

Summer 2026 Teen Takeover Coverage & What Media Can Learn

What a review of 74 news stories reveals about sources, solutions and language

August 5, 2026

IN BRIEF

Across three months of "teen takeover" coverage, reporters leaned overwhelmingly on law enforcement and government officials. Forty-five percent of stories quoted no one outside government at all.

Young people were the rarest source category in coverage that was entirely about them, appearing in 15% of stories — less often than police, mayors, community members or academic experts.

The solutions included in news stories were almost uniformly punitive, such as youth curfews, arrests and parent fines, and appeared in all but one story, and were the only solution proposed in more than half of news stories (58%).

Sourcing was the dividing line. Stories that reached beyond institutional sources carried youth-centered solutions 61% of the time, against 18% for those that did not.

We asked several questions:

- What information did reporters include or not include?
- What sources did reporters use (e.g. law enforcement, official government sources, community members, academic experts, youth)?
- What kinds of solutions were proposed (e.g. pro-enforcement such as curfews; youth-centered such as free, safe, and accessible activities)?
- What language was used in describing these events and youth?

Overall, we found that reporters relied extensively on law enforcement and official government sources for their stories and that the proposed solutions were mostly pro-enforcement responses, such as youth curfews, arrests, and parent fines. While nearly all stories included youth curfews, only four stories provided evidence on the ineffectiveness of youth curfews. On the other hand, in the relatively few cases where reporters went beyond law enforcement or official government sources, their stories included youth-centered solutions much more often. Young people were the least quoted or cited sources in all these stories, appearing in only 15% of the coverage, although all the coverage was about young people.

I. Overview

Over the 2026 summer, "Teen Takeover" stories appeared in news outlets across the country. To understand what journalists, editors and newsrooms can learn from this news coverage, we conducted a basic review of news stories. The impetus for conducting this review was a concern about whether the youth-centered solutions that evidence shows work are widely known or being reported on. We reviewed stories published online in national, regional and local U.S. news outlets, including newspaper, radio and television between May 1, 2026 and July 26, 2026.

II. Findings

After reviewing each of 74 unique U.S. news stories, here's what we learned:

1. News coverage relied heavily on law enforcement & official government sources

- Law enforcement sources such as police, sheriffs or prosecutors were cited or quoted in 62 of the 74 news stories (84%).
- Fifteen news stories cited or quoted only law enforcement sources (20%).
- Thirty-three of the 74 stories (45%) never cited or quoted anyone outside government, i.e. law enforcement and other government sources, such as mayors, council members, city managers, prosecutors, attorneys general, and public safety directors.

2. Young people are cited or quoted in only 15% of the news stories

- Eleven of the 74 stories (15%) cited or quoted a young person.
- Young people were the rarest source category in this news coverage that is entirely about them.
- Young people were cited or quoted less often than police, mayors, council members, community members or academic experts.

3. Academic experts such as criminologists or law professors were cited or quoted almost entirely by national outlets and were absent from local TV

- Only 16 of the 74 stories (22%) cited or quoted an academic expert.
- Local TV was the largest single category in this review (26 stories) and not one story cited or quoted an academic expert, although every one of the news markets in this review has a nearby university with criminologists, social work faculty, or juvenile justice researchers.

- Even though nearly all of the stories discussed youth curfews, only four news stories presented criminological research on the ineffectiveness of youth curfews.

4. Solutions in news stories were overwhelmingly pro-enforcement

- Pro-enforcement solutions appeared in all but one of the news stories (99%).
- Pro-enforcement solutions were the *only* proposed solution in more than half (58%) of the news stories.
- The pro-enforcement solutions included: curfews and curfew zones, arrests, fines for parents, criminal charges against parents, prosecution of event organizers, RICO charges, drone surveillance, social-media monitoring, real-time intelligence centers, and cease-and-desist orders.

5. Few news stories focused on youth-centered solutions

- Less than half of the news stories included a youth-centered solution (42%), such as expanding recreation center hours on evenings & weekends; creating more safe, free and accessible spaces for teens; and investing in youth programs and activities, especially when school is out for the summer.

