



# WATERBURY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## FACTSHEET #3: STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT FIREARM VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITY



Published: APRIL 2026

Waterbury Gun Violence Prevention Partnership (GVPP)

### I. WHAT ARE THE COMMON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT FIREARM VIOLENCE ?

#### 1. PRACTICE SAFE AND SECURE FIREARM STORAGE



↓ 14%

- Store firearms unloaded and locked.
- Store and lock ammunition separately from the firearms.
- Ensure key and/or combination is inaccessible to unauthorized people, children, and those with elevated risk of suicide or violence against others.
- Child Access Prevention (CAP) gun storage policies lowered suicide rates by **14%** in youth.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. FOLLOW FIREARM PURCHASER LICENSING LAWS



↓ 28%

- Adhere to stringent policies for firearm purchaser licensing including applying, getting fingerprinted, undergoing background checks, and completing required safety trainings.
- Connecticut's Handgun Licensing law was associated with a **28%** reduction in the state's firearm homicide rate.<sup>1</sup>

#### 3. ADHERE TO FIREARM REMOVAL LAWS



✓ 77%

- Follow Firearms Removal Laws for temporarily removing firearms from individuals at risk for suicides/violence against others aligning with the Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO).
- **77%** of Americans support allowing family members to ask the court to temporarily remove guns from relative at a high risk of violence.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. REGULATE PUBLIC CARRY OF FIREARMS

##### NOTICE



LAWFUL CONCEALED CARRY PERMITTED ON THESE PREMISES

< 25%



- Ensuring implementation of regulations for public carry of firearms like, Concealed carry laws, and Open carry laws.
- **Less than a quarter** of Americans support allowing a person to carry a loaded firearm in public, without obtaining a permit or license.<sup>1</sup>

#### 5. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING



- Find out how to raise firearm concerns with authorities.
- Know about "The Say Something" anonymous reporting system.
- Use the federal illegal firearms activity hotline **(1-800-ATF-GUNS)** and the federal **Reportit** app. They are some of the ways to report concerns about firearm-related threats or other possible violence.

#### 6. IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS



- Collaborate with local organizations to develop and implement Community Violence Interventions tailored to the needs of the communities.
- Inquire and collaborate with your school district's efforts to reduce violence and suicide risks and engage kids, teens and young adults in gun violence prevention.

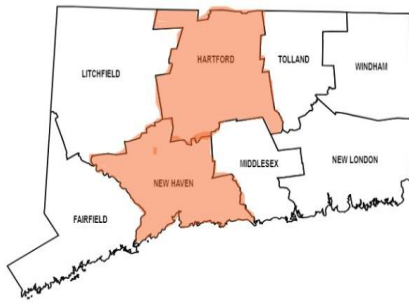
## II. WHAT WORKED IN THE PAST?

### SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FIREARM VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



#### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON STREET OUTREACH AND VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION SUCH AS, “CURE VIOLENCE” & “SAVE OUR STREETS”:

- “Cure-Violence” began in 1995 to reduce shootings and homicides in Chicago.
- The model trains outreach workers (“Violence Interrupters”) to identify community conflicts. Many states have since trained violence interrupters under their similar gun violence programs.
- In New York City, gun injuries fell by **50%** in East New York and **37%** in the South Bronx with a similar program called “Save Our Streets” (SOS).<sup>1,2</sup>
- In Baltimore, program sites reported reductions in killings up to **56%** and shootings up to **44%**.<sup>2</sup>
- The initiative targets gun violence from group, crew and neighborhood conflicts to break the cycle of retaliation.
- Violence interrupters use informal counseling, trauma-informed care and restorative justice in their work.



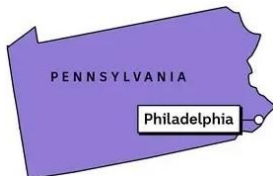
#### 2. HOSPITAL BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (HVIP) AND CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN CONNECTICUT (CT):

- The HVIP program aids violence victims during and after hospital stay, offering crisis intervention, case management, training and employment services.
- It involves partnerships between hospitals, and community organizations using trained Violence Prevention Professionals (VPPs) in cities of Hartford, and New Haven in CT.
- Under the Cash assistance Program local organizations such as **4-CT**, provide cash assistance to individuals affected by gun violence.



#### 3. “ROCA”- TRAUMA-INFORMED PROGRAM WITH COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (CBT)

- This model uses CBT to help at-risk individuals cope with trauma, and de-escalate conflicts.
- Trauma-informed programs in Chicago reduced violent crime arrests among high-risk youth by **50%**.<sup>1</sup>
- A non-profit “ROCA” in Baltimore has employed a trauma responsive approach since 2018, focusing on outreach, relationship-building and CBT.
- In 2021, **80%** of Baltimore participants showed improvements in behavioral health.<sup>3</sup>



#### 4. CLEANING AND REHABILITATING BLIGHTED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

- These programs prevent gun violence by addressing abandoned or blighted locations where illegal guns and activities occur.
- They enhance neighbor connections and strengthen informal social controls to deter violence.
- A blight remediation program in Philadelphia achieved a **39%** reduction in gun violence within one year.<sup>1,4</sup>

#### Sources:

1. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg school of Public Health. Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Community Gun Violence. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/in-depth-community-gun-violence>
2. Center for American Progress. Community based Violence Interruption Programs Can Reduce Violence. Article, July 14, 2022. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/community-based-violence-interruption-programs-can-reduce-gun-violence/>
3. National Gang center. Cure Violence-The Interrupters. <https://nationalgangcenter.ojp.gov/insights/25/cure-violence-the-interrupters>
4. Branas CC, Kondo MC, Murphy SM, South EC, Polsky D, & MacDonald JM. (2016). [Urban blight remediation as a cost-beneficial solution to firearm violence](#). American journal of public health.