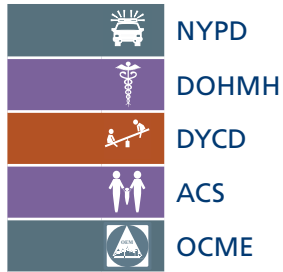


THE BLUEPRINT TO END GUN VIOLENCE

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. Released in January 2022, the Blueprint to End Gun Violence (“the Blueprint”) 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 addresses the root causes of gun violence by enhancing New York City Police Department’s (NYPD) efforts to fight crime with precision policing, enhancing opportunities for youth and providing additional access to mental health support. Since the Blueprint’s announcement through October 2022, the City has removed over 6,600 guns off the street.

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

- NYPD has established specialized units known as Neighborhood Safety Teams (NST), to enhance the removal of illegal guns and address all crime conditions that impact the quality of life and public safety in New York.
- 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 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 October 31, 2022, there are Neighborhood Safety Teams active in 36 commands (32 precincts and four Police Service Areas) citywide and staffed with 231 uniformed members of the service. Between July and October

2022, two additional precincts were added to this initiative- the 26th precinct in Manhattan North and 115th precinct in Queens North, and twenty five additional officers. 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 residents of the neighborhoods 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.

Neighborhood Safety Teams by Patrol Borough	
Patrol Borough	Command
Manhattan North	23, 25, 26, 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, 115
Staten Island	120

CITYWIDE CRIME AND QUALITY OF LIFE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

- During Fiscal 2022 NYPD 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.
- For the first four months of Fiscal 2023 this initiative resulted in a decrease of shooting incidents by 16 percent and an increase of gun arrests by 140 percent, when compared to the first four months of Fiscal 2022. Additionally, major felony arrests increased 21 percent and quality of life summonses increased by 115 percent.

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 20 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 gun detection strategies at City entry points like Port Authority and other bus and train stations.
- NYPD has also continued to participate in the Interstate Task Force on Illegal Guns, a multi-state consortium convened to share intelligence, tools, tactics, and strategies to combat gun violence, especially as it relates to the trafficking of firearms between states.

- The Firearms Suppression Section (FSS) at NYPD 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 continues to explore 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 October 31, 2022, the total uniformed staffing for the Gun Violence Suppression Division (200) and the Firearms Suppression Section (62, including undercover officers) is 262 members.

SUPPLEMENTAL DEPLOYMENTS

- As part of a plan aimed at augmenting the presence of uniformed members of the service throughout the City to combat violent crime and address quality of life concerns, an “Enhanced Deployment Strategy” was implemented in Fiscal 2022. The deployment of these members is determined by an analysis of crime trends. During the first four months of Fiscal 2023, the Department continued to deploy officers not normally assigned to patrol duties to deter crime and heighten police presence in precincts and subway stations citywide. This has allowed precinct personnel to stay within the neighborhoods and among the communities they know and serve every day.

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. New York State laws (Scott. J. Beigel Unfinished Receiver Act and the Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act), prohibit the sale or possession of un-serialized frames or receivers, and other ghost gun components.
- 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.
- On June 29, 2022, New York City filed a lawsuit against five online gun retailers for illegally selling and delivering ghost gun 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. Between August and October 2022, the City of New York settled with four of the five defendants. The terms of these agreements include, in relevant part, a permanent prohibition on the sale of unfinished frames, receivers, and/or ghost guns to any individual with a billing or shipping address in New York City (so long as the New York City Administrative Code and/or NY Penal Law continue to prohibit such sale).

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

- On June 2, 2022, Executive Order 19 was released, which established a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, a cross-sector, multiagency program dedicated to reducing gun violence by addressing its upstream causes. The purpose of the task force is to learn from communities most impacted by gun violence and identify existing and recommend future community-driven programming, services, and solutions. In addition, the task force is responsible for ensuring government agencies and community organizations work together to advance evidence-based strategies.
- Gun violence disproportionately impacts a handful of neighborhoods in the six precincts with the highest shootings incidents. About 27 percent of shooting incidents occur in the following precincts:
 - 47th: Woodlawn, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Baychester (Bronx, NY)

- 44th: Grand Concourse (Bronx, NY)
- 42nd: Morrisania, Claremont, Crotona Park (Bronx, NY)
- 40th: Port Morris, Mott Haven (Bronx, NY)
- 73th: Brownsville, Ocean Hill (Brooklyn, NY)
- 75th: East New York, Cypress Hills (Brooklyn, NY)
- As of October 2022, the Task Force was in the process of drafting a roadmap and conducting task force workshops and community conversations to collect and incorporate community feedback for the roadmap that will be implemented. The following core strategies are planned for inclusion in the final roadmap:

Overview of Core Strategies	
Navigation & Benefits	Connect New Yorkers to government benefits and multi-system navigation support, with a focus on families and those who are justice-involved.
Transitional Trauma-Informed Housing	Expand transitional trauma-informed housing opportunities for Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) clients.
Employment & Entrepreneurship	Increase the number of and access to quality jobs that provide economic security for those who need it most, including youth, formerly incarcerated New Yorkers and those who are justice-involved.
Trauma-Informed Care	Ensure appropriate mental health crisis response and increase mental health support for youth, young adults, and those with a diagnosed mental illness.
Early Intervention	Increase early educational, housing, health, jobs and recreation support and opportunities for youth using data to focus efforts on those with the most need.
Neighborhood Safety Alliance	Increase opportunities for community/police neighborhood safety partnerships, planning and accountability.
Community Vitality	Improve and increase the physical infrastructure necessary for a vibrant, healthy neighborhood.

