



# CSPV SCHOOL VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

FS-SV12

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## Urban After-School Programs

- To help prevent violence, youth need safe places to go and positive activities to do after school.
- Children, ages nine to 14, typically spend about 60% of the time they are awake outside the school setting.
- Violent juvenile crimes are typically committed during after school hours between 2:30 in the afternoon and 8:30 at night.
- Currently there are more than 500 organizations receiving federal funds to prevent youth violence. About the same number of privately funded organizations also provide activities during non-school hours.
- The most destitute urban neighborhoods have in the past been under served by most youth organizations.
- New urban initiatives instituted by national organizations with proven ability to work with children and teens include:
  - Boys and Girls Clubs of America,
  - Boy Scouts of America,
  - Girls Incorporated,
  - Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.,
  - National Association of Police Athletic Leagues,
  - National 4-H Council, and
  - YMCA of the U.S.A.
- Traditional youth organizations are well equipped to help troubled inner-city children and teens. These organizations provide enjoyable and educational recreation and other necessary resources these youth fail to find elsewhere.
- In recent years, many of these organizations have been focusing their attention and resources on the needs of inner-city youth.
- Approaches by national youth organizations typically embody the characteristics known to prevent youth violence and delinquency and promote wholesome development.
  - They are comprehensive. They attempt to alleviate more than a single factor associated with delinquency and simultaneously focus on multiple problem behaviors.
  - They are appropriate for children of specific ages and development stages.
  - They continue over the long term.
- Effective after-school initiatives include the following program ingredients:
  - High standards for children and assistance in meeting these standards are provided;
  - Rules are clearly stated and consequences are explicitly defined;

- Activities are varied, challenging, goal-directed, and humorous;
  - Activities engaging teens are based on current knowledge of adolescent development;
  - Strategies for teens with "normal" adolescent development are recognized as essential or adolescents already in trouble;
  - Partnerships are created to meet the multiple needs of youth; and
  - Organizations collaborate with local police departments.
- At a minimum a viable program requires an adequate and safe meeting space, funding, well-trained leaders who understand children's needs, challenging, age-graded activities, and community support.
  - Finding the resources needed to establish after-school programs in economically depressed areas is a major challenge.

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The information for this fact sheet was excerpted from the following book chapter. *Violence in American Schools* was developed by CSPV through a grant from the W.T. Grant Foundation:

Chaiken, M.R. (1998). Tailoring Established After-School Programs to Meet Urban Realities. In D.S. Elliott, B. Hamburg, & K.R. Williams (Editors), *Violence in American Schools: A New Perspective*, (pp. 348-375). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

For more information on how to obtain a copy of this book, please contact Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573. Telephone: (800) 872-7423, E-mail: [orders@cup.org](mailto:orders@cup.org), or URL: [www.cup.org](http://www.cup.org).