



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

22-0111R:

Informational Hearing -

Addressing Youth

Violence in Baltimore City

Mayor Brandon M. Scott

Thursday, August 25, 2022 - 5:01PM

Administration Overview

- **Comprehensive strategy, rooted in the Mayor's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan**
- **Focus on interagency partnership, including the Mayor's Office, MONSE, MOCFS, MOAAME, BPD, BCHD, MOED, BCPSS, and others**
- **Investing in the promise of our young people**
- **Youth perspectives at the center of our strategies and a focus on youth opportunity**

Prior Year Statistics: Youth Victims

Juvenile Victims			
Crime Type	2021	YTD2022	Grand Total
VIOLENT CRIME	648	475	1,123
HOMICIDE	17	14	31
RAPE	66	40	106
ROBBERY	185	94	279
ROBBERY - CARJACKING	15	7	22
ROBBERY - COMMERCIAL	17	12	29
ROBBERY - RESIDENCE	21	10	31
ROBBERY - STREET	132	65	197
AGG. ASSAULT	380	327	707
SHOOTING	50	49	99
PROPERTY CRIME	100	73	173
BURGLARY	18	7	25
LARCENY	66	50	116
LARCENY FROM AUTO	8	12	20
AUTO THEFT	6	4	10
ARSON	2	0	2
Grand Total	748	548	1,296

Prior Year Statistics: Youth Offenders

Juvenile Arrests				
Crime Type	2020	2021	YTD2022	Grand Total
VIOLENT CRIME	470	313	177	960
HOMICIDE	10	11	9	30
RAPE	11	6	1	18
ROBBERY	229	114	77	420
AGG. ASSAULT (NFS)	220	182	90	492
PROPERTY CRIME	349	243	158	750
BURGLARY	36	37	28	101
LARCENY	105	73	48	226
AUTO THEFT	207	133	82	422
ARSON	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	819	556	335	1,710

Mayor's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP)

- **Pillar 1: Public Health Approach to Violence**

- 3. Youth Justice

- *3.1 - Adopt Proven, Community-Based Solutions to Reduce Youth Arrests and Incarceration*

- *3.2 - Fund Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs for School-Aged Youth*

- *3.3 - Implement Agency-Level Changes to Shift Long-Term Youth Outcomes*

Interagency Partnership: MONSE

Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS)

- Roca - Provides intensive life coaching and employment services to the younger at-risk population between the ages of 16-24 as a part of the strategy

Interagency Partnership: MONSE

Strengthening home and school-based violence prevention programs

- Community Violence Intervention Ecosystem - Piloting school-based violence intervention in Baltimore high schools
- Investing in Social-Emotional Development - Grant opportunity for service providers working with elementary and middle school students

Interagency Partnership: MONSE

Building early warning systems for youth and young adults aged 9-14

- Agency-Level Coordination and Policy Change - Work coming out of the Child Fatality Review Team
- Increase School Staff Trained in Mental Health First Aid - Identifying signs and symptoms of emerging mental health problems and differentiating potential problems from typical adolescent development
- Investing in Center for Hope - Supports the PAAVE (Pathways to Advocacy Against Violence Everyday) program, which provides trauma-sensitive, evidence-based, intensive case management, mental health treatment and meaningful referrals to youth and families impacted by a youth homicide or a near-fatal incident

Interagency Partnership: MONSE

Youth Diversion Efforts

- Post-Arrest Diversion - MONSE works closely with DJS to provide case management and support to divert eligible youth from the criminal legal system after an arrest
- SideStep Pre-Arrest Diversion - Piloting in the Western District, trained 109 BPD officers, made three referrals, and preparing for evaluation to scale

Interagency Partnership: MONSE

Funding Grassroots Efforts

- Community Funding Portal at monse.baltimorecity.gov - For organizations seeking to prevent violence, increase justice, and reduce trauma

Interagency Partnership: MOAAME

- MOAAME's approach to building early warning systems is to identify at-risk youth and young adults between the ages of 9 through 14 by coordinating with Baltimore City Public School's Office of Attendance and Truancy to identify youth who are consistently absent from school, especially those suspended for inappropriate behavior.
- In order to mitigate the issues of school based violence, MOAAME will facilitate the creation of a Citywide Mentoring and Support program that coordinates with the school system to address behaviors identified by school leaders and demonstrated by youth.

