Community-Based Asset Mapping for Youth Violence Prevention

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September 15, 2009

Police pursue strong leads in Tuesday morning shooting

By Nicole Young
The Tennessean

Metro Police say they have strong leads in Tuesday morning’s fatal shootings inside a North Second Street house.

Detectives say James Truitt, 24, and Artrell Wade, 21, may have been gambling when they were shot just before 1 a.m.

At least two suspects were involved in the shooting and robbery has not been ruled out as a motive, police said.

Truitt and Wade have felony cocaine convictions from 2006 and 2009. Both men also have gambling convictions and lengthy arrest histories, police said.

Anyone with information about this case is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at 74-CRIME or by texting the word “CASH” along with a message to 274637 (CRIMES).
Two Whites Creek students shot, critically hurt

Two Whites Creek High School students were in critical condition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center on Tuesday after being shot on Old Matthews Road the night before.

Witnesses told police an older-model white or cream Nissan Maxima stopped on the street. A passenger got out, took a rifle from the trunk and opened fire on the students as they fled. One student was shot in the head, the other in the torso.

Anyone with information can contact Crime Stoppers at 74-CRIME or by texting the word "CASH" along with a message to 274637 (CRIMES).
OUR MISSION
The mission of NUPACE is to establish the Nashville Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence (NUPACE), Youth Violence Prevention to promote an academic/community partnership that integrates prevention science with community action in order to reduce violence among youth 10-24 years of age in Nashville/Davidson County TN.

SUMMER YOUTH JOB & ACTIVITIES
Please see information below for those that were unable to attend Click on links to visit vendor websites or download applications

- Youth Summer Programs, Camps, & Activities Guide- 2009
- NCAC Summer Youth Employment: Fill out pre-application form (open link) and mail or fax to contact below. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2009. Applicants will be contacted near the end of May, 2009. For more information about this program, email: Kyndyll.Lackey@nashville.gov or visit: www.NCACWorkforce.org
The mission of NUPACE is to establish the Nashville Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence (NUPACE), Youth Violence Prevention to promote an academic/community partnership that integrates prevention science with community action in order to reduce violence among youth 10-24 years of age in Nashville/Davidson County TN.

**OUR GOALS**

1. Bring together researchers, practitioners, community representatives, youth and policy makers in an integrated, inter-disciplinary approach to prevent youth violence in Nashville/Davidson County.
2. Develop an integrated, multi-level, youth violence prevention strategic plan for Nashville/Davidson County that utilizes a public health approach.
3. Conduct a targeted, inter-disciplinary, program of prevention research that investigates the context, causes and consequences of youth violence that uses community-based participatory research methods.
4. Identify, support and evaluate promising interventions.
5. Establish a County-wide youth violence prevention surveillance system.
7. Facilitate communication about youth violence and prevention related activities to local partners.
8. Translate and disseminate results of youth violence prevention research and programmatic activities to local communities, professional audiences, and policy makers.
Research Core

Research Core Project A (Bullying Intervention)

- Evaluation of violence-prevention programs in middle school with a focus on school climate – extension of previous quasi-experimental evaluations.
- Dr. Maury Nation, Principal Investigator

Research Core Small Project B (Organizational Networks)

- Focus on organizational networks, how their relationships change, how their approaches to youth violence prevention evolve, and how resources for youth violence prevention services change over time as they collaborate with the NUPACE.
- Propose an annual survey and interview of a representative from each organization in the target area over three years.
- Dr. Douglas D. Perkins, Principal Investigator

Research Core Small Project C (GIS and Neighborhood Asset Mapping)

- GIS and spatial analysis– moving in a positive direction by mapping assets; Linking neighborhood characteristics to protective factors, and in turn, to youth violence.
- Students in the community are asked to generate a list of neighborhood risk and protective factors for youth violence; this will be translated into a taxonomy of community assets and problems.
- Students will then walk through neighborhoods and code assets and problems based on the taxonomy, and identify the location electronically through GPS device.
- Propose mapping social networks of students with peers in the community, and parents with organizations in the community.
- Dr. Paul D. Juarez, PhD, Principal Investigator
- Dr. David Fadgett, PhD, Investigator
**Project Primary Objective**

To assess how youth perceive the role of community level protective factors and personal safety.

**Project Overview**

This is a non-experimental study employing qualitative methods that explores perceptions of urban, minority, high school age teens in Nashville, TN regarding the role that community assets play in promoting youth safety. This study extends previous research by using GIS, mapping, and spatial analyses to examine the relationship of community assets as promoting safety and serving as protective factors in the prevention of youth violence.
Research Questions

1. What factors are perceived by youth as community assets in promoting safety?
2. Where are these community assets located in their neighborhoods?
3. Does the absence of community assets play a role in the occurrence of youth violence?
4. Is there a relationship between number and types of community assets and rates of youth violence?
Project Phase One: Youth Focus Groups

Ninety-eight (98), 15-18 year old youth participated in nine, structured focus groups. Youth were asked to help identify assets in the community that they believe to be factors in promoting personal safety in the community through structured questioning. The information collected was used to identify the types of environmental factors that youth perceive as important in promoting safety in the community.

Violence prevention was defined as:
1. Safe Places
2. Mentors/Caring Adults
3. Job Training/Work Opportunities

Community assets were defined as:
1. People
2. Places
3. Opportunities
# Youth Focus Groups Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Safe Places</th>
<th>Mentors</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>219 (38%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Places</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>312 (54%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50 (9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>214 (37%)</td>
<td>131 (23%)</td>
<td>236 (41%)</td>
<td>581 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities:
- 312 (54%) Mentors
- 457896 People
- 2560 Places
- 214 Total Jobs
Project Phase Two: Mapping Community Assets:

Street by street “Walkabouts” were conducted in four defined neighborhoods. Youth from the neighborhood were paired with another youth and an adult to identify “safe places,” mentoring sites, and job training/work opportunities.

