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January 21, 2021

Gun Violence in the Public Space

Public Health Approaches to Protecting Youth from Gun Violence: COVID & Beyond


cities united

Mayors leading the way. *Creating safe, healthy, hopeful communities.* Ending the violence against Black men and boys.

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CITIES UNITED

OUR VISION

Creating safe, healthy and hopeful communities for Black young men and boys and their families.

OUR MISSION

Cities United supports a national network of mayors who are committed to reducing the epidemic of homicides & shootings among Black men and boys ages 14-24 by 50%.

OUR VALUES

- ❖ Social Justice
- ❖ Equity
- ❖ Youth Voice
- ❖ Collaboration
- ❖ Innovative

KEY STRATEGIES

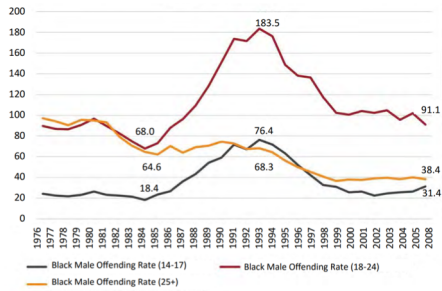
- ❖ National Movement & Field Building
- ❖ Coaching & Capacity Building

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Cities United is a national **community** of local government representatives, young leaders & community partners committed to **reducing the epidemic of homicides and its impacts.**

WHY FOCUS ON BLACK MEN & BOYS?

Figure 4. Black Male Homicide Victimization Rates by Age: 1976-2008 (rate per 100,000)

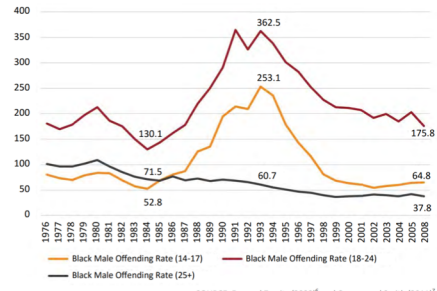


SOURCE: Fox and Zawitz (2008)² and Cooper and Smith (2011)³

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WHY FOCUS ON BLACK MEN & BOYS?

Figure 3. Black Male Homicide Offending Rates by Age: 1976-2008 (rate per 100,000)



SOURCE: Fox and Zawitz (2008)² and Cooper and Smith (2011)³

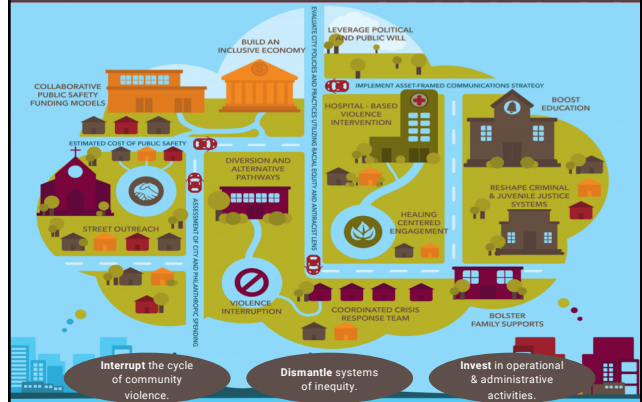
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REMEMBERING OUR ULTIMATE WHY...

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TOWARDS SAFE, HEALTHY & HOPEFUL COMMUNITIES



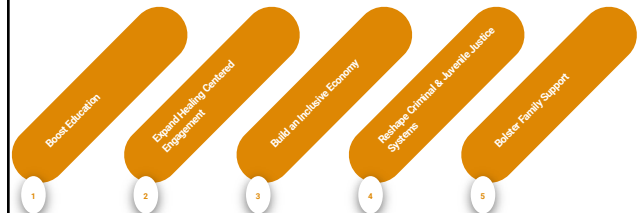
INTERRUPT THE CYCLE OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE



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DISMANTLE SYSTEMS OF INEQUITY



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INVEST IN OPERATIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES



