A Snapshot of Youth Violence in Maryland, 2003-2011

This data brief summarizes violent deaths among young people aged 10-24 years reported in the Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) from 2003–2011. Population estimates were obtained from Maryland Vital Statistics Annual reports.1 There were 2,688 violent deaths among Maryland resident youths (excludes Maryland resident out-of-state deaths) from 2003-2011. Males accounted for the majority 86.4% (2,323) of all violent death types. Overall, more than half 57.4% (1,539) of all victims aged 10-24 years were killed with a firearm.

**Youth Suicide**

Among youths aged 10-24 years, suicides occurred at higher rates among males (9.1 per 100,000 population) than females (1.9 per 100,000) from 2003-2011. White males accounted for over half (69.9%) of suicides and had the highest suicide rate (10.4 per 100,000 population). The most common method of self-inflicted injury was Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation (43.6%) followed by firearms (40%). Most suicides occurred in a house or apartment 73.1% (426) followed by natural areas 6.7% (39) such as a field, river, beaches, or woods. Overall, mental health problems were the most commonly noted circumstance (amongst suicide victims) with 43.5% having a current mental health problem, but only 25.5% were in treatment. 32.1% of victims experienced a depressed mood at the time of their death.

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1 http://dhmh.maryland.gov/vsa/SitePages/reports.aspx
Youth Homicide
The highest rate of homicide (49.2 per 100,000 population) occurred among young males aged 20-24 years; black males had the highest homicide rate at 65.4 per 100,000 population. Majority of homicides involved the use of a firearm 82.8% (1,243), and occurred in a street, road or sidewalk 52.7% (1,121). Although circumstance information about the homicide was available for only 43% of deaths, those with circumstances described were precipitated primarily by arguments/abuse/conflict 36.4% (235), occurred in conjunction with another crime (26.6%), or drug involvement (22.1%).

Legal intervention death
Legal intervention deaths (49) among young persons aged 10-24 years represented 30.4% of the total number (161) of legal intervention deaths among persons of all ages from 2003-2011. Of the 49 legal intervention deaths, there were 3 deaths in which the victims had recently committed a homicide. All legal intervention victims were males, the highest percentage of victims 83.7% (41) were non-hispanic blacks and majority 69.4% (34) of the victims were aged 20-24 years.

Youth Violence Resources
National
Centers for Disease Control: There are multiple resources and they can guide to local services or programs. Accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/

Find Youth Info: This site focuses on finding local resources while maintaining a national grasp on the progress against youth violence and resources. Access at http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/preventing-youth-violence

Department of Justice: This site has information and links to other national programs to prevent youth violence. Accessed at http://ojp.gov/programs/juvjustice.htm

State
Johns Hopkins: The Bloomberg School of Public Health has multiple efforts partnering with local communities to reduce youth violence. More information at http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/center-for-prevention-of-youth-violence/


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2 Deaths caused by police and other persons with legal authority to use deadly force, excluding legal executions