

Youth Violence in Cleveland, Ohio, by Neighborhood and Political Ward, 2013

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Introduction

The City of Cleveland has recently been experiencing an increase in violent crimes and gun violence. Many of the stories of violence in Cleveland are among young adults. This has prompted a closer look into youth violence in the city. Political and community leaders have been considering taking a public health approach to addressing violence. Within these contexts, the Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) examined youth violence to gain a better understanding of how youth violence affects specific neighborhoods and political wards in Cleveland, OH.

Methods

Youth violence data (2013) were from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court through the Northeast Ohio Community and Neighborhood Data for Organizing (NEOCANDO) at Case Western Reserve University. Youth violence rates are defined as the number of offenses divided by the teen population aged 10-17 per 1,000 population. ArcGIS v.10.3.1 (Esri, Redlands, CA) was used for all mapping. All non-violence data layers were obtained through City of Cleveland Planning Commission and City of Cleveland GIS Department. Source of childhood blood lead levels was the Ohio Department of Health Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning and Surveillance System.

Important Definitions: Delinquency cases involve juveniles charged with violations of the law that would be considered crimes if committed by adults. Delinquency cases include all violent, property, drug, public order and conspiracy offenses. Violent offenses include homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault (both aggravated and non-aggravated), domestic violence and other violent crimes. Other violent crimes include menacing, kidnapping, ethnic intimidation, endangering children, extortion, and bribery. An assault, also known as aggravated assault, is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. The domestic violence assaults include only non-aggravated assaults. Sexual Assaults are also known as rape, or forcible rape, which is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included.

Discussion/Recommendations

The neighborhood of Goodrich-Kirtland had the highest rates of the following youth violence indicators: delinquency offenses (555.96), violent offenses (280.1), assaults (118.83), domestic violence (106.1), and sexual assaults (16.98). The St. Clair-Superior neighborhood had the highest rate of weapon law violations (12.07). The Goodrich-Kirtland and St. Clair-Superior neighborhoods are adjacent to each other. Political Ward 7 had the highest rates of the delinquency offenses (158.23), violent offenses (79.4), assaults (31.53), domestic violence assaults (21.4), and sexual assaults (6.19). Political Ward 1 had the highest rate of weapon law violations (4.67). Part of the Goodrich-Kirtland neighborhood is within the political Ward 7. However, the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood and political Ward 1 are located on opposite sides of the city.

The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention is a network of communities and federal agencies that work together, share information and build local capacity to prevent and reduce youth violence. The City of Cleveland is a participating agency, and received funding to create a comprehensive plan to address youth violence in Cleveland. The Cleveland Collaborative on Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP), also known as the Cleveland Plan, has four main goals; one of these goals is to use a public health model to support a data-driven, community-based violence intervention strategy. The findings from this research will be used to support a public health model, and provide guidance on where to prioritize efforts in the city. These findings will be shared with the Healthy Cleveland Violence Subcommittee. Through the subcommittee, the findings will be further shared with the general public and community stakeholders, such as City of Cleveland Community Relations Department, Partnership for a Safer Cleveland, Cleveland councilmen, and the Cleveland Police Department. CDPH is committed to using data and research to provide public health focused recommendations to address youth violence in Cleveland.

