Blueprint for Violence Prevention

Edmonton

The Blueprint for Violence Prevention is a Strategic Plan to guide the City of Edmonton's response to reducing and preventing violence.

Land Acknowledgement

The lands on which Edmonton sits and the North Saskatchewan River that runs through it have been the sites of natural abundance, ceremony and culture, travel and rest, relationship building, making and trading for Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions, and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

Contents

Letter from the System Stewardship Table

Creating the blueprint for violence prevention has taken considerable commitment from many. We are delighted that our partners in the health system, the police service, the City, and the community have demonstrated their resolve and determination to create positive change together, beginning with this plan.

The system stewardship table recognizes the importance of developing a new approach, one that does not solely rely on policing and enforcement, but acknowledges that with the right cross sectoral collaboration, violence is a preventable outcome. This includes how each of us defines our role in violence prevention and utilizes our unique levers to strengthen a whole of society approach to preventing violence; one that does not just consider crime and enforcement as the primary actor, but also takes into consideration how other systems such as healthcare, community supports, and supportive neighbourhoods also contribute to reducing violence. Although different perspectives, mandates, and strategies exist within each of our organizations, we share a common and unifying vision: to create a city where people feel safe, valued, and respected and are able to live a life free from violence.

This blueprint will allow us to develop strategies that address the underlying factors that contribute to the violence in our city rather than just focusing on the symptoms.

We look forward to the road ahead in testing how this blueprint will be put into action to create positive change for Edmontonians.

System Stewardship Table

Stacey Gellatly
Branch Manager, Social Development, City of Edmonton

Chelsea Hawrelak
Director, Safe and Healthy Communities, City of Edmonton

Warren Driechel
Deputy Chief, Community Safety and Well-being Bureau, Edmonton Police Service

Dr. Michael Zakhary
Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services, Edmonton Zone

Teresa Cavanaugh
Program Manager, Community Health Services, Alberta Health Services, Edmonton Zone

Jan Fox
Executive Director, REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities

Lisa Kardosh
Director, Community Initiatives, REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities

Executive Summary

The Blueprint for Violence Prevention (BVP) is the City of Edmonton's plan for reducing and preventing violence. It adopts a public health approach that recognizes violence as preventable. It focuses on multisectoral collaboration to leverage the unique capacities of the City, other systems partners, and community based organizations.

The BVP sets out three measurable and tangible goals to address violence, informed by a preliminary needs assessment that included research, a jurisdictional review, guidance from a System Stewardship Table composed of local system leaders, focused engagement, and multi-source data analysis. It also outlines opportunities for exploration in the next phase of implementation planning.

Build Structure for Impact & Sustainability

Strengthen and connect existing governance structures and develop shared strategic direction and alignment and a sustainable governance mechanism to operationalize a public health approach to violence prevention.

GOAL 1

Prevent Violence in the Near Term

Address violence that is already occurring through tailored place-based and people-based strategies.

GOAL 2

Move Upstream

Tackle structural and social determinants to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for priority communities through investment, skill development and increased access to services and opportunities.

GOAL 3

Violence takes many forms from youth violence, intimate partner violence, hate crimes, community trauma to systemic violence. These forms of violence are interconnected and often share the same root causes.

An important distinction in the BVP is between violence and crime, which though used interchangeably, are distinct concepts. Not all crimes are violent and not all types of violence are criminalized.

As there are many types of violence, there are also many definitions of violence. The BVP uses a modified version of the World Health Organization's definition of violence.

> **" *The intentional use of physical, emotional, psychological and sexual force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.* "**

While violence is a complex social problem, it is preventable and the cycle of violence can be broken. Violence prevention refers to the reduction of violent victimization or perpetration through direct efforts to remove or reduce underlying causes[1]. The BVP is rooted in a public health approach to preventing multiple forms of violence and addressing the conditions in which people live and work to reduce the risk of violence. This approach looks at the causes of violence, and the causes of those causes.

Although violence can affect any community, violence takes an inequitable toll on specific neighborhoods and populations including youth, women, Indigenous communities and people of colour. Violence deprives individuals and communities of opportunities, particularly for people living in concentrated poverty. It perpetuates historic and present-day inequities and due to its cyclical nature, its impacts are intergenerational.

Understanding where to focus resources is critical and is accomplished through robust collaborations with youth and communities and tailored community based needs assessments. Data and community partnerships are required to build trust and appropriate processes for sharing, collecting, analyzing and reporting data and are included as an opportunity to explore over 2025.

---

[1] Institute for Security Studies, What is Violence Prevention (2021).
https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep62706

There are many ways to reduce violence and increase safety for all Edmontonians, and rather than trying to begin anew, the BVP promotes building on to that which is already excellent - upon the substantive work and partnerships in place across the city. It focuses on building relationships and partnerships between government, First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders, health, enforcement, social, economic and education sectors and communities. The most critical partnerships are with communities and youth, who are placed at the heart of tackling this problem. It also doesn't shy away from seeing if ideas work in the real world.

Focus will also be on identifying each partners' policy levers to mobilize and coordinate roles to optimize and compliment each partner's strengths, to be agile and data/evidence informed, and to determine where resources and investments can have the most impact.

