

Building Safer Communities Program - Vancouver

Standing Committee Meeting



October 18th, 2023

1. Building Safer Communities Program: Overview, Federal Funding, Policy Context, Vision
2. The Proposed Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy
3. Proposed Implementation Plan
 - Proposed Granting Program
 - Proposed Implementation Plan



The primary objectives of the federal program (Public Safety Canada) include:

- a) to support municipalities to develop community-based prevention and intervention plans,
- b) to increase the knowledge of the nature, scope and challenges of gun and gang violence affecting youth including risk and protective factors
- c) to support recipients to develop a plan to sustain successful prevention and intervention models.

FY 22/23 (April 1 2022 to March 31 2023)	\$428,353.59
FY 23/24 (April 1 2023 to March 31 2024)	\$1,499,237.55
FY 24/25 (April 1 2024 to March 31 2025)	\$1,499,237.55
FY 25/26 (April 1 2025 to March 31 2026)	\$856,707.17
Total	\$4,283,535.85

- Development of a strategy on gun and gang violence prevention
- Development and delivery of prevention intervention initiatives
- Development or enhancement of data systems to support data gathering/reporting
- Research and sharing of information and/or best practices related to the prevention of gun and gang violence
- Outreach and recruitment of preventative initiatives or intervention participants
- Public awareness and education
- Collaboration and integration of horizontal initiatives
- Development of sustainability plans to continue youth safety work beyond the 4 years of federal funding

The new Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy builds on a range of policy work that relates to making Vancouver a safe and inclusive city for children and youth.

➤ **1989** | Canada signed onto the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child committing to the idea that everyone 18 and under has a right to safety.

1990
Civic
Childcare
Strategy

1992
Vancouver
Children's
Policy

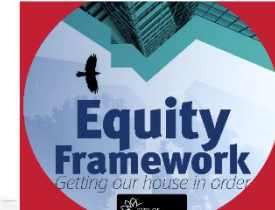


1995
Civic Youth
Strategy

2002
Moving Forward -
Childcare: A
Cornerstone of
Child Development
Services

2014
Reconciliation
Framework

2014
Healthy City
Strategy



2021
Equity
Framework

2022
Accessibility
Strategy

2022
Making Strides:
Vancouver's
Approach to
Childcare

Proposed 2023
Youth Safety and
Violence Prevention
Strategy

ENGAGEMENT:

- City wide community events: Public Launch, youth forum, Jr forum
- Youth engagement program
- 13 Reference group meetings – Public Partners, Community Partners, Youth
- 15 Dialogue sessions
- Reached over 780 children and youth

RESEARCH

- Socio demographic profile of youth and community safety assessment
- Youth sector scholar project
- 15 community based research projects
- Draft research framework – program evaluation

Community Programs



Youth Mental Health



What youth need from adults



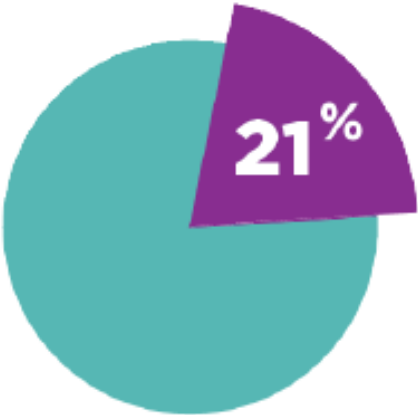
Belonging



School Engagement



Children and Youth in Vancouver: Factors that Affect Safety, Security and Belonging in the City



21% of the city's population is under 25 (141,000).

Here's how it breaks down...

