

# Violence Prevention : Allentown Lehigh County, PA

Promised Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley



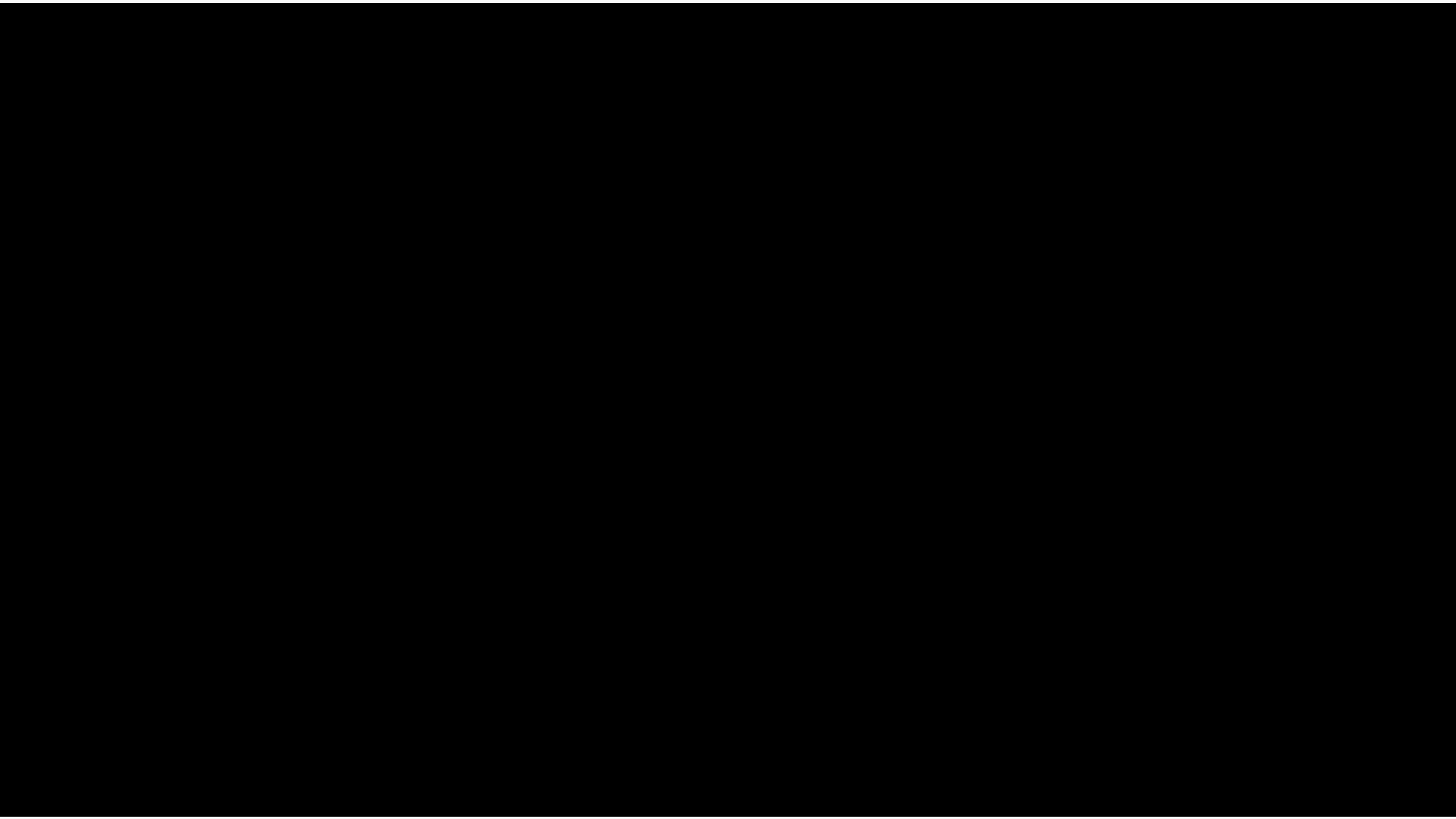
PNLV Extends to You A Radical  
Welcome!

