



**HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
 Juvenile Justice in the City of Houston

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**BUREAU OF YOUTH & ADOLESCENT HEALTH**

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**Bureau of Youth and Adolescent Health**  HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

-  The Houston Health Department is one of the few local health departments in the country that has an office dedicated to adolescent health
-  Adolescence is marked by significant and rapid growth, and health – mental, physical, social, and emotional – is an important part of this development
-  Home to the My Brother's Keeper – Houston Movement
-  Work centered on adolescent healthcare utilization, positive youth development, youth violence prevention, juvenile justice, and youth and family services

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## My Brother's Keeper



- MBK was developed by former President Barack Obama to eliminate significant gaps that young men of color experience on a regular basis
- Focus on six core milestones
- Houston accepted the MBK Community Challenge in 2014



1 Enter School Ready to Learn



2 Read on 3rd Grade Level



3 Graduate High School



4 Complete Post-Secondary Ed.



5 Enter the Workforce Successfully



6 Reduce Crime & Violence & Provide 2nd Chance Opp.

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## My Brother's Keeper – Milestone 6

Reducing Violence and Providing a Second Chance



### Challenges

- While crime has generally decreased across the US, violence continues to plague many communities, and disproportionately affect communities of color
- Persons of color disproportionately have contact with law enforcement
- Interaction with the juvenile and criminal justice systems that permanently alters their trajectory for the worse

### Opportunities

- Reduce violence in high-risk communities by integrating public health approaches
- Encourage law enforcement and neighborhoods to work hand-in-hand
- Reform the juvenile and criminal justice systems to keep youth and young adults on track
- Eliminate unnecessary barriers to reentry

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## Youth Violence Prevention & Juvenile Justice






Healthy behaviors, choices and well-being in childhood and adolescence often **extend into adulthood** with lifelong implications



Violence and its corresponding results, is a critical issue in adolescence that can **interrupt normal development**



The CDC defines **youth violence** as occurring "when young people between the ages of 10 and 24 intentionally use physical force or power to threaten or harm others"



Through the use of PIER Model, violence **can be addressed** at various entry points

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## Framework – Spectrum of Prevention



### The Spectrum of Prevention

- Influencing Policy & Legislation
- Changing Organizational Practices
- Fostering Coalitions & Networks
- Educating Providers
- Promoting Community Education
- Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills

- Developed by the *Prevention Institute*
- Multifaceted approach to injury prevention
- Framework helps people move beyond the notion that prevention is strictly educational
- Focus on moving “upstream”

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## Program Highlights & the PIER Model



### Prevention

- Influencing Policy & Changing Organizational Practices
  - > Peacekeepers Movement
- Fostering Coalitions & Networks
  - > Youth Justice Council
  - > Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan
- Promoting Community Education
  - > Win Win

### Intervention

- > TAPS
- > Houston Harris County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
- > ReDirect

### Enforcement

### Re-entry

- Community Re-Entry Program
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Project Hope

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## Youth Justice Stakeholder's Meeting



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**Youth Justice Council**  
Created in March 2016

**Purpose**  
Examine system and policy changes needed to improve the outcomes for young men (ages 10-24) of color who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile and criminal justice systems

**Projects:**

- Youth LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)
- Study of denials of enrollment in school after juvenile justice incarceration (including policy work with HISD)
- Youth Violence Prevention Coalition
- Study of 17-24 year old's in MBK designated zip codes
- Support for dual status youth program with Urban Enrichment Institute, H and HISD Social and Emotional Learning Development

*Collaboration of city, county, school districts, universities, non-profit agencies, amongst others interested in youth and justice*

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**Youth Justice Council Membership**



City of Houston Health Department	Juvenile Justice	District Attorney
Law Enforcement	Protective Services	Houston Independent School District
Public Defender's Office	Houston reVision	Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
Harris County Precinct One	Houston Police Department	

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**Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan**





- Houston Peace is a comprehensive plan for preventing youth violence with a vision that youth in Houston are safe, healthy, and have hope for the future
- Focus on ensuring city-wide collaboration, a unified vision, and coordinated approach



**Three goals:**

1. Prevent youth violence
2. Promote youth health
3. Provide youth opportunities


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**YVP Strategic Plan – Strategy in Action**  
 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design


