

THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

THE VISION:

All New Yorkers live in safe, gun violence-free communities.

THE MISSION:

Address the upstream causes of violence in impacted communities to reduce shooting incidents and ensure that families, young adults, and formerly incarcerated New Yorkers have full access to opportunities that help them thrive.

The Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF), established by Mayor Eric Adams in June 2022, seeks to address the upstream causes of violence, which stem from long-term disinvestment in essential neighborhood safety programs and services. The Task Force aims to curb the rise in gun violence through a place-based, public health, and community development focused approach. By focusing on areas such as housing, employment, mental health, policing, public spaces, and youth opportunities, the GVPTF aims to prevent gun violence both now and in the future. The Task Force operates under the belief that gun violence is a symptom of a lack of access to economic, social, educational, and healthcare resources. The Task Force's commitments are formalized in the Blueprint for Community Safety, which details multi-agency strategies to address both the immediate and underlying causes of gun violence. This whole-of-government approach mobilizes various levels and branches of government to collaborate on effective gun reform.

FOCUS ON THE MOST IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

The Bronx:

47th Precinct: *Woodlawn, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Baychester*

44th Precinct: *Grand Concourse*

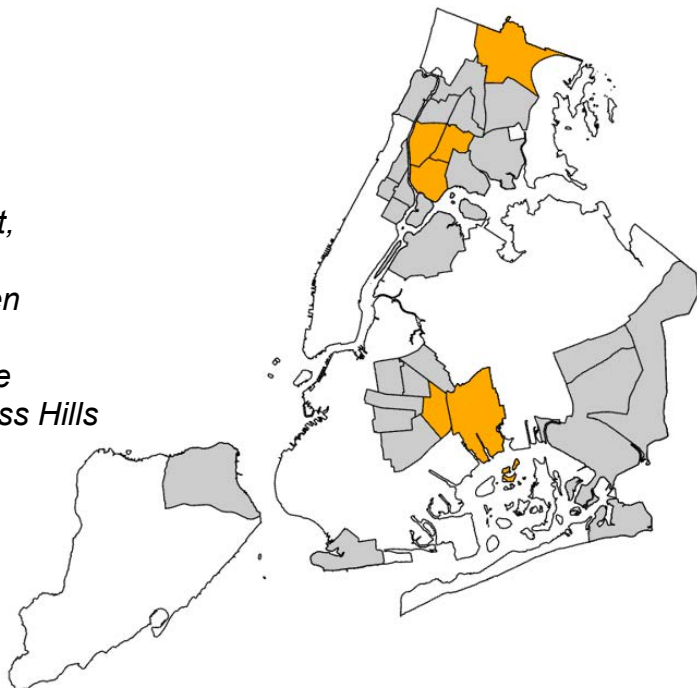
42nd Precinct: *Morrisania, Claremont, Crotona Park*

40th Precinct: *Port Morris, Mott Haven*

Brooklyn:

73rd Precinct: *Ocean Hill, Brownsville*

75th Precinct: *East New York, Cypress Hills*



The burdens of gun violence are not felt equally citywide. In 2022, about 92% of total gun violence in NYC was concentrated within the 30 precincts with the highest number of shooting incidents. These neighborhoods, mostly Black and Brown communities, reflect the historic disinvestment and quality of life challenges that the Task Force seeks to address. From the legacy of redlining and other racially discriminatory practices, the city’s communities of color have limited inroads to economic mobility, quality community spaces, affordable housing options, and well-resourced public services. These predominantly Black and Brown households experience higher rates of childhood poverty, rent burdens, and unemployment rates, as well as lower median household incomes than the rest of New York City. These communities also faced high rates of Covid cases, illnesses, and deaths and suffer from high rates of maternal mortality and other health inequities. Priority communities also suffer from higher rates of chronic absenteeism from schools, high rates of disconnected youth ages 16-24, high rates of admissions to juvenile detention, and low rates of high school graduation. A central aspect of the Task Force’s work is therefore on supporting young people.

Boosted by a \$415 million citywide investment in FY 2024, the Task Force has been charged with prioritizing six communities that experienced the highest rates of homicide and gun violence across NYC– the 40th, 42nd, 44th, 47th, 73rd and 75th precincts which dot the Bronx and Brooklyn.

A WAY FORWARD

Based on initiatives that have already delivered results for New Yorkers, the Task Force believes that eliminating gun violence requires more than enforcement and criminal justice policy; it also requires:

- Accelerating a **public health approach** that brings all city agencies into a public safety ecosystem to respond to crises and interrupt cycles of violence.
- Employing an intentional **community development approach**, rooted in a youth and racial equity lens, that focuses on preventative measures and addresses deeply rooted social determinants of health and safety with longer-term solutions.

Overall Impact

The GVPTF is one part of the City’s comprehensive approach to addressing gun violence, and early indications in the first year point to both successes as well as areas where continued focus and collaboration are needed to deliver the community safety that New Yorkers deserve. While the GVPTF focuses primarily on priority precincts, some initiatives extend through all of New York City.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The Task Force's original work established seven strategies that, together, will help tackle the upstream causes of gun violence. Throughout spring 2023, the Task Force engaged approximately 600 residents and 800 youth through community convenings and the Youth Town Halls. The Task Force also conducted focus groups with social service providers and school safety agents to further customize strategies and actions/initiatives to end gun violence based on the insights of those directly impacted and/or working on- the-ground in each of these communities. Thanks to these sessions, the Task Force gained a better understanding of how gun violence uniquely impacts each community and held discussions about potential solutions with those who have the greatest stake in the health of their neighborhoods.