THIS IS OUR ALLENTOWN



PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS  
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY





# Community Solutions

- Trauma informed care and restorative justice practices indicate those closest to the pain are most suitable to create solutions.
- Life changing solutions come from grassroots work.
- The community and constituents of Lehigh County Indicate a significant need for solutions to neighborhood violence...

# Cure Violence Model



Model approaches violence as a contagious disease that can be stopped using the same health strategies employed to fight epidemics.

- How Does Violence Act Like a Disease?
  - Clusters
  - Spreads
  - Transmitted through exposure, modelling, social learning and norms

Three-pronged health approach :

- 1. Detection and Interruption of violent activity (Violence Interpreter)
- 2. Behavior change of high-risk individuals (Outreach Worker)
- 3. Changing community norms. (Outreach Worker)



**DETECT AND  
INTERRUPT  
POTENTIALLY  
VIOLENT  
CONFLICTS**



**TREAT THOSE AT  
HIGHEST RISK FOR  
INVOLVEMENT IN  
VIOLENCE**



**GROUP AND  
COMMUNITY  
NORM CHANGE**

## **CORE COMPONENTS**



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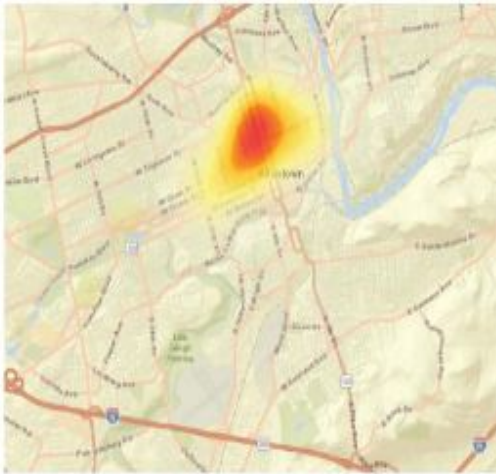




# Allentown



2016 – 2018 Citywide Firearm Crime (Density)



2016 – 2018 Citywide Firearm Crime (Point)



# Cure Violence Solutions



- Detection and Interruption
- High Risk Target Populations (age, activity, history)
- Credible Messengers
- Hospital Focused Interpreters



# It Works



## Successes :

- Northwest University **Chicago** reduced shootings and killings by 41% to 73%. Retaliatory shootings were reduced 100%
- John Hopkins and **Baltimore** 34 -56 % reduction
- John Jay **NYC** evaluation found a 37% to 50% reduction in gun injuries, average homicide rate in NYC program neighborhoods fell by 18% while increasing an average of 69% in comparison neighborhoods (prevention)
- Arizona State University **Trinidad** study 45% reduction

**Allentown** has the opportunity to put up high numbers due to city size and PNLV community connections

# Community Needs Assessment



Community Health Needs Assessments identified violence as an issue present in the community.