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ADVANCING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Roadmap Academy Roadmap Academy is a 12 month long peer learning cohort focused on developing, implementing, evaluating and sustaining comprehensive public safety plans.	Young Leader Fellowship The Cities United Young Leader Fellowship is a seven month long leadership development opportunity for individuals 18-24 years of age currently residing in Cities United partner cities.	Peace Challenge Peace Challenge is a 12 month project focused on increasing the number of cities implementing homicide and shooting response strategies accompanied with an awareness campaign.	Community Partner Support Network The Community Partner Support Network is currently under development; however, it aims to support and/or showcase individuals and/or organizations who are working directly with individuals and families who've experienced homicide and/or shootings.	Russell: A Place of Promise A Place of Promise is a justice-based initiative focused on generating investments in the people and places that make the Russell neighborhood in Louisville, Kentucky special. With nearly \$1 billion in planned and underway investment, Russell is poised to experience a neighborhood renaissance.
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ADDRESSING MULTIPLE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON CITIES UNITED'S 9 SOLUTION AREAS

Solution Area 1: Shelter Family Support
Cities require support to protect their most vulnerable and most healthy young people. They require connections to services, engagement by city leaders, educators, healthcare providers, and other institutions who serve young people and provide tools and resources to be able to advocate for themselves.

Solution Area 2: Build a Resilient Community
Education is the cornerstone of healthy youth, and well-being as young people grow into adulthood. As schools and universities are disrupted across the country, targeted support and resources must be provided to ensure that young men and women are not left behind.

Solution Area 3: Expand Healing-Centered Approaches
COVID-19 adds a layer of trauma onto communities already experiencing high levels of trauma. Addressing mental health is critical to building safe, healthy and hopeful communities. Healing-centered and trauma-informed approaches recognize that trauma informs each person's life and behavior. Healing resources that address individual and community needs are necessary.

Solution Area 4: Build an Inclusive Economy
Many of the neighborhoods where young Black men and women live have experienced decades of disinvestment, shutting them out of opportunities. COVID-19 adds to this disinvestment by reducing income and access to this opportunity for young people and young women, creating hardship for their families and long-term economic development. Cities must make investments that respond to critical financial constraints as well as create opportunities for economic innovation.

Solution Area 5: Intervene in the Cycle of Violence
We must confront the cycle of community violence at the neighborhood level, preventing and ending gun and community violence who are directly impacted. Social distancing and stay-at-home orders have disrupted intervention and crime research. There is an increased need for interventions that utilize technology. Interventions must also reduce potential harm to individuals and organizations on the front lines reducing violence.

Solution Area 6: Reshape Juvenile & Criminal Justice Systems
COVID-19 has forced necessary reform that is resulting in cities to shut down for the time being, non-violent offenders. Reduced regional travel with non-violent offenders, and reduction in overcrowding of jails and prisons. These and other reforms must be implemented in order to reduce the disproportionate number of Black men and boys who are negatively impacted by the criminal and justice systems.

Solution Area 7: Prioritize the Voices & Experiences of Families & Individuals
People are the experts of their own stories. Individuals and families who are most vulnerable to the short and long-term impacts of COVID-19 have been their voices and stories prioritized and elevated. Their stories should be used to make decisions and develop solutions that impact their daily lives.

Solution Area 8: Engage Youth, Family, & Community
A lack of trust between communities, law enforcement and city leaders due to the prevalence of shootings and homicides, as well as lack of political participation and engagement in local, state and federal government. Cities must be engaged in public forums where their participation is required. Using the ability to form their engagement and their voices to be heard and their voices to be heard.

Solution Area 9: Employ a Comprehensive Public Health Approach
A public health approach recognizes that health and well-being is rooted in multiple levels of a person's life, which means that efforts to reduce community violence must recognize the social, economic and environmental conditions that contribute to an individual's health. COVID-19 is a public health problem that has disrupted how we are collectively respond and address the short-term and long-term issues. We must learn from the COVID-19 public health response and shape the strategies for reducing violence.

CITIES UNITED RESOURCE GUIDES

Download at www.citiesunited.org

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STAY IN TOUCH

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