in creative/preventative solutions rather than just policing and locking people away” [HEAL meetings agendas and notes_coded_public](#) Page, 50

“Conflict resolution, peer mentorship program, more creative outlets for young folks, address racial trauma.” [HEAL meetings agendas and notes_coded_public](#) Page, 50

Potential Costs (Investment): This can also incorporate state general funds being allocated to violence prevention in high crime areas.

Community Source for Idea: [HEAL meetings agendas and notes_coded_public](#) Page, 50

Potential State Agency Partners:

[OPRD](#), [Safer Portland Grant](#), DHS, [Portland Ceasefire](#), [Community Violence Reduction Initiative | Salem, Oregon](#)

Potential Community Partners:

- [The Trauma Healing Project](#) (serves Western Oregon)
 - The Trauma Healing Project is a leading provider of training on trauma and trauma informed care in western Oregon. We offer a regular schedule of trainings that are open to the community and are appropriate for a wide range of educational, social

service, health and mental health care professionals, as well as for community members who are survivors of trauma, friends and family of survivors, and anyone with an interest in trauma and trauma healing.

- [Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center \(POIC\) + Rosemary Anderson HS: Community Care Team](#)
 - In-hospital support for victims of violence and their families during traumatic events. HHP Team members advocate for patients and help bridge the gap with hospital staff to help families navigate the resources needed to recover.
- [Word is Bond](#)
- [Elevate Oregon](#)
- [Willamette Academy](#)
- [Racial Equity Impact Assessment Tool for Gun Violence Prevention](#)
- [Justice Counts](#)

Additional Information/Resources:

- [DHS Trauma Informed Care Model Wins Awards](#)
- [Community Violence Intervention and Prevention \(CVI\)](#)
 - [What does intervention and prevention look like?](#)
 - Evidence-informed strategies to reduce violence through tailored community-centered initiatives.
 - Engages individuals and groups to prevent and disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation
 - Establishes relationships to deliver services that save lives, address trauma, provide opportunity, and improve the physical, social, and economic conditions that drive violence.
 - Some of the ways funding may be used
 - Afterschool programs
 - Group violence interventions
 - Hospital-based violence interruption programs
 - Job training and employment programs
 - Neighborhood change agent programs
 - Street outreach

- Mediation training
 - Mentoring programs
 - Restorative Justice
 - Reentry services
- [Community Violence Intervention](#)
 - Community violence intervention (CVI) is an approach that uses evidence-informed strategies to reduce violence through tailored community-centered initiatives. These multidisciplinary strategies
 - engage individuals and groups to prevent and disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation, and establish relationships between individuals and community assets to deliver services that save lives, address trauma, provide opportunity, and improve the physical, social, and economic conditions that drive violence.
 - Care must be taken to guarantee the community members most affected and most disenfranchised are included in creating CVI solutions and benefiting from them.
 - partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders.
 - The state will invest \$15 million towards a grant program to fund upstream solutions to community violence. These solutions include summer jobs, mentorship, and training programs for at-risk youth, “greening” blighted areas, offering mental health and addiction support, and providing much-needed resources to victims of crime.
 - Such programs have repeatedly been shown to significantly reduce violent crime and keep people out of the criminal justice system. These investments will help stop violence before it starts, keeping Oregon’s communities safe and building a stronger future for all.
- HB 4045 (2022)
 - [Legislators Pass Historic Community Violence Prevention Investments](#)
 - “Gun violence has long been endemic in our communities, we have an opportunity to honor the dead

and fight for the living by making meaningful investments in holistic community violence prevention,” said Sen. Lawrence Spence (D-Portland and Tigard), “I am a firm believer that upstream investments provide communities with the tools necessary to address the root causes of violence.”

- [Safer Portland Grant](#)
 - Examples of programs and activities that can be supported through this grant include:
 - Preventative programs, workshops, camps, and events;
 - Flexible funds for direct community assistance and services;
 - Youth and adult mediation and mentoring programs;
 - Arts and culture or recreational violence preventative programs;
 - Aftercare support funds for families of victims; and
 - Capacity building in small contractors to provide services.
 - How much funding is available?
 - A total of \$800,000 is available. Organizations can apply for up to \$100,000. Grant awards may vary based on the scope of work and number of community members served.
 - ***UPDATE: The Safer Portland Grant is no longer accepting applications. Stay tuned for information about programs funded by the grant. ***
- [Community Violence Reduction initiative](#)
- [Community Violence Reduction Initiative | Salem, Oregon](#)
 - The rise in shootings in Salem and the [longer-term upward trend of violent crime](#) are issues that have impacted the entire city.
 - Although factors for the rise in any crime category can vary and may involve complex issues, there were no obvious reasons why rates are increasing in Salem.
- [Salem, Oregon Gun Violence Problem Analysis 2018-2023](#)
- [Portland Homicide Problem Analysis 2019-2021](#)
 - [Report looks at Salem’s increasing gun violence - OPB](#)

