

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

Houston Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.houstontx.gov/health/](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/)

**STRYVE Houston**  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/stryve/pilotcommunities.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/stryve/pilotcommunities.html)  
832.393.4870

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention](http://cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention)  
1-800-CDC-INFO

**Childbuilders**  
[www.childbuilders.org](http://www.childbuilders.org)  
713.400.1155

**HATCH**  
[www.hatchyouth.org](http://www.hatchyouth.org)  
713.529.3590

**Innovative Alternatives Inc.**  
[www.innovativealternatives.org](http://www.innovativealternatives.org)  
832.864.6000

**Houston Police Department**  
[www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)  
713-884-3131

**Mental Health & Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County**  
[www.mhmrharris.org](http://www.mhmrharris.org)

**Prevention Institute**  
[preventioninstitute.org](http://preventioninstitute.org)  
510-444-7738

**Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth (UNITY)**  
[preventioninstitute.org/unity](http://preventioninstitute.org/unity)  
510-444-7738

**Mayor's Anti Gang Office**  
[www.houstontx.gov/antigang](http://www.houstontx.gov/antigang)  
832.393.0931

**The Montrose Counseling Center**  
[www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)  
713.529.0037

**U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health**  
<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/index.html>

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
[justice.gov](http://justice.gov)  
202-514-2000

## GET INVOLVED!<sup>14</sup>

The Socio-Ecological Model to approach Youth Violence Prevention:<sup>12</sup>



### Youth

- Make choices that promote safety and opportunities to thrive such as engaging in positive communication skills, avoiding risky situations and exercising healthy relationships.
- Help others be violent free and provide support to those affected by violence.
- Attend workshops and engage in youth participatory research.
- Be a part of evidence-base programs such as YES and CPTED.

### Parents

- Build and support positive youth-adult communication.
- Create stable, nurturing and non-violent home environments.

### School Personnel

- Help schools and organizations become aware of youth violence prevention activities.
- Build and support positive youth-adult relationships.
- Encourage positive changes in the physical and social environment.

### Community

- Promote thriving, safe and connected communities.
- Encourage positive changes in the physical and social environment.
- Update evidence-based community policing such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES).
- Facilitate dialogues with youth and other stakeholders on violence prevention.
- Obtain youth representation on community boards and councils.

## References and More!

Please visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/hdhhs-profiles> for a full list of references.

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ■ Youth Sexual Health/STIs/HIV    | ■ Youth Homelessness                       |
| ■ Youth Suicide Prevention        | ■ Youth Substance Abuse & Prevention       |
| ■ Youth Mental Health             | ■ Youth Bullying & Prevention              |
| ■ Teen Pregnancy & Prevention     | ■ Overall Summary of Youth Health Profiles |
| ■ Teen Dating Violence Prevention |  |
| ■ Youth Immunizations             |  |
| ■ Youth Obesity & Prevention      |  |

For more information, please contact Adolescent Health and Injury Prevention (AHIP) via the Houston Youth Voice, Health, Safety Coalition at: [4youthvoice@houstontx.gov](mailto:4youthvoice@houstontx.gov)  
Facebook: [4youthvoicehouston](https://www.facebook.com/4youthvoicehouston) Twitter: [@4youthvoice](https://twitter.com/4youthvoice)

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## YOUTH IN HOUSTON & HARRIS COUNTY<sup>13</sup>

**Population\***  
Houston: 601,918 (29%)  
Harris County: 1,263,889 (31%)

**Poverty**  
Children under 18 living below poverty level:  
Houston: 35.3%  
Harris County: 27.4%

**Education**  
High School Graduates (ages 18-24):  
Houston: 29.3%  
Harris County: 30.5%

## DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT OF YOUTH<sup>14</sup>

Below is a snapshot of the demographics for youth living in Houston and Harris County.

<b>Gender</b>	
Houston:	Harris County:
Male: 51%	Male: 51%
Female: 49%	Female: 49%

<b>Age</b>	
Houston:	Harris County:
Under 5 years: 2	27%
5 to 9 years: 25%	25%
10 to 14 years: 23%	24%
15 to 19 years: 24%	24%

### Race/Ethnicity

Harris County:  
Hispanic: 51%  
White: 23%  
Black: 19%  
Other: 7%

\* Percentages (youth under the age of 19) are representative of the total Houston/Harris County population.  
\* As of 2010, percentages are based on total population of Houston and/or Harris County under the age of 19.