From 2023 - 2024, agencies and partners developed specific theories of change (TOCs) for each strategy based off of the findings from the Spring 2023's community engagement sessions. These examined key indicators and barriers to progress, outlined how specific initiatives can help make progress against identified indicators, and mapped how the City and its partners might recognize progress. This work allowed us to create a whole of government approach to pursue our objectives.

7 COMMUNITY CO-DESIGNED STRATEGIES TO TACKLE THE UPSTREAM CAUSES OF GUN VIOLENCE



Strategy #1: Early Intervention

The Early Intervention strategy improves educational opportunities, provides better support in schools, and ensures that young people have positive mentors and networks. The strategy acknowledges how low attendance rates, poor educational attainment, and lack of access to training programs impacts students' sense of safety.

Strategy #2: Housing

The Housing strategy aims to increase the availability and improve the quality of existing housing for residents of the six priority precincts and provide access to economic opportunities for residents and local vendors. The theory of change identified a lack of affordable housing units, the poor condition of NYCHA housing stock, and a lack of economic opportunities related to housing development for local vendors.

Strategy #3: Employment & Entrepreneurship (E&E)

The E&E strategy improves access to employment programs, thus reducing the impact economic insecurity has on youth and justice involved individuals. The strategy provides youth job training and entrepreneurship classes while encouraging local hiring.

Strategy #4: Trauma-Informed Care

The Trauma-Informed Care strategy was created to enhance mental health support for youth and individuals with diagnosed mental illnesses and ensure appropriate health crisis responses. The theory of change identified the need for comprehensive mental health services and crisis interventions to reduce the reliance on law enforcement, a lack of trauma-informed programming for justice-involved individuals, the need for support for victims of community violence in hospitals, and extended hours for community and health services.

Strategy #5: Community and Police Relations

The Community and Police Relations strategy was created to cultivate strong relationships of mutual trust between police agencies and communities to maintain public safety and ensure effective policing so that neighborhoods are safe, thriving and free of gun violence. The Task Force identified the need to improve the relationship between NYPD and the community, especially amongst young people, and to create spaces for the community to discuss and create collaborative solutions with the police.

Strategy #6: Community Vitality

The Community Vitality strategy was created to generate more vibrant, healthy neighborhoods free of gun violence through the improvement of community centers, parks, playgrounds, and other physical infrastructure and programs. The Task Force identified the need to improve and maintain infrastructure and programming in public spaces, address the lack of resources for community gardens in priority precincts, the lack of capacity, and the budget constraints community-based development organizations and business improvement districts face in implementing new public projects.

Strategy #7: Navigation & Benefits

The Navigation and Benefits strategy was created to increase access for people to government benefits and provide more effective support for justice-involved families in navigating government programs, all towards the long-term aim of improving the lives of New York City residents and reducing gun violence. The Task Force identified the need to improve awareness and access to benefits by increasing residents' enrollment and continued access to government benefits.

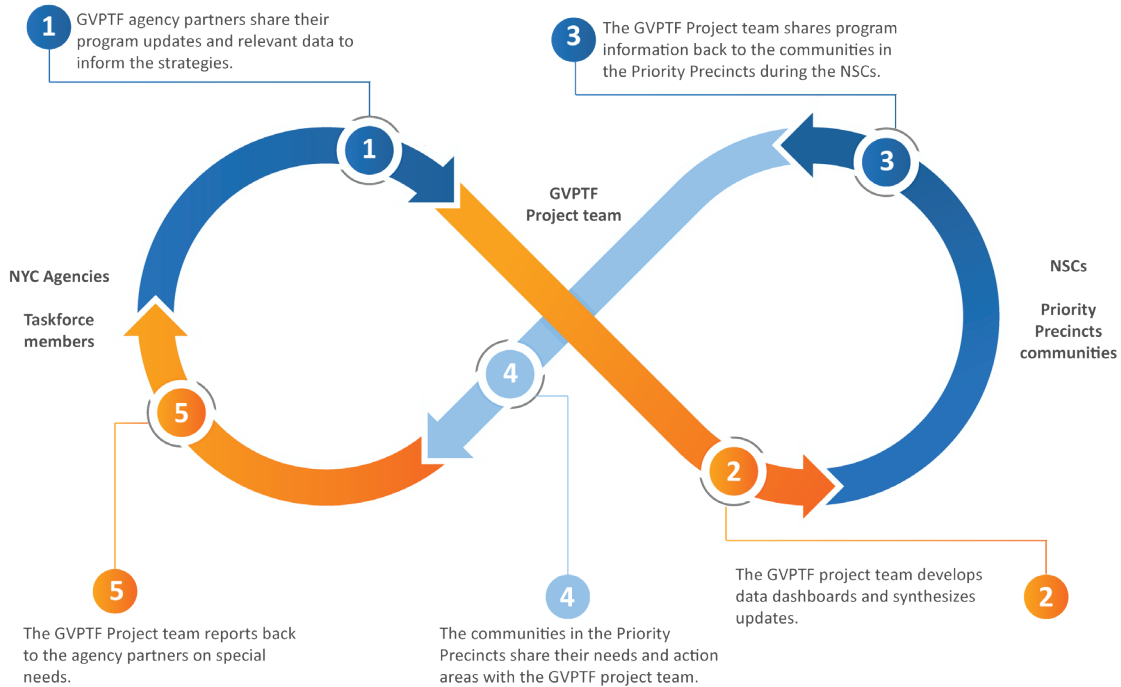
MILESTONES



Year 1 Success

The first year of the Task Force has been marked by important ways of working that are critical to its success.

Delivering a Whole-of-Government Approach Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Ecosystem



*GVPTF (Gun Violence Prevention Task Force)
*NSC (Neighborhood Safety Council)

Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Updates

As of October 2024

