

Community Violence Intervention (CVI)



Evidence-informed, community-driven

CVI is a public health approach to gun violence that reimagines community safety. CVI deploys credible messengers who engage high-risk individuals to interrupt cycles of community violence. In addition to near-term **intervention** and violence interruption, CVI also focuses on violence **prevention** through community investment and social services. CVI's community-led strategies are designed to address:



Systemic root causes of community violence



Concentrated violence in neighborhoods



Disproportionate impact on people of color

51%

Of all **youth firearm deaths** due to poverty¹

5x

Counties with the highest poverty level experience 4.5 times higher **firearm homicide** rates²

1.5%

US neighborhoods that contain 1.5% of the **population**...

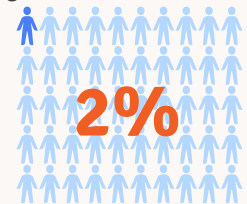
26%

...saw 26% of the country's total **gun homicides**³



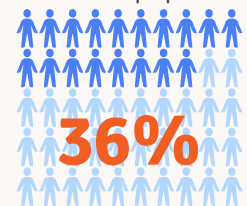
0.3% of Oakland's population drove 60% of city violence³

Young Black males ages 15-34 account for



2%

Of the total population



36%

Of gun homicides⁴



Resource investment



Targeted solutions



Community leaders

CVI recognizes that violence stems from poverty, housing insecurity, discriminatory policing, and systemic factors. Initiatives invest in vulnerable communities and connect individuals to services.

Gun violence is often driven by a small group of high-risk individuals. CVI utilizes evidence-informed strategies to interrupt cycles of violence among those most at risk of causing and/or experiencing harm.

CVI practitioners are from the communities they work in and take a trauma-informed approach to build trust and relationships with high-risk individuals in local neighborhoods.

Resources

- Housing
- Education
- Food
- Employment
- Healthcare

\$3-\$7

Every dollar invested in Chicago's CVI program yields \$3-7 in **cost savings**⁵

Strategies

- Street outreach
- Violence interruption
- Case management
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Life coaching
- Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIP)

Roles

- Outreach workers
- Violence interrupters
- Case managers
- Community leaders

CVI in North Carolina

Two CVI strategies most often utilized are **street outreach** and **hospital-based violence intervention programs** (HVIPs).



Street Outreach & Violence Interruption



Street outreach programs employ violence interrupters from the community who disrupt cycles of violence by mediating conflicts before they escalate, responding to shootings, supporting victims, and preventing future retaliation. It is essential that violence interrupters are trusted community members and credible messengers from the neighborhoods they work in. In addition to intervening in violent incidents, street outreach programs also focus on prevention by connecting individuals to resources, shifting community norms to non-violence, and supporting behavior change among program participants.

Forsyth WINS

Winston-Salem

Forsyth WINS deploys violence interrupters who canvas Beat 222 in East Winston to engage with community members and reduce violent incidents.⁶

2 per 1k

Assaults decreased by 2 per 1,000 people in targeted areas (2024-2025)⁷

Alternatives to Violence

Charlotte

ATV aims to stop violence before it happens in Charlotte's Beatties Ford Road, West Boulevard, and Nations Ford Road neighborhoods.⁸

2,458

Individuals reached (2024-2025)⁸

North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center

Lumberton

NC-YVPC provides a continuum of services ranging from universal prevention programs to more targeted measures like violence interrupters.⁹

41%

Reduction in index crimes (2014-2024)¹⁰

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIP)

Street Outreach in North Carolina

- Charlotte
- Lumberton
- Winston-Salem

HVIPs focus on patients in the immediate aftermath of violent injury with the goal of reducing reinjury and retaliation as well as promoting healing and psychological well-being. To do this, HVIPs employ culturally competent case managers who engage with gun violence survivors in the emergency department or hospital bedside to proactively bring trauma-informed care to the patient. After discharge, survivors receive intensive community-based case management for six months or longer, in which they are connected to services and assistance to prevent reinjury.

