

# NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION UPDATE

2010-2016



OJJDP



DEFENDING CHILDHOOD  
PROTECT HEALTH THRIVE



# NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, Community-Based Violence Prevention, and Defending Childhood initiatives reflect a movement of stakeholders that include communities, nonprofits, and local and federal governments to end youth violence. This movement gives voice to parents, youths, teachers, police officers, social workers, and others in the communities most affected by crime by providing scientific approaches that can make lasting impacts. This approach gives communities the tools to lessen the grip of violence and create social change that leads to increased child well-being and safety.

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“When a child opens fire on another child, there’s a hole in that child’s heart that government can’t fill, only community and parents and teachers and clergy can fill that hole... And so that means that this is not just a gun issue, it’s also an issue of the kinds of communities we are building—and in that, we all share a responsibility.” – President Barack Obama

“It is easier to build strong children  
than to repair broken men.”

– Frederick Douglass

## INTRODUCTION

Most Americans will agree that our children are our greatest national resource.

The national youth violence prevention strategy comprises three signature initiatives: the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention (Forum), the Community-Based Violence Prevention (CBVP) program, and the Defending Childhood initiative.

Taken as a whole, these initiatives represent a strategy and framework that leverages cross-sector, multilevel, and community-based collaborations. The strategy engages a broad spectrum of local leaders, law enforcement executives, educators, youth-serving practitioners, agency heads from various public systems, and youths and their families.

To achieve their goals of violence prevention, crime reduction, norms change, and well-being, these innovative strategies employ joint decision-making, shared governance, and collective impact.

Achieving our shared goals will not be easy. And progress may not come immediately. When Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the March on Washington in 1963, he referred to the “fierce urgency of now.”

He reminded a divided nation that we need one another—and that we are stronger when we march forward, together. Creating a better future for our children and youth is a cause that unifies us.

This update provides a survey of the salient features and impacts of these three violence prevention initiatives. We invite you to learn more about these and other programs at <http://www.youth.gov>.

Please join us in our efforts to ensure that children are healthy, safe, and educated.

## Federal and local partnerships

Today, 39 sites across the nation are working in partnership with the federal government to end youth violence by:

- Drawing on expertise and resources from a shared framework
- Addressing root causes rather than symptoms
- Using a multidisciplinary approach to focus on common outcomes
- Engaging important public and private stakeholders and assets
- Using trauma-based approaches

These partnerships are based on real-time and peer-to-peer information sharing. They also include widespread community support and engagement. And they have brought about real and lasting change.

This effort also brings together law enforcement communities and faith communities, called “Communities of Practice.” Each group convenes either faith leaders or law enforcement officials from across the country to discuss success, common challenges, and emerging trends that may require different types and levels of intervention.

## Overview:

# NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Until recently, many cities lacked effective interventions that focused on prevention or addressed any root risk factors that lead to violent behavior.

That changed in 2010, when the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education and other federal agencies united in a singular mission: to prevent and reduce youth violence across the nation.

With this mission in mind, the initiatives coalesced around a definitive body of research demonstrating that youth violence is not inevitable. That understanding also prompted a government-wide shift in the approach to juvenile justice—from enforcement to public health.

Through an organized, well-coordinated, sustained, and resourced effort, we can go beyond interrupting the cycle of violence; we can prevent it.

## Addressing root causes

Violence results from the complex interplay of multiple factors. Prevention and intervention strategies must be equally nuanced, addressing root causes beyond the symptoms. In addition, these strategies, when coupled with existing law enforcement efforts, have yielded important gains.

The most effective violence prevention strategies are developmentally based responses, tailored to the individual. They also address risk and protective factors and provide opportunities for positive development.

Neighborhoods greatly influence health and education outcomes, too. Effective prevention and intervention strategies must account for the impact of impoverished or segregated neighborhoods on youth and children, such as environmental hazards, high crime rates, poor quality of housing and schools, and lack of access to healthy food and physical activities.

## A Shared Framework

The Shared Framework to Reduce Youth Violence and Promote Well-Being (Shared Framework) was developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That framework is common ground for those working to reduce youth violence, and it extends across all three initiatives.

The framework engenders understanding and collective action with a unifying paradigm and common language. It also describes values, action principles, and a theory of change built on three decades of research and practice.

Stakeholders use the Shared Framework to bring their own perspectives into alignment with others, propelling their work with families, communities, and states working toward the same goals.

Funders and policymakers use the Shared Framework to develop joint policy statements, standardize language for funding requests, and develop shared program and funding priorities.

