



Toward Safe Communities Free from Gun Violence: The Promise of a Public Health Approach

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Public health is what we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which [all] people can be healthy.

- Institute of Medicine, 1988

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Trajectory to Violence



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It is unreasonable to expect that people will change their behavior easily when so many forces in the social, cultural and physical environment conspire against such change.

- Institute of Medicine



- Recommendations to prevent multiple forms of gun violence:**
- A. Reduce immediate risks related to guns
 - B. Address underlying contributors to gun violence
 - C. Build prevention infrastructure
 - D. Address new frontiers to learn and increase impact

A. Reduce immediate risks related to guns:

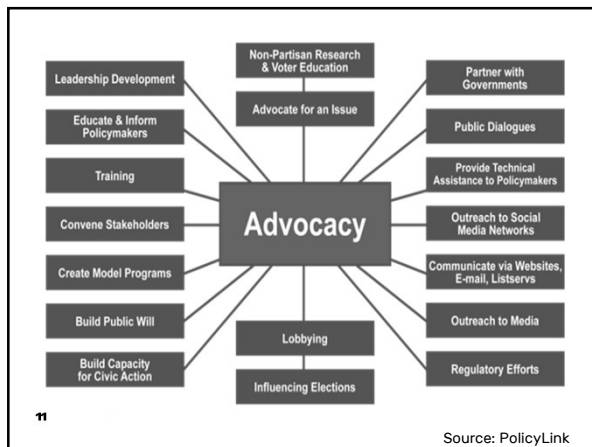
Prevent the imminent risk of lethality through sensible gun laws and a culture of safety.

1. Sensible gun laws: Reduce easy access to dangerous weapons

By *banning* high capacity magazines, *requiring* universal background checks *without loopholes*, *instituting* waiting periods, *reinstating* the assault weapons ban immediately

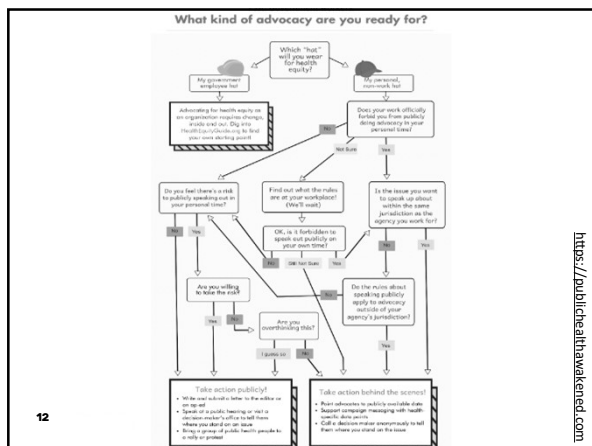
And *implementing the Federal ban on bump stocks*.

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Source: PolicyLink



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<https://publichealthawakened.com>

2. Establish a culture of gun safety:

- Reduce firearm access to youth and individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others
- **Hold the gun industry accountable and ensure there is adequate oversight over the marketing and sales of guns and ammunition.**
- Engage responsible gun dealers and owners in solutions.
- Insist on mandatory training and licensing for owners.
- **Require safe and secure gun storage**

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LOCK IT UP - King County, WA

LOCK IT UP
SIMPLE. SECURE. READY.



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FIREARM STORAGE, ALCOHOL USE AND CHILDREN

IN WA STATE



67%

of children living with an adult who reported alcohol misuse were exposed to at least one unsafely stored firearm

51%

of children living with an adult who did not report alcohol misuse were exposed to at least one unsafely stored firearm



29%

of kids under 18 live in a home where a firearm is present

470,000

That's nearly a half-million children in the state.

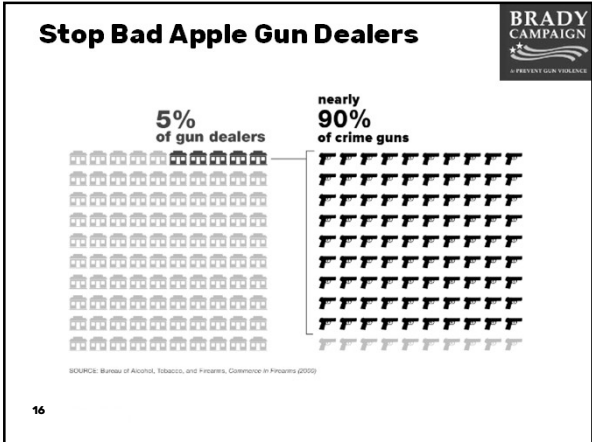


54%

of those children - more than half - lived with at least one firearm that was stored unsafely (not locked and unloaded)

Sources: Eric Morgan, et al. "Firearm Storage and Adult Alcohol Misuse among Washington State Households with Children"

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B. Underlying contributors to gun violence: Risk and resilience

Expand solutions beyond gun access to reduce additional risk factors associated with gun violence and bolster resilience in individuals, families, and communities.

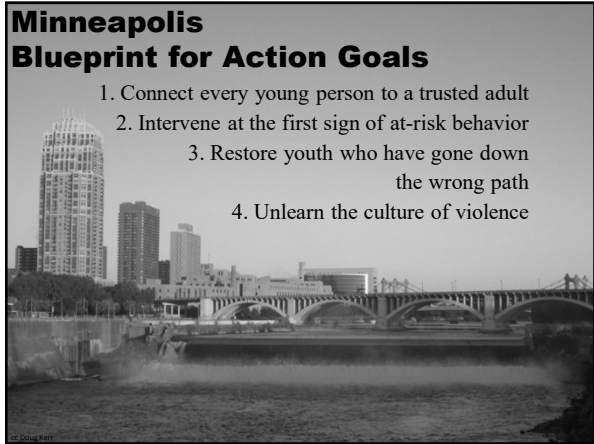
3. Public health solutions: Recognize gun violence as a critical and preventable public health problem.