- Shootings in the Salem city limits have doubled in the past five years
- The report also found that [at least half the shootings involved gang members](#), and that the number of teens 17 and under who were either suspects or victims of gun violence has doubled in the past two years
- Gang members were involved in at least half of shootings in Salem in the past five years. But the researchers said that that number could actually be as high as 85%. And when I say gang members were involved, I mean, as shooters or victims or both.
- [Multnomah County Comprehensive Gang Assessment](#)
 - Challenges to Getting the Data
 - Traditionally, public safety agencies have developed their own internal procedures and data systems that track gang-related events and individuals. These procedures were largely determined by the reporting needs of the organization and the amount of resources available to them for data management and staff training. The result is that Multnomah County has lacked a centralized method for identifying and tracking gang-related events and individuals.
 - There are questions posed in the OJJDP Gang Assessment Model that seem fundamental but that are very difficult to answer on a County-wide basis:
 - How many gang members are active in Multnomah County?
 - How many gang-related crimes have been committed?
 - To fully answer these questions, Multnomah County must have a shared definition of gangs and gang-related incidents which comply with federal and state regulations. There must also be consistent data entry occurring in tracking systems

that can be linked across the different reporting agencies.

- What gangs are active in Multnomah County?
 - At least 133 gangs are known to be active in Multnomah County. Some of these are smaller sets or splinter groups of larger gangs. Because gang alliances and activity change over time, the list of active gangs should be considered a snapshot.
- What types of crimes are gang members committing?
 - Observations:
 - In 2013, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Gang Unit issued **41% fewer gang-related felony cases than it did in 2012 but twice as many gang-related misdemeanor cases.** So-called "Safe Street" youth (i.e., youth who have a recent history of committing serious person-to-person or firearms-related crimes) were most commonly adjudicated for assault, robbery, burglary, and unlawful possession of a firearm. **The average Safe Street youth is 16.9 years old, was first referred to the criminal justice system at age 13.3, and has referred 5.5 times. Most Safe Street youth (85%) are male, and 77% are youth of color.**
- Law enforcement agencies in Multnomah County do not have an accurate method of identifying gang-involved people. In the absence of this information, we used data from the Multnomah County District Attorney's office and the Multnomah County Safe Streets project. Safe Streets is a joint effort of local law enforcement, the Juvenile Services Division, Oregon Youth Authority, and the District Attorney's Office to address growing community concern regarding delinquent youth.

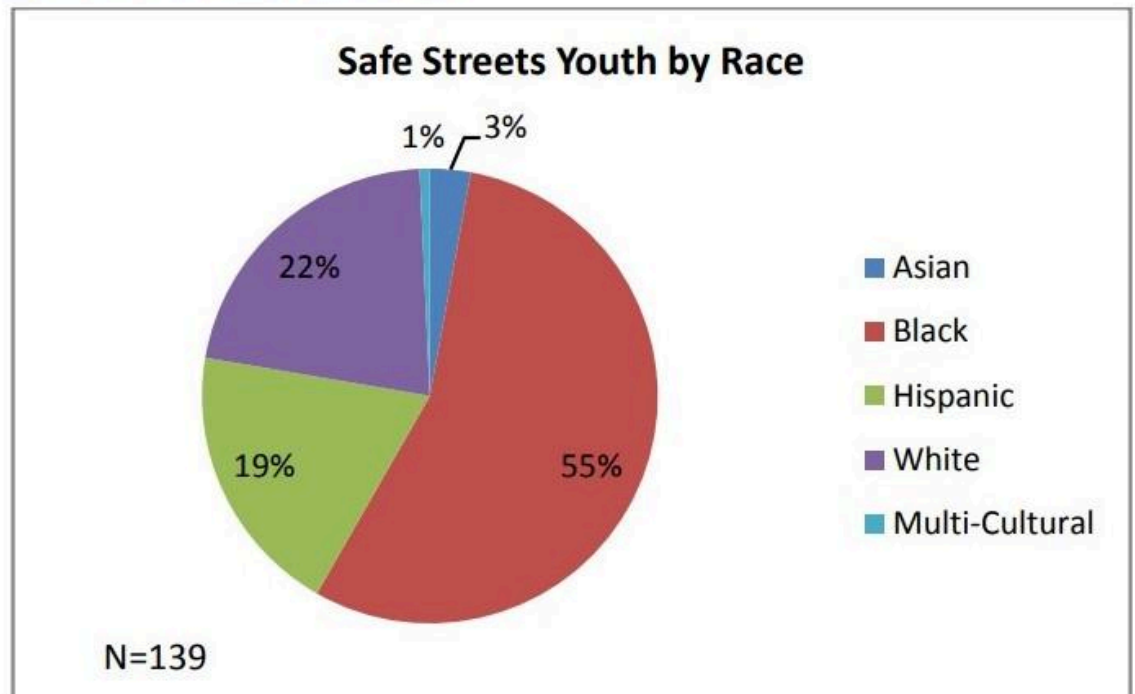
Safe Streets Youth, February 2014		
	Range	Average
Age	12 to 22 years old	16.9 years
Age at first criminal referral	6 to 17 years old	13.3 years
Number of criminal referrals (per individual)	1 to 26	5.5