The Shared Framework provides a common path for collective action.

### Evidenced-based programs

Among the distinguishing features of the three initiatives is a strong emphasis on evidence-based programs (EBPs). One example of this is the Community-Based Violence Prevention initiative, which uses three evidence-based models that have demonstrated their efficacy through research and evaluation to high-risk, gang-affiliated violence. The 16 cities that implement this initiative draw on the research and resources either from one, two, or all three models to provide interventions for violence, especially gang violence.

Beyond this specialized intervention, EBPs are leveraged across the other two initiatives to provide strong causal evidence and provide confidence in the expected results and impact of the intervention. Rather than relying on anecdotal or qualitative evidence, rigorous research in youth violence prevention provides cities effective blueprints that can bring real gains.

### Using trauma-based approaches

When children are exposed to violence, it can harm their developmental growth and create lasting scars. But applying what we know about youth development and the impact of trauma can help stop—and even prevent—the cycle of violence.

The youth violence prevention strategy embeds both positive youth development activities and trauma-informed care practices. The cities implementing the Defending Childhood initiative, as well as most of the cities implementing the Forum, employ a plethora of trauma-based strategies.

Trauma-informed care identifies, assesses, and heals people injured by or exposed to violence and other traumatic events. When youth workers and others recognize the signs of trauma, they can adapt their responses by applying best practices and policies to avoid retraumatizing individuals. Learn more at <http://youth.gov/youth-topics/preventing-youth-violence/>.

## The Forum has three goals:

- 1 Elevate youth and gang violence as an issue of national significance.
- 2 Enhance the capacity of participating localities, as well as others across the country, to more effectively prevent youth and gang violence.
- 3 Sustain progress and systems change through engagement, alignment and assessment.

The Forum is centered on shared outcomes. We work as one to address youth violence and achieve common goals.

Every community has different areas of focus and employs different models or methods. The Forum model accommodates a range of system reforms and evidence-based strategies.

At the same time, the Forum model ensures consistency and accountability. It promotes the use of community assessments and strategic planning that use data to inform decision-making, improve programs and ensure that programming is relevant.

# Overview: THREE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice, through its Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), funded three initiatives:

- The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention (Forum)
- Community-Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
- The Defending Childhood initiative

Collectively, these initiatives reflect an important realization: Youth violence is not one sector's problem to solve. It affects every aspect of a community's health and vitality.

Ending youth violence is a many-faceted mission. It means that families, neighborhoods and communities must work to address prevention, intervention, treatment, and reentry strategies. It requires diverse partners to coordinate and integrate multiple strategies.

These three initiatives reflect that thinking. They embed evidence-based programs, best practices, and promising strategies.

They draw on multiple disciplines and broad federal agency expertise, including the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development, as well as the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. And they address the essential components of community life and youth development through the combined efforts of local businesses, philanthropic organizations, faith-based organizations, and other youth- and community-serving groups.

Together, the Forum, CBVP, and Defending Childhood provide a comprehensive, balanced roadmap to promote the healthy development and well-being of children and youth by eliminating violence and victimization.

## Technical Support

An interagency group—comprising OJJDP and its federal partners—aligns local site resources with federal resources.

The group, in partnership with the training and technical assistance providers, administers technical assistance, oversight and capacity building to the 39 grantee sites, working directly with them to address emerging needs, spur local action, and improve operational efficiency to effectively address youth violence.

Training and technical assistance also provides strategic plan development and crisis management, aligning enhancements with other local initiatives, onsite trainings, and cross-initiative learning.

9  
OUT OF  
15

National Forum cities reported reductions in homicides and juvenile violent crime during 2014

The Community-Based Violence Prevention Program cities reported



reduced gun violence



increased community engagement

The Defending Childhood Initiative has built local capacity by supporting:

600 professional trainings  
723 awareness events  
538 publications and advertisements

## The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

(Forum) represents a network of 15 communities and federal agencies that work together, share information, and build local capacity. Communities use prevention, intervention, enforcement and reentry strategies to stop violence and sustain their accomplishments.

The Forum is supported by a Federal Coordinating Team that includes the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, Housing, Labor, and Health and Human Services, among others, to align efforts and resources.

## The Community-Based Violence Prevention Program

(CBVP) concentrates on stopping youth gang and gun violence in 16 cities through evidenced-based deterrence and public health approaches. CBVP is characterized by partnerships among law enforcement, service providers, residents, and community- and faith-based organizations.