5% 0 to 6 years

(33,155)

4% 7 to 12 years

(27,985)

4% 13 to 17 years

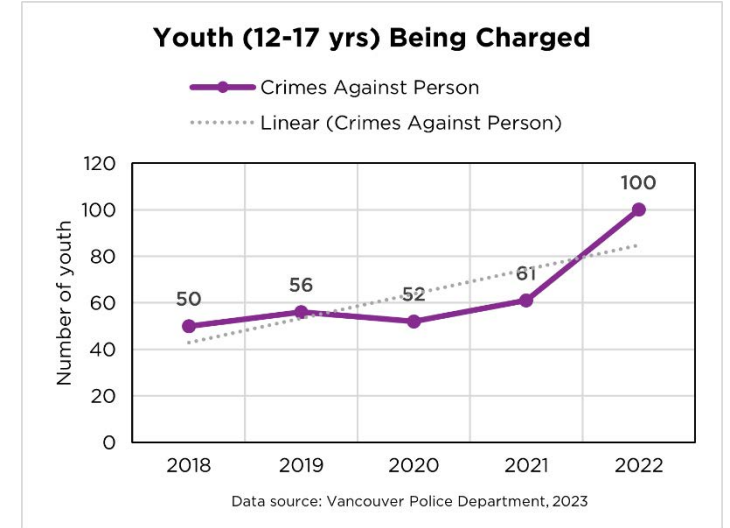
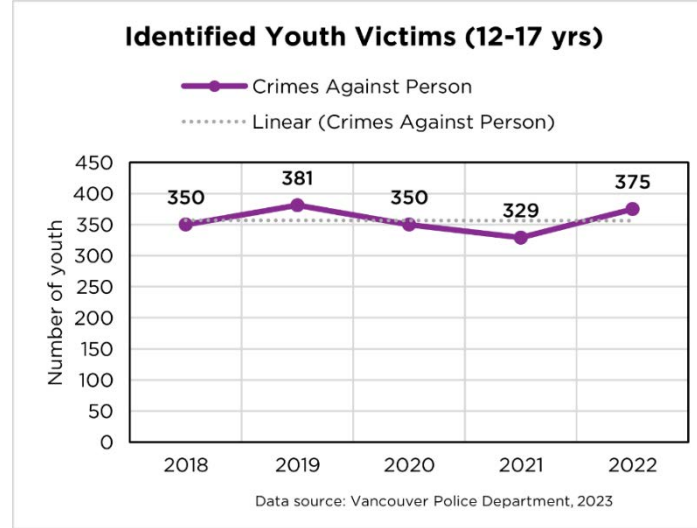
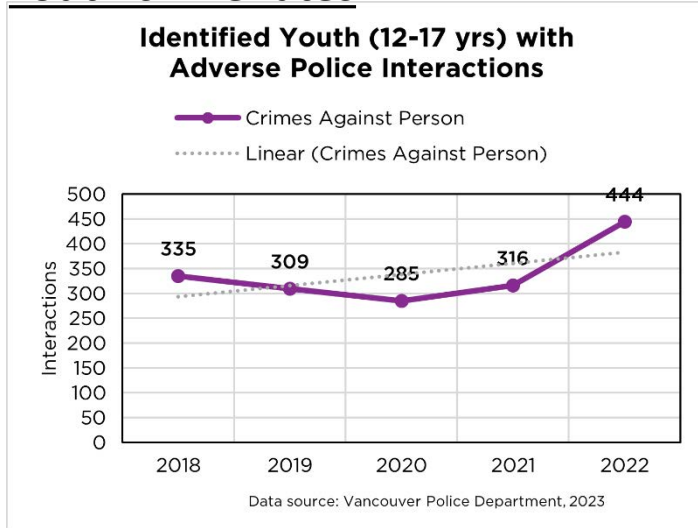
(25,025)

8% 18 to 24 years

(54,530)