Interagency Partnership: MOCFS

- MOCFS is engaged in the critical work of supporting our youth and curtailing the risk factors of violence. We facilitate the Baltimore Children's Cabinet which convenes city and state agencies and key external partners to align, focus, and increase the city's collective investment in our children and youth.

Seven priorities guide our work:

- 1) Increase early childhood development
- 2) Decrease youth food insecurity
- 3) Decrease youth homelessness
- 4) Increase youth literacy
- 5) Increase trauma-informed care for youth
- 6) Increase youth diversion practices
- 7) Break down historical barriers to success for black boys and young men.

Interagency Partnership: MOCFS

- Additionally, through our youth engagement platform, we work with partners across the community to connect youth to the resources they need to succeed and thrive, and to create leadership opportunities that place youth voice at the center of discussions and decision making that affect them most.

Interagency Partnership: BPD

- BPD recognizes that ensuring overall youth safety requires robust partnerships with other city agencies; nonprofit and community organizations as well as local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Over the last few years we have worked diligently to greatly enhance our partnerships with external stakeholders and to improve the ways in which our officers engage with youth.



Interagency Partnership: BPD

- In order to achieve clear lines of responsibility when addressing crimes occurring at schools and to further our common goal of more effective, community policing throughout Baltimore City, the BPD and Baltimore City School Police (BCPS) have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which includes provisions such as:
 - The general authority and jurisdiction of BSP officers, including the distinction between BSP's "Primary Jurisdiction" (on Baltimore City school property) and expanded jurisdiction (off of Baltimore City school property).
 - Who shall be the lead agency in various situations, such as those involving active shooters and other emergencies.

Interagency Partnership: BPD

- BPD has been working with the US Attorney, ATF, DEA, FBI, Homeland Security, MD Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Maryland State Police and the Maryland Attorney General to specifically identify, investigate and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law, those violent offenders who engage in disturbing acts such as carjacking, robberies involving firearms.
- Through the expansion of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, we will be enhancing our efforts to prosecute those individuals who break federal law by carrying a gun in a school zones. By going after those bad actors who put the lives of our school children and our teachers in danger and seeking longer sentences in federal prison, we will be able to ensure that our schools are the sanctuaries they are intended to be.

Interagency Partnership: BPD

- We work closely with organizations like Project Pneuma, the Boys and Girls Club, Recreation and Parks, the Baltimore City School System, etc. to ensure that our youth have fun and safe interactions with our officers.
- These encounters include officers doing yoga, playing basketball and other sports with kids. Our officers also read to and with young people at schools and at recreation centers. We have also had officers participate in neighborhood bike rides.
- The goal is to ensure that the youth and the officers see the other as human beings who care deeply for the community they are both in.



Interagency Partnership: BPD

- We coordinate with MOAAME, MONSE and other agencies to identify at-risk-youth who need additional services and support. This effort includes young people engaged in squeegee activities and those who host large-scale unpermitted events that could lead to violence.