**The Defending Childhood initiative** seeks to prevent and more fully understand the impact of trauma resulting from children's exposure to violence (CEV). CEV is associated with long-term physical, mental, and emotional harm. It puts children and youth at greater risk of failure in school and in the workforce, making future victimization and involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice system more likely.

To interrupt the cycle of violence and its negative consequences, the Department of Justice awarded grants to six communities and two tribal nations to implement evidence-based treatment, community-based solutions for violence prevention, and to revise policies and practices within the public systems that serve children and families.

**“We don’t view this [National Forum] as just another government program or another initiative, this is about life and death.”**

– Angel Rios, Jr., Director of the Parks Recreation Services Dept., San Jose



## A Forum grant was Micah’s lifeline

“Life is defined by your hurdles, and my hardest hurdle started when I was 13,” says Micah. His family became homeless. Then he was on his own in Boston.

A Forum grant was Micah’s lifeline. He had the chance to learn coding at Resilient Lab in Boston. Today, Micah is a software engineer at the Boston Globe. When asked about who he looks up to, his response was:

“My mission is to try to make [myself] someone to look up to.”

**Learn more**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU1UunsFgpU>

## The Defending Childhood initiative at work in Grand Forks, North Dakota

It’s hard to concentrate at school when you know your mother is being physically abused at home. “My mom had a broken nose and two black eyes,” says Kyle. “I was still a kid, but I felt like it was my fault, because I wasn’t there to protect her.”

Today, Kyle is 18 and has a promising future. A Defending Childhood initiative grant helped him get through school. “I learned how to concentrate and handle situations, which made my life less lonely and a lot happier,” he says.

# CITIES AND SITES

## Profiles and Achievements

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>Baltimore, Maryland</b>			
Baltimore is leveraging its Forum grant to support a Cradle-to-Career pipeline of positive youth development opportunities through B'More for Youth! Collaborative. Through Cure Violence, it targets violence in key neighborhoods, developing community relationships, identifying survivors and engaging in conflict mediation. Baltimore's CBVP program, known as Safe Streets, uses targeted intervention to specifically address gun violence, in the hopes of reducing fatal and non-fatal shootings in targeted neighborhoods.	Forum CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to reduce fatal and non-fatal shootings through Safe Streets</li> <li>- Connecting youth to job training, education or employment</li> <li>- Expanded intervention activities to 5 community sites</li> <li>- Improving outcomes in mediations</li> </ul>	Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> <li>- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)</li> <li>- Nurse Family Practitioners</li> <li>- CeaseFire</li> </ul> CBVP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Baton Rouge, Louisiana</b>			
Baton Rouge is focusing on preventing youth violence in at-risk neighborhoods with positive activities for younger children. It's also implementing trauma-informed care in schools. The community has replaced hopelessness with the belief that they can solve their problems together.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed collaborative community response to violence, partnering with law enforcement</li> <li>- Improved case management results</li> <li>- Ongoing training in substance abuse and mental illness for law enforcement</li> <li>- Implementing trauma-informed care into school/social programs</li> <li>- Launched a youth summer wellness program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gun Violence Reduction Strategy</li> <li>- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)</li> </ul>
<b>Boston, Massachusetts</b>			
Building on its history of collaboration, community involvement and innovation to address youth violence, Boston is enhancing and coordinating its multidisciplinary and data-driven strategies around prevention, intervention, enforcement and reentry. Planning with partners has clarified the city's strengths, challenges and long-term focus areas.	Forum CBVP Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decreased homicides in 2015 by 25% vs. 2014: lowest in 16 years</li> <li>- Continuous declines in Part One Crime and arrests</li> <li>- Expanded Violence Interrupter program, including gang intervention and prevention outreach</li> <li>- Creating new opportunities for youth through police/faith community partnerships</li> <li>- Trained 230 youth program peer leaders</li> <li>- Reached 185 families through Family Nurturing Programs</li> </ul>	Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive Behavior Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- Trauma Informed Care</li> <li>- Boston About Results</li> </ul> Defending Childhood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attachment Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC)</li> <li>- Nurturing Parenting Program</li> <li>- Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)</li> <li>- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT)</li> </ul> CBVP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Cure Violence (violence interrupter)</li> <li>- Richmond Homicide Units social norms model</li> </ul>

