



## The Violence Prevention Initiative

Violence of all forms affects New York City (NYC), devastating families and communities. The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI), created by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, seeks to strengthen neighborhoods that disproportionately experience community violence.

Rooted in health equity principles, in which everyone has the opportunity to realize their full health potential, the VPI uses a multi-strategy, trauma-informed approach to reduce New Yorkers' risk factors for violence. The VPI focuses on the social causes of violence in disinvested communities, prioritizes solutions that help address behavioral and structural barriers, and works across systems and communities to reinvest in the neighborhoods most affected by violence to create environments where protective factors outweigh risk factors.

Between 2012 and 2018, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Cure Violence program worked to reduce and prevent gun violence in NYC. Since, the VPI has continued and expanded upon this work, partnering with community members in a citywide effort to help make NYC safer.

The VPI's initiatives include:

- The Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP), which seeks to increase the capacity of hospitals to offer services that respond to people injured by violence and reduce their risk of being injured and going to the hospital again
- Violence Is a Public Health Issue, which seeks to inform violence prevention programs and policies using data and by reframing violence as a public health issue

In addition, their current activities include:

- Helping local hospitals respond to the physical, social and emotional needs of people injured by violence.
- Working with other City agencies and the Crisis Management System to support community-led efforts to de-escalate violence in neighborhoods.
- Developing a violence prevention approach to address factors that lead to violence in communities.
- Analyzing data that can be used to develop new interventions.
- Conducting research on the most effective policies to reduce violence.

For more information and a list of hospital-based violence intervention programs across the five boroughs, visit [nyc.gov/health](https://nyc.gov/health) and search for **violence prevention**.