6. Follow up stories were few

- News stories in this analysis centered around the Memorial Day and July 4th weekends and then largely stopped.
- Few stories reported on what happened next, i.e. whether charges were filed or dropped, whether curfews were enforced evenly, whether the parents who were cited could pay, or whether the programs that cities announced actually opened.

7. Source selection tracked closely with whether youth-centered solutions appeared

- Of the 15 news stories that cited or quoted only law enforcement sources, only one included a youth-centered solution and none cited or quoted an academic expert.
- News stories confined to institutional sources (e.g. law enforcement and/or official government sources), 33 of the 74 stories, included youth solutions in 6 instances (18% of the time) and no academic experts.
- News stories reaching any non-institutional source, 41 of the 74 stories included youth solutions 61% of the time and academic experts 39%.
- In short, whether a story reached beyond institutional sources was the clearest dividing line between coverage that offered youth-centered solutions and coverage that did not.

8. More than one-quarter of news stories used criminalizing or dehumanizing language

- Criminalizing language, such as the words "unruly" or "chaotic" appeared in 21 of the 74 stories (28%).
- Several stories used more criminalizing language. For example, in one story, the reporter wrote of "swarms of urban youths" who, it said, lose their minds. Another called the gatherings "a scourge."
- Most stories did not mention the race, ethnicity, or gender of youth participants.

III. Recommendations

In light of these findings, what can journalists, editors and news organizations do right now to improve how they cover young people? Here are 10 recommendations:

1. Expand sources beyond police and official government sources

- Talk with the young people themselves about the event, why they attended, what there is for teens to do at night and on weekends that is safe, free and accessible, and what they want to see in their community.
- Talk with parents and caregivers, community-based organizations, violence interrupters, youth development experts, juvenile justice professionals, and the people who run programs for youth, such as recreation and park officials, librarians, and community and faith leaders.

2. Build a standing local expert list

- Identify young people, youth-serving organizations, community leaders, community-based organizations and academic experts to start building a list of trusted, responsive sources.

3. Make the sourcing check a standing editorial question

- News editors should ask: Does this story quote anyone outside of law enforcement or other official government sources?

4. Engage in investigative journalism to report stories that identify and examine barriers to youth-centered solutions

- Examine the youth infrastructure that already exists in your community. Most communities already have programs that serve young people: Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, teen centers, drop-in centers, recreation centers, school-based afterschool programs, pools, libraries, and other programs. Could these be expanded to more neighborhoods? Could they stay open later? What non-carceral solutions do their leaders suggest?
- Ask about any access barriers, such as membership fees that families can't afford to

pay, programming that isn't available for older teens, program hours that don't extend into the evenings and weekends, or lack of transportation to get to the program.

- Analyze your stories through a racial justice lens about who has access to what public spaces and who is perceived as a threat by law enforcement and ask the difficult questions of public officials and law enforcement, such as:
 - Why can't youth, especially youth of color, access the programs and supports that are already in the community?
 - What are public officials doing to provide safe, accessible and free spaces and activities for teens in the community?
 - What crimes are youth committing by being in a public space, such as a park, the beach, or recreation area?
 - Why are public officials and law enforcement responding to youth being in public spaces with arrests, curfews, and parent fines, when evidence shows much more effective alternatives exist such as community-based assessment centers (that connect youth with services), diversion and restorative justice programs (where young people face the people harmed, apologize and repair the harm), community violence interruption and credible messenger mentoring programs, workforce support and jobs programs, as well as other programs along the continuum of care that support youth, such as programs and approaches listed by the U.S. DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/research-statistics/about-crime-data-juvenile-justice-facts/what-works>
 - What opportunities, such as public hearings, have public officials hosted to hear directly from youth about their perspectives and recommendations?

5. Report what's known about whether the proposed "solution"

works

- When a policymaker proposes an enforcement solution, such as a youth curfew or a parental fine, call an academic expert (e.g. criminologist) to ask whether that approach has been evaluated and what was found.

6. Describe what actually happened & use appropriate language

- Ensure the language about what youth are actually doing in news stories is only descriptive. Remove sensationalized language such as unruly, frenzy, scourge, swarms, hordes, mobs, invasion, chaos, melee and mayhem.
- Describe young people in person-first language, such as youth, teenagers, students and children rather than using stigmatizing terms, such as juvenile, juvenile offender, or felon.
- Name the event by what it was, such as a large gathering, a promoted party, a social media meetup, and identify who organized it.

