



**BIG CITIES
HEALTH COALITION**

COMMUNITY SAFETY | A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

We all deserve safe, healthy communities where we can live, work, learn, and play without fear of violence or harm toward us or our loved ones.

A public health approach to community safety addresses the *roots* of violence—including structural racism—to change the underlying conditions that contribute to multiple forms of violence.

We can build safer communities by enabling access to affordable housing, green spaces, living wages, quality education, and more—especially in communities that have been most impacted by disinvestment.

We urge policymakers not only to pursue gun safety measures but also to seize every opportunity to **advance the more comprehensive strategies and investments that are necessary** to make all our communities as safe and healthy as possible.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

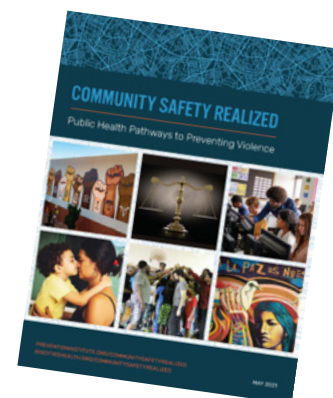
- ▶ Enact common-sense gun laws that reduce access and prevent further harm, particularly among youth and those most at risk of harming themselves or others, such as:
 - » Comprehensive background checks, including at gun shows.
 - » Ban sale, transfer, importation, and manufacture of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines.
 - » Access to safe and secure firearm storage among those who own legal guns.
 - » Adopt red flag laws, also called extreme risk protection orders.
 - » Ban manufacture of ghost guns.
- ▶ Increase funding for Community Violence Initiative (CVI) and Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention at CDC to help communities implement evidence-based, hyperlocal interventions that address root causes.
- ▶ Sufficiently resource CDC to lead a comprehensive, multi-sector public health response to community safety and violence prevention in partnership with local health departments to address social, emotional, mental, and physical health.
- ▶ Implement and fully fund a nationwide data infrastructure to collect community-level violence and resilience indicators.

REPORT: COMMUNITY SAFETY REALIZED

With Prevention Institute, BCHC developed a framework to help guide violence prevention policies and practices in local communities.

This framework was built in part on the groundbreaking work of our member health departments, who have instituted novel violence prevention programs that provide wraparound services to those most at risk of gun violence, trauma services to those affected by gun violence, safe gun storage campaigns, and more.

▶ Visit bit.ly/bchc-violence



NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PSA CAMPAIGN (shown at right)

BCHC and Prevention Institute launched a national ad campaign in January 2023 that reached more than 13 million people.

The campaign emphasizes the importance of investing in the health of the whole community to prevent gun violence. The point of this work is to start changing the narrative about violence and to offer a broader base of activities through which we can move to prevent unnecessary injury and death from guns.

► Visit bit.ly/comm-safety-bchc-pi



The Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) is a forum for the leaders of America's largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of their residents. Collectively, BCHC's 35 member jurisdictions directly impact more than 61 million people, or one in five Americans.

► Visit bigcitieshealth.org or contact Chrissie Juliano at juliano@bigcitieshealth.org

Community safety is about investing in the health of the whole community.



Affordable housing, green spaces, living wages, access to healthy food. When we invest in communities, we invest in a future that is healthy and safe for all of us.



Scan to learn more



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