



## THE HEALTH SYSTEM TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

### Creating and Mobilizing a Health and Community System to Reduce Violence

Violence affects us all—leading to half a million years to be cut off of Americans' lives and costing taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars—but it doesn't have to. With the assistance of experts nationwide, the Framework was designed to redefine our country's approach to all forms of violence so that all sectors can work together to safeguard the health of all Americans.

With health departments, non-profits and universities leading this effort by establishing new protocols, policies, and programs through cross sector collaboration, the Movement believes that violence can be drastically reduced saving tens of thousands of lives and hundreds of billions of dollars. This framework will guide local government and organizational leaders to improve and systematize their violence prevention efforts - making our country safer and healthier for all.

### **Lens: Bending towards equity**

- Change the perception of violence from bad people in bad places to a health issue that affects us all and is preventable for all
- Hold all sectors accountable for adopting health approaches to address violence and its impact on inequities
- Align resources with the needs of communities in a sustainable fashion nationwide

# THE ELEMENTS OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

## 1. Public Health Departments (or other lead agency - such as a non-profit or university)

- Coordinate violence prevention efforts across all sectors and ensure equity is embedded in all strategies
- Hire, train and support violence prevention professionals as well as research and monitoring professionals

## 2. Community Organizations and Residents

- Detect and interrupt violence
- Identify individuals at risk for violence
- Change environmental factors and norms related to violence
- Address social determinants of health risk factors

## 3. Social Service Providers

- Work within health sector to deliver trauma-informed care

## 4. Primary Care

- Educate, screen and refer for all forms of violence
- Input data to ensure appropriate services and interventions
- Advocate for health-based programs and policies

## 5. Emergency Departments and Acute Care Facilities

- Educate, screen and refer for all forms of violence
- Identify, treat and assess risk of those impacted by violence
- Fine tune efforts to identify hotspots and reduce recidivism

## 6. Hospitals as Anchor Institutions

- Train staff in trauma informed care to reduce re-traumatization
- Hire in, advocate for and invest in communities impacted by violence
- Integrate violence prevention into needs assessments

## 7. Health Care System Economics

- With insurance providers, reimburse for violence prevention
- Evaluate the financial results for health care and other expenses
- Invest community benefit dollars in violence prevention efforts

## 8. Mental Health

- Implement health approach to reduce risk of victimization
- Increase access to mental health and community services
- Advocate for policies to increase resiliency and reduce risk

## 9. Behavioral Health Care

- Implement behavioral health training throughout the community
- Integrate community healing programs into existing efforts

## 10. Academic Medical Centers

- Incorporate the health approach for hospitals
- Research violence and the effects of the health approach

## 11. Primary and Secondary Schools

- Train educators on conflict resolution and trauma informed care
- Identify, refer and track individuals at risk for violence
- Implement policies and programs that reduce out of school time

## 12. Early Childhood Development and Child Welfare Systems

- Train staff to identify and reduce all forms of violence
- Deliver therapeutic interventions to those experiencing violence

## 13. Schools of Public Health

- Fund faculty and research on the health approach to violence
- Coordinate local expertise to assist communities in implementation
- Incorporate the health approach to violence into curricula

## 14. Community Information Systems

- Collect data on all incidents and interventions of violence
- Create standards for data to promote effectiveness

## 15. Law Enforcement and the Justice System:

- Train for implementing violence prevention protocols
- Identify, refer and track those exposed to or at risk for violence
- Assess and treat staff exposed to violence

## 16. Faith-Based Institutions

- Connect individuals and neighborhoods to services and resources
- Promote the health understanding of violence and positive norms
- Mobilize the community to advocate for violence prevention

## 17. Media

- Advance public understanding of violence as a health issue
- Identify health leaders to serve as spokespeople
- Implement standards for reporting on violence

## 18. Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Implement shared data on all forms of violence, protocols for screenings, referrals, and programs and policies to prevent violence
  - Hold regular meetings with all leadership to discuss violent trends and identify program and policy improvements

This framework was created by members of the Violence as a Health Issue Collaborative, including:

- Over 400 individuals representing more than 100 organizations and agencies from across the U.S.
- Co-Chaired by: David Satcher, MD, MPH; Al Sommer, MD, MHS; Gary Slutkin, MD

100 Million Healthier Lives, Advance Peace, American Psychological Association, American Public Health Association, Baltimore City Health Department, Berkeley Media Studies Group, Blue Ribbon Commission on the Prevention of Youth Violence, Catholic Health Initiatives, CeaseFire Illinois, Center on Gender Equity and Health, The CHOICE Program at University of Maryland Baltimore Campus, Cities United, City of Kansas City Health Department, City of New Orleans Health Department, Equal Justice USA, Healing Justice Alliance, Human Impact Partners, Los Angeles Health Department, Multnomah County Health Department, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Children's Alliance, National Collaborative for Health Equity, National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs, National Network of Public Health Institutes, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, PolicyLink, Prevention Institute, Safe States Alliance, San Francisco Department of Public Health, St. Louis Health Department, Strengthening Chicago's Youth, Convened by Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Trust for America's Health, Youth ALIVE!

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