Interagency Partnership: BCHD

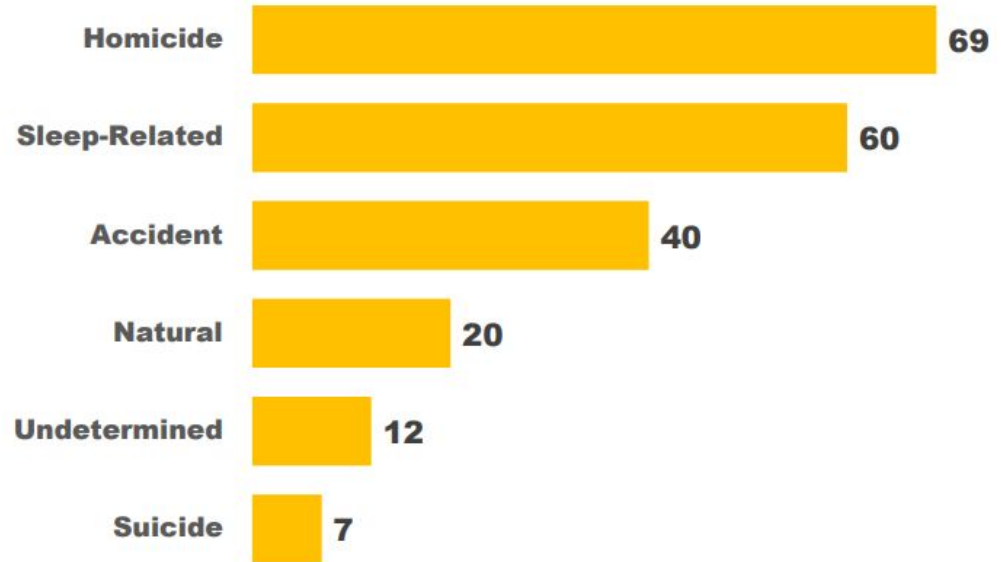
Child Fatality Review

- Multidisciplinary, confidential review of every unexpected child death, birth to 17, mandated by law in Maryland
- Action-oriented
 - Prevent child fatalities in children at risk
 - Improve investigation
 - Improve community response
- Accountability, not blame
 - Identify and rectify gaps in systems

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Data Review: Child Fatalities

- Child Fatality Review (CFR) from 2016 to 2020:
 - 208 child fatalities
 - Leading cause: 69 deaths (33%) due to homicide.
 - 91% of fatalities were determined by the CFR Team to be preventable



Child Fatalities in Baltimore City (2021)

<https://health.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/2021%20Baltimore%20City%20CFR%205-Year%20Report.pdf>

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

45 Youth Victims of Third-Party Homicide, 2016-2020

93%	Homicide committed with a gun
89%	Chronically absent from school
69%	Charged in the juvenile justice system
62%	Received mental health treatment
40%	Suspended from school at least twice in one year
27%	Prior victim of a nonfatal shooting or stabbing
24%	Prior victim of child maltreatment

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

CFR Partnership with MONSE

- MONSE is taking a lead role on CFR as our accountability partner to ensure CFR member agencies act on violence prevention recommendations
- MONSE is incorporating CFR into the Mayor's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy
- MONSE is co-convening the CFR Executive Team with BCHD and has secured ARPA funds to support implementation of recommendations

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Key CFR Recommendations to Prevent Youth Violence

- Wraparound supports for youth victims of nonfatal shootings and stabbings and their families
- Youth peer mental health educators and Mental Health First Aid training for City Schools
- Two-generation intervention for families involved in the drug trade
- Integrated data system for youth-serving agencies to recognize cross-system early warning signs
- Robust minimum standard of intervention by Student Support Teams in City Schools to address chronic absenteeism starting in early grades
- City Schools data analysis on school-based risk factors as a first step to early intervention
- Care coordination for early DJS-involved (but not committed) youth and their families

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

- Youth Services Advocacy Project (YSAP): Victimization Data

Victimization type	Percent
Lost a family member to homicide	39%
Domestic and/or Family Violence	29%
Physically assaulted	20%
Survivor of a non-fatal shooting	19%
Lost Friend to Homicide	15%
Sexually Assaulted/Abused	14%
Child abuse or neglect	10%

Victimization reported also included: Robbery, Burglary, Race-related hate crimes, Teen Dating Violence, Arson, Sex Trafficking, Gender-related and sexual orientation hate crimes.

n=142 participants, 2019-2021
Participants can select multiple responses.

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Current Programs

Youth Services Advocacy Project (YSAP)

- Provides resources, intensive case management, and trauma response services to anyone who has been a victim of crime. (i.e. Housing, Connections of Mental Health Services, Employment, etc.)