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>Brooklyn, New York</b>			
Brooklyn is taking a multifaceted approach to reduce shooting and killings, beginning with norm change and community mobilization to shift beliefs and promote healthy changes. Save Our Streets tracks gun violence incidences in Crown Heights, engaging a wide population and many community organizations to mobilize prevention efforts.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing gun violence through Save Our Streets (S.O.S.)</li> <li>- Leveraged CBVP grant for additional \$14 million in funding from NYC/nonprofits</li> <li>- Provided case management and employment assistance to 25 youth outreach workers</li> <li>- Expanded Cure Violence model across NYC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Camden, New Jersey</b>			
Camden focuses on the root causes of violence, including urgent public safety issues. The Camden Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Task Force addresses hot spots for crime/violence: neighborhoods that align with Promise Neighborhoods and Choice Neighborhoods initiatives, leveraging existing investments and collaborations for greater, faster impact.	Forum  CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Created a Cure4Camden Community Survey to assess violence beliefs in 4 target neighborhoods</li> <li>- Increased percentage of Camden residents with appropriate beliefs about violence and its risks</li> <li>- Established goals to reduce shootings, homicides, ER visits related to gunshot injuries and juvenile arrests</li> </ul>	Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Intervention &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> </ul> CBVP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Chicago, Illinois</b>			
Chicago is investing deeply in primary prevention programs with a broad reach, deploying targeted, evidence-based strategies. The Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago includes 130+ staff, youth experts, community leaders, parents and youth who are managing the implementation of the city's youth violence prevention plan.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Violent crime dropped to a 50-year low recently in 67/77 communities</li> <li>- 33% reduction in public school suspensions for 2013/2014 school year</li> <li>- Placing high-risk youth in summer jobs</li> <li>- Gang Enforcement officers visiting victims' schools</li> </ul>	Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- Becoming a Man (BAM)</li> <li>- Match Tutoring</li> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Youth Shooting Review</li> </ul>
<b>Chippewa Cree Tribe, Montana</b>			
Together with law enforcement, Social Services and other partners, the Tribe is educating community members on the impacts of youth violence, and providing needed services to victims. It is reinforcing traditions and spirituality and engaging many families in positive events.	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing services to those exposed to violence</li> <li>- New program serving domestic/sexual violence victims</li> <li>- Created child advocacy program</li> <li>- Creating action plans for child welfare cases shared by social service entities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- American Indian Life Skills</li> <li>- Chippewa Cree Positive Indian Parenting curriculum</li> </ul>
<b>Cleveland, Ohio</b>			
Cleveland draws on its past success with an ongoing anti-gang initiative, integrating multiple data streams, ideas from community listening sessions, and lessons from its Defending Childhood initiative. Diverse stakeholders are collaborating to reduce violence.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanding programs to include violence prevention and development needs for 15 – 25 year-olds</li> <li>- Improving policy/community relations with youth through engagement activities and training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gun violence Reduction Strategy</li> <li>- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)</li> <li>- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)</li> <li>- Trauma Informed Care</li> <li>- G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training)</li> <li>- Operation Night Light</li> </ul>

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>Cuyahoga County, Ohio</b>			
<p>The county is increasing awareness of and responses to childhood exposure to violence, developing trauma-informed policies, and expanding prevention/treatment services. A strong network of organizations signed a pledge of commitment to defending childhood.</p>	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified need for agencies to improve screening for youth trauma and violence exposure</li> <li>- Implemented a system response for early detection of trauma symptoms and violence exposure</li> <li>- Screened 30,000 at-risk children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)</li> <li>- Alternatives for Families: a Cognitive Behavior Therapy (AF-CBT)</li> <li>- Parent Child Interaction Therapy</li> <li>- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)</li> <li>- Adult and Children Together (ACT)</li> <li>- Families and Schools Together (FAST)</li> </ul>
<b>Denver, Colorado</b>			
<p>The Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID) fosters partnerships to curtail youth and gang violence through intervention and redirection, offering youth more pro-social activities and skills that will deter and sustain them through strong schools, communities, services and families.</p>	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 200+ agencies working to reduce gang violence</li> <li>- Strengthened criminal justice partnerships through collaboration</li> <li>- Improved gang intervention process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training)</li> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)/ Functional Family Therapy (FFT)</li> <li>- Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) Aggression Replacement Training (ART)/Thinking for a Change (T4C)</li> <li>- Comprehensive Gang Model</li> </ul>
<b>Detroit, Michigan</b>			
<p>Detroit's community stakeholders identified priorities as: adult involvement, education, employment, law enforcement and public safety. It is rebuilding youth employment systems for access to job and career opportunities. The city, foundations and nonprofits are investing in the city.</p>	<p>Forum</p> <p>CBVP</p>	<p>Significantly reduced shootings and homicides in target precincts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5th precinct: 20% reduction in homicides YTD</li> <li>- 9th precinct: 52% reduction in non-fatal shootings; 43% reduction in homicides</li> <li>- Improved community engagement and positive perception of police</li> </ul>	<p>Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Positive Behaviors Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> </ul> <p>CBVP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> </ul>
<b>Grand Forks, North Dakota</b>			
<p>40+ organizations created the Safer Tomorrows Project, raising awareness of violence, developing social norms for healthy relationships and offering services to aid healing. Teaching violence prevention to every K-12 child in the county. Also promoting respect/nonviolence through school sports.</p>	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trained 320+ teachers on violence prevention/ healthy relationships</li> <li>- Reduced reported bullying 35%</li> <li>- Serving 250% more students with school therapists</li> <li>- Trained 600+ youth professionals</li> <li>- Building Native American cultural competency in youth workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)</li> <li>- Eye-Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR)</li> <li>- Healthy Families</li> <li>- AI's Pals and AI's Caring Pals</li> <li>- The Fourth R</li> <li>- Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM)</li> <li>- Restorative Justice Practices</li> <li>- Specialized Therapeutic Services</li> <li>- Friendships that Work</li> </ul>

