PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE
COMMUNITY AWARENESS BULLETIN
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THE KNOCKOUT GAME

A disturbing new "game" that is sweeping the nation has reportedly caused deaths in Missouri, New York, and New Jersey. Perpetrators have dubbed the brutal practice as the "knockout game" in which young people prey upon unsuspecting adults and try to randomly knock out strangers with one punch called the 'one hitter quitter'.[1] If the victim is not knocked out after the initial hit, the participants continue to assault them until they are unconscious or they escape.[2] The trend has gained popularity through social media with accomplices going online boasting about their recent assaults.[3] In many instances, the attacks have been caught on camera and are later posted online.[4]

Cities such as New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Chicago, Hoboken, and Washington D.C. have had knockout attacks which have led to several injuries and deaths.[5]

- On 11/23/2013, the New York Police Department (NYPD) arrested four men for a "knockout" attack of a 24-year-old in Brooklyn. In May of 2013, a 51-year-old man died after being attacked by a group of teens playing the game.[6] Eight similar attacks are being investigated by the NYPD to determine if they are part of the growing trend.[7]
- On 11/21/2013, a police department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania arrested two suspects in connection with a "knockout game" style attack on a man who was walking his dog. The 63-year-old victim observed a man run by him and a second man walking towards him. He was then punched in the mouth, knocking him to the ground. LMTPD is attempting to determine if the latest incident is related to a similar attack that occurred in September 2013.[8]
- On 11/11/2013, a Cumberland County, Pennsylvania man was a victim of what was believed to be the "knockout game." The man was asked by a youth if he had a cigarette and when he reached into his pocket, he was punched several times by three or four individuals. On 11/14/2013, authorities arrested a 15-year-old in connection with the assault.[9]
- In September 2013, a homeless man died in Hoboken, New Jersey as a result of a broken neck. Authorities believe he was possibly the victim of the "knockout game."[10]
- The New Haven Police Department in Connecticut is investigating six incidents that occurred in October of 2013, to determine if they are part of the this disturbing trend.[11]

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings.
- While walking on streets, sidewalks or other public places, avoid wearing earphones or ear buds, talking on your phone, or playing with your phone, all of which divert your attention from your surroundings.
- Avoid large groups of teens or young adults and if encountered, attempt to walk away or move to the other side of the street. If you believe you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
- **Immediately report all criminal activity and suspicious behavior to your local police department for investigation.**

[1] Bello,Marisol (2013, November 23). 'Knockout game' leads to arrests, more police patrols. USA Today. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/22/knockout-game-arrests/3676649/.
[2] Bello,Marisol (2013, November 23). 'Knockout game' leads to arrests, more police patrols. USA Today. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/22/knockout-game-arrests/3676649/.
[3] Velez,Natasha, Mongelli, Lorena, and Saul, Josh (2012, November 22). Jewish man clocked in 'knockout' attack. *New York Post.* Retrieved on 11/23/2013 from: http://nypost.com/2013/11/22/nypd-hate-crime-unit-probing-brooklyn-knockout-attack/.
[4] Bello,Marisol (2013, November 23). 'Knockout game' leads to arrests, more police patrols. USA Today. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/22/knockout-game-arrests/3676649/.
[5] Bello,Marisol (2013, November 23). 'Knockout game' leads to arrests, more police patrols. USA Today. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/22/knockout-game-arrests/3676649/.
[6] Lattanzio, Vince and Chang, David (2013, November 23). Cyclist Beaten in "Knockout Game" Attack. NBC 10 Philadelphia. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Cyclist-Beaten-in-Knockout-Style-Attack-233101141.html.
[7] Velez,Natasha, Mongelli, Lorena, and Saul, Josh (2012, November 22). Jewish man clocked in 'knockout' attack. *New York Post.* Retrieved on 11/23/2013 from: http://nypost.com/2013/11/22/nypd-hate-crime-unit-probing-brooklyn-knockout-attack/.
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[9] Nark,Jason (2013, November 27). Pa. Officials on Lookout for 'Knockout Game' Assaults." EMSworld.com. Retrieved on 12/09/2013 from: http://www.emsworld.com/news/11251257/pa-officials-on-lookout-for-knockout-game-assaults.
[10] Bello,Marisol (2013, November 23). 'Knockout game' leads to arrests, more police patrols. USA Today. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/22/knockout-game-arrests/3676649/.
[11] Bello,Marisol (2013, November 23). 'Knockout game' leads to arrests, more police patrols. USA Today. Retrieved on 11/24/2013 from: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/22/knockout-game-arrests/3676649/.

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