

Youth Violence Prevention Concept

Year 1-2

Complete a comprehensive assessment and planning process. The goal of the assessment is to identify existing data/information resources for a wide variety of sources and to supplement the disparate data with new data/information collection with the ultimate goal being to have a current, and complete as possible, understanding of the incidence and impact of youth related violence in Fresno County. In this context youth-related violence refers to violence perpetrated by youth (towards self and/or others) and violence against youth.

Collect and analyze a broad range of secondary data and existing youth and violence related reports – as much as possible by age, gender, ethnicity and community (zip code):

- YPLL data with leading causes of death by age and zip code
- School violence data, K-12 and College (gang violence, bullying, teen suicide, exposure to community and family violence, teen relationship violence, sexual assault, youth violence in general)
- Suicide data (community level)
- Crime data - youth-related (with special concern for gang violence)
- Firearm Access
- IPV data for youth
- IPV w/ children present
- Child Abuse and Neglect data
- Sexual Assault data
- Drug Use/Abuse data
- Infant Mortality Rates
- Intentional and Unintentional Injury (morbidity & mortality)
- HS & College graduation rates
- Elementary, Jr. High & HS dropout or loss data
- Poverty, food security, homelessness, unemployment, etc.

Supplement secondary data with data collection, including engaging local experts through key informant interviews and surveys. Also, engage the community through schools, clubs, youth serving organizations, parents' groups and faith-based communities (focus groups, key informant interviews, public opinion polls, study teams, community events, etc.)

Develop a clear snapshot of the current situation, data, programs/interventions, etc. throughout the County (maybe use a combo SWOT/data review or something along those lines). Use the information gathered, along with a selection of the best practice models recommended to develop a community based plan (strategic plan or blueprint) to either 1) make recommendations for addressing each of the key areas (gang violence, bullying, teen suicide, exposure to community and family violence, teen relationship violence, sexual assault, youth violence in general); or 2) address one area and implement the plan for that one area.

If a multi-area, comprehensive strategic plan or “Blueprint” of recommendations was developed, that document would be widely distributed with the goal of being useful to multiple agencies in addressing youth violence as it applies to their discipline or service area (schools, Boys & Girls Club, domestic violence, suicide, gang violence, etc.). Fresno County Department of Public Health would choose 1-2 of the most appropriate areas to focus on for years 3-5 project implementation using the information in the strategic plan/Blueprint for addressing youth violence.

Other key factor:

- The initial assessment will include multiple disciplines (health, education, social services, business, planning, law enforcement, etc.).
- Rural communities throughout the County will be assessed both in conjunction with Fresno City data, but also independently as much as possible to highlight the incidence data and unique aspects of youth violence in rural communities.
- Best practice model recommendations will include, as appropriate, asset building components (based on research and models developed by the Search Institute).

Year 3-5

- Implementation of prevention efforts around selected indicators based on the final strategic plan and recommended best practice models.

