

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services



## Safe and Successful Youth Initiative

A targeted approach to youth violence

Presentation to the Massachusetts  
Health Disparities Council  
July 18, 2011



# Presentation Overview



- Problem Statement/Goal
- Proposed Solution
- Implementation Plan
- Implementation Timeline



Among 10-24 year-olds, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics; and the third leading cause of death for Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indians and Alaska Natives (CDC 2010a)



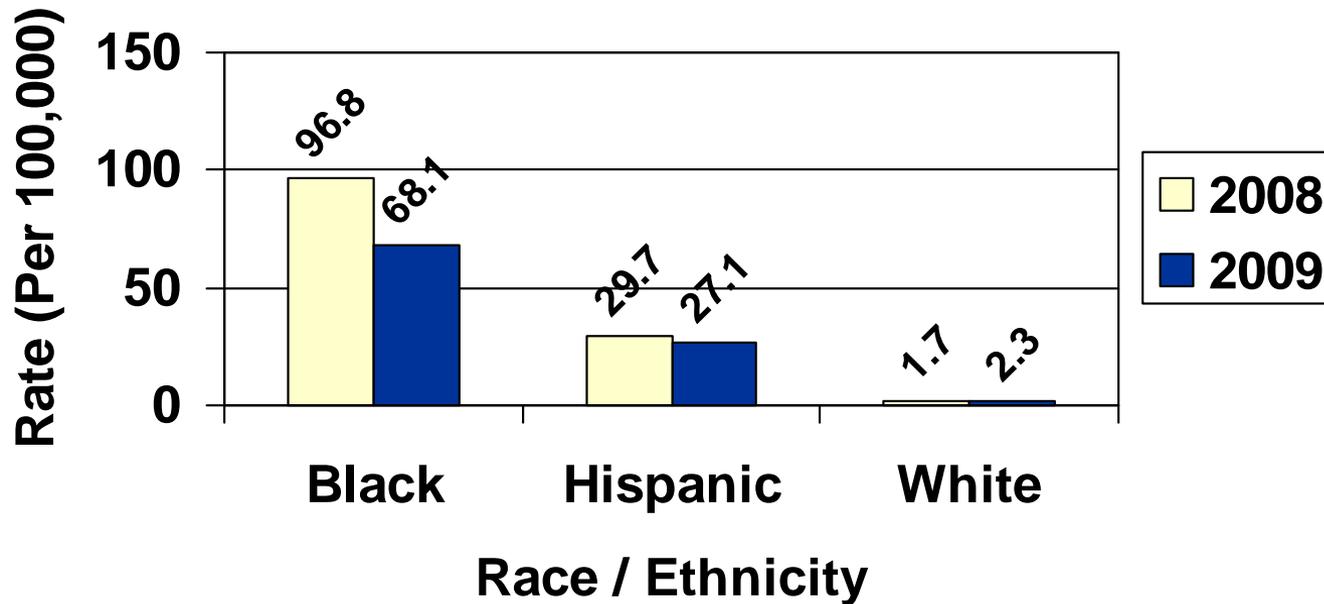
# Youth Homicide Rates by Ethnicity



## Massachusetts Homicides, Males Ages 15-24

### Homicide Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Source: Department of Public Health





# Youth Homicides

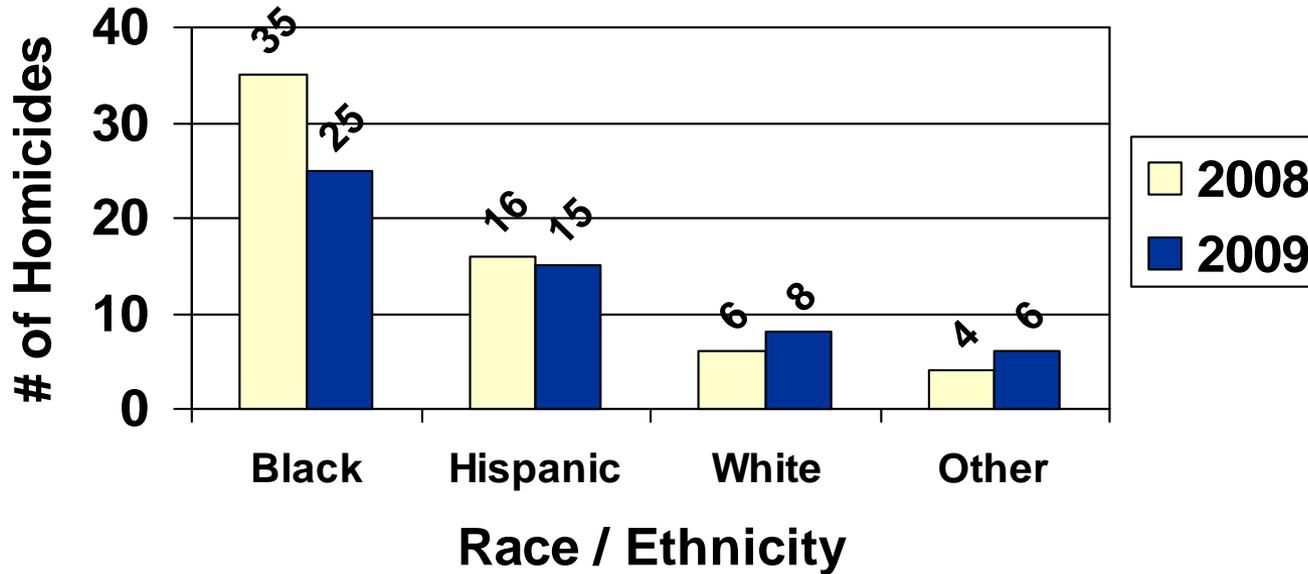
## # of Homicides by Ethnicity



### Massachusetts Homicides, Males Ages 15-24

#### Number of Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

Source: Department of Public Health





## Our Goal

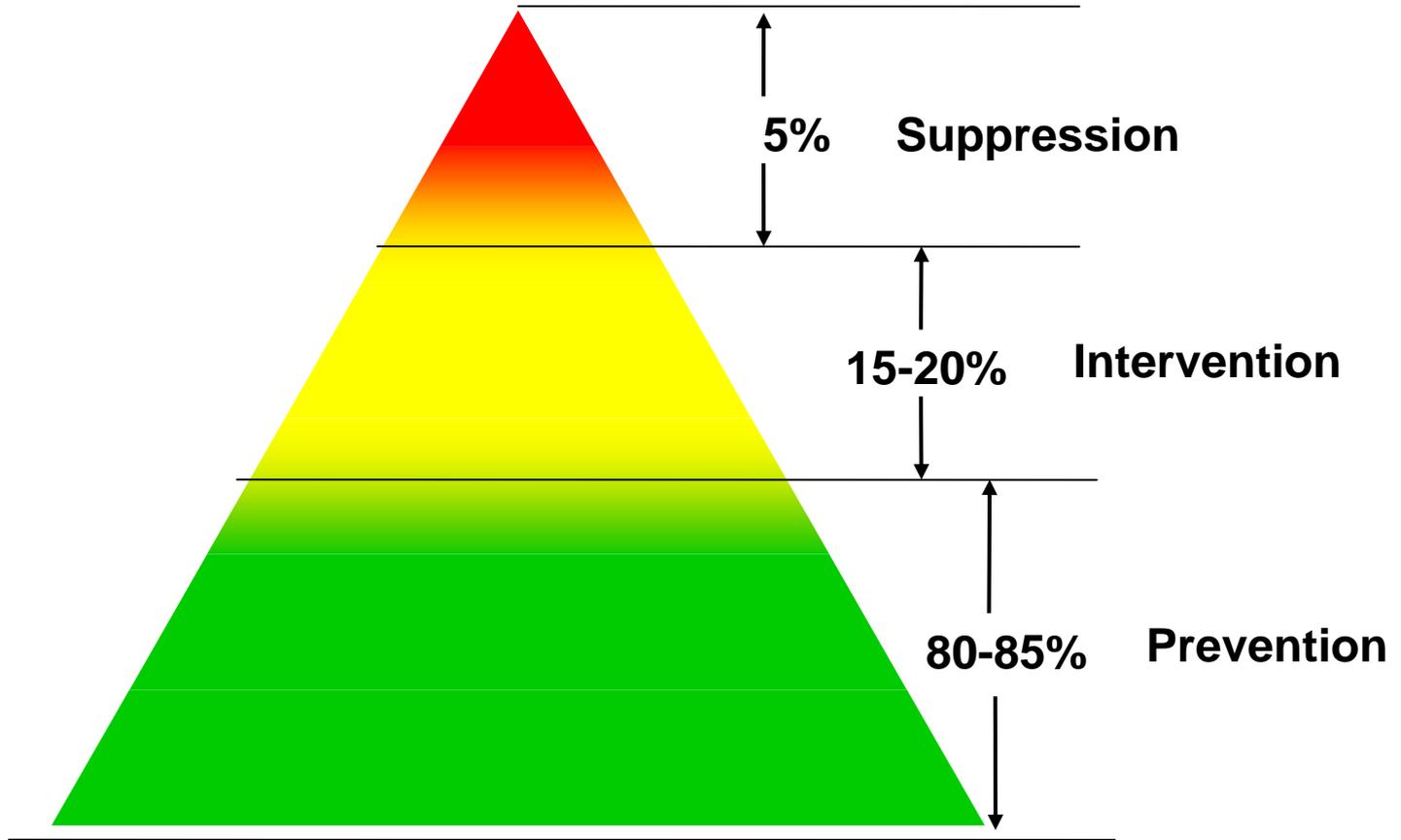


To reduce the incidences of youth homicides and serious assaults among young men 14-24.



# Responding to Youth Violence

## Prevent – Intervene - Suppress





# Proposed Intervention Strategy

## built upon:



- Dialogue with community based provider agencies across the state who work with proven risk youth
- Conversations with thought leaders, researchers, practitioners in field of juvenile justice
- Dialogue with mothers of victims