7. Report actual crowd size alongside arrest and injury counts

- Request that law enforcement provide information on crowd size and number of arrests.
- Request that local hospitals provide injury data.

8. Ask who was arrested and publish the breakdown

- Request that law enforcement provide the age, race and residency data on arrests as a matter of routine, and note in the story when law enforcement declines to provide them.

9. Localize wire copy instead of running it as is

- Include local data, local programs, and the perspectives of community members, youth, parents and academic experts in your area in wire stories. If no "teen takeovers" have taken place in your area, say so.

10. Do the next day story

- Find out what happened next, i.e. were charges filed or dropped, were curfews enforced evenly, did the alternative events cities announced actually happen, did cities make the budget investments in youth programs that they announced.
- Do a next day story about youth contributing to their communities, such as organizing a back-to-school event, a sports tournament, a festival or other event.

IV. Conclusion

This review of 74 news stories over the summer of 2026 provides some concrete details on what reporters covered, who they relied on for information, and the solutions proposed.

Coverage of these events may be driving policy in jurisdictions throughout the country. For example, a number of cities enacted youth curfews and parent fines, such as those detailed in this report by Stateline: <https://stateline.org/2026/07/01/cities-towns-nationwide-revive-teen-curfews-amid-summer-crowds/>.

As news stories can shape the public discourse and affect policymaking, reporting about young people can be more balanced, fair and accurate by including their perspectives and the solutions they propose.

V. Methodology

Method

This is a review of 74 unique news stories using the phrase "teen takeovers" or "street takeovers" involving youth published between May 1 and July 26, 2026, in national, regional and local U.S. news outlets. Stories were located through structured web searching using Claude AI. This produced a purposive sample. The design was chosen because it maps the range of coverage quickly and verifiably. We reviewed and coded each story on nine dimensions: presence of law enforcement sources; presence of any official government

(non-law-enforcement) sources; inclusion of academic experts; inclusion of youth / young adults; inclusion of community members; pro-enforcement solutions (e.g. arrests, curfews, parent fines, prosecution, surveillance); pro-youth solutions (e.g. diversion, programming, mentorship, spaces); whether framing extended beyond a single incident; descriptive language applied to young people; and the evidentiary basis for each coding decision.

Limitations

There are several limitations to this review. First, percentages describe these 74 stories and nothing beyond them. Because selection probabilities are unknown, margins of error, confidence intervals and significance tests do not apply. Second, the news stories in this analysis were identified by searching the phrase "teen takeover" or "street takeover" where youth were involved. That structurally excludes reporting on the same events that used different language. Third, search engines favor recent, heavily linked and well-optimized content. Paywalled outlets are underrepresented because full text was often inaccessible, and broadcast segments without web write-ups are largely invisible.

Appendix: News Coverage Analyzed

All news items coded for this analysis, May 1 through July 26, 2026, are listed in chronological order. The 91 items below represent 74 unique stories; the remainder are the 17 syndicated carries of the same reporting by other outlets.

May 2026

1. Responding to 'teen takeovers,' D.C. passes youth curfew through 2028

The Washington Post | May 5, 2026

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2026/05/05/dc-youth-curfew-approved/>

2. Tampa police arrest Black 12-year-old during 'teen takeover,' then illegally share name in press release

Creative Loafing Tampa | May 9, 2026

<https://www.cltampa.com/news/tampa-police-arrest-black-12-year-old-during-teen-takeover-then-illegally-share-name-in-press-release/>

3. Are 'teen takeovers' a real threat?

Ideastream Public Media (NPR member) | May 13, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NPR: Henning interview

<https://www.ideastream.org/npr-news/2026-05-13/are-teen-takeovers-a-real-threat>

4. Are teen takeovers dangerous?

NPR (All Things Considered) | May 13, 2026

<https://www.npr.org/2026/05/13/nx-s1-5818465/kristin-henning-teen-takeovers-threat-dangerous>

