



Study Information

This research project is a three year, mixed-methods, youth participatory action research project (YPAR). Put simply, YPAR means that youth are the researchers in charge of asking questions and finding answers. We are hoping to improve our understanding of youth's experiences with community violence in Washington, D.C. This project will conduct two YPAR studies with younger (14 to 17 years of age) and older (18 to 24 years of age) youth to understand:

- What makes community violence more likely in a neighborhood
- Reasons why some youth become involved in community violence, and some choose not to be
- The effects of community violence on youth
- Promising ways for improving community safety, including community violence prevention and intervention (ways to stop violence)

Who is conducting this research project?

Youth researchers are conducting this project. Child Trends and Sasha Bruce Youthwork support the youth researchers. Child Trends is a research center that works to make juvenile justice systems fair for youth, families, and communities. Sasha Bruce Youthwork is a DC-based nonprofit that helps youth who are at high risk for exposure to community violence. This project is funded by the National Institute of Justice (#15PNIJ-22-GG-01420-RESS).

Who are we looking to speak with?

- youth between the ages of 14 and 24
- parents and/or guardian figures of youth
- community members who live in Wards 7 or 8 of Washington, D.C.

How are we collecting data?

We are conducting 60-minute interviews and 90-minute focus groups with the people listed above.

You will receive a \$30 electronic gift card as a thank you for joining the study.

Do I have to join the study?

You do not have to participate, or join, the study. You can also leave the interview or focus group, ending your participation in the project, at any time without reason. Choosing not to participate will in no way impact you. You can also skip questions you don't want to answer. Before the start of the interview or focus group, we will also ask if you want to participate. You can say no.

What will be done with the data collected?

Your data will be used to write findings, or new learnings, from the project. Findings will be used to 1) inform new and ongoing community safety strategies in Washington, D.C. and 2) to develop better recommendations that work for your community that will be shared with key justice officials and community leaders to advance change.

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Learn more about Safety 7 at <https://www.childtrends.org/project/centering-youth-experiences-youth-participatory-action>.

What are the benefits and risks of participation?

You will not benefit personally from participating in an interview or focus group. You may feel uncomfortable answering some questions, but you may skip any questions you are not comfortable answering or end your participation in the interview or focus group at any time.

Risks associated with participation include:

- possible loss of confidentiality and privacy
- psychological discomfort, which is feeling mentally or emotionally hurt
- possible loss of physical safety, or harm to your body

We have plans in place to reduce these risks and ensure a good experience for all participants to the best of our ability.

How will you protect my privacy?

The research team will keep information you share confidential, or private, and we will never share any information that can be linked back to you. Any information that you share about any illegal activities you have done in the past is legally protected by the funder of this study (the National Institute of Justice). This means that no one on the research team can be forced to share information about you with the courts, your school, your employer, or any other institution. This protection only covers crimes committed in the past. Please do not talk about any future crimes you will or would like to commit in the interview or focus group discussion.

All participants will pick a made-up name for the interview and focus groups. This will protect their identity. The interview or focus group will be audio recorded, but we will not use your real name on the recording. Once the audio from this recording has been written up, the recording will be destroyed. In reporting the findings, we will use your made-up name.

Although the research team will keep your information confidential, we cannot promise that other focus group participants will. Although we will ask all focus group participants to keep the information everyone shares private, please think about what you share in this group setting because confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

How will my identifiable private information be protected?

Your identifiable information, like your email address or phone number, collected as part of this research will not be used or made available for future research studies. De-identifiable information will be saved on the National Archive for Crime Justice Data and could be used for future research.

How will you address my psychological discomfort?

We will work with trusted members of your community to develop questions being asked of you to reduce the chance of anyone experiencing psychological discomfort. We know you may still get uncomfortable, so you will be given the option to skip any question you do not want to answer. You can also leave the interview or focus group at any time. After the interview or focus group, you will receive a resource sheet with a list of counseling services, hotlines, and other places you can reach out to for any needed help or support.

How will you keep me physically safe?

You will not be asked to travel to areas outside of your community. We will not ask you about your participation in or affiliation with criminally active groups, perpetration of crimes, or experiences

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as a victim in a group setting. We also will have violence interrupters on-site to step in if a conflict arises. Finally, the gift card you receive for participating will be electronic, meaning it is delivered to you via email or text and you will not have it on your physical person.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Samantha Holquist, a researcher at Child Trends. Her contact information is below.

Dr. Samantha E. Holquist
Senior Research Scientist, Child Trends
Email: dcsafetystudy@childtrends.org
Text: (202) 335-0960

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or concerns or complaints about the research, you can also contact the Child Trends Institutional Review Board by phone at (855) 288-3506, by email at irbparticipant@childtrends.org, or by mail to 7315 Wisconsin Ave Suite 1200W, Bethesda, MD 20814.