**YOUTH**  
voice health safety

Adolescent Health and Injury Prevention (AHIP)

# YOUTH VIOLENCE & PREVENTION

Profile of the City of Houston & Harris County, Texas

Violence has become an issue that warrants increased public health awareness and interventions. Youth violence is correlated with other adolescent issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, obesity, academic failure, and mental health.<sup>5</sup> For our work, youth are defined as anyone ages 12 to 24.

## YOUTH VIOLENCE DATA FOR HOUSTON AND HARRIS COUNTY

### School Safety<sup>6</sup>

- **32%** of surveyed local middle and high school students feel unsafe going to and leaving from school.<sup>5</sup>
- **13%** of surveyed high school students feel unsafe and/or have been victimized at school.<sup>6</sup>

### Youth Mortality<sup>7</sup>

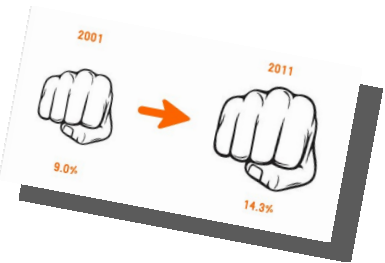
- In 2011, the mortality rate was **7.0** and **5.2** per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 24 years in Houston and Harris County, respectively.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2012, homicide rates are more than **9 times higher** among black males ages 15 to 24 years than their white counterparts.<sup>8</sup>

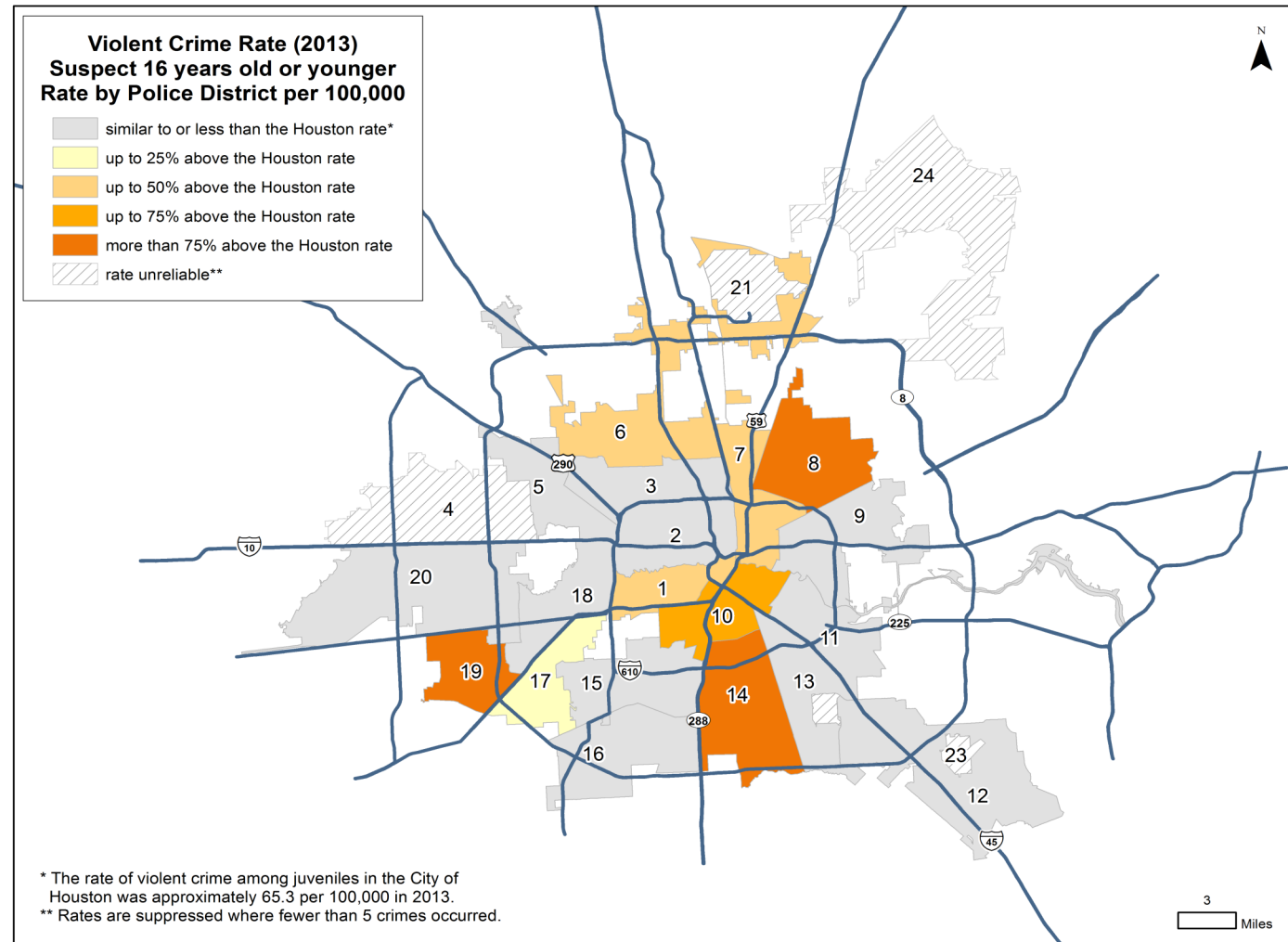
### Youth Crime Rates in Houston Police District 14, South Central Houston<sup>8</sup>