5. D.C. Council passes legislation to combat teen takeovers

AFRO American Newspapers | May 14, 2026

<https://afro.com/teen-takeovers-prompt-curfew-changes/>

6. Tampa advocates, parents push for solutions ahead of possible 'teen takeover' events

FOX 13 Tampa Bay | May 14, 2026

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/tampa-advocates-parents-solutions-possible-teen-takeover-events>

7. Detroit leaders push curfew enforcement after weekend 'teen takeover' turns violent

ClickOnDetroit / WDIV | May 18, 2026

<https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2026/05/18/detroit-leaders-push-curfew-enforcement-after-weekend-teen-takeover-turns-violent/>

8. Detroit's teen takeovers force a harder conversation

WDET 'The Metro' (Detroit public radio) | May 19, 2026

<https://wdet.org/2026/05/19/the-metro-detroits-teen-takeovers-force-hard-conversation/>

9. Six Arrested After Teen Takeover at Christiana Mall

WWD | May 19, 2026

<https://wwd.com/pop-culture/culture-news/tiktiok-arrests-teen-takeover-christiana-mall-1238971980/>

10. Rowdy teen takeover hits popular beach hot spot with wave of arrests, assaults, emergency curfew: video

Fox News | May 20, 2026

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/rowdy-teen-takeover-hits-popular-beach-hot-spot-wave-arrests-assaults-emergency-curfew-video>

11. Polk sheriff Judd warns kids, parents about 'teen takeovers'

Bay News 9 / Spectrum News | May 21, 2026

<https://baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2026/05/21/polk-sheriff-judd-warns-kids--parents-about--teen-takeovers>

12. Hundreds of young people take over NJ beach town, sparking chaos and curfew ahead of Memorial Day weekend

New York Post | May 21, 2026

<https://nypost.com/2026/05/21/us-news/hundreds-of-young-people-take-over-nj-beach-town-sparking-chaos-and-curfew-ahead-of-memorial-day-weekend/>

13. **DC juvenile curfew returns through June 6 after Navy Yard Chipotle brawl**
WJLA / ABC7 Washington | May 22, 2026
<https://wjla.com/news/local/washington-dc-youth-juvenile-curfew-zones-emergency-order-teen-takeover-navy-yard-chipotle-brawl-fight-unruly-kids-metropolitan-police-department-violence-breaking-public-safety-parents-crimes>
14. **Bowser signs emergency order reinstating teen curfew until DC Council's bill goes into effect**
Washington Examiner | May 22, 2026
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/crime/4579560/bowser-emergency-order-reinstate-teen-curfew/>
15. **Experts warn teen takeovers will surge this summer as cities brace**
Fox News | May 23, 2026
<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/inside-teen-takeovers-threatening-explode-summer-cities-remain-edge-very-worried>
16. **Viral teen takeovers spark chaos nationwide**
LiveNOW from FOX (video) | May 25, 2026
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLqeWBIGigc>
17. **Chicago alder considers fining parents over teen takeovers**
Axios Chicago | May 26, 2026
<https://www.axios.com/local/chicago/2026/05/26/chicago-fining-parents-teen-takeovers-hopkins-mayor-johnson-police>
18. **Teen Takeover Turmoil**
WJR-AM 760 (Detroit) | May 26, 2026
<https://www.wjr.com/2026/05/26/teen-takeover-turmoil/>
19. **City council weighs Chicago teen takeover ordinance after Hyde Park shooting**
ABC7 Chicago / WLS | May 27, 2026
<https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-shooting-3-shot-blocks-away-teen-takeover-57th-street-beach-hyde-park-police-say/19173062/>
20. **Community violence intervention members search for solutions to prevent 'teen takeovers'**
CBS News Chicago | May 27, 2026
<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/community-members-seek-solutions-to-teen-takeovers/>
21. **Mayor Johnson still opposed to stricter curfew and parent responsibility laws after holiday weekend mayhem**
Chicago Sun-Times | May 27, 2026
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2026/05/27/mayor-brandon-johnson-teen-takeovers-hyde-park-near-west-side-memorial-day-weekend-curfew-parent-responsibility-laws>
22. **City of Detroit weighs earlier teen curfew for fireworks night amid 'teen takeovers'**
ClickOnDetroit / WDIV | May 27, 2026
<https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2026/05/27/city-of-detroit-weighs-earlier-teen-curfew-for-fireworks-night-amid-teen-takeovers/>
23. **Concerns growing over how to curb 'teen takeovers' after more than 50 arrested over holiday weekend**
WGN-TV | May 27, 2026
<https://wgntv.com/news/chicago-news/more-than-50-arrested-after-teen-takeover-incidents-over-holiday-weekend/>
24. **'Teen Takeovers' Revive Chicago Debate Over Curfews And Parental Accountability**
Block Club Chicago | May 28, 2026
<https://blockclubchicago.org/2026/05/28/teen-takeovers-revive-chicago-debate-over-curfews-and-parental-accountability/>
25. **South Side youth weigh in on teen takeovers after recent gatherings turned violent**
CBS News Chicago (video) | May 28, 2026
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmcdmGk5vZI>
26. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC 5 Dallas-Fort Worth | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/4029766/>

27. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC 6 South Florida | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/3814644/>
28. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC Bay Area | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/4091135/>
29. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC Boston (national desk carry) | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/3956768/>
30. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC Chicago | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/3941683/>
31. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC Los Angeles | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/3896546/>
32. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC New York | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/6506614/>
33. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC News | May 28, 2026
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say-rcna347075>
34. **Teen 'takeovers' push cities to take action as experts see echoes of the Covid pandemic**
NBC Washington | May 28, 2026 | Syndicated carry of NBC News: 'Covid echoes'
<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/national-international/covid-pandemic-blame-teen-takeover-experts-say/4109887/>
35. **Multiple arrests after 'teen takeover' at Clearwater Beach**
Bay News 9 / Spectrum News | May 31, 2026
<https://baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2026/05/31/clearwater-beach-shooting>

June 2026

36. **15 years of flash mobs, teen trends, and takeovers: Chicago's repeating summer problem**
CWB Chicago | June 2, 2026
<https://cwbcichicago.com/2026/05/15-years-of-flash-mobs-teen-trends-and-takeovers-chicagos-repeating-summer-problem.html>
37. **'Teen takeovers' prompt police responses across the country**
ABC News | June 5, 2026
<https://abcnews.com/GMA/News/teen-takeovers-prompt-police-responses-country/story?id=133522899>
38. **Florida crackdown on 'teen takeovers' grows as new flyers circulate ahead of summer**
Florida's Voice | June 5, 2026
<https://flvoicenews.com/florida-crackdown-on-teen-takeovers-grows-as-new-flyers-circulate-ahead-of-summer/>
39. **Cops halt planned 'teen takeover' as officials brace for a summer surge in chaos and arrests: police chief**
Fox News | June 7, 2026
<https://www.foxnews.com/us/cops-halt-planned-teen-takeover-officials-brace-summer-surge-chaos-arrests-police-chief>
40. **Florida authorities say they thwarted a planned 'teen takeover' at St Augustine Beach via social media**
Fox News | June 8, 2026
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/florida-authorities-say-thwarted-planned-teen-takeover-st-augustine-beach-via-social-media>
41. **Why 'teen takeovers' are taking off**
PBS NewsHour Classroom | June 9, 2026
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/classroom/daily-news-lessons/2026/06/why-teen-takeovers-are-taking-off>