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Photo: Paul J Richards

**Minneapolis
Blueprint for Action Goals**

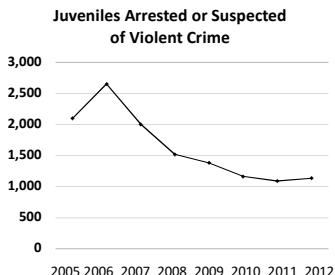
1. Connect every young person to a trusted adult
2. Intervene at the first sign of at-risk behavior
3. Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
4. Unlearn the culture of violence



Blueprint for Action

Results

Juveniles Arrested or Suspected of Violent Crime

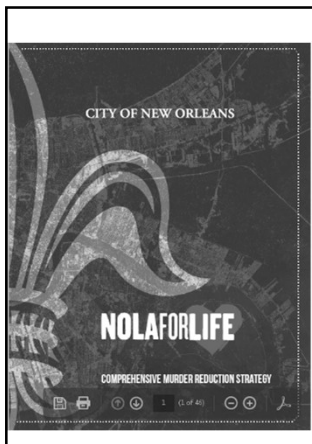


Year	Juveniles Arrested or Suspected of Violent Crime
2005	2,100
2006	2,600
2007	2,000
2008	1,500
2009	1,400
2010	1,200
2011	1,100
2012	1,100

- ◆ Number of youth homicide victims down 60% from 2006
- ◆ 4x as many high school students with year-round jobs, internships

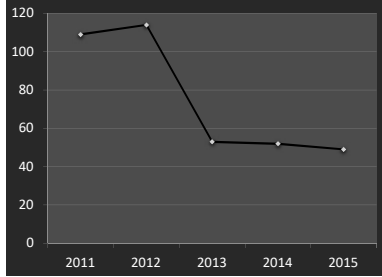
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**NOLA FOR LIFE
PILLARS**



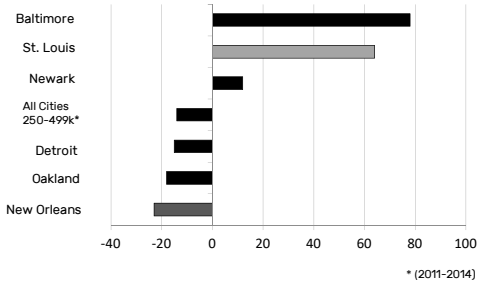
- ◆ Stop the shootings
- ◆ Invest in prevention
- ◆ Promote jobs and opportunity
- ◆ Get involved and rebuild neighborhoods
- ◆ Strengthen NOPD

55% Reduction in Group or Gang Member Involved Murders since 2011



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Change in Murder Rate 2011-2015 (%)



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5. Trauma, connection, and services:
Expand access to high quality, culturally competent, coordinated, social, emotional, and mental health supports and address the impact of trauma.

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Facts Everyone Should Know About
Mental Health and Violence 

1 OF 2

People who are violent rarely have a mental illness. People with mental illness are rarely violent.

A history of mental illness is not a likely predictor of violent acts.

28   LEARN MORE
bit.ly/VetoViolence

C. Prevention Infrastructure:

Build mechanisms for scale, sustainability, and effectiveness.

UNITY RoadMap



Who? Partnerships

- High-Level Leadership
- Collaboration & Staffing
- Community Engagement

How? Strategy

- Strategic Plans
- Data & Evaluation
- Funding

What? Prevention

- Programs, Organizational Practices & Policies
- Communication
- Training & Capacity Building

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6. Support gun violence research: Ensure that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and others have the resources to study this issue and provide science-based guidance.



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7. Health system: Establish a comprehensive health system in which violence prevention is a health system responsibility and imperative.

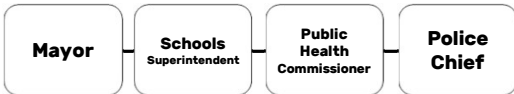


Photo: Movement Towards Violence as a Health Issue

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Collaborating to Prevent Violence

Cities with the greatest coordination across sectors had the **lowest rates of youth violence** (UNITY Assessment, 2008)



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D. New Frontiers:

Continuously learn and innovate to increase impact through research and practice.

8. Community healing: Prevent community trauma.



9. Mental health and wellbeing: Invest in communities to promote resilience and mental health and wellbeing



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10. Support healthy norms about masculinity: *Explore the pathways between gun violence and harmful norms that have been about maintaining power and privilege.*



Photo: University of Richmond

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11. Impulsive anger: *Explore the linkages between anger and gun violence.*

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12. Economic development: *Reduce concentrated disadvantage and invest in employment opportunities.*



<http://www.onesummerchicago.org>

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**13. Law enforcement violence:
Establish accountability for sworn
officers and private security.**



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Photo: Community Coalition

**14. Technology: Advance gun safety
and self-defense technology.**



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Photo: Gun Vault Company

What public health can do

1. Listen to community needs
2. Support community-led campaigns
3. Compile and analyze data and conduct evaluation
4. Collaborate with community leaders and multiple sectors
5. Develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive plans
6. Implement trauma and healing informed practices and protocols
7. Implement social marketing and public awareness campaigns
8. Educate and advocate among policymakers and other stakeholders
9. Join networks and movements
10. Stay involved

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A Positive Vision

What do safe communities free from gun violence look like?

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Which strategies can you implement? Indirectly support? Advocate for?

What actions can you take immediately toward our vision? In the future?



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Recommendations to Prevent Gun Violence:

<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy>

How Communities Can Prevent Gun Violence podcast:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-676580582/how-communities-can-prevent-gun-violence>

PreventionInstitute.org @preventioninst