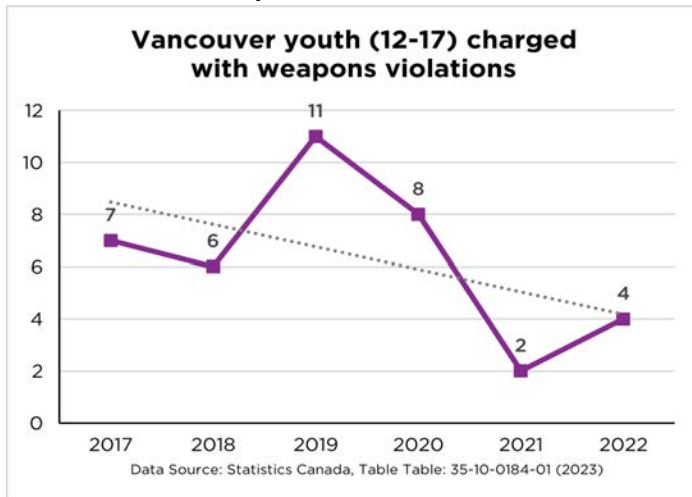
What research says... about youth crime

Youth crime rates



Weapons

- Few weapons-related offences



Race and Gender:

Certain racial/ethnic groups experience higher rates of violent crime. ¹

Victimization of Vancouver youth by gender
(12 months, 2022-23)

	Females <18*	Males <18*
Asian	1/4 X	1/3 X
Black	2 X	1/2 X
White	1 X	1 X
Hispanic	3 X	5 X
Indigenous	12 X	5 X
Middle Eastern	1 X	1 X
South Asian	1 X	1 X



Children and Youth in Care (CYIC):

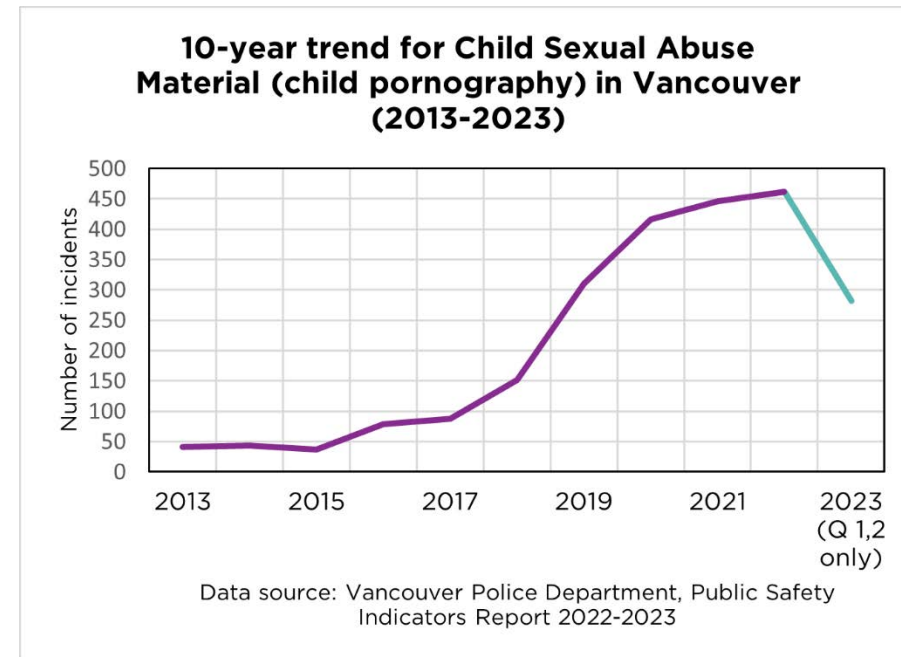
- 2021-2022 fiscal year: BC's Representative for Children and Youth reviewed 1,518 reports of critical injury and 10 reports of death among CYIC (RCY, 2022)

Sexual violence and sexual exploitation:

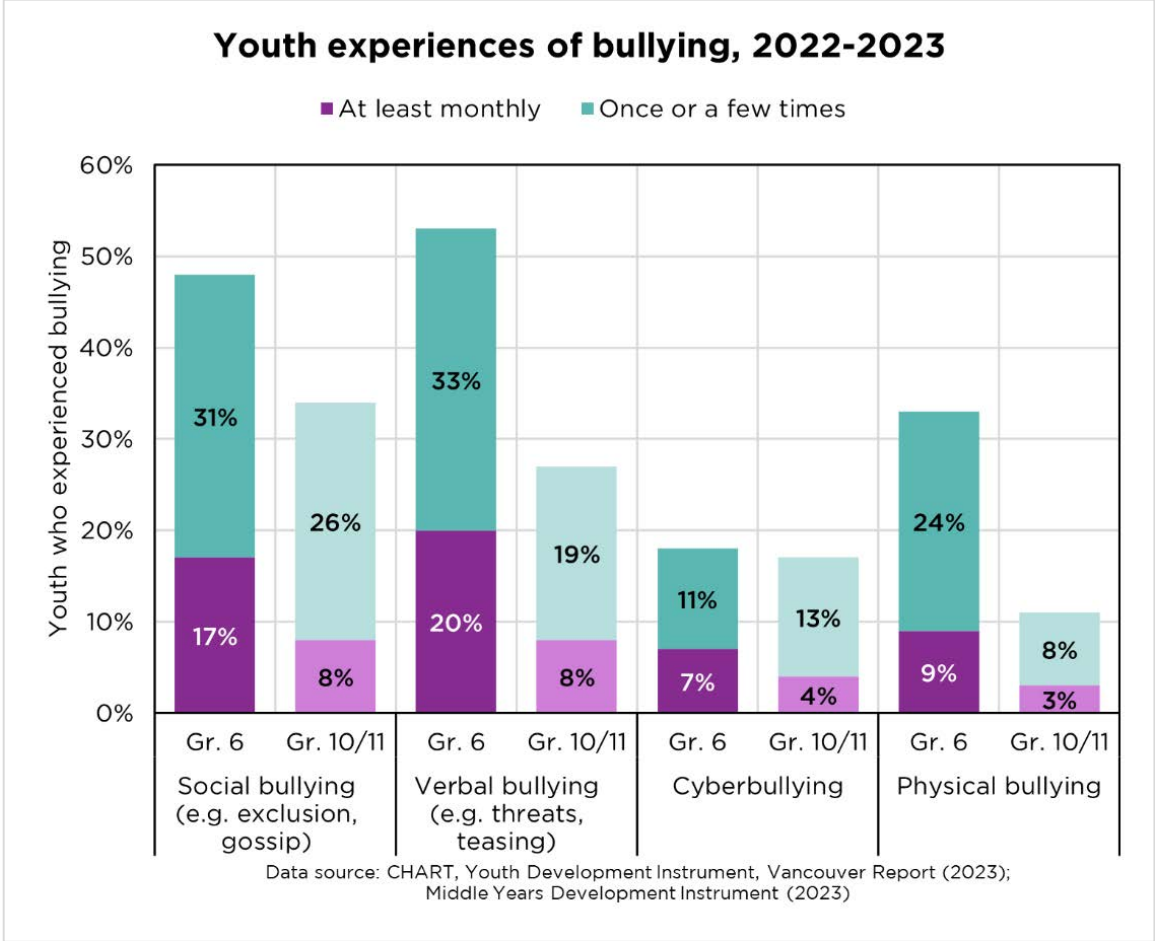
Indigenous women and girls are particularly at-risk of sexual violence and exploitation (Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, 2019)

Online child sexual exploitation

Relative to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average, Vancouver-based incidents of child pornography were up **152.9% in 2022**.