- Conversations with municipal leadership, public safety officials regarding what seems to be working
- Research
- Experience of Boston and other cities
  - Boston – Boston Miracle, Partnerships Advancing Community Together (PACT)
  - Los Angeles – Summer Night Lights
  - Chicago – Cease Fire
  - Minneapolis – Minneapolis Youth Violence Initiative



# Program Components



- Target young men aged 14-24 identified by local communities at highest risk for being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing (“proven risk” youth)
- Engage/support parents/guardians and siblings
- Foster community engagement /social networking



Invest in communities with high volume of youth on youth homicides/assaults, who evidence:

- Commitment to solving youth violence
- Commitment to building effective community partnerships
- Willingness to work cooperatively with state government



# Services to Youth Critical Supports



- Identification
- Outreach and Engagement
- Employment – access to skills training and (structured) employment
- Education – access to GED, alternative education programs
- Trauma counseling, behavioral health care, other health care as needed



- Family supports
  - Assistance with meeting basic needs
  - Access to out of school time activities and mentors
  - Trauma counseling



## Other Possible Support Services



- Out of school time activities for proven risk, at risk youth
- Youth leadership development
- Mentoring
- Conflict Resolution
- Restorative Justice activities
- Create/strengthen community coalitions to:
  - Build relationships among neighbors
  - Improve the physical environment
  - Create a culture of support for children in their neighborhood



## Alignment with Disparities Framework



- Increase equity
- Promote healthy communities
- Promote institutional transformation
- Promote provider transformation
- Promote healthy individual behaviors
- Improve access to healthcare



## Direct

- Have we kept young people out of juvenile justice facilities?
  - Reduced recidivism
- Have we kept youth safe?
  - Reduced injuries to self, others
- Have we prepared youth for constructive futures?
  - Educational progress
  - Job readiness, sustainability
  - Attitudinal / behavioral change
  - Family, sibling engagement



## Indirect

- Have we leveraged other public, private resources?
- Have we fostered community wide engagement in solving a community problem?
- Have we established a comprehensive system of support for proven risk youth?
- Is it sustainable?



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- May**
- Formal announcement/press event with Governor
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- June 21**
- \$10M funding commitment announced
- 
- By July 31**
- Issue RFR for competitive grant
  - Launch media campaign
- 
- By August 31**
- Proposed grant applications received and reviewed
- 
- By September 30**
- Grant awards made
- 
- By November 30**
- Host stakeholder conference to review plans for coming year with all city partners and Summer 2011 experience and lessons learned