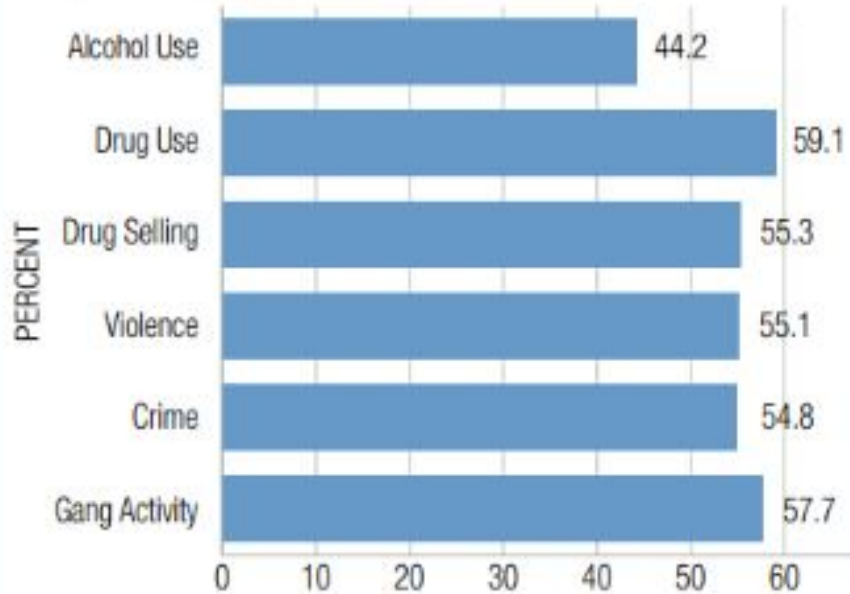
- Lehigh Valley Health Network (2019) of residents surveyed 55.1%
- St. Luke's Hospital (2016) of residents surveyed 56.7%

Both Assessments indicated a higher percentage response related to gang activity being present (57.7% & 60.9%).

## 2019 Pennsylvania Youth Survey

- 15.9% of students in county reported being threatened with violent behavior on school property
- 20% at risk of firearm violence
- 15% risk of gang involvement

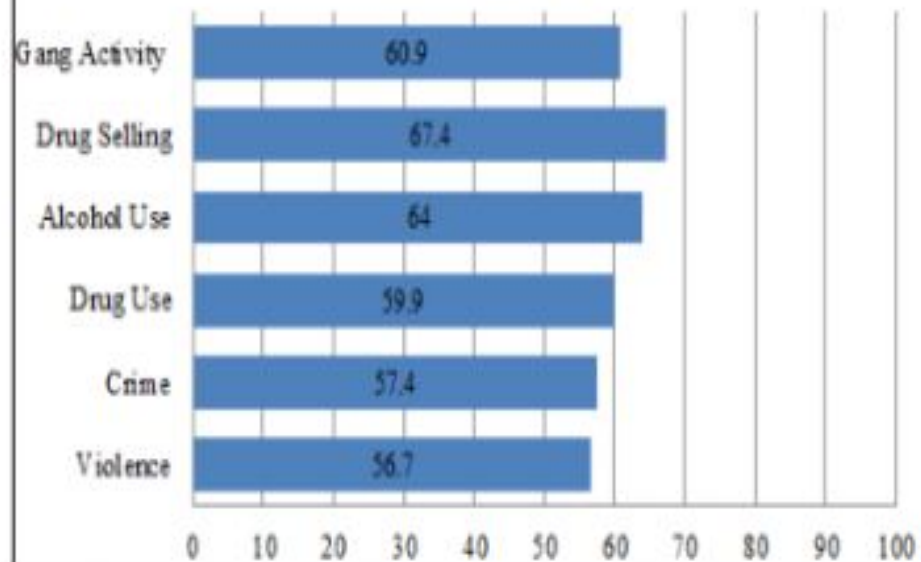
### PERCEIVED ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY



LVHN

2019

### Percent of Respondents that Identified the Presence of Community Issues



St. Lukes

2016

# Budget, Grants, Barriers, and Belonging

- What We Have.
  - \$75,000, currently provided by PCCD, assessment by CURE national found this was only sufficient to conduct planning process, not implementation...and is coming to an end
- We know what we **NEED** and have for a while...
  - City Funding - CURE National's assessment in 2019 Allentown indicated a need for **1.8 million** for **3 year** implementation. Cure models across the country and around the world have received funding directly through city budgets.
  - State Funding PCCD Grant - The City of Allentown and **PNLV have already received funding** from PCCD for the initial planning phase of this work and would greatly benefit from additional state-level funding.