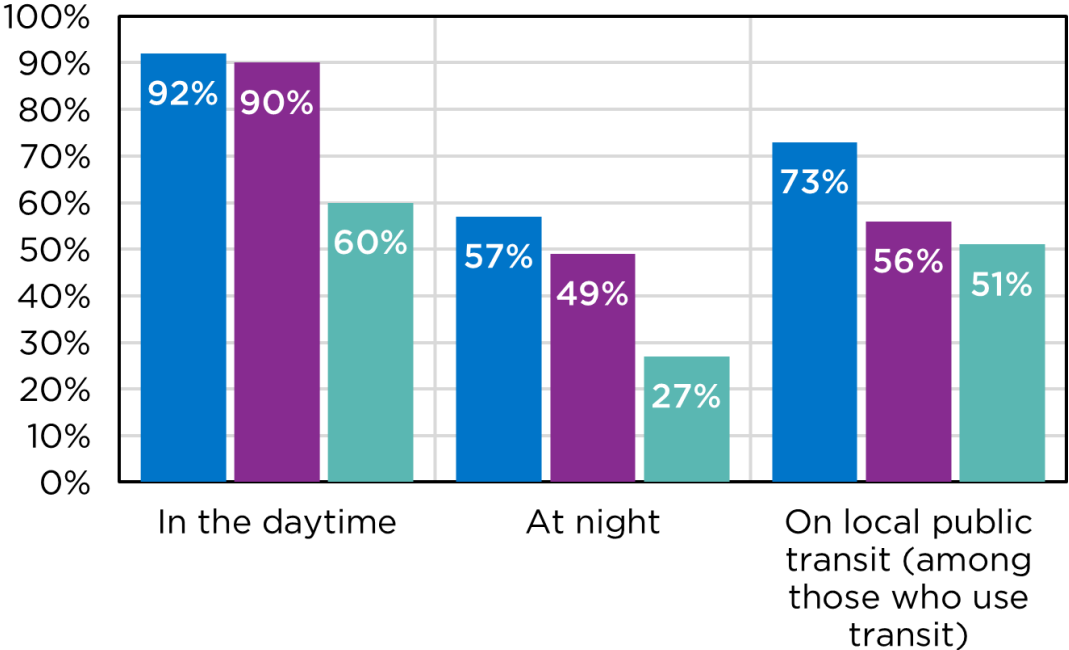


What research says....about bullying



Vancouver youth who often or always feel safe in their neighbourhood...

■ Males ■ Females ■ Non-binary youth



Data Source: Adolescent Health Survey, 2018

Youth wellbeing indicators are trending in the wrong direction

Youth Sector capacity building is important

Inequities in social determinants of health among children and youth need to be considered in this work

Gun and gang violence is one form of youth violence – it is important to address the many forms of violence that impact youth



BSCP Vancouver Policy, Research and Action Planning

Social Development *Upstream*

- Focuses on promoting and maintaining safety and wellbeing
- Prevent violence before occurs
- Targets the youth population as a whole
- Promotes healthy development and equity related to social determinants of health

Early Prevention *Upstream*

- Focuses on working with communities to identify and prioritize risks before crime, victimization or harm occurs
- Prevent violence before it occurs
- Promotes and enhances protective factors at the family, social, neighbourhood and community level.

Intervention *Midstream*

- Targets children and youth at increased risk for violence due to prevalence of risk factors or high risk activities
- Immediate responses to violence
- Focused on those involved in more serious violent offences
- Involves multiple sectors working together to address and/or interrupt escalating situations where there is an elevated risk of harm.
- Intervention overlap risk factors

Treatment / Suppression *Downstream*

- Immediate and reactive responses involving victims, perpetrators and witness of violence
- Complex interventions after violence has occurred
- Law enforcement, suppression strategies
- Involves emergency responses to lessen the harms of violence and crime among affected communities.

*Most of BSCP
Program Grants &
Network Building*

*Some of BSCP
Program Grants*

Youth Service Sector Ecosystem



Personal and community relationships
Families, community members, neighbours, friends

Proposed Youth Safety & Violence Prevention Strategy

Proposed Vision: A city where youth feel safe, supported, connected, healthy and free of violence.



