

The Context

Youth and Firearms: Access and Use

August 2024 – Page 1



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WASHTENAW
COUNTY *Michigan*

Michigan has the second shortest average time between firearms purchase and use in crime compared to other states in the country.

Source: "Time-to-crime": a gun's path from legal ownership to crime. USA Facts

Weapons arrests and firearms related suicides and homicides have increased for Washtenaw County youth.

For persons less than 18 years old, WCSO arrests for weapons offenses increased more than other violent offenses.

Between 2021 to 2023, the number of WCSO arrests for 'crimes against persons' and assaults increased only moderately, the number of arrests for weapons offenses increased 165% for persons less than 18 years old.

32% Increase

58% Increase

165% Increase

In number of persons <18 years old arrested by WCSO for assault offenses.

In number of persons <18 years old arrested by WCSO for 'crimes against persons.'

In number of persons <18 years old arrested by WCSO for weapons offenses.

Source: Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Dashboard

The number of crime guns recovered in Michigan used by persons less than 18 years old is increasing.

Between 2018 to 2022, the number crime guns with michigan recoveries increased 70% overall and 87% for guns used by those 18-21 years old. However, for crime guns used by persons less than 18 years old, the increase was more than double that for all ages.

70% Increase

87% Increase

183% Increase

In total number of crime guns used in crimes with Michigan recoveries.

In number of crime guns with Michigan recovery used by persons 18-21 years old.

In number of crime guns with Michigan recovery used by persons less than 18 years old.

Source: United States Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms- Trace Data 2018 and 2022

Firearms-related deaths to 15-24 year old Washtenaw County residents are increasing.

Between 2014 to 2022, while total fatal injury rates for persons 15-24 years old increased slightly, firearms related suicides and homicides increased significantly.

4% Increase

120% Increase

156% Increase

In rates for all fatal injury deaths for persons 15-24 years old.

In firearms related suicide rates for persons 15-24 years old.

In firearms related homicide rates for persons 15-24 years old.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Community Health Data

The Context

Youth and Firearms: Risk and Protective Factors

August 2024 – Page 2



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WASHTENAW
COUNTY *Michigan*

Washtenaw County high school students have been impacted by significantly more violence; while more vulnerable students also report less parental engagement during the past decade.

Students are impacted by violence more now than in past decade.

Between 2013-2022, the percent of Washtenaw County high school students who felt unsafe, were assaulted and carried weapons increased.

14% Increase 40% Increase 57% Increase 159% Increase

In high school students who carried a gun, knife or club to school on one or more days during the past month.

In high school students who had been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property one or more times during the past year.

In high school students who have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse against their will.

In high school students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on one or more of the past 30 days.

Source: Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth – Washtenaw County Survey Results

Parents of vulnerable students monitor less than in past decade.

Between 2013-2022, the percent of washtenaw county high school students with poor grades who said parents were aware of their behaviors.

22% Decrease 1% Increase

In high school students with D or F grade point averages whose parents would know if they did not come home on time.

In high school students with A or B grade point averages whose parents would know if they did not come home on time.

Source: Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth – Washtenaw County Survey Results

Vulnerable students depend on parents less now than in past decade.

Between 2013-2022, The Percent of Washtenaw County High School Students With Poor Grades Who Could Ask Parents For Help With Personal Problems Decreased Significantly.

32% Decrease 2% Increase

In high school students with D or F grade point averages who could ask their mom or dad for help with personal problems.

In high school students with A or B grade point averages who could ask their mom or dad for help with personal problems.

Source: Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth – Washtenaw County Survey Results

Washtenaw County high school students with D or F grade point averages are 300% more likely to say that they have carried a weapon (gun, knife or club) to school at least once during the past month than students with A or B averages.

Source: michigan profile for healthy youth – [washtenaw county survey results](#)

The Context

Youth and Firearms: Selected Model Programs

August 2024 – Page 4



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WASHTENAW
COUNTY *Michigan*

Mentoring programs can help reduce violent behaviors, recidivism and increase healthy coping.

There is strong evidence that mentoring programs reduce delinquent behavior and aggression among youth at risk.

These effects can include:

- Preventing youth from being involved in the juvenile justice system
- Programs that make emotional support or mentee advocacy a key component appear to have greater effects than programs that emphasize modeling or teaching
- Programs that focus on behavior problems, provide pre-match training for mentors, are long-term and school-based also have greater effects
- May reduce alcohol use and drug use, including marijuana, among youth at risk in some cases
- Elementary school students at risk participating in a four-year long community-based mentoring program that began in kindergarten or first grade show reduced problem behavior and improved positive behavior in school may reduce recidivism for youth who display initial delinquent behaviors or are already involved with the juvenile justice system

Source: [County Health Rankings: Mentoring Programs to Prevent Youth Delinquency](#)

Violence Prevention Through Mentoring Youth Treated in Emergency Departments

An Emergency Department mentoring program partnership is a promising approach to implementing youth violence prevention interventions that can provide social support, address community catalysts that trigger emotional or traumatic responses, and foster nonviolent skill building for youth living in communities with high rates of violent crime. This approach is rooted in the success of wraparound care services that provide comprehensive, youth-centered care within the community context.

Source: [Journal of Pediatrics](#)

Youth participating in 'Greening and Cleaning' Neighborhoods reduces violence in individuals and improves neighborhood safety.

Greening and Cleaning Neighborhoods supports [environmental justice](#) while reducing community violence.

- Greater amounts of green space were associated with lower incidences of property theft and fewer violent crimes.
- The greener a city is, the fewer homicides were recorded over a 30-year period.
- Appropriately designed and maintained green space has the potential to reduce violent crime and gun violence, while making communities safer and keeping residents healthier. However, existing green space that is neglected can help crime take root.
- Community-engaged greening of vacant lots was associated with nearly a 40% reduction in assaults and total violent crime.
- Greening interventions such as mowing or fencing vacant lots significantly reduced violent crime in Philadelphia by as much as 30%, r
- Reduced people's fear of going outside due to safety concerns by 58%, and increased people's use of outside space by 76%

Source: [How Greening Communities Can Reduce Violence and Promote Health](#)

Youth engagement and volunteering can both improve neighborhood beauty, but also reduce violence.

According to research by the University of Michigan in Flint, Michigan, Clean & Green maintenance reduced crime. Clean & Green engaged areas, compared to street segments with vacant, abandoned lots without community-engaged greening activities have 30% fewer assaults, 40% fewer violent crimes overall, lower rates of child maltreatment and lower rates of youth gun violence.

Source: [Clean & Green Groups Make Neighborhoods Safer](#)