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**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**

**Purpose:** To use the environment to reduce crime and fear in communities, and improve quality of life.

**Four Concepts:**

1. Natural Access Control
2. Natural Surveillance
3. Territorial Behavior
4. Maintenance




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**Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion**

**HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**What is LEAD?**

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) began in 2011 in Seattle, Washington

Addresses targeted population of low level offenders with multiple offenses

Goals of program include offering a pre-charge diversion program with services tailored to address the root causes of criminal behavior using a new approach to preventing crime

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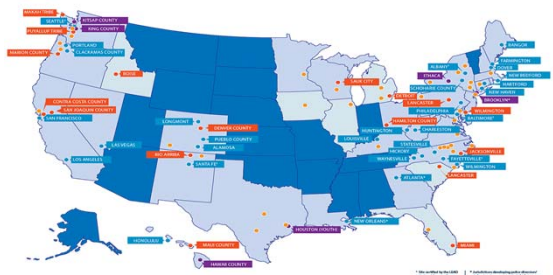
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**LEAD Around the Country**

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**Houston Harris County LEAD** 

**Houston Harris County is the first Youth LEAD**

Target population: HISD Middle School with a high incidence of criminal behavior

Program offers a pre-charge diversion for at risk youth

Types of referrals include a) in lieu of arrest and b) social referrals

Services include mentoring, restorative justice circles, and wraparound system of care

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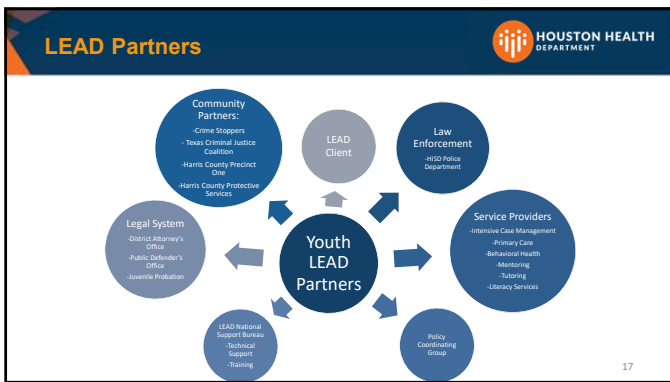
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**Houston Harris County LEAD** 

Performance Indicators

Youth LEAD currently serves a total of 43 students.

	All 43 students participate in Restorative Justice circles weekly		3 of the 15 are considered Tier 3 and receive intensive wraparound case management
	15 of the above have completed the Intake process with parental consent for services including mentoring		3 of the 15 are also on Juvenile Probation

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**Senate Bill (SB) 30, Community Safety Education Act** 



**REDUCING THE SOCIAL DISTANCE BETWEEN CITIZENS & LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

**Purpose**  
 Train over 50,000 citizens between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019 on a curriculum to improve citizen and police contact. Houston police officers, high school students, government officials, and citizens from every walk of life will receive this training to create better understanding, increase legitimacy and increase safety for all citizens and police officers.

**SB30 requires training for:**

- High school students
- Peace officers
- Persons taking drivers education courses

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**What Happens During a Traffic Stop?** 

**"7 Step Violator Contact Method"**

1. Greeting and identification of the police agency
2. Statement of violation committed
3. Identification of driver/financial responsibility and check of conditions of citizen and vehicle
4. Statement of action to be taken
5. Take Action
6. Explain what the citizen must do
7. Leave scene professionally



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**Senate Bill 30, Community Safety Education Act**  **Performance Indicators**

Accomplishments to date:

 1,567 Trained Law Enforcement Officers	 312 Trained Civilians & Community Members	 1,879 Total Trained Peacekeepers	 34 Trainings Conducted
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MY BROTHER'S KEEPER HOUSTON

**WIN**  **WIN**

Eliminating Hostile & Deadly Encounters between Youth and Police

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**WIN WIN**  HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT




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**WIN WIN**  HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT



*Eliminating hostile and deadly encounters between youth and police.*

**Purpose**  
 Increase students' knowledge and skills to have a successful WIN-WIN encounter with law enforcement; Provide a learning opportunity for officer's to further understand the inner-city youth learning and cognitive style.