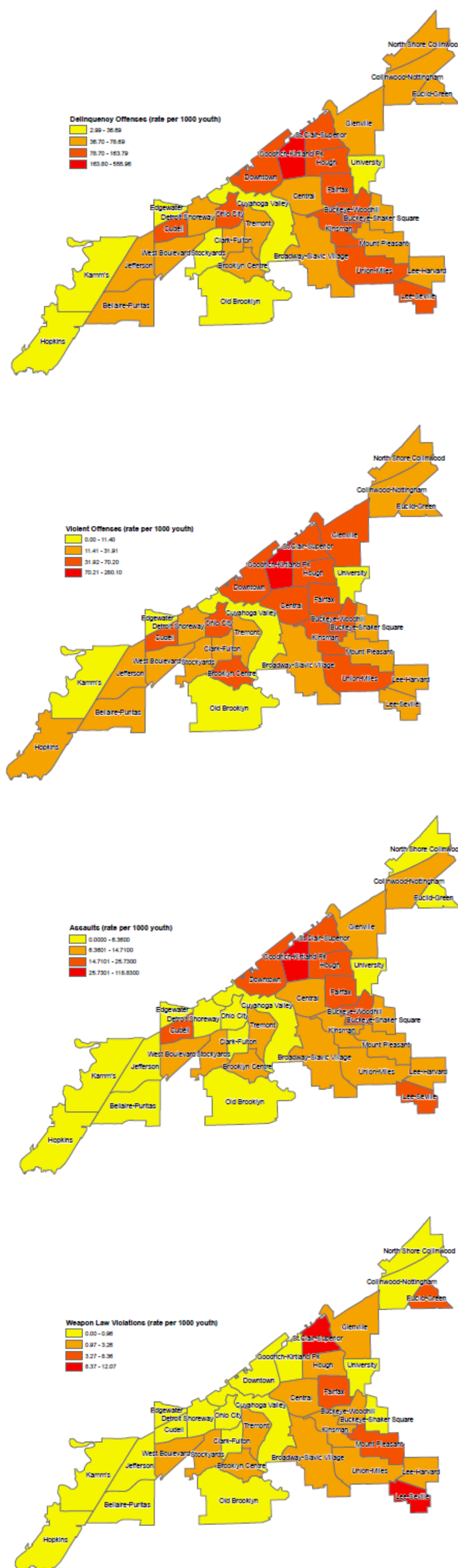
References

NEO CANDO 2010+ system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>).

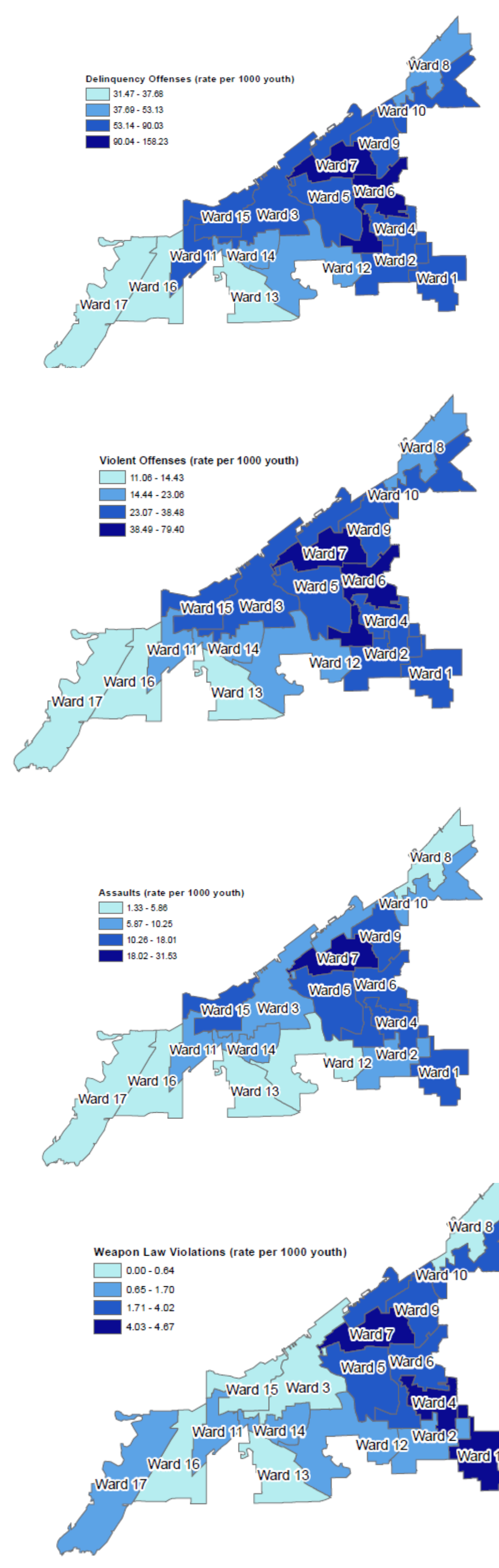
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Neighborhood Maps



