

# THE BLUEPRINT TO END GUN VIOLENCE

## PARTNER AGENCIES & OFFICES



Mayor's Office  
of Criminal  
Justice

Mayor's Office  
of Community  
and Mental  
Health

## INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Gun violence is a public health crisis that continues to threaten every corner of the City. Over the past several years, a small population of individuals has driven a massive increase in violence. January 2022, Mayor Eric Adams laid out a plan for action towards removing guns from New York City streets to protect communities and create a safe, prosperous city. The Blueprint to End Gun Violence ("the Blueprint") addresses the root causes of gun violence by enhancing New York City Police Department's (NYPD) efforts to fight crime with precision policing, increasing economic opportunities, enhancing opportunities for youth, and providing additional access to mental health support. Since the Blueprint's announcement, the City has removed 3,300 guns off the street through Fiscal 2022.

This chapter addresses several initiatives introduced by the Blueprint, implemented by various City agencies, to reduce gun violence in the City.

- NYPD has launched Neighborhood Safety Teams, which is an interdepartmental and collaborative effort.
- The Gun Violence Prevention Task Force has been created to ensure that the City incorporates community feedback in its efforts.
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has announced the formation of a DNA Gun Crimes Unit to expedite processing of DNA evidence for gun cases.
- Enhanced opportunities for youth include expansions of New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's (DYCD) Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and New York City Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) Fair Futures program.
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will be expanding the breadth of hospitals participating in Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs).
- The City continues to expand mental health care for New Yorkers and the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health (OCMH), in collaboration with partner agencies, has been reviewing policy and practice around Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT).

## PRECISION POLICING

### NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TEAMS

- In March 2022, NYPD established new Neighborhood Safety Teams (NSTs), units consisting of highly trained officers that integrate crime reduction, precision policing, and community engagement. These teams target perpetrators who carry and use illegal firearms to remove illegal guns and address violent street crime conditions. As of Fiscal 2022, Neighborhood Safety Teams were active in 34 commands (30 precincts and four Police Service Areas) citywide and staffed with 206 uniformed members of the service. These areas were selected based on locations of the top shooting incidents in Calendar 2021. Officers are deployed in specific areas within the precinct based on current crime trends and statistics.

- The NSTs undergo supplemental training and oversight and are required to engage with the communities they operate in. All officers serving on NSTs receive an enhanced seven-day training prior to deployment which includes courtroom testimony, tactical training, and risk management. NSTs also wear uniforms that identify them as police and wear body cameras. Community engagement efforts are integrated into the ongoing duties of officers on the Teams. Commanding Officers are tasked with introducing team members to key stakeholders within their respective commands which may include local elected officials, community council or district boards, community residents, and prominent clergy members.

<b>Neighborhood Safety Teams by Patrol Borough</b>	
<b>Patrol Borough</b>	<b>Command</b>
Manhattan North	23, 25, 28, 32, 34, PSA 5
Bronx	40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, PSA 7
Brooklyn South	67, 69, 71
Brooklyn North	73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, PSA 2, PSA 3
Queens South	101, 103, 105, 113
Queens North	114
Staten Island	120

## **CITYWIDE CRIME AND QUALITY OF LIFE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE**

- During Fiscal 2022, Mayor Adams also implemented a new Citywide Crime and Quality of Life Enforcement Initiative focused on the 17 precincts that account for almost half of the City's shootings. This initiative expanded the mission of the NSTs beyond 911 calls and includes proactive engagement with offenders who commit violations that lead up to an act of violence—whether on the streets, in the transit system, or in the City's public housing developments. This enforcement aims to be responsive to community complaints and concerns to address the violent crime patterns officers and detectives are confronting. Under the initiative, NSTs work in tandem with Neighborhood Coordination Officers who serve as liaisons between the police and community, Youth Coordination Officers who implement Department-wide youth initiatives and Field Intelligence Officers who focus on identifying the locations and individual drivers of violent crime in each command.

