

# Violence and Trauma



- **1 in 5** Springfield students (**1 in 4** Latino/a/e students) do not consider their neighborhood safe from crime (2021 SYHS)
- **1 in 4** students have witnessed someone being physically harmed in their neighborhood (2021 SYHS)
- In 2020, the Springfield Police Department responded to 8,700 calls, equivalent to **more than 23 calls per day**, involving either a domestic disturbance and/or a domestic disturbance involving a weapon.
- Springfield Police are under federal consent decree because of pattern of excessive use of force by narcotics agents.
- Springfield saw a more than **50% increase** in gun violence in 2020
- There are many different types of violence- random, gang-related, by law enforcement, neighborhood violence, generational violence

## Racial Equity

- Police violence and vigilantism against Black people
- Black and Latino/a/e people have a higher intimate partner firearm homicide compared to White counterparts in Massachusetts. Latino/a/e death rates **4x higher** than White rates and **2x higher** than Black rates.
- Systemic racism, lack of opportunities and resources, poverty all contribute

## Assets/Momentum

- There are many services and programs for victims of violence and prevention, with the YWCA the key service provider on domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.
- There are several local and regional collaborations and coalitions:
  - o C3 meetings,
  - o New North Citizens Council Good Vibes Program,
  - o Hampden CHIP Violence and Injury Prevention Community Team,
  - o Commercial sexual exploitation of children Coalition/human trafficking
- Springfield police commission set up by the federal consent decree, although commission members have reported lack of administrative support to City Council Public Safety Committee.

## Opportunities/Gaps

- More coordination among programming
- Improve accessibility of resources, care, and treatment to those who need them most
  - o Barriers: Transportation, childcare, concerns about DCF involvement, norms about masculinity
- Go to the individual- the most vulnerable young people do not participate in programming
- More peer groups where youth can talk about and process their experiences- not tied to therapist or insurance
- Criminal records disqualify people who are trying to work with youth
- Create/build community