**Objectives:**

- Create a standard of expectation for encounters with law enforcement
- Teach students that they have the power to determine and direct a successful encounter from beginning to end, including de-escalation, redirect and refocus
- Provide education on the basic rules for a successful encounter
- Ensure students are aware of their rights as a citizen

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**WIN WIN**  
Performance Indicators

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**School Year 2018-2019**



**Strategy:**  
Enroll 600 youth at Clifton Middle School, Wheatley, Scarborough High School in the Win-Win training

- November 2018- 150 Students enrolled at Wheatley HS.
- February 15, 2019- Projected 150 Students Enrolled
- February 20, 2019- Projected 150 Students Enrolled
- April 2019- Projected 150 Students Enrolled

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**WIN WIN**  
Performance Indicators

**HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**School Year 2017-2018**



**Strategy:**  
Enroll 500 youth at Kashmere, Wheatley, and Scarborough High School in the TAPS Academy and Win-Win training

**Accomplishments:**



**609** Youth were enrolled

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**ReDirect**

**HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



**ReDirect Diversion Program**

*Diversion program providing high-risk youth with close supervision and rehabilitation. Youth are diverted from out-of-home placement or commitment to the Texas Youth Commission*

**Purpose**  
Divert youth out of Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

**Initiatives:**

- TAPS Academy
- Sealing and/or expunction of criminal records
- Job and career readiness

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**ReDirect**  
Performance Indicators

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Accomplishments to date:

25 Caseload	15 Mentors Trained	78 Youth Screened	45 Capacity
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Total Number of Program Referrals: 86




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**Teen and Police Service Academy**

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT



*TAPS is targeted towards at-risk youth and the law enforcement that serve their communities*

**Purpose**  
Reduce the social distance between at-risk youth and law enforcement

11-week program curriculum focuses on three components:  
1) learning, 2) interaction, and 3) discussion

**Topics addressed includes:**

- Truancy
- Team Building
- Service Learning
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Active Shooter
- Safe Driving & Police Stops
- Victimization & Bullying

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**Teen and Police Service Academy**

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT




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**Learn More!** 

My Brother's Keeper Houston: <http://www.mbkhouston.org/MBK2017/homenew.html>

TAPS Academy: <http://www.tapsacademy.org/index>

Peacekeepers Movement: <https://www.peacekeepersmovement.org/>

Win Win: [https://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/peace\\_king.htm](https://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/peace_king.htm)

Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan: Coming Soon!

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**Contact Information** 

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<p><b>Youth Justice Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janis Bane – <a href="mailto:Janis.Bane@houstontx.gov">Janis.Bane@houstontx.gov</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>TAPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Everette Penn – <a href="mailto:Everette.Penn@houstontx.gov">Everette.Penn@houstontx.gov</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melissa Bing – <a href="mailto:Melissa.Bing@houstontx.gov">Melissa.Bing@houstontx.gov</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>ReDirect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karlton Harris – <a href="mailto:Karlton.Harris@houstontx.gov">Karlton.Harris@houstontx.gov</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Win Win</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omwale Allen – <a href="mailto:Omwale.Allen@houstontx.gov">Omwale.Allen@houstontx.gov</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>LEAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janis Bane – <a href="mailto:Janis.Bane@houstontx.gov">Janis.Bane@houstontx.gov</a></li> </ul>

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[www.mbkhouston.org](http://www.mbkhouston.org)



FOLLOW US AT

**MBKHOUSTON**

To learn more about our community resources, job opportunities and current projects that aims to improve the lives of all youth and adolescent health.

**Administrative Office**  
Houston Health Department  
8000 North Stadium Drive  
Houston, Texas 77054

**Youth Activity Center**  
Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center  
6402 Market Street  
Houston, Texas 77020

**Community Office**  
Kashmere Multi-Service Center  
4802 Lockwood Drive  
Houston, Texas 77026

**Community Center**  
Sunnyside Multi-Service Center  
9314 Cullen Blvd  
Houston, Texas 77033



**Social Media**

Twitter: @mbkhouston  
Facebook: MBK Houston Page  
Instagram: @mbkhouston  
YouTube: MBK Houston Channel  
LinkedIn: MBK Houston Page

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