The Community has spoken and are asking for solutions we can provide



# Core Values and Relationships

- 3 Principles of Promised Neighborhoods
  - Provide a Sense of Hope, Belonging, & Agency
- 4 E's of Zero Youth Violence
  - Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Emotional Support
- Authentic Relationships
  - Community partners across the board, from returning citizen to non profit organizations like existing CURE programs.
- Accessing Cure Model Creatively



# What we have Done With PCCD

- We have been able to be the first city to have the largest gangs bloods, crips and latin kings work together to create community solutions.
- Since Covid the passed out over 250,000 diapers and delivered food justice on food deserts to over 300 hundred families passing out fresh fruits and vegetables.
- We have responded to every act of violence within our city, relying on our team to give more volunteer our hours tan work hours based on budgetary constraints.
- We have placed every person referred by state parole in a successful environment whether it is in a job or a program.
- Our experience has given us some minor ability to barter for the necessary training that has been needed to be successful





**PAS SIMPSON**

**END GUN**



# What we could do with city support

Salary, benefits, and fringe for staff members, also includes office space, computers, cellphones, public education

## Types of Employment

- Program manager : responsible for the overall management of the team and the community level work in the target area.
- Several Violence Interrupters: focus on interrupting the transmission of violence in the target area. (**currently only one part time position**)
- Multiple Outreach Workers: workers focus working with high risk participants to change their behaviors associated with violence.

## Roles

- Detection and Interruption
- High Risk Target Populations Outreach
- Credible Messengers
- Hospital Focused Interpreters



PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS  
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

# Law Enforcement and Community

Thank You Chief Grantiz!

- For communities to be Cured of gun violence Police can be expected to handle it alone.
- Violence is a contagious disease and can not be eradicated in one contact. It takes time patience and trust just like working with any other disease or mental illness.
- After the officers have done their job, having necessary community support to be able create viable options is vital to creating long term safety.
- Understanding that re-entry begins at arrest.

# SGT HARRIS, CHICAGO & PNLV



Community Response Team

People receive messages a lot better when it comes from someone that looks like them or they can relate to- SGT Jermaine Harris

# Success!



PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

- Media

- Give Me Shelter
- [https://www.wfmz.com/news/give-me-shelter-perspectives-on-youth-violence/video\\_09096d29-69db-5ccc-a978-2ad6b755a6b1.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/give-me-shelter-perspectives-on-youth-violence/video_09096d29-69db-5ccc-a978-2ad6b755a6b1.html)
- CNN Spotlight
- <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2020/politics/allentown-pennsylvania-race-2020-election/>



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POLICE & COURTS

NEWS

## Allentown police say they know who was involved in fatal shooting on Hamilton Street bridge, but are clearing up details

ALLENTOWN NEWS

LEHIGH VALLEY NEWS

NEWS

## Allentown program to reduce gun violence in city gets boost from state Community wants to see action after Allentown shooting: 'I'm done having conversations'

BREAKING NEWS

## It takes a village: Allentown holds summit to end youth violence

# It Take A Village...

“I am proud to serve on Zero Youth Violence steering committee. The work being done is important to the health of our community and the city. I look forward to continuing to partner with ZYV and its partners to ensure positive re-entry opportunities for the men and women they work with.”- Nancy Wilt, School Board President

Zero Youth Violence has been working with ASD since its inception. Their staff has walked home middle schoolers to provide safety, created mentorship programs and have been on call whenever any principal has requested them.”- Thomas Parker, ASD Superintendent

Promise Neighborhood runs a men's group related to recovery and finding purpose in society.- Robin Chontos, Director of Allentown Center for Recovery



# Conclusion...

- **Hope**

A budget dedicated to restoration and positive growth of **all** its citizens

- **Belonging**

PNLV belongs to the community because it is the community, we are dedicated to Allentown, **THIS IS OUR HOME.**

- **Agency**

Incredible opportunity to place value and show commitment to all our constituents and most importantly **SAVE LIVES**

**How Much is a Life Worth?**