Create safer and protective community environments and public spaces for youth



Identify and strengthen community based supports for healthy child development in the middle years



Strengthen the coordination and provision of positive youth development services and programs



Connect youth to caring adults



Lessen the impacts of serious violence and crime on children and youth

**Create safer
and
protective
community
environments
and public
spaces for
youth**

Structured and unstructured spaces for youth to gather

Safety in public spaces and public transportation

Community based supports attached to schools, community centres and libraries

Community and civic programs that promote youth decision making and engagement in governance



Identify and strengthen community based supports for healthy child development in the middle years

Middle childhood service provision and coordination of early violence prevention programs

Developmentally and culturally appropriate services and supports

Parent, guardian and family engagement in violence prevention and intervention

Trauma informed middle childhood approaches and programs



Strengthen the coordination and provision of positive youth development services and programs

Improve service planning and coordination

Targeted and identity specific strategies and programs for equity denied youth

Capacity building of the youth sector

Promotion of youth development through arts, sports, recreation and community participation



Connect youth to caring adults

Awareness about the importance of caring and supportive youth / adult relationships

Intergenerational programming

Mentorship programs

Youth sector staff development, capacity and recognition



**Lessen the
impacts of
serious
violence and
crime on
children and
youth**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) reducing the risk, harm, criminality and future victimization

Mental health support for victims, offenders and bystanders

Intervention strategies for children and youth affected by cyberbullying, sexual exploitation and youth gang involvement



Next steps: Proposed implementation plan

Proposed BSCP grants would provide funding to community agencies to deliver early violence prevention programs in Vancouver in alignment with the proposed strategy priorities.

Youth Engagement Project Grants

Objective: To increase a sense of safety and belonging through youth projects that enhance protective factors for youth violence. *(\$100,000)*

Deliverable: Up to 10 youth-led projects annually that increase sense of safety and belonging among youth in the City.

Organizational and Youth Sector Capacity Building grants

Objective: To build the capacity of youth serving organizations to deliver early violence prevention and intervention programs or establish community-based wraparound service models. *(\$100,000)*

Deliverable: Up to 5 project grants annually aimed at building the capacity of youth serving organizations to delivery early violence prevention programs.

Youth Violence Prevention program grants

Objective: To develop and deliver early violence prevention programs that address risk factors associated with gun and gang violence *(\$850,000 annually 2024-2025 and \$475,000 2026)*

Deliverable: 6-8 large scale city-wide violence prevention programs that address the risk factors associated with youth violence.

Building Safer Communities Program – Proposed implementation plan

Policy Development and Implementation	Community Planning Tables	Network Building & Sector Development	Granting Program	Youth Engagement	Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
City of Vancouver Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy (YSVPS).	Convene public partners, community partners, and youth in a series of community planning tables to outline tasks, steps, changes needed to address YSVPS priority areas.	Strengthening and / or creating youth service delivery networks to facilitate collaboration among youth serving agencies to deliver wrap around services.	Resourcing the non-profit sector to deliver youth violence prevention initiatives and address the strategy's focus areas.	Peer to peer community engagement program to support outreach, raise awareness about youth violence prevention efforts and organize annual youth forum.	Outcomes based evaluation framework and coordination of research initiatives that advance knowledge on early prevention of gun and gang violence at the community level.
Tentative annual program budget allocation – City staffing costs Y2-Y3-Y4 \$264,000	Tentative annual program budget allocation – Engagement \$10,000	Tentative annual program budget allocation – \$20,000	Tentative annual program budget allocation Y2-Y3: \$1,050,000 Y4: \$475,000	Tentative annual program budget allocation Y2-Y3 \$90,000 Y4 - \$45,000	Tentative annual program budget allocation Y2-Y3: \$50,000 Y4: \$10,000

** Activity detail is available in the Council report, Appendix C*

- Funding is available until March 2026
- Findings from BSCP outcome evaluation will determine recommendations related to continuation of some activities and programs as feasible
- Sustainability plan will be presented to Council for consideration as part of year 4 deliverable. Options may include:
 - Seeking renewal of funding from PSEPC
 - Carving out grants within Social Policy Grants to support youth-related community work
 - Integration of learnings from sector building work into public partner activities and planning
 - Reallocation of staffing resources to support remaining work