HVIPs in North Carolina

- Charlotte
- Durham
- Raleigh
- Wilmington
- Winston-Salem

50% ↓

Reduction in **reinjury** among participants at one San Francisco HVIP¹¹

86% ↓

Lower **hospitalization** rate among participants at one Baltimore HVIP¹²

Other CVI Programs

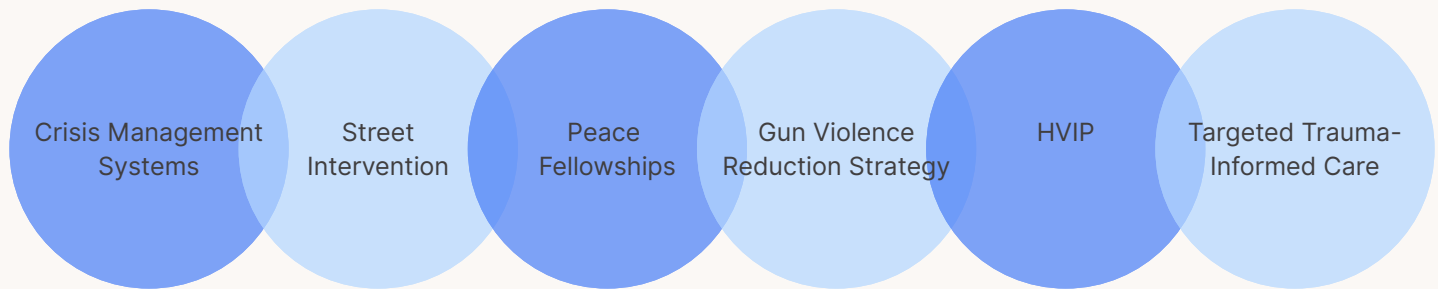
- Asheville
- Fayetteville
- Greensboro
- Raleigh

CVI Across the U.S.



CVI Ecosystem

According to CVI Ecosystem, “the most effective way to prevent community violence is to coordinate a comprehensive, community-based strategy that links various proven public health tools.”¹³ An effective CVI ecosystem brings together local programs, public agencies, and community stakeholders with the shared goal of reducing gun violence through coordinated, evidence-informed strategies.



Graphic adapted from cviecosystem.org¹³

Louisville, Kentucky

Key Strategies¹⁴

- Pivot to Peace: violence interruption program in neighborhoods with highest rates of gun violence¹⁵
- HVIP in partnership with UofL Hospital Trauma Center
- Opening public amenities (e.g., parks, libraries, pools) in underserved neighborhoods
- Sustained Focus Improvement: pairs police resources with city services (e.g., street cleanups, streetlight repairs)
- Citywide deflection program to divert mental health related 911 calls from police to mental health professionals
- Monthly community safety walks to promote communication between neighborhood residents and government officials
- HOPE United Fellowship: support young Black men at risk of experiencing or engaging in violence¹⁶

Sample Community Partners

- Office of Violence Prevention
- UofL Hospital Trauma Institute
- Goodwill
- Volunteers of America

Year 1 (2025) Results

33% ↓

Decrease in gun violence in CVI areas¹⁴

28% ↓

Decrease in shootings in Louisville overall¹⁴

83%

Of all UofL trauma patients with gunshot or stab wound due to violence engaged with HVIP¹⁴

Newark, New Jersey

Newark Community Street Team¹⁷

- Deploy outreach workers and high risk interventionists in South and West wards
- HVIP in partnership with University Hospital
- Ecosystem also includes victim services, trauma recovery center, overdose response team, and leadership academy
- **Results:** 1,305 high risk interventions in South and West wards (2023)¹⁸

New Orleans, Louisiana

Peace Ambassadors¹⁹

- Street outreach and violence interruption program
- Ecosystem partners include University Medical Center, New Orleans Health Department, and OVP
- **Results:** Responded to 114 shootings, held 21 mediations, averted 7 instances of retaliation (2024-2025)¹⁹

Learn more
& join NCGV



Sources: 1) Barrett et al. "Association of County-Level Poverty and Inequities With Firearm-Related Morality in US Youth." JAMA Pediatrics. November 22, 2021.; 2) CDC. "Firearm Deaths Grow, Disparities Widen." June 6, 2022.; 3) Aufrichtig et al. "Want to fix gun violence in America? Go local." The Guardian. January 9, 2017.; 4) Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Gun Violence Solutions. "U.S. Gun Violence in 2021: An Accounting of a Public Health Crisis." June 2023.; 5) Murray E. "State Blueprints: Saving Community Violence Intervention Programs." Giffords. July 22, 2025.; 6) Forsyth WINS. <https://www.forsythwins.org/>; 7) Forsyth WINS Year 2 External Evaluation Report." The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. August 2025.; 8) "Alternatives to Violence." GreenLight Fund. 9) "Our Present." North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center. 2020.; 10) "NC-YVPC Measures of Effectiveness." North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center. 2024. 11) Julliard et al. "A decade of hospital-based violence intervention: Benefits and shortcomings." Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. December 2016.; 12) Cooper et al. "Hospital-based violence intervention programs work." The Journal of Trauma. September 2008. 13) "CVI Ecosystem." cviecosystem.org. 2026.; 14) "SAFE Louisville 2025 Annual Report." SAFE Louisville. 2025.; 15) "OVP Intervention Services." Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government. 2026.; 16) Ogijiri J. "Metro United Way launches fellowship to support young Black men and prevent violence." WLKY. June 2026.; 17) "NCST." Newark Community Street Team. 2026.; 18) Leap et al. "Newark Community Street Team: Evaluation and Proof of Concept." UCLA. November 2025.; 19) "Violence Intervention." Ubuntu Village. 2025.