42. **Teen takeover planned for Florida beach thwarted; cops say they used social media against organizers**
The Blaze | June 9, 2026
<https://www.theblaze.com/news/teen-takeover-planned-for-florida-beach-thwarted-cops-say-they-used-social-media-against-organizers>
43. **Florida cracks down on organized teen takeovers: 'We will keep our streets safe'**
FOX 13 Tampa Bay | June 11, 2026
<https://www.fox13news.com/news/florida-cracks-down-organized-teen-takeovers-we-will-keep-our-streets-safe>
44. **Florida cracks down on organized teen takeovers: 'We will keep our streets safe'**
FOX 35 Orlando | June 11, 2026 | Syndicated carry of FOX: Florida crackdown
<https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/florida-cracks-down-organized-teen-takeovers-we-will-keep-our-streets-safe>
45. **Law enforcement warns they're getting tough on 'teen takeovers' in Florida**
Florida Politics | June 11, 2026
<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/801455-law-enforcement-warns-theyre-getting-tough-on-teen-takeovers-in-florida/>
46. **Preemptive efforts take down 'teen takeover' at Clearwater Beach**
WFLA News Channel 8 | June 11, 2026
<https://www.wfla.com/news/pinellas-county/preemptive-efforts-take-down-teen-takeover-at-clearwater-beach/>
47. **Bowser reinstates limited youth curfew in DC**
The Hill | June 14, 2026
<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/5923169-dc-mayor-reinstates-minors-curfew/>
48. **D.C. Escalating Response to Teen Takeover Chaos**
RealClearPolitics | June 15, 2026
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2026/06/15/dc_escalating_response_to_teen_takeover_chaos_154225.html
49. **Law enforcement warns they're getting tough on 'teen takeovers' in Florida**
The Miami Times | June 16, 2026 | Syndicated carry of Florida Politics: 'getting tough'
https://www.miamitimesonline.com/news/florida/law-enforcement-warns-they-re-getting-tough-on-teen-takeovers-in-florida/article_4b9266c4-254c-49c6-a2b1-8b6779b10bf4.html
50. **Charlotte-Mecklenburg police enforcing curfew to cut down on 'deeply concerning' teen takeovers**
WBTV | June 17, 2026
<https://www.wbvtv.com/2026/06/17/charlotte-mecklenburg-police-enforcing-curfew-cut-down-deeply-concerning-teen-takeovers/>
51. **D.C. escalating response to teen-takeover chaos**
WND (WorldNetDaily) | June 21, 2026 | Syndicated carry of RealClearPolitics: DC escalating
<https://www.wnd.com/2026/06/d-c-escalating-response-teen-takeover-chaos/>
52. **Chicago 'teen takeovers': Local youth weigh in on how to prevent mass gatherings, enforce curfews**
ABC7 Chicago / WLS | June 24, 2026
<https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-teen-takeovers-local-youth-weigh-how-prevent-mass-gatherings-enforce-curfews-amid-violent-summer-2026/19370275/>
53. **Detroit detained 180 minors for curfew violations during fireworks**
BridgeDetroit | June 24, 2026
<https://www.bridgedetroit.com/detroit-detained-180-minors-for-curfew-violations-during-fireworks/>

July 2026

54. **Police brace for 'teen takeover' chaos ahead of Fourth of July weekend**
The Washington Times | July 3, 2026
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2026/jul/3/police-brace-teen-takeover-chaos-ahead-fourth-july-weekend/>
55. **BPD commissioner blasts street party 'takeover' after violent Fourth of July**
Spectrum News 1 Buffalo | July 5, 2026
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2026/07/05/violent-fourth-of-july-overnight-in-city-of-buffalo>