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>Kansas City, Missouri</b>			
The Aim4Peace program works with individuals and the community to detect, interrupt and reduce violence. It engages through street outreach, conflict mediations and in community activities that support violence prevention efforts. The program is impacting violence throughout the community.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduced killings/shootings in priority area: 8% decrease in total violent incidences from 2013 to 2014 and 16% reduction in total violent incidents between 2008 and 2014</li> <li>- Trained professionals to de-escalate crises, mediate disputes and intercede</li> <li>- Increasing prevention activities in deadliest city sectors</li> <li>- Attracted additional funding for police department</li> <li>- Connecting high-risk youth to opportunities and resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Long Beach, California</b>			
The Long Beach Forum grant supports implementation of Safe Long Beach, a violence prevention plan that shares information across city components. Its broad safety agenda is aimed at reducing all forms of violence. The city's crime statistics continue to show a positive trend.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing interagency data and information-sharing practices</li> <li>- Over 60 stakeholders collaborated on vision/strategic plan for the Central Long Beach Promise Zone Application</li> <li>- Identifying model practices in data collection and information-sharing with partner organizations to improve responses and interventions to public safety challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- California Gang Reduction, Intervention/Prevention Program</li> <li>- Trauma Informed Care</li> <li>- Mentoring</li> <li>- Wrap Around Case Management</li> <li>- Triple P – Positive Parenting Program</li> </ul>
<b>Los Angeles, California</b>			
LA's CBVP initiative is linked to other city organizations and service providers, creating efficiencies between projects, events and resources. To improve communications and reduce retaliation, the team works with the LAPD to identify violent crimes by gang members and coordinate its intervention efforts.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating <i>Proyecto Palabra</i>, a specially trained "gang specific" intervention team to reduce gang violence in a target zone</li> <li>- Creating connections throughout the city/govt. leaders to leverage resources and drive cross-sector cooperation</li> <li>- Providing family case management services to gang members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family Case Management Model based on Bowen Family Systems Therapy</li> <li>- GRYD Strategy, modeled after the Gang Reduction Comprehensive Model</li> </ul>
<b>Louisville, Kentucky</b>			
Louisville is working across sectors and bringing young people to the table to inform its efforts. Its new action plan, One Love Louisville – Youth Edition, is addressing youth violence by focusing on systemic challenges that impact youth.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing partnerships between University Hospital, Health Department and Mayor's Office to implement a hospital-based intervention program for shooting and stabbing victims</li> <li>- Providing Psychological First Aid training to 60 community members</li> <li>- Successfully intervening for children exposed to violence through cross-agency partnerships</li> <li>- Reducing disparities and homicides of boys and men of color</li> <li>- Nearly tripled levels of community engagement in activities each month</li> <li>- Promoting economic, social and educational opportunities for youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Violence Interrupter</li> <li>- Hospital-Based Strategies</li> <li>- Restorative Justice</li> </ul>
<b>Memphis, Tennessee</b>			
Through the Forum network, Memphis launched a comprehensive public safety plan in 2011. Focused on violence suppression, prevention, intervention, and reentry, it involves 100+ partner organizations. It also coordinates efforts with Defending Childhood Initiative and the Forum to avoid duplication and leverage new resources.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dramatic 23% reduction in major violent crimes since 2006</li> <li>- Added youth development opportunities: after school programs, summer youth employment, and more</li> <li>- Attracting additional investments to support violence prevention, including substantial increase in pre-K funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- Gang Reduction Assistance for Saving Society's Youth (GRASSY)</li> <li>- Gun Down</li> <li>- School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE)</li> </ul>