UCHOOSE

- Provides implementation of effective Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs to evaluate new and innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy (UCHAT curriculum), provided four trauma trainings focusing on teen pregnancy prevention, and coordination of OYTS ambassadors with the goal of creating a Youth Advisory Council for BCHD.

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Elijah Cummings Healing City Act (ECHCA)/Trauma-Informed Care Taskforce

- ECHCA, enacted February 2020, established a Trauma-Informed Care Task Force responsible for ensuring agencies across the City of Baltimore are engaging individuals in formal trauma-informed care training.
- BCHD is responsible for co-developing a formal training for trauma-informed care, including working sessions and additional technical advisory to support agencies where needed.

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Violence Against Children Survey (VACS)

- OYTS will assist in capacity-building to support programmatic activities across youth, victim, and survivor services to gain a greater understanding on the violence against children- how much it happens, where it occurs, and its impacts on their health and well being.
- OYTS will also oversee relationships with NACCHO and across other key stakeholders in Baltimore City.

Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)

- Youth ambassadors facilitate sexual health awareness and prevention events, panels, and peer networking, and provide trauma-informed assessment, training, mentoring, and mediation for HIV/STI outreach teams and partners.

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Handle With Care (HWC)

- HWC model has the goal of increasing trauma-informed approaches to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to prevent future victimization of children and youth by alerting City Schools administration when a traumatic event has occurred in a child's life
- OYTS participates on the Steering Team and strategic restructuring.
- Partners include Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore Police Department, Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore, Boys & Girls Club

OYTS Partnership with MONSE

- Community Violence Intervention Ecosystem strategy and partnership
- Youth Diversion strategy and referral partner

Interagency Partnership: BCHD

Key OYTS Recommendations to Prevent Youth Violence

- Expand data sharing agreements to support comprehensive, effective interagency data sharing practices.
- Explore correlations and relationship between domestic violence and gun violence victimization.
- Expand policies that govern and inform how agencies collect and share opioid-related data and youth exposure to opioid overdoses.
- Explore evidence-based practices and effective use of risk-needs assessments that address child and adolescent trauma, PTSD and ACEs.
- Enhance and expand school-based intervention, programs and partnerships that address violence.

Interagency Partnership: MOED

Employment is a critical element of public safety. MOED has three primary strategies to support young adults:

- **YouthWorks** offers a job to thousands of young adults between the ages of 14-21 every summer. This year over 6,700 young adults (every young adult that completed the application) had the opportunity to work at one of over 440 worksites across the city.
- The **Youth Opportunity** program (**YO**) offers employment support to approximately 700 young adults between the ages of 18-24 who are not in school or working. MOED's westside center also includes the **YO Academy** that provides an opportunity for over-age and under-credited young adults to obtain their High School diploma and the **PACT** program that provide pre-adjudication assistance to young adults.
- We offer free job training that leads to an industry-recognized credential for hundreds of young adults every year. MOED uses federal Department of Labor funds (**WIOA**) to support community based organizations who provide case management and occupational training to out-of-school youth. In trying to reach young adults before they become "disconnected," MOED partners in the **Grads2Careers** program offering free job training to several hundred high school seniors who are not planning to go to college. This year, we are starting a new initiative, **Young Professionals in School** in which staff will go onsite to several high schools and facilitate job clubs and other activities to help prepare young adults for their future.

Data meetings and youth-related violence

- YouthStat has previously included metrics connected to young people and violence such as:
 - Data related to BPD-youth interactions including youth arrests
 - Numbers of young people referred to DJS
 - Data related to actions taken by DJS (such as whether a young person was referred to the State's Attorney)
- However: YouthStat stakeholders have indicated that YouthStat going forward should focus on issues relevant to both City Schools and Baltimore City government and where there may be opportunities for further collaboration or problem solving, that go beyond youth violence.
- Issues related to young people and violence are also consistently examined within **PoliceStat**. OPI analyzes whether there are trends related to the age of victims or those who have committed acts of violence. When there are trends and patterns involving young people, PoliceStat features extra analysis and discussion related to these issues.