

Adventist Health

Priority Area Overview



Community Safety

Community safety is both about people’s sense of safety and about the community’s crime rate. It has to do with the community’s relationship with police and the justice systems. It also has to do with how people treat one another and with policies, social conditions, and systems that may make some neighborhoods safer than others. Public safety relates to community vitality, economy, and health outcomes.

IMPLICATIONS

Health: Community safety reflects not only violent acts in neighborhoods and homes, but also injuries caused unintentionally through accidents. Many injuries are predictable and preventable, yet about 30 million Americans receive medical treatment for injuries each year, and more than 243,000 died from these injuries in 2017.

In 2017, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death among individuals ages 1 through 44. Among these unintentional injury deaths, drowning was the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4, motor vehicle traffic accidents were the leading cause of injury death for individuals ages 5-24, and unintentional poisoning was the leading cause of injury death for individuals ages 25-64. Unintentional injury was the fifth leading cause of death for infants, and among these deaths, suffocation was most common.

The chronic stress associated with living in unsafe neighborhoods can accelerate aging and harm health. Unsafe neighborhoods can cause anxiety, depression, and stress, and are linked to higher rates of pre-term births and low birthweight babies, even when income

is accounted for. Fear of violence can keep people indoors, away from neighbors, exercise, and healthy foods. Companies may be less willing to invest in unsafe neighborhoods, making jobs harder to find.

Injuries sustained in one year will generate

\$794+

Billion

in lifetime medical costs.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS



- PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
- LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
- HEALTH CENTERS
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- CHURCHES WITH YOUTH PROGRAMS
- LOCAL YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
- UNITED WAY
- PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT

SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS



- PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
- COUNSELING CENTER ADMINISTRATOR
- BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ADMINISTRATOR
- SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF OVERSEEING
- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS:

Accident Prevention: A set of precautionary, measures taken to avoid possible bodily harm.

Crime Prevention: Strategies and measures that seek to intervene on and modify identified risk factors to reduce the likelihood that a criminal act will be committed.

Dangerous Goods: Any solid, liquid, or gas that can harm people, other living organisms, property, or the environment. Also referred to as hazardous materials.

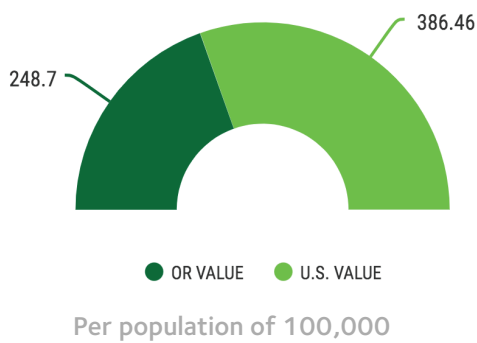
Hazard: A chance, an accident, a chance of being injured or harmed, danger, a source of danger to life, to health, property, or environment.

Protective Factors: Positive influences or circumstances that can improve the lives of individuals or the safety of a community. These may decrease the likelihood that individuals engage in crime and/or become victims.

Risk Factors: Individual attributes or characteristics of the physical and social environment that increase the likelihood that a person will engage in potentially harmful behaviors or suffer negative health outcomes.

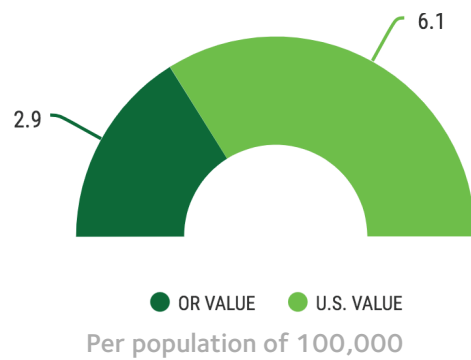
Violent Crime Rate

POM: 2014-2016 | Sources: County Health Rankings



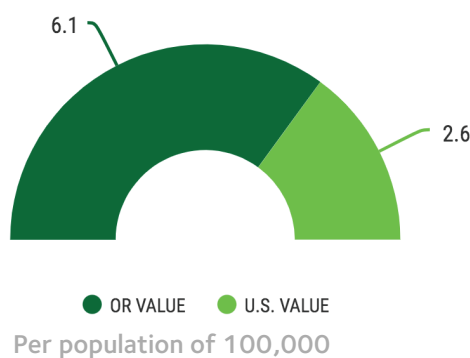
Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Homicide

POM: 2015-2017 | Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dashboard



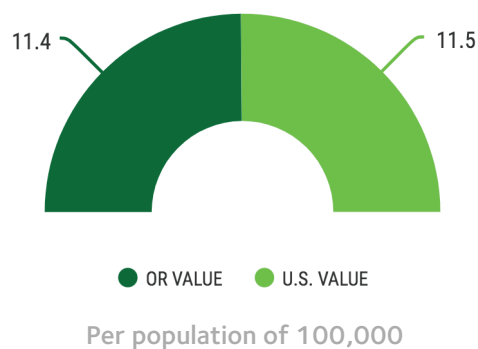
Age-Adjusted Death Rate Due to Motor Vehicle Collisions

POM: 2015-2017 | Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dashboard



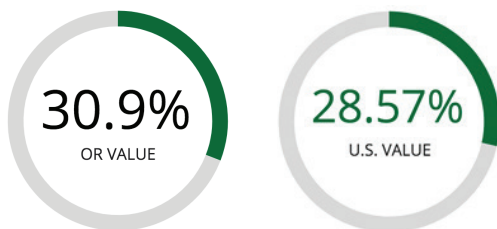
Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Firearms

POM: 2014-2016 | Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dashboard



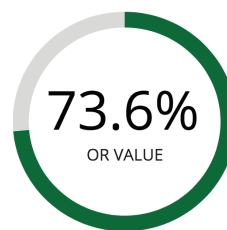
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths

POM: 2013-2017 | Sources: County Health Rankings



Injury Death Rate

POM: 2013-2017 | Sources: County Health Rankings



Evidence Matters



Explore the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps “What Works for Health” tool to help find policies and programs that are a good fit for your communities health priorities: www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health

RESOURCES

Community Safety Net: Community Safety Net™ is a revolutionary safety awareness and education initiative that creates a network of concerned individuals who want to protect children and help save lives.

National Crime Prevention Council: The National Crime Prevention Council’s mission is to be the nation’s leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC): NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.