56. **Teen Takeover hits Brier Creek, Glenwood South in Raleigh, community calls for parental accountability after night of violence**
ABC11 / WTVD | July 6, 2026
<https://abc11.com/post/teen-takeover-hits-brier-creek-glenwood-south-raleigh-community-calls-parental-accountability-night-violence/19461345/>
57. **Raleigh activist speaks on 'disturbing' teen takeover chaos**
ABC11 / WTVD | July 6, 2026
<https://abc11.com/post/teen-takeover-nc-raleigh-activist-speaks-disturbing-chaos/19465177/>
58. **Buffalo Police commissioner details a hectic, violent holiday weekend**
BTPM NPR (Buffalo Toronto Public Media) | July 6, 2026
<https://www.btpm.org/local/2026-07-06/buffalo-police-commissioner-details-a-hectic-violent-holiday-weekend>
59. **Takeover mob hits Newport Beach, over 400 arrested July Fourth weekend**
Fox News | July 6, 2026
<https://www.foxnews.com/us/mayhem-erupts-wealthy-coastal-enclave-hundreds-arrested-massive-takeover-july-fourth-weekend>
60. **Newport Beach TikTok Takeover Ends With 402 Arrests**
Los Angeles Magazine | July 6, 2026
<https://lamag.com/crimeinla/wild-teens-in-tiktok-takeover-invade-newport-beach-looting-stores-attacking-cops/>
61. **'This cannot be who Buffalo is,' police commissioner says after violent weekend**
The Buffalo News | July 6, 2026
https://buffalonews.com/news/local/article_967e6826-b10c-4d5b-96db-259704a4fe20.html
62. **California's 'Teen Takeover': Chaos Erupts in Wealthy City**
The Daily Signal | July 6, 2026
<https://www.dailysignal.com/2026/07/06/californias-teen-takeover-trend/>
63. **Commissioner Shields on Fourth of July Weekend violence: 'They came to create chaos'**
WBEN / Audacy | July 6, 2026
<https://www.audacy.com/wben/news/local/latest-buffalo-police-commissioner-erika-shields-addresses-weekend-shootings>
64. **BPD analysis of what happened with E. Delevan Street takeover event**
WGRZ Channel 2 | July 6, 2026
<https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/local/buffalo/bpd-analysis-of-what-happened-with-east-delevan-street-takeover-event/71-581eb1fe-11bf-40b0-ba78-0f9ac0101f54>
65. **BPD commissioner targets party promoter as cause of July 4 violence**
WIVB News 4 Buffalo | July 6, 2026
<https://www.wivb.com/news/local-news/buffalo/bpd-commissioner-targets-party-promotor-as-cause-of-july-4-violence/>
66. **Raleigh to consider teen curfew after Glenwood South, Brier Creek violence on July 4**
WRAL | July 6, 2026
<https://www.wral.com/news/local/glenwood-brier-creek-holiday-violence-curfew-july-2026/>
67. **What We Learned at Raleigh's Teen Takeover Council Meeting**
Raleigh Magazine | July 7, 2026
<https://raleighmag.com/2026/07/07/teen-takeover-raleigh/>
68. **Buffalo officials respond to violent July 4 weekend**
The Buffalo News | July 7, 2026
https://buffalonews.com/news/local/crime-courts/article_6f8c34d3-a2c6-4f8c-8f4e-8e8174a04843.html
69. **How Commiefornia's 'Teen Takeover' Crime Trend Is Spreading**
The Liberty Daily (aggregator) | July 7, 2026 | Syndicated carry of Daily Signal: Newport Beach
<https://thelibrarydaily.com/how-commiefornias-teen-takeover-crime-trend-is-spreading/>
70. **Raleigh's mayor, police chief in support of proposed teen curfew after Fourth of July violence**
WRAL | July 7, 2026
<https://www.wral.com/news/local/raleigh-glenwood-brier-creek-violence-teen-july-2026/>

