D4.4: The Economic Impact of Gang Violence Prevention on Healthcare

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Abstract:
Introduction: Many communities in the United States are facing escalating gang violence. This problem is an increasing public health concern and the impact it has for healthcare providers is often under acknowledged. The economic impact of gang violence is felt from local businesses to the healthcare industry at large. It has been reported that annual treatment of gunshot victims ranges from $100 to $126 billion per year. Indirect hospital costs range from $73,000 for an emergency room visit to $249,000 per hospitalization for a gunshot victim. To examine the economic impact of gang violence prevention programs on the health care community and propose cost effective and proactive measures those health care representatives can use to reduce gang violence.

Method(s): A review of current literature identified research related to gang violence prevention as well as a case study synopsis of health care provider roles and engagement in gang violence reduction focused on deterrence partnerships across North Carolina.
**Results:** There are many ways for the health care industry to respond to gang violence that are cost effective. The cost of developing these programs is much more than a monetary one; an effective program not only decreases the gang membership, but indirectly decreases gang violence, thus decreasing the effects of gang violence on adolescents and others surrounded by it in the community.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** The cost of implementing gang prevention programs is something that communities need be cognizant of during this economic downturn period, yet we cannot afford to ignore this growing public health issue.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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