## **MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION**

- NYPD has been working with partners at the local, state, and federal levels to share intelligence and information on specific cases through the Gun Violence Strategic Partnership, which facilitates real-time communication across over twenty law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, focusing on the worst gun offenders in New York City. In addition, NYPD has been working with New York State law enforcement to implement spot checks and gun detection strategies at City entry points like Port Authority and other bus and train stations.
- The Firearms Suppression Section (FSS) conducts operations in high bus traffic corridors to seize illegal firearms. In Fiscal 2022, the FSS recovered 174 firearms from seven cases involving buses traveling from out of state. NYPD has been exploring the responsible use of new technologies and software to identify dangerous individuals and those carrying weapons. Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and NYPD's Transit Bureau are researching vendors who can provide the service of firearm detection canines to assist in subway stations and car patrols.

## **GUN VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION DIVISION**

- NYPD has been increasing resources for the Gun Violence Suppression Division, which investigates intelligence-based long-term cases, and seizes illegal guns from illegal carriers, traffickers, and sellers. As of Fiscal 2022, the total uniformed staffing for the Gun Violence Suppression Division (198) and the Firearms Suppression Section (70, including undercover officers) is 268 members.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**

- As part of the Supplemental Development initiative, NYPD has made efforts to civilianize more roles at the Department to better utilize existing resources and place more officers on patrol in key neighborhoods throughout the City as part of the supplemental deployment initiative. As of Fiscal 2022, there were 18,527 uniformed members of the service assigned to patrol commands (Patrol Services Bureau, Transit Bureau, and Housing Bureau). Additionally, 650 officers who were not normally assigned to patrol duties were assigned to patrol commands.

## **GHOST GUNS**

- The City's fight against illegal guns includes traditionally manufactured and sold firearms in addition to "ghost guns", which are fully functioning weapons with no traceable markings or serial numbers. These guns are usually sold online in parts and are assembled at home. Many ghost gun parts are made of polymer plastic, which are undetectable by metal detectors. The companies that sell them do not require a permit, gun license, or background check. It has been difficult for the City to regulate this technology.
- NYPD's Major Case Field Intelligence Team carries out specialized investigations to stop the flow of ghost guns. These investigations begin at the point of the online purchase of ghost-gun kits, additional parts, and other means to assemble these weapons at home—and they result in search warrants and seizures. The number of ghost guns seized has increased since 2018, when the first of these guns was encountered by NYPD.
- On June 29, 2022, New York City filed a lawsuit against five online gun retailers that are illegally selling and delivering ghost guns components to addresses in the City. Undercover investigators in the Sheriff's Office were able to order the components and use them to assemble guns that are illegal under City and State law.

## **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE**

- On June 2, 2022, Executive Order 19 was released, which established a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force co-chaired by Sheena Wright, the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives and Andre T. Mitchell, Founder of Man Up!, a violence prevention and community development organization in East New York. The Task Force consists of Deputy Mayors, representatives from City agencies, community safety members and leaders from the non-profit, academic, and philanthropic communities. The purpose of the task force is to learn from communities most impacted by gun violence; identify existing and recommend future community-driven programming, services, and solutions; and coordinate responses and ensure collaboration between City government and impacted communities.

## **FORMATION OF DNA GUN CRIMES UNIT**

- In June 2022, OCME, home to the largest and most advanced public DNA crime laboratory in North America, launched the first DNA Gun Crimes Unit in the nation.
- The DNA Gun Crimes Unit will be comprised of 24 scientists and equipment dedicated exclusively to processing DNA evidence submissions from gun crime investigations throughout the five boroughs. The agency has recruited all new positions and is now processing and onboarding staff.
- The formation of the Gun Crimes Unit will help the agency achieve a 30 day turnaround time for gun crimes cases, the fastest of any large municipal laboratory in the nation.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM EXPANSION

- To address a pattern of increased gun violence and gun crimes during summer months, the Blueprint proposed the launch of an unprecedented expansion of SYEP, with a goal of identifying a paid internship opportunity for every young person ages 14 to 24 who wants one. SYEP is designed to introduce and prepare youth for the world of work, to help youth explore career interests and acquire good work habits and skills, and to provide supplemental income.
- During the summer of 2022, DYCD facilitated SYEP's expansion, which served over 90,000 young people. The previous record for this program was nearly 75,000 participants. Final figures are currently only available through Fiscal 2022 to reflect 74,884 participants through June 30, 2022.
- Fiscal 2022 marked a recovery year, during which DYCD prioritized the health and safety of SYEP participants while recognizing the changed City landscape and balancing the desire to return to the traditional program model. Applicants are selected for the program based on a lottery system. Although the percentage of eligible SYEP applicants placed in compensated internships in Fiscal 2022 was 49 percent, this figure is expected to increase once data is available to reflect increased participant slots for the summer of 2022.
- The SYEP expansion included partnerships with large businesses and corporations across the City. SYEP providers offered a wide variety of in-person employment and educational experiences as well as virtual and hybrid opportunities. Participants engaged in career exploration and education through the digital platform, Hats & Ladders, and pursued six weeks of paid internship placements in a wide range of leading sectors. The resulting program engaged the largest number of partners and employers (14,525 total worksites and 937 projects for younger youth) and offered innovative professional internship and educational opportunities and civic engagement experiences.