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 is comprised of 24 newly hired forensic scientists and equipment dedicated exclusively to processing DNA evidence submissions from gun crime investigations throughout the five boroughs. These 24 new staff are augmented by 38 existing staff to create a unit that comprises 62 forensic scientists. The agency has recruited, hired, and onboarded all new positions and they are currently going through a rigorous training program mandated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- The formation of the Gun Crimes Unit will help the agency achieve a 30-day turnaround time for gun crime cases, the fastest of any forensic science 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 summer 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 Fiscal 2023, DYCD facilitated SYEP's expansion, which served 91,270 young people, representing an increase of 22 percent over the previous record of 74,884 in the summer of Fiscal 2022. DYCD worked in collaboration with sister agencies to ensure the goal of 100,000 youth served City-wide. In order to reach as many youth as possible, DYCD launched the SYEP application in early February, extended the lottery

period, prioritized youth who reside in NYCHA housing in the lottery and expanded non-lottery opportunities to at-risk youth.

- The expanded capacity of SYEP allowed DYCD to serve a higher percentage of applicants. DYCD placed 55 percent of eligible applicants into compensated internships in the summer of Fiscal 2023, compared with 49 percent in the summer of Fiscal 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 (18,314 total worksites that included 1,719 projects for younger youth) and offered innovative professional internship, educational opportunities and civic engagement experiences.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
		FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY22	FY23
Eligible Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) applicants placed in compensated internships (%)	DYCD	49%	26%	49%	*	*	NA	55%
Participants in Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)	DYCD	74,453	35,198	74,884	90,000	90,000	NA	91,270
Total SYEP stipends and wages paid (millions)	DYCD	\$122.3	\$24.7	\$97.4	*	*	\$97.4	\$117.6

FAIR FUTURES EXPANSION

- In the first four months of Fiscal 2023, the ACS Fair Futures Program served 2,716 young people ages 11-26, a nine percent increase from 2,493 during the same period in Fiscal 2022. In Fiscal 2023 the program made available over 500 dedicated coaches, tutors, career counselors, and housing specialists to support youth through their life transitions. Through Fair Futures, ACS supports young people to successfully connect to services, programming, and opportunities that helps them achieve their academic/career goals and successfully transition from 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 program has been successfully implemented, scaled, and integrated into ACS service delivery providing professional coaching across the system. The expansion of Fair Futures to the juvenile justice population and to youth between the ages of 21 to 26 years in Fiscal 2023 is a key part of ACS's strategic plan to help young people connect to quality, best-fit high schools and colleges, stable housing, internships, and gainful employment. To ensure the quality of the service delivery and programming, ACS collaborated with the Fair Futures team to launch the Center for Fair Futures, the administrative arm that delivers a full suite of professional development training, technical assistance, and data reporting to all 26 foster care agencies and now juvenile justice providers.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
		FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY22	FY23
The total number of foster youth aged 11 and older receiving Fair Futures Services	ACS	NA	NA	3,393	*	*	2,493	2,716

EXPANDING HOSPITAL-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (HVIPS)

- Hospital-based violence intervention programs (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. 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 ups, and training of onsite and/or external credible messengers.
- HVIP programs require coordination between DOHMH, hospitals, and community-based organizations. Hospital staff perform structured intake, risk assessments, and customized case management and treatment plans for eligible patients. Hospitals also staff the program and integrate it into their 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 scopes, provides technical assistance and trainings 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 violently injured patients are discharged from the hospital.
- DOHMH has provided hospital partners and providers with ongoing technical assistance, protocol development, and professional trainings. 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. From July 2022 through October 2022, DOHMH remained on track to provide HVIP trainings to all hospital partners and providers. All HVIP programs that reported data were above the Fiscal 2023 target for providing conflict mediation services to eligible patients at partner hospitals.

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.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
		FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY22	FY23
Number of eligible hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) patients who received conflict mediation services	DOHMH	879	1,330	1,209	*	*	NA	453
Percentage of eligible hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) patients who received conflict mediation services at partner hospitals	DOHMH	71.00%	76.00%	83.00%	*	*	NA	76.00%
Number of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) trainings	DOHMH	4	4	4	*	*	NA	2
Number of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIP) training participants	DOHMH	58	65	72	*	*	NA	50

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, \$27.3 million 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.
- During the first four months of Fiscal 2023, OCMH led 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 included DOHMH, NYC Health + Hospitals and Correctional Health Services. This review led to multiple legislative recommendations incorporated into the Psychiatric Crisis Care Legislative Agenda, as well as administrative recommendations. Together, the recommendations are designed to eliminate barriers to care and ensure that AOT is available and accessible to individuals who are most appropriate for this service.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
		FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY22	FY23
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	NYPD	49,904	39,283	38,733	*	*	NA	NA

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>
- Mayor Adams' Psychiatric Crisis Care Legislative Agenda:
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2022/Psychiatric-Crisis-Care.pdf>