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## Purpose

The purpose of this descriptive study was to identify specific educational needs expressed by youth involved in gun related violence and to determine whether or not current school systems are meeting those needs.

## Background

- Youth experience violence in Philadelphia and around the country at an alarming rate.
- A consistent predictor of involvement in violence is low levels of education in addition to other related factors such as poor academic achievement, truancy, dropout and frequent school transitions.
- For young victims of violence, getting back on track in the education pathway is fundamental for full recovery and secondary prevention.

## Pennsylvania Injury Reporting and Intervention System

- Hospital-based surveillance
- Community-based case manager
- Comprehensive, multi-systemic response for the victim and their family
- Piloted in three hospitals in Philadelphia
- Eligibility is limited to gunshot victims between the ages of 15- to 24-years-old who are admitted and discharged from one of the three participating trauma centers.

### Surveillance information:

- Demographics
- Precipitating circumstances
- Location of incident
- Victim-offender relationship
- Suspected drug or alcohol use and/or related injury severity
- Injury characteristics

### Intervention component:

- In-depth needs assessment
- Support and follow-up
- Client goal setting
- Documentation of progress
- Services and referrals for health insurance, education, job training, transportation, counseling, family needs, legal issues, parenting and recreation activities

## Methods & Results

A secondary data analysis was conducted using a purposive sample of gunshot victims between the age of 15 and 24 years old (N=63)

The following steps were used to analyze the data:

- Case Managers' activity notes were reviewed for any content relating to education
- Educational status was determined and coded for each participant

| Engaged in education          | 9         |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Attending high school         | 5         |
| Attending alternative program | 4         |
| Not Engaged in education      | 25        |
| Truant                        | 1         |
| Dropped out                   | 24        |
| Already received degree       | 26        |
| Graduated high school         | 18        |
| Degree by alternative path    | 4         |
| Degree by unknown path        | 4         |
| Unknown education status      | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>63</b> |

- School district policies were reviewed to describe standard and alternative pathways to a high school or equivalent degree.
- Each participant for whom there was sufficient information was mapped to a pathway.

Figure 1 Standard Educational Pathway for All Youth in Philadelphia

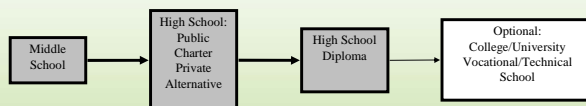


Figure 2 Education pathways for PIRIS participants in school at time of incident

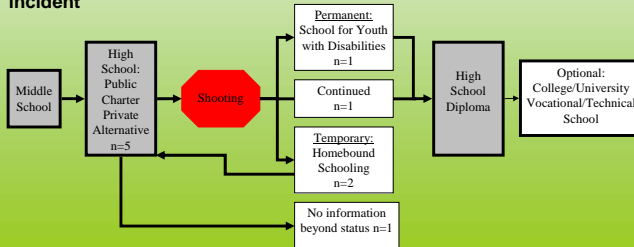
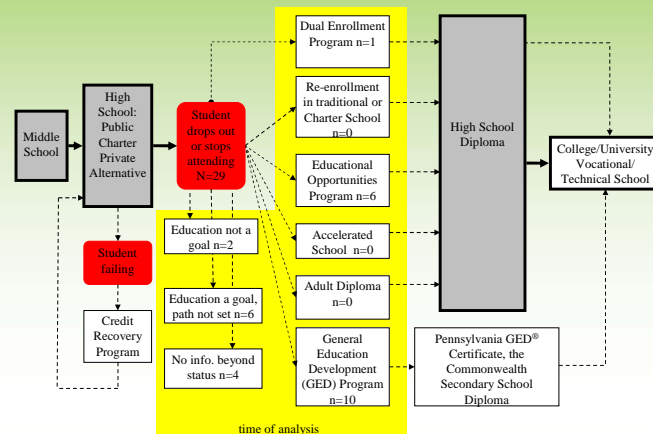


Figure 3. Educational pathways available to PIRIS participants



- Facilitators and barriers to continued engagement and reengagement were identified.

| Barriers to education  | Facilitators to reengagement   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involvement in the criminal justice system</li> <li>Special needs (e.g., IEP, visual impairment)</li> <li>Procedures for enrollment in alternative programs</li> <li>Delay in services due to lack of resources or limited space</li> <li>Physical disability</li> <li>Employment as a priority</li> <li>Childcare</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent or significant other support system</li> <li>Flexible work schedules</li> <li>Financial assistance</li> <li>Assistance navigating systems</li> </ul> |

## Conclusions

- Given the extraordinary school dropout rate in Philadelphia, the alternative programs available to both victims of violence and non-victims are critical.
- It is evident that youth victims of violence are at risk of further negative outcomes due to both attitudinal and policy barriers that impede their progress in school.