- Youth 16 years and under in HPD 14 represents approximately **5%** of all youth 16 years and under in Houston.
- The robbery rate of youth ages 16 years and under in HPD 14 was **more than twice** the rate of Houston.
- HPD 14 has the second highest violent crime rate and highest aggravated and simple assault rate among all HPD districts.

Most Houston youth violence indicators are improving. **However**, one indicator continues to worsen: adolescents being **hit, slapped, or physically hurt** by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months.

*“Youth violence clearly is a complex public health problem demanding a comprehensive, broad-based solution.”<sup>9</sup>*





**HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL SNAPSHOT<sup>6</sup>**

**11.3%** — did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.  
**15.7%** — carried a weapon.  
**31.3%** — were in a physical fight in the last 12 months.  
**8.8%** — were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.  
**6.6%** — carried a gun.

**TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SNAPSHOT<sup>6</sup>**

**7.7%** — did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.  
**18.4%** — carried a weapon.  
**25.4%** — were in a physical fight in the last 12 months.  
**7.1%** — were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.  
**6.0%** — carried a gun.

**In 2011, among the youth ages 10 to 24 years in Houston and Harris County, the four leading causes of death were homicide, suicide, cancer and heart disease.<sup>7</sup>**

**WHAT WORKS?**

The programs listed below are a compilation of initiatives, campaigns, and programs that are research informed, apply best practices and have the potential to be implemented in various settings. Below are some examples of these types of programs for youth violence prevention.

Program	What Is It?	Website
<b>Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE)</b>	National initiative lead by the CDC to help youth achieve their full potential through youth violence prevention strategies.	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/STRYVE">http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/STRYVE</a>
<b>Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES)</b>	This STRYVE strategy is an evidence-based curriculum focusing on developing leadership skills, community pride, program planning and resource mobilization.	<a href="http://www.prc.sph.umich.edu/research/yes">http://www.prc.sph.umich.edu/research/yes</a>
<b>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)</b>	Another evidence-based STRYVE strategy that allows participants to promote safety, orderly behavior, and a reduction of fear in the school environment.	<a href="http://www.houstontx.gov/police/crime_prevention/cpted.htm">http://www.houstontx.gov/police/crime_prevention/cpted.htm</a>
<b>Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)</b>	Another evidence-based strategy designed for young people to actively become involved in critical thinking to help develop a community solution.	<a href="http://www.peerresources.org/curriculum/what-is-youth-led-research/">http://www.peerresources.org/curriculum/what-is-youth-led-research/</a>

**Recommendations:<sup>11</sup>**

- Create connected communities, where youth can lead healthy lives, and feel safe.
- Provide resources for parents promoting cognitive, physical, social and emotional development in children.<sup>6</sup>
- Insist on the use of data and evidence-based approaches to make decisions about programs and policies to implement.

**Related Policies and Policy Implications:<sup>11,12</sup>**

- Develop a school-based early detection and intervention system of high risk youth that would offer connections to services and support for parents.
- Update evidence-based community policing, such as Neighborhood Watch programs.
- Improve therapeutic environment in jails and juvenile placement facilities via education, counseling, and re-entry programs.
- Educate the business community on youth development and workforce initiatives.

Texas has enacted **child access prevention laws for firearms:**<sup>13</sup>

1. Impose criminal liability when a child gains access as a result of negligent storage or firearm.
2. Impose criminal liability for allowing a child to gain access to the firearm, regardless of whether the child uses the firearm or causes injury.



**BROTHER'S KEEPER**  
HOUSTON

Initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

For more information visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/MBK.pdf>.