Performance Indicator	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY23	5-Year	Desired Direction
Eligible Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) applicants placed in compensated internships (%)	47%	45%	49%	26%	49%	*	*	Down	Up
Participants in Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)	69,716	74,354	74,453	35,198	74,884	75,000	90,000	Down	Up

## FAIR FUTURES EXPANSION

- During Fiscal 2022, additional resources were provided to ACS to expand the Fair Futures program to youth ages 21 to 26 and to youth in the Agency's juvenile justice programs. Fair Futures is a groundbreaking, first of its kind public-private partnership, that provides dedicated coaches, tutors and education, employment and housing specialists for youth with foster care involvement ages 11 to 26.
- Through Fair Futures, ACS supports young people in the achievement of key milestones that put them on a path to success after they leave foster care to permanency or independent living. New York City is the first jurisdiction in the nation to implement an initiative for youth in foster care of this breadth and scale. The expansion of Fair Futures will enable youth leaving care to maintain the critical support of their coach through the challenging transitions that come with leaving care and becoming adults. When the program first launched in 2019, it provided thousands of youth ages 11 to 21 in foster care with coaches. This expansion, which began in August 2022, is a key part of ACS's plan to help youth transition out of foster care.

Performance Indicator	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY23	5-Year	Desired Direction
The total number of foster youth aged 11 and older receiving Fair Futures services	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,393	*	*	NA	Up

## EXPANDING HOSPITAL-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (HVIPS)

- HVIPs aim to reduce the risk of readmissions for violent injuries among patients who are admitted to the hospital following non-fatal assault. This is accomplished through bedside conflict mediations conducted by culturally-affirming intervention specialists (hospital responders/credible messengers) who are called in by participating hospital staff to establish a relationship with the patients. These specialists work with violently injured patients to reduce violent retaliations, reinjuries, and criminal justice involvement by providing culturally sensitive, comprehensive, and multifaceted interventions.
- HVIPs operate from the premise that there is a unique opportunity to contact and effectively engage victims of violent injury while they are recovering in a hospital. These programs recognize the critical importance of supporting the health and broader social needs of violence survivors. They combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community partners to provide safety planning, social services, and trauma-informed care.
- The City's HVIP program currently operates in nine locations in communities experiencing high rates of gun violence. The Blueprint to End Gun Violence outlines a plan to expand HVIP to one additional hospital. All participating hospitals will receive trainings, technical assistance as well as data collection and analysis to monitor and respond to fatal and non-fatal trends in community violence. The key components of the program comprise of coordinated response protocols, hospital-based patient engagement and follow up, and training of onsite and/or external credible messengers.
- HVIP programs require coordination between the City through DOHMH, hospitals, and community-based organizations. Hospital staff perform structured intake, risk assessments and customize case management and treatment plans for eligible patients. Hospitals also staff the program and integrate it into existing supportive services. DOHMH ensures that eligible patients receive in-hospital service delivery including medical treatment, conflict mediation and violence interruption services. The agency also provides guidance on establishing program protocols and work scope, provides technical assistance and training to hospitals and providers. Credible messengers from community-based organizations provide regular follow-ups with patients while in the hospital, discharge plans, linkages to services (e.g., medical, mental health, housing, education), and regular follow-ups after patients' discharge from the hospital.
- From Fiscal 2019 to Fiscal 2022, there was an overall increase in the number of eligible patients who received conflict mediation services despite a brief suspension in services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the percentage of eligible patients who received conflict mediation services at partner hospitals increased by seven percent between Fiscal 2021 and 2022. Over these years, HVIP partnerships have become more successful at providing services to eligible patients. There was a reduction in eligible patients who received conflict mediation services between Fiscal 2021 and 2022 by nine percent which is likely attributed to community violence trends in partner hospital catchment areas.
- DOHMH has provided hospital partners with ongoing technical assistance, protocol development, and professional training. The agency increased the annual number of professional trainings offered from two in Fiscal 2019 to four from Fiscal 2020 through 2022 to meet the needs of existing programs, strengthen program partnerships, and support staff retention and institutional knowledge. There has been an increased interest amongst local community-based organizations to partner with hospitals to provide services to violently injured patients. Accordingly, the number of HVIP training participants increased from 65 to 72 between Fiscal 2021 to 2022.