Youth received training in the use of hand-held GPS receivers which they then used in the field to enter longitudinal and latitude coordinates for each site. Data were geo-coded and mapped for each of the four neighborhoods for the three categories of community assets.
Youth GPS Training
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brief Description of Site</th>
<th>Type of Asset (safe place, employment, and/or mentoring)</th>
<th>Address/Nearest Intersection/General Location</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Eastview Church of Christ</td>
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<td>Fannie Battle Day Home for</td>
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Youth-Selected Community Assets
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Asset Type</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Longitude</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cumberland Lane</td>
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<td>Haywood Lane</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>South East Branch Library</td>
<td>Safe Place</td>
<td>2325 Hickory Highlands Drive</td>
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Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Antioch Neighborhood
Youth Community Asset Sites
with Homicides
Churches and Social Services
July 8, 2008
Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Antioch Neighborhood
Youth Employment Sites
with Homicides
Churches and Social Services
July 8, 2008
Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Antioch Neighborhood
Youth Community Mentoring Sites
with Homicides
Churches and Social Services
July 8, 2008
Youth Community Asset Defined Spaces/Neighborhoods

“Asset Defined Spaces” were created by selecting U.S. Census Blocks at a 0.25 mile radius from each youth identified and mapped community asset point feature.

The resulting groups of polygons generally represent the four “neighborhoods” within which more detailed spatial analyses will be applied.
Figure 1. Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Napier Community Asset Space with
Youth-Defined Assets and
2005-2007 Homicides

Legend
- 2005-2007 Homicides
- Napier Employment
- Napier Mentoring
- Napier Safe Places
- US Census Blocks
- Napier Youth Asset Space

Youth community asset spaces are defined based upon the absolute locations of safe places, places of employment, and mentoring sites identified by youth volunteers. The asset spaces are US Census Blocks selected at a quarter-mile buffer around each asset site, with the exception of Antioch which was done with a one-half mile buffer.

David A. Redditt
CEO, Mental
July 27, 2009
Figure 2. Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Cayce Community Asset Space with
Youth-Defined Assets and
2005-2007 Homicides

Legend
- 2005-2007 Homicides
- Cayce Employment
- Cayce Mentoring Sites
- Cayce Safe Places

US Census Blocks
Cayce Youth Asset Space

Youth community asset spaces are defined based upon the absolute locations of safe places, places of employment, and mentoring sites identified by youth volunteers. The asset spaces are US Census Blocks selected at a quarter-mile buffer around each asset site, with the exception of Antioch which was done with a one-half mile buffer.

David A. Radgett
GEO Mental
July 27, 2009
Figure 3. Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Preston Taylor Community Asset Space with
Youth-Defined Assets and
2005-2007 Homicides

Legend
- 2005-2007 Homicides
- Preston Taylor Employment
- Preston Taylor Mentoring
- Preston Taylor Safe Places
- US Census Blocks
- Preston Taylor Youth Asset Space

Youth community asset spaces are defined based upon the absolute locations of safe places, places of employment, and mentoring sites identified by youth volunteers. The asset spaces are US Census Blocks selected at a quarter-mile buffer around each asset site, with the exception of Antioch which was done with a one-half mile buffer.

David A. Pastigett
GEO Mental
July 27, 2009
Figure 4. Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Antioch Community Asset Space with
Youth-Defined Assets and
2005-2007 Homicides

Legend
- 2005-2007 Homicides
- Antioch Employment Sites
- Antioch Mentoring Sites
- Antioch Safe Places
- Antioch Youth Asset Space
- US Census Blocks

Youth community asset spaces area defined based upon the
absolute locations of safe places, places of employment, and
mentoring sites identified by youth volunteers. The asset spaces
are US Census Blocks selected at a quarter-mile buffer around
each asset site, with the exception of Antioch which was done with
a one-half mile buffer.

David A. Padgett
CEO Mental
July 27, 2009
Conclusions

Over 50% of all the community assets that were identified were people. The significance of this was not fully appreciated in the design of the original two phases of the study.
“Safe Places” Youth Assets

• Youth perceive safety differently than adults
• Youth are about at likely to identify safety with people as with a physical space
• Youth tend to identify safety with people whom they have a positive relationship
• Schools were not identified even once by youth as a safe place
"Mentoring" Youth Assets

• Youth are largely unaware of formal mentoring programs and opportunities.
• There is a need to increase linkages between mentoring programs and youth in need.
• Since youth identify the church as a place they can go to for mentoring, it has the potential for playing a greater role in mentoring of youth
“Job Training/Work”
Youth Assets

• Greater attention needs to be given to helping youth get jobs now (e.g. to earn money)
• Greater attention needs to be given to helping youth understand how to prepare for college as a career development pathway
• Youth want to be exposed to successful role models who can tell them how they got to where they are today
Project Phase Three: Social Network Mapping and Analysis (in progress)

- Students will be provided a 36 x 48” map of Nashville with major streets and landmarks and boundaries of recognized neighborhoods.
- They will be asked to locate where they live or encounter people who they have identified as “protective factors” on a map of Nashville/Davidson County and to also locate their school.
- Students then will be provided a compass to draw circles that corresponded to one mile, two miles, and five mile radii around their house.
- Students will be asked to place a “sticky” for each of the persons they identified on the map within the corresponding “circle” of where they live.
- Students then will be asked to draw lines between all of the persons on the map that know each other and to a place a number from 0 (none) to three (high) that corresponds to how well they know each other.
- Results of the social networks each youth will be geo-coded and entered into the community assets database.
- Data will be analyzed using geo-spatial analyses.
For further information
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615 327-5506

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