Political Ward Maps



Community Profiles: State of Youth

It is important to take a closer look at the state of youth in the neighborhoods with the highest rates, Kirtland-Goodrich Park and St. Clair-Superior, and examine how certain determinants of health could be impacting levels of youth violence.

In the Kirtland-Goodrich Park neighborhood 16.63% of the neighborhood population is age 0-17 (n=644). 519 children between ages 0-17 were living below the poverty line, making the child poverty rate in this neighborhood 80.59. The child poverty rate for the state of Ohio is only 22.9.

In the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood, 25.59% of the neighborhood population is age 0-17 (n=1690). 860 children between ages 0-17 were living below the poverty line, making the child poverty rate in this neighborhood 51.44, higher than the rate for the state.

There is a great deal of research illustrating the link between lead exposure in early childhood and delinquent behavior in adolescence. Lead levels as low as 5 µg/dL have been shown to harm a child's ability to reason and be successful in school. In November of 2014, the state of Ohio adopted 5 µg/dL as the new threshold for elevated blood lead levels in children. This is in line with the Center for Disease Control reference value, and the scientific literature which has established that children are subject to adverse effects of lead poisoning at blood lead levels much lower than 10 µg/dL.

Therefore, it is necessary to examine lead poisoning exposure in neighborhoods experiencing high youth violence. In 2014, there were 303 children under the age of 6 that were tested for lead in Kirtland-Goodrich Park; 12.5% of the tests were greater than or equal to 5 µg/dL. St. Clair-Superior had 256 children under the age of 6 that were tested for lead; 23.4% of the tests were greater than or equal to 5 µg/dL.