Performance Indicator	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY23	5-Year	Desired Direction
Number of eligible hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) patients who received conflict mediation services	NA	704	879	1330	1209	*	*	NA	Up
Percentage of eligible hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) patients who received conflict mediation services at partner hospitals	NA	63%	71%	76%	83%	*	*	NA	Up
Number of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) trainings	NA	2	4	4	4	*	*	NA	Up
Number of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIP) training participants	NA	41	58	65	72	*	*	NA	Up
★ Critical Indicator      ● Equity Indicator      "NA" Not Available      ⇅ Directional Target      * None									

## CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Hospital	Community Partner
Kings County Hospital Center	Kings Against Violence Initiative; Man Up! Inc.
Harlem Hospital	Street Corner Resources; Stand Against Violence East Harlem (SAVE)
Lincoln Hospital	Guns Down, Life Up; Save Our Streets Bronx
Richmond University Medical Center	True 2 Life
Jacobi Medical Center	Stand Up to Violence
St. Barnabas Hospital	Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence
Woodhull Medical Center	Los Sures
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Life Camp, Inc.; King of Kings Foundation; Rock Safe Streets
Brookdale Hospital	Elite Learners Inc.

## EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH CARE

- The Blueprint proposed a reallocation of mental health resources into areas of direct need, including supporting those experiencing homelessness and helping New Yorkers in moments of crisis. As of the Fiscal 2023 Executive Budget, \$27.3m in funding has been shifted to DOHMH for Expansion of Clubhouses for People with Serious Mental Illness, School Mental Health Specialists and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice for the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP). Clubhouses are evidence-based models of psychiatric rehabilitation—one-stop places that help people with serious mental illness by providing peer support, access to services, employment and educational opportunities, and socialization and recreation in a safe, restorative and structured setting. School Mental Health Specialists create access to quality mental health services and supports in schools through partnerships with Community Based Organizations. These partnerships reflect the specific needs of the students and families that are part of the school community. CVAP provides dedicated victim advocates for survivors of domestic violence and additional advocates for victims of every other category of crime.

- Also, the Blueprint seeks to recommend revisiting existing laws so that if someone who can't take care of themselves refuses treatment, they can be hospitalized upon the recommendation of a doctor and judge. OCMH has been leading a biweekly interagency review of Kendra's Law (New York State Mental Hygiene Law § 9.60) Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) efforts. Agencies participating in the review include DOHMH, NYC Health + Hospitals, and Correctional Health Services. This review will lead to recommendations on key policy and practice changes.

Performance Indicator	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY23	5-Year	Desired Direction
Individuals who, after reporting a crime, received support to deal with the emotional, physical and financial aftermath of crime through the Crime Victim Assistance Program	40,410	59,008	49,904	39,283	38,733	*	*	Down	*

## CONCLUSION

The Blueprint to End Gun Violence aims to target gun violence through a multifaceted approach: investing in precision policing and investigations, enhancing access to mental health care, and investing in the futures of children and their neighborhoods. This chapter will follow the progress of this initiative as the City seeks to remove guns from its streets, protect its communities, and create a safe, prosperous City for all New Yorkers.

## NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

None.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- Press release for the Blueprint to End Gun Violence:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/045-22/mayor-adams-releases-blueprint-end-gun-violence-new-york-city#0>
- Press release for the DNA Gun Crimes Unit:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/461-22/mayor-adams-chief-medical-examiner-dr-graham-formation-nation-s-first-dna-gun-crimes>
- Website for the Crime Victim Assistance Program:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/services/victim-services/cvap.page>
- Website for the Summer Youth Employment Program:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>

