

SUMMARY:

California has the top gun safety strength rating of all 50 states according to Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and among the lowest gun death rate. Building on these successes, many local governments in CA-11, including health services, police departments, and community-based organizations, have gone above and beyond the state law to protect our communities from gun violence.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

This program is creating a data infrastructure that promotes timely information exchange about violent injuries, specifically related to gun violence in order to capture data from the various systems across the County that have contact with victims or perpetrators of gun violence. The Violence Prevention Program is also studying various data visualization models and analyses regarding the risk factors for violence in our County, which will add to the existing body of research about the level of violence in a community and the relationship to the different social determinants of health.

- As part of the Violence Prevention Program, the **Family Violence Prevention Task Force** is a joint effort between the Contra Costa Health Services, Employment & Human Services (EHSD), and Contra Costa Family Justice Center. The Task Force is comprised of several community-based organizations such as Community Violence Solutions, STAND, Bay Area Legal Aid, Rubicon, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Children and Family Services, First 5, District Attorney, County Office of Education, as well as Bonafide Sisterhood. The goal of the task force is to identify overlaps and gaps in the support provided to the community and work together to help reduce the risk of gun violence.
- Contra Costa Health just received a **\$1.5 million** grant from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to aid in the County's efforts to reduce violence and improve public health strategies by investing in the development of social-emotional learning programs for at-risk youth, fostering career development opportunities, and facilitating conversations between community stakeholders, law enforcement, and local organizations.

CITY OF RICHMOND'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

In addition to the city's comprehensive approach to supporting young people through employment and training, recreation, and building community, Richmond has the world-class Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS): A non-law enforcement department within city government. The primary goal of the ONS is to reduce firearm assaults and associated deaths. The ONS provides and coordinates targeted intervention services and attention intensive engagement and support structures that are designed to improve the social emotional health and wellness of those it serves. The ONS works with young men who are at the highest risk for being involved in gun violence.

- The ONS's primary individual-level intervention is the Operation Peacemaker Fellowship, which is a non-mandated intensive mentoring intervention lasting for a minimum of 18 months and designed for youth who have been identified as most likely to be involved in gun violence in Richmond. The Fellowship is grounded in a framework of positive youth development and approaches violence prevention as a public health issue. The program provides fellows with the tools, skills, and resources to lead healthy, productive lives.
- **Congressman DeSaulnier submitted the Office of Neighborhood Safety Program for consideration for \$300,000 in project funding through the federal appropriations process

COMMUNITY CRISIS INTERVENTION

Across Contra Costa, communities are coming together to make behavioral health part of the emergency response system as an alternative to police intervention for individuals in mental health crisis to avoid unnecessary suffering, loss of life, criminalization, or incarceration. In relation to gun violence, these kinds of crises might include threats of suicide, over half of which are committed with a gun.

- Contra Costa Health has launched A3 to provide timely and appropriate behavioral health crisis services to Anyone in Contra Costa County Anywhere at Anytime. Currently, A3 operates five days a week during specific hours, but is expected to expand over the next year to provide 24/7 emergency behavioral health support.
 - **Led by Congressman DeSaulnier, this program received two federal project funding allotments: one for \$1 million to renovate a facility in Concord to serve as the Contra Costa Crisis Services Hub and a second for \$1,061,552 to add two Mobile Crisis Response Teams.
- In identifying that most gun injuries were self-inflicted, the Pleasant Hill Police Department created a seven-person Crisis Intervention Team designed to work in conjunction with Martinez and Walnut Creek Police Departments to provide maximum coverage to respond to individuals or families in an emotional or psychological crisis.

ENFORCEMENT

A key community partner to reduce gun violence are local police departments, many of which are working on creative solutions to gun violence in their communities.

- In San Pablo, the police department has focused on community policing through several programs, including the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program and a Community Policing Academy, which provides the community with best practices in crime awareness and reduction. In addition to these programs, the City of San Pablo supports two Juvenile Education and Wellness Liaison (JEWL) Officers who support and mentor youth. Finally, the San Pablo Police Department uses technology to prevent and reduce crime, including ShotSpotter and the use of drones as a first responder.
- Pittsburg police held a 90-day campaign from June – August 2022 where they partnered with local, state, and federal agencies to conduct large-scale patrol enforcement, special operations, and prohibited person compliance enforcement. During the campaign, just over 100 guns were taken off the streets and out of the hands of criminals. The City also hosted a gun buyback event in October.
- Cities like Concord are focusing on proactive enforcement and investigations to contact, identify, and apprehend those who commit crimes with the use and threatened use of firearms, and places like Danville are making sure to prioritize those with gun offenses.

SAFE STORAGE

On top of a state law that requires gun owners to make sure a gun is stored unloaded and in a place not accessible by children and adults prohibited from possessing a gun, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek, and Antioch have gone a step further, requiring all guns to be safely stored in a locked container or disabled with a gun lock that has been approved by the California Department of Justice.

OTHER INITIATIVES

•Antioch has created a new Department of Public Safety and Community Resources with a division dedicated to addressing root causes that lead to gun violence. The City has also established an ad hoc committee focused on community violence solutions engaging residents in areas most impacted by violence, and was recently awarded a \$1.8 million California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) grant to address gun violence as a public health issue.

•Lafayette has a city ordinance that requires anyone requesting a land use permit to sell guns in the city to have liability insurance.