Ensuring Youth Safety in Out-of-School Time Settings

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Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) presents this summary of Youth Safety Great Think and the literature review as reported in the white paper.

- What is BGCA’s **Great Think** series?
- How does safety affect **youth development**?
- What are the **change levers** for safety in out-of-school time settings?
- BGCA’s **Next Steps** and Opportunities
WHAT IS BGCA’s GREAT THINK SERIES?

A thought leadership series to engage national partners in action plans to address critical issues in youth development.

BGCA’s Youth Safety Great Think brought together key stakeholders from the government, business and nonprofit sectors to think critically about how to create safer childhoods by advancing safety in out-of-school time (OST) settings.
Empower Clubs to serve more kids more often.

Equip Clubs to serve as national models to:

- Implement safety improvements and innovations
- Address high levels of lifetime exposure to trauma
- Provide respite
- Promote empowerment and resiliency
Club professionals and volunteers:

Empower youth and families to **expect** safety, respect and well-being in their relationships and environments

Model and provide **safe** relationships and environments
Safety in Youth Development

When youth don’t feel safe, they **CAN’T:**

- PLAY
- LEARN and
- GROW

to their full potential

Experiencing traumatic events can

**INTERRUPT**

healthy development
Safety in Youth Development

These findings heighten the importance of ensuring safety in out-of-school time programs, such as Boys & Girls Clubs, that operate within a positive youth development model.

Safety is a core aspect of child well-being and includes:

- Physical and emotional
- Risk reduction
- Safe relationships and environments
Children and teens are more vulnerable to the risks and harms of accidental injury, direct victimization and witnessing violence.

The Issue by the Numbers
Of the U.S. population of 14- to 17-year-olds, at some point during their lifetime:

- 71% were assaulted
- 53% experienced property crime
- 52% were emotionally bullied
- 32% were maltreated
- 28% were sexually victimized
- 27% were physically bullied
GREAT FUTURES START WITH SAFER CHILDHOODS

Network & Symposium
CHANGE LEVER 1

STANDARDS & MEASURES

- Common vision and definitions of safety
- Valid measurement methods and tools
- Reliable data collection and analysis
- Data driven goals and plans
A strong evidence base that we can draw from and see what’s been done specifically with youth-serving organizations.
CHANGE LEVER 2

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Quality staff and volunteers
- Safety competencies
- Safety development across the career span
Mentoring: Where you take an experienced individual to help take on an inexperienced individual and teach them good practices.

CAPACITY BUILDING

ACTION ITEMS

Safety Peer Consultant Program

Corporate Volunteer Engagement
Lead safety advocates and educators for youth, families and communities

Develop strategies
Situational Prevention Approach

Adult solutions to youth problems will be inadequate without youth input and leadership.
NEXT STEPS: MOBILIZING THE SAFER CHILDHOODS NETWORK

Three committees will coordinate work in the three areas of focus.

Strategic collaborations will serve as catalysts in carrying out this plan.

Mobilizing stakeholders from local Clubs, national non-profit organizations, business and government leaders to advance innovations and best practices.
QUESTIONS?

Join the conversation at

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