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>Minneapolis, Minnesota</b>			
When youth violence peaked in 2006/2007, the city sought broader solutions beyond police suppression and deterrence. It launched Blueprint for Action, part of the city management and planning system. The public health approach is data-driven and collaborative, with a focus on youth development opportunities.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 34% decrease in youth victims of crime (2007-2015)</li> <li>- 76% decrease in youth arrests with a gun (2007-2015)</li> <li>- 62% decrease in youth gunshot victims (2007-2015)</li> <li>- Successfully partnering across public/private/nonprofit sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Triple P – Positive Parenting Program</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training)</li> </ul>
<b>Multnomah County, Oregon</b>			
The county's needs assessment revealed that domestic violence is a primary path of exposure to violence for its children. Its Defending Childhood initiative brings together resources from across the county to raise awareness among professionals, community members, families, and youth about the prevalence of children's exposure to violence.	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launching Black Men &amp; Boys Healing Summit in Portland, OR; providing public school coaching on initiative</li> <li>- Aligning multiple county departments around violence prevention strategies</li> <li>- Training community health workers on childhood exposure to violence</li> <li>- Training 5,500 adult youth workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)</li> <li>- Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC)</li> <li>- Kids Club &amp; Moms Empowerment</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> </ul>
<b>New Orleans, Louisiana</b>			
The city's murder reduction strategy leverages support from the Forum. NOLA FOR LIFE includes a Playbook to prevent youth violence. It creates a structure for youth violence prevention, coordinates and integrates youth violence prevention activities toward shared priorities, establishes bench marks and fosters accountability.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dramatic 31% drop in murders from May 2015 to May 2016</li> <li>- Launched youth leadership program with Health Department</li> <li>- Published citywide report on youth violence with the Health Department</li> <li>- Leveraged grant to win additional \$100k+ from state, nonprofits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- Group Violence Reduction Strategy</li> <li>- Cure Violence</li> <li>- Triple P – Positive Parenting Program</li> </ul>
<b>Newark, New Jersey</b>			
Newark uses a hybrid strategy to reinforce the message that violence is not the answer. It is complementing violence deterrence efforts with community mobilization, credible outreach, improved access to needed services and additional youth job opportunities.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to reduce shootings/murders by 50%+ in the central and south wards, and reduce violence 30 - 35% citywide</li> <li>- Expanding Newark Prisoner Reentry Initiative</li> <li>- Created Hotspot, a hybrid evidence-based model based on CeaseFire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Newport News, Virginia</b>			
The Targeted Outreach Program takes a family-centered, youth-focused approach to juvenile violence reduction and prevention. Comprehensive resources and preventive services focus on at-risk families and include wraparound case management, group facilitation and community education, mobilization, and awareness activities with the local police department.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating expanded access to positive alternative activities for an additional 225 young people</li> <li>- Training additional youth leaders in asset-based community development</li> <li>- Training more community members to serve in schools, after-school programs or community centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Stars</li> <li>- Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)</li> <li>- Wraparound Case Management</li> </ul>
<b>Oakland, California</b>			
Oakland's violence prevention and intervention programs create/sustain an integrated violence intervention system, driving coordinated service and improved outcomes. It has changed the community's perspective of youth violence prevention through increased awareness of the effects of violence.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attracted foundation funding for case management services/engagement program</li> <li>- Doubled the reach of outreach teams, funding case managers who work with youth at high risk for gun violence</li> <li>- Reduced violent incidents with Peace in the Parks initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> <li>- CeaseFire</li> </ul>