71. **Raleigh council considers curfew, youth resources in wake of 'teen takeover' on Glenwood Ave**
WUNC (North Carolina Public Radio) | July 7, 2026
<https://www.wunc.org/term/news/2026-07-07/raleigh-city-council-curfew-youth-resources-teen-takeover-brier-creek-glenwood-south>
72. **Teen takeover NC: Arrest made, Raleigh drafting teen curfew ordinance**
ABC11 / WTVD | July 8, 2026
<https://abc11.com/post/teen-takeover-nc-arrest-made-raleigh-drafting-curfew-ordinance/19471150/>
73. **Raleigh considers teen curfew after 'takeovers' led to shootings**
Spectrum News 1 North Carolina | July 8, 2026
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2026/07/08/raleigh-curfew-takeover-council-police>
74. **Raleigh leaders call for community action after 'teen takeover' weekend**
Spectrum News 1 North Carolina | July 8, 2026
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2026/07/08/teen-takeover-boys-and-girls-club>
75. **Newport Beach teen takeover: Hundreds arrested, nearly half from Arizona**
AZFamily (Arizona's Family) | July 9, 2026
<https://www.azfamily.com/2026/07/09/newport-beach-teen-takeover-hundreds-arrested-nearly-half-arizona/>
76. **Believe the Hype About Teen Takeovers**
The Atlantic | July 10, 2026
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/2026/07/teen-takeovers-violence-dc/687866/>
77. **'Teen takeovers' confound cities struggling to define the problem, find solutions**
The Washington Post | July 11, 2026
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2026/07/11/teen-takeovers-confound-cities-struggling-define-problem-find-solutions/>
78. **'Teen Takeovers' Are a Growing Problem, and Cities Haven't a Clue of What to Do About Them**
PJ Media | July 14, 2026
<https://pjmedia.com/trick-moran/2026/07/14/teen-takeovers-are-a-growing-problem-and-cities-havent-a-clue-of-what-to-do-about-them-n4955016>
79. **New proposal would change curfew to 9 p.m. for anyone under 18 in Charlotte**
QCNews / WJZY | July 14, 2026
<https://www.qcnews.com/charlotte/new-proposal-would-change-curfew-to-9-p-m-for-anyone-under-18-in-charlotte/>
80. **Charlotte City Council considering juvenile curfew change amid teen takeover concerns: What to know**
WBTV | July 14, 2026
<https://www.wbtv.com/2026/07/14/charlotte-city-council-considering-juvenile-curfew-change-amid-teen-takeover-concerns-what-know/>
81. **NC's largest cities poised to strengthen curfews amid growing 'teen takeovers'**
NC Newsline | July 15, 2026
<https://ncnewsline.com/2026/07/15/ncs-largest-cities-poised-to-strengthen-curfews-amid-growing-teen-takeovers/>
82. **Newport Beach Looks to Take Down 'Teen Takeovers'**
Voice of OC | July 15, 2026
<https://voiceofoc.org/2026/07/newport-beach-looks-to-take-down-teen-takeovers/>
83. **Long-term DC youth curfew taking effect to rein in 'teen takeovers'**
Washington Examiner | July 16, 2026
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/crime/4651079/dc-youth-curfew-zones-teen-takeover/>
84. **Curfews, Drones, and Criminal Charges: Cities Differ on Approaches to 'Teen Takeovers'**
The Marshall Project | July 18, 2026
<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/07/18/teen-takeover-police-curfew>
85. **The Scourge of Teen Takeovers**
City Journal | July 20, 2026
<https://www.city-journal.org/article/teen-takeovers-streets-us-cities-looting>

86. **'D.T.?' How two letters can start a 'teen takeover' in Charlotte**
Public Radio East | July 24, 2026 | Syndicated carry of WFAE: 'D.T.?'
<https://www.publicradioeast.org/2026-07-24/d-t-how-two-letters-can-start-a-teen-takeover-in-charlotte>
87. **'D.T.?' How two letters can start a 'teen takeover' in Charlotte**
WFAE 90.7 (Charlotte NPR) | July 24, 2026
<https://www.wfae.org/crime-justice/2026-07-24/d-t-how-two-letters-can-start-a-teen-takeover-in-charlotte>
88. **How the lighthearted social media trend of 'teen takeovers' took a serious turn**
Associated Press (via KSAT) | July 25, 2026
<https://www.ksat.com/news/national/2026/07/25/how-the-lighthearted-social-media-trend-of-teen-takeovers-took-a-serious-turn/>
89. **Gen Z 'teen takeovers' go from hijinks to shootings, theft and vandalism. Blame 'adolescent brain development'**
Fortune | July 25, 2026 | Syndicated carry of AP: 'lighthearted trend'
<https://fortune.com/2026/07/25/gen-z-teen-takeovers-brain-science-racketeering-charges/>
90. **What's a 'teen takeover'? Cities around the US are finding out**
WGAU Radio (Cox Media) | July 25, 2026 | Syndicated carry of AP: 'lighthearted trend'
<https://www.wgauradio.com/news/national/how-lighthearted/67K5DQGL7A2QBCEO5XNVKQWIX4/>
91. **How the lighthearted social media trend of 'teen takeovers' took a serious turn**
WUSF (Tampa NPR) | July 26, 2026 | Syndicated carry of AP: 'lighthearted trend'
<https://www.wusf.org/courts-law/2026-07-26/how-the-lighthearted-social-media-trend-of-teen-takeovers-took-a-serious-turn>

ABOUT REPORT FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Report for Youth Justice helps journalists tell fairer, more complete stories about young people impacted by the juvenile justice system — grounded in data and research, and centered on youth sharing their perspectives and solutions.

<https://reportforyouthjustice.org/>

This paper was prepared by Liz Ryan for the Report for Youth Justice issues series on youth.