Reducing Gang Involvement in Worcester, MA

Nde Nkimbeng
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Ryan Stokes
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Anthony Vigliotta
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Reducing Gang Involvement in Worcester, MA
Nde Nkimbeng, Ryan Stokes, Anthony Vigliotta
Professors: Dr. Marja Bakermans and Dr. Beth Eddy
PLAs: Alex Rozen and Sarah Campos

The Problem
Worcester, MA is more dangerous than 89% of the cities in the United States:

- Violent Crimes: Murder, rape, robbery, assault
- Property Crimes: Burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft
- Total Crimes: Violent Crimes + Property Crimes

Risk Factors of Gang Membership & Youth Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Peer</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Our Objective
To keep kids in Worcester off the streets after school, and direct them towards the multiple programs offered.

Did You Know...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2014 Violent Crimes per 1,000 Residents</th>
<th>Crime Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>9.64</td>
<td>More dangerous than 99% of states in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban Village</td>
<td>10.15</td>
<td>More dangerous than 99% of neighborhoods in Worcester, MA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPI/Highland Street</td>
<td>21.20</td>
<td>More dangerous than 99% of neighborhoods in Worcester, MA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Brook Valley</td>
<td>22.64</td>
<td>More dangerous than 99% of neighborhoods in Worcester, MA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neighborhoods With High Crime Activity
- Union Hill/Worcester Hill
- WPI/Highland Street
- Great Brook Valley

Schools in Neighborhood
- Union Hill/Worcester Hill: Worcester East Middle (Grades 7-9)
- WPI/Highland Street: Oak Hill (Grades K-6)
- Great Brook Valley: Worcester Arts Magnet School (Grades K-6)

Arrest Totals by Age in Three Crime Types in Worcester, MA, 2009-2012

Programs in Worcester
- Girls Inc.
- Boys & Girls Club
- Worcester Youth Center
- YMCA (Central Community Branch)
- YMCA (Greendale Family Branch)
- YWCA
- Friendly House
- You Inc.

Our Goal
To create a transportation system that commutes students from the schools located in neighborhoods with high crime activity, to the various programs located throughout Worcester, and back home if needed. The problem isn't that there aren't enough effective programs in Worcester; the problem is that kids have no way of getting to these programs.

Steps Taken to Reach Our Goal
1) Contact programs to ask questions, and get viewpoints.
2) Create informative website to raise awareness of programs: Theguysinbowties.weebly.com
3) Propose problem and website to the Chief of Staff of Worcester.
4) Reach out to schools to expose website, and have parents fill out the website’s survey.

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- Ike McBride (Director of Operations at the Boys & Girls Club)
- Samuel Martin (Executive Director at the Worcester Youth Center)
- Kathy Ogden (Director of Programs at Girls Inc.)
- Daniel Racicot (Worcester’s Chief of Staff)
- Sarah Campos (Class PLA)

References