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</b>			
Philadelphia has identified immediate priorities in its plan to reduce and prevent youth violence. It is deploying outreach workers to intervene and mediate conflicts, and connecting high-risk youth to needed social services. For victims of violence, it is creating a continuum of support.	Forum CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significantly reduced shootings in the CeaseFire intervention police district</li> <li>- Expanded city's street team</li> <li>- Increased community involvement and contact with staff after shootings</li> </ul>	Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- CeaseFire</li> </ul> CBVP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Portland, Maine</b>			
Portland Defending Childhood Intervention's work focuses on educating the community about violence prevention, collaborating with provider groups—including legal, health and mental health—to improve children's access to supports and treatment, and providing evidence-based clinical treatment for those children who have experienced violence.	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 100+ classrooms received violence prevention curriculum</li> <li>- Produced video/PSA on preventing childhood exposure to violence</li> <li>- Implemented universal outpatient pediatric screening for violence exposure/trauma in health system</li> <li>- Increasing all children's access to evidence-based trauma treatment</li> <li>- Implemented 3 evidence-based clinical trauma treatments</li> <li>- Training 2,000+ on childhood exposure to violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention</li> <li>- Child Parent Psychotherapy</li> <li>- Second Step Skills for Academic and Social Success</li> <li>- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)</li> </ul>
<b>Prince George's County, Maryland</b>			
The county's CBVP initiative focuses on expanding Safe Streets. It serves people most likely to become victims and/or perpetrators of gun violence within a targeted area, using outreach and community mobilization strategies to reduce and prevent shootings and killings.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Successfully engaged the community through Violence Interrupters</li> <li>- Launched large, youth-led social media/media campaign</li> <li>- Developed partnerships with county law enforcement and juvenile court system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> </ul>
<b>Rosebud Sioux Tribe, South Dakota</b>			
The Rosebud Sioux Tribe is finding meaningful ways to prevent, respond to and reduce the impact of youth violence across its reservation, which includes 20 different communities. Through youth leadership activities and Lakota teachings, the Tribe aims to heal from historical trauma as they organize for justice.	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed the Sicangu Youth Council (SYC) to support strong cultural identities and promote healing</li> <li>- Made cultural activities and ceremonies accessible for youth through the SYC</li> <li>- Collaborated across community to send youth to White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington, D.C. and Carlisle Indian Industrial School</li> <li>- Developed a Procedure Manual for trauma-informed service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- American Indian Life Skills</li> </ul>
<b>Salinas, California</b>			
Salinas is using a comprehensive plan to change the community's thinking and to show that there are viable alternatives to living in neighborhoods where gang violence is the norm. Stakeholder input ensures that limited resources are effectively deployed in the areas identified by the community as most in need.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing reduction of the youth violent crime rate to a 12-year low in 2015. In addition, the sustaining of our broad cross sector collaborative, now its 9th year, and the pioneering of a unique community/place based policing model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- YES! Program</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> <li>- CeaseFire</li> <li>- Community Policing</li> <li>- Community Leadership Academics</li> </ul>

Site	Initiative	Achievements	Evidence-Based Strategies
<b>San Jose, California</b>			
The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) is a grass-roots initiative that uses a nationally recognized model to address issues of gang violence. And through the BEST program (Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together), residents are working together to successfully impact juvenile crime and school success outcome.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduced crime rates since 2000: 38% drop in violent crime, 27% drop in juvenile violent crime</li> <li>- 34% decrease in gang-related incidents from 2009 to 2010</li> <li>- City added \$1 million for gang prevention task force</li> <li>- Attracted a \$1.5 million state grant for a hospital-based intervention program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT)</li> <li>- Motivational Interviewing</li> <li>- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)</li> <li>- 7 Challenges</li> <li>- Comprehensive Gang Model</li> </ul>
<b>Seattle, Washington</b>			
Seattle's Human Services Department published a needs assessment for violence prevention strategy in Dec. With improved data collection, collaboration between agencies/regional partners and research, it is gaining capacity to address youth violence, attracting additional investments for prevention and making an impact.	Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Since the establishment of the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative in 2009, juvenile violent crime has decreased</li> <li>- Arrests of youth for violence between 2008 and 2014 have decreased by 41% compared to a 22% reduction in all arrests for violence</li> <li>- Juvenile court referrals for violence have decreased 50% between 2008 and 2013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring</li> <li>- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)</li> </ul>
<b>Shelby County, Tennessee</b>			
The Defending Childhood/NOVA initiative is changing community perceptions of youth violence by saturating targeted areas with information on trauma's impact on children. The county is using Defending Childhood Initiative funding to provide trauma training to law enforcement, juvenile court staff and Early Childhood, Social Work and Education students.	Defending Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engaged 316 participants in youth development activities</li> <li>- Enrolled 160 youth/families in case management services</li> <li>- Trained 90+ outreach workers</li> <li>- Developed a screening protocol for state custody of children</li> <li>- Required trauma training for child protective service workers</li> <li>- Trained 100 child welfare workers in traumatic stress principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)</li> <li>- Healing Homes</li> <li>- Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM)</li> <li>- Positive Behavioral Interventions &amp; Supports (PBIS)</li> </ul>
<b>Syracuse, New York</b>			
In 3 years of dedicated collaboration, Syracuse has implemented a Comprehensive Gang Model, integrating individual gun and violence initiatives under one umbrella partnership: 'Cus Cares. This network of partnerships is more effectively serving the public and targeting areas at large.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Successfully implemented Comprehensive Gang Model in 2014</li> <li>- Combined various gun and gang violence initiatives into a collaborative community effort</li> <li>- Successfully working as a team focused on violence intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cure Violence</li> <li>- TRUCE</li> <li>- Trauma Informed Care</li> <li>- Comprehensive Gang Model</li> </ul>
<b>Washington, D.C.</b>			
The District is progressing toward a citywide strategy to youth violence prevention with the Blue Print for Youth Violence Prevention. And Its DC YouthLink Program works with young people following release from secure placements; their services have been extended to assist the District's youth on probation.	CBVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recent legislation passed by the City Council and the Mayor's "Safer Stronger DC" initiative both provide outlines of a more public health approach to the youth violence prevention</li> <li>- The District of Columbia has adopted and reformulated portions of the CSC's Critical Incident Meeting Protocol as the foundation of its "Community Stabilization Team" meetings in response to homicides and other serious injuries suffered as a result of youth involved violence</li> <li>- Building multisystem partnerships and trust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solution Focus Brief Therapy (SFBT)</li> <li>- Family group conferencing</li> <li>- Restorative Justice Practices</li> <li>- Gang Intervention Partnership (outreach and violence interrupter)</li> </ul>