Almost half of the Safe Street youth have been assessed as being at high risk of future delinquency (Figure 27). Most of them (85%) are male (Figure 26), and 77% are youth of color (Figure 25). The most common charges for which these youth were adjudicated were:

- Assault: 30 youth charged (21.6% out of the 139)
- Robbery: 28 youth (20.1%)
- Burglary: 25 youth (18%)
- Unlawful Possession of a Firearm: 19 youth (13.7%) (Figure 28)

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Figure 25: Safe Street Youth: Race



- [The Truth About Violent Crime in Oregon](#)
- [Federal officials allow Oregon to offer Medicaid services to those behind bars • Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)
- [Oregon inmates will gain access to Medicaid coverage ahead of release](#)
- [Oregon had fourth most gun sales per capita in 2023, 146,000 sold at start of 2024](#)
 - Nationwide and in Oregon, gun sales peaked during the pandemic and have fallen slightly in the following years. For the most part, states with large changes in sales changed their gun control laws in 2023, while states without major changes saw slight decreases. Oregon saw its gun sales drop 3% to 446,556 estimated sales in 2023, according to the report.
 - Gun violence became the [leading cause of death in children](#) and U.S. adults are worried that they or a loved one will become a victim, according to Reuters.

- The U.S. surgeon general last month [declared gun violence a public health crisis](#), issuing a 39-page advisory on initiatives to prevent firearm deaths. The advisory said the rate of firearm-related deaths “reached a near three-decade high in 2021.”
- ['Not a safe place': Dawson Park neighbors want answers from Portland government as shootings persist](#)
- [Mayor Ted Wheeler addresses Black community, faith leaders on Dawson Park gun violence](#)
- [The Truth About Violent Crime in Oregon - Center for American Progress Action](#)
 - The real crisis facing Oregonians is gun violence. [State data](#) show decreases in assaults, drug offenses, and property crimes across Oregon from 2020 to 2021. But in Portland, the state’s largest city, the share of murders committed with guns has surged [25 percent](#) in recent years. This increase in gun violence is not limited to murder: Overall shooting incidents in Portland [have tripled](#) since 2019, including a [211 percent increase](#) in shootings resulting in no injury.
- [Racial Equity Framework for Gun Violence Prevention](#)
- [State of Black Oregon 2015](#)
- [White House enlists doctors and hospitals to combat gun violence | The Lund Report](#)
- [Oregon is among the worst states to live in, according to WalletHub](#)
 - “Additionally, Oregon’s safety ranking is very low, at 47th, which raises concerns about crime and overall security. While it fares better in categories such as Quality of Life, where it ranks 14th, these strengths are overshadowed by its high costs and safety issues, which makes it less attractive for potential residents compared to other states,” Lupu added.
- [Gov. Kotek’s panel makes hundreds of recommendations to reform Coffee Creek prison • Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)
 - “Unless the Oregon Department of Corrections has clear statutory mandates, nothing will really change,” he said. “From

our perspective, it's a little embarrassing that these are the recommendations that DOC is looking at right now.”

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