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An Exploration of Cleveland After School and Summer Programs

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Abstract

Increasing rates of homicide and crimes in Cleveland in recent years among young adults suggests a need to improve efforts for early prevention and intervention. After-school programming may provide one such opportunity. The first goal of this study was to compile information on community after-school programs available to Cleveland youth, particularly those with an aim to reduce risk behavior related to juvenile delinquency. The second goal was to document which programs focus on the four factors shown to most reduce juvenile delinquency: building positive peer relationships, emphasis on drug use reduction, development of social skills, and character development.

First, student researchers collected data through networking and reviewing publicly available information on after-school programs in Cleveland, east Cleveland, and Cleveland Heights working with youth ages 10 or older. 77 programs were identified and included in a database along with information such as program location, hours, youth served, mission statements, and contact persons, to create a membership directory of available programming. Students then identified 31 programs to interview either face-to-face or over the telephone to gather more information. To date, 10 have agreed to complete interviews with 4 completed. Our poster will present preliminary information about these programs.