# Minneapolis: IMPACT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In Minneapolis, youth violence rates may be low compared to other cities. But no community is immune from its far-reaching effects.

After a notable crime spike in 2006, city leaders took action. They implemented a multisector and multiyear master plan: Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence, a precursor to the National Forum strategy. In 2012, Minneapolis was invited to join the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.

Minneapolis' youth violence prevention plan takes a public health approach, treating violence as a disease. Activities are informed by public health principles and aligned with the Forum framework of prevention, early intervention, reentry and enforcement.

The Blueprint Approved Institute provides training and funding to agencies and individuals. Staff convenes frequently, collaborating with youth workers to share data and updates at community-based meetings.

“The initiative’s strategic framework, robust multisector collaboration, and public health approach shine a new light on youth violence prevention,” according to Sasha Cotton, youth violence prevention coordinator with the Minneapolis Health Department.

“This approach goes much further upstream to address the root cause of violence such as poverty, poor school performance and lack of community connectedness,” says Cotton.

Minneapolis' Blueprint is driven by five key goals. The progress of each goal is monitored through the Health Department and the city's results management system, ensuring that city-funded programs are data-driven and capable of driving measurable results. And the results speak for themselves:

- 34% decrease in youth victims of crime (2007-2015)
- 76% decrease in youth arrests with a gun (2007-2015)
- 62% decrease in youth gunshot victims (2007-2015)
- In 2013, Minneapolis had zero youth homicides

Given the importance and investment of the youth violence prevention work, city leaders have incorporated it into the city's performance management tool called Results Minneapolis. This results-focused, data-driven tool aligns strategic management, performance and resource allocation for its salient programs. The most recent Youth Violence Prevention Results Minneapolis report is available at: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109365.pdf>

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decrease in youth gunshot victims  
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In the face of daunting—and often dispiriting—challenges, the efforts of the cities and sites profiled in this update prove that a more promising future is possible.

They are creating safer, healthier communities in which all of our young people can grow and thrive. They are an inspiration.

The fierce urgency of now has galvanized these communities.

Baltimore, Maryland  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Brooklyn, New York  
Camden, New Jersey  
Chicago, Illinois  
Chippewa Cree Tribe, Montana  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Denver, Colorado  
Detroit, Michigan  
Grand Forks, North Dakota  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Long Beach, California  
Los Angeles, California  
Louisville, Kentucky  
Memphis, Tennessee

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Multnomah County, Oregon  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Newark, New Jersey  
Newport News, Virginia  
Oakland, California  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Portland, Maine

Prince Georges County, Maryland  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe, South Dakota  
Salinas, California  
San Jose, California  
Seattle, Washington  
Shelby County, Tennessee  
Syracuse, New York  
Washington, D.C.

 Learn more visit <http://youth.gov>