Results

| Neighborhood | Delinquency Offenses | Violent Offenses | Assaults | Domestic Violence Assaults | Sexual Assaults | Weapon Law Violations |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Bellaire-Puritas | 47.8 | 17.75 | 1.37 | 4.78 | 4.1 | 0.68 |
| Broadway-Slavic Village | 77.39 | 26.95 | 11.29 | 6.92 | 2.19 | 1.46 |
| Brooklyn Centre | 60.91 | 35.11 | 11.16 | 4.42 | 5.58 | 1.86 |
| Buckeye-Shaker Square | 70.87 | 27.77 | 11.49 | 8.62 | 1.92 | 0.96 |
| Buckeye-Woodhill | 120.76 | 47.71 | 19.38 | 10.44 | 7.45 | 2.98 |
| Central | 78.69 | 36.44 | 12.67 | 7.92 | 0.53 | 3.17 |
| Clark-Fulton | 44.59 | 21.44 | 1.71 | 10.29 | 2.57 | 0 |
| Collinwood-Nottingham | 42.21 | 18.29 | 7.03 | 5.63 | 1.41 | 0.7 |
| Cudell | 95.35 | 43.74 | 21.87 | 10.5 | 3.5 | 0 |
| Cuyahoga Valley | 2.99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Detroit Shoreway | 46.99 | 18.8 | 3.42 | 5.13 | 0.85 | 0.85 |
| Downtown | 85.76 | 42.88 | 25.73 | 17.15 | 0 | 0 |
| Edgewater | 12.59 | 6.29 | 0 | 3.15 | 0 | 0 |
| Euclid-Green | 50.86 | 19.07 | 6.36 | 4.24 | 0 | 6.36 |
| Fairfax | 163.79 | 70.2 | 23.4 | 11.7 | 10.03 | 8.36 |
| Glenville | 68.94 | 34.27 | 11.09 | 11.76 | 3.02 | 2.35 |
| Goodrich-Kirtland Pk | 555.96 | 280.1 | 118.83 | 106.1 | 16.98 | 0 |
| Hopkins | 34.62 | 20.64 | 0 | 6.92 | 0 | 0 |
| Hough | 84.84 | 42.42 | 15.5 | 7.34 | 4.08 | 3.26 |
| Jefferson | 49.26 | 19.81 | 5.35 | 4.82 | 4.82 | 0.54 |
| Kamm's | 29.94 | 10.4 | 1.7 | 3.18 | 1.28 | 0.85 |
| Kinsman | 105.91 | 51.48 | 14.71 | 17.65 | 1.47 | 2.94 |
| Lee-Harvard | 57.75 | 22.36 | 7.45 | 10.25 | 0.93 | 2.79 |
| Lee-Seville | 89.74 | 31.91 | 15.95 | 3.99 | 3.99 | 11.97 |
| Mount Pleasant | 71.21 | 27.21 | 8.68 | 6.95 | 2.89 | 5.21 |
| North Shore Collinwood | 45.58 | 20.61 | 5 | 6.87 | 1.25 | 0 |
| Ohio City | 111.27 | 43.07 | 5.38 | 7.18 | 5.38 | 0 |
| Old Brooklyn | 28.8 | 11.4 | 4 | 4 | 0.31 | 0 |
| St. Clair-Superior | 120.65 | 49.6 | 17.43 | 9.38 | 0 | 12.07 |
| Stockyards | 36.69 | 18.72 | 10.48 | 0.75 | 0 | 1.5 |
| Tremont | 49.03 | 25.41 | 12.48 | 9.36 | 3.57 | 1.78 |
| Union-Miles | 88.11 | 35.71 | 10.2 | 9.74 | 1.85 | 1.85 |
| University | 24.03 | 8.58 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Boulevard | 62.17 | 19.63 | 7.77 | 7.36 | 0.41 | 2.05 |

| Political Ward | Delinquency Offenses | Violent Offenses | Assaults | Domestic Violence Assaults | Sexual Assaults | Weapon Law Violations |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 77.68 | 28.02 | 11.89 | 7.64 | 2.12 | 4.67 |
| 2 | 74.73 | 31.91 | 8.95 | 7.78 | 1.56 | 1.56 |
| 3 | 81.59 | 34.42 | 7.65 | 10.2 | 3.19 | 0.64 |
| 4 | 82.16 | 32.19 | 12.01 | 10.09 | 2.88 | 4.32 |
| 5 | 90.03 | 38.48 | 13.77 | 8.83 | 2.12 | 3.18 |
| 6 | 119.21 | 53.4 | 18.01 | 13.66 | 5.59 | 3.73 |
| 7 | 158.23 | 79.4 | 31.53 | 21.4 | 6.19 | 4.5 |
| 8 | 43.11 | 20.71 | 5.07 | 7.61 | 1.27 | 0 |
| 9 | 71.88 | 32.59 | 11.16 | 9.82 | 3.13 | 4.02 |
| 10 | 70.81 | 31.21 | 10.25 | 9.32 | 1.4 | 3.73 |
| 11 | 66.8 | 23.06 | 7.8 | 6.78 | 3.05 | 1.7 |
| 12 | 53.13 | 20.15 | 5.86 | 5.5 | 2.57 | 1.1 |
| 13 | 31.47 | 13.55 | 5.18 | 3.98 | 0.4 | 0 |
| 14 | 46.8 | 22.73 | 9.36 | 5.35 | 1 | 1.34 |
| 15 | 66.1 | 28.74 | 11.5 | 6.57 | 1.23 | 0.41 |
| 16 | 37.68 | 14.43 | 2.81 | 4.01 | 3.61 | 0.4 |
| 17 | 31.86 | 11.06 | 1.33 | 3.54 | 1.33 | 0.88 |