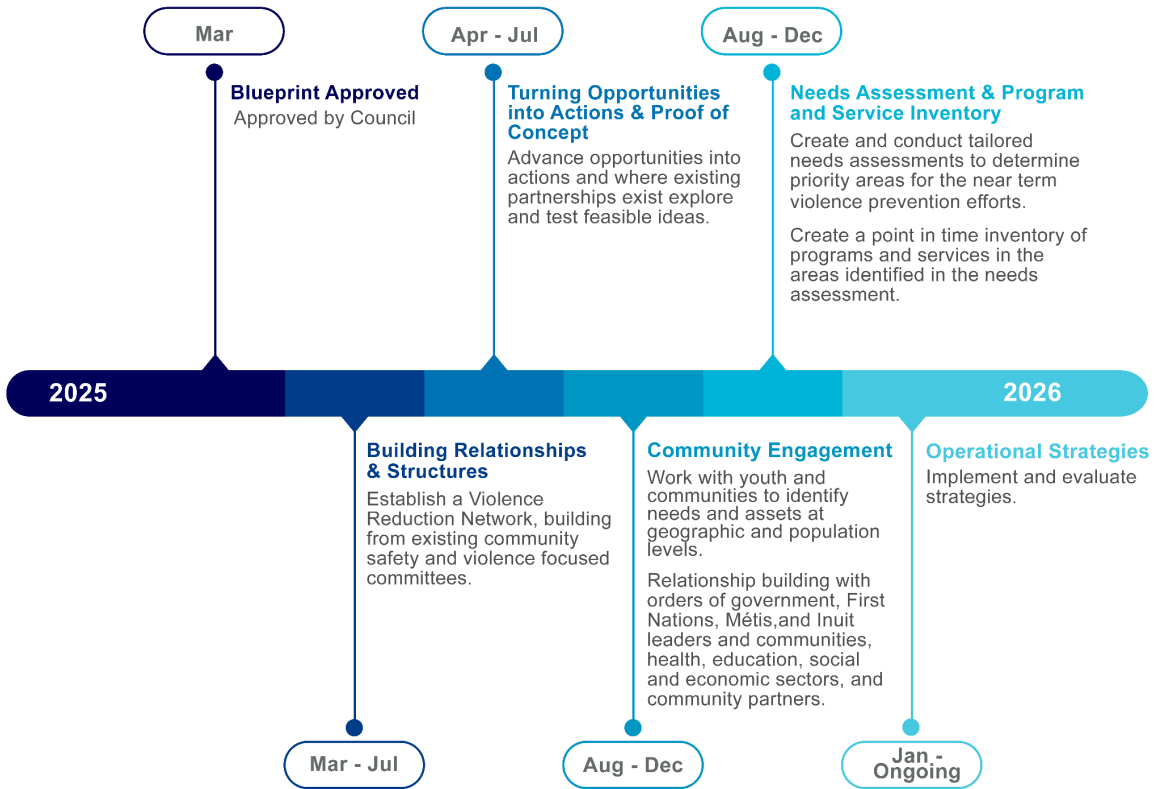**All of this requires time. It also requires a developmental approach.**

Through early and preliminary discussions and building upon work and recommendations over the years, the BVP highlights opportunities for exploration from 2025 through to 2030. These range from immediate interventions to tackle violent crime to community violence interventions and prevention that uses evidence-informed strategies to reduce violence through tailored community-centered initiatives. The BVP also plants the seed for what a coordinating body might look like - a Violence Reduction Network, which will provide advice and coordination on objectives and activities related to violence prevention, including enhancing partnerships and collaborations, commissioning evidence-based interventions and investments that are place-based and people-based, and improving data sharing between partners.

BVP is not an action plan. While an action plan outlines specific actions and the resources, timelines and measures of success associated with those actions, the BVP provides a high-level vision, goals, and opportunities. This was intentional in order to set a common vision and secure time to build relationships and mechanisms for the establishment of multisectoral governance, relationship building with other levels of government, sectors, systems, and communities, identifying existing programs and services that work, and addressing the prevention continuum.

The associated resources, timeline and measures for these opportunities, and others that might be identified as this work continues, will be further developed in the next phase of action and implementation planning.

Timeline

Mar

Blueprint Approved
Approved by Council

Apr - Jul

Turning Opportunities into Actions & Proof of Concept
Advance opportunities into actions and where existing partnerships exist explore and test feasible ideas.

Aug - Dec

Needs Assessment & Program and Service Inventory
Create and conduct tailored needs assessments to determine priority areas for the near term violence prevention efforts.

Create a point in time inventory of programs and services in the areas identified in the needs assessment.

2025

2026

Building Relationships & Structures
Establish a Violence Reduction Network, building from existing community safety and violence focused committees.

Mar - Jul

Community Engagement
Work with youth and communities to identify needs and assets at geographic and population levels.

Relationship building with orders of government, First Nations, Métis,and Inuit leaders and communities, health, education, social and economic sectors, and community partners.

Aug - Dec

Operational Strategies
Implement and evaluate strategies.

Jan - Ongoing

Blueprint Context

Purpose of the BVP

Globally, each year more than 1.6 million people lose their lives to violence.[2] With over half of the world's population living in cities, urban growth, accompanied by social, economic and political problems, has fundamentally changed the conditions and community factors that play a significant role in violence and have had an effect with how local and national governments tackle violence.

For many local governments violence is closely linked to the health of communities and neighbourhoods and the quality of life of people living and working within those communities. Violence has damaging effects on mental, physical and spiritual well-being. It impacts its direct victims, and extends to those who witness violence, family members, co-workers, service providers and all members of society. It places an immense burden on national, provincial and local economies in health care, social services, and law enforcement and can have far-reaching consequences, including economic impacts such as lost productivity.

At a municipal level, violence weakens social capital, impedes social mobility and diminishes social well-being, and even the perception of violence can lead to negative economic impacts such as reduced investments, stagnated growth and lowered property values. For many municipalities, violence has resulted in taxpayers shouldering the financial impact - from police services, to fire and rescue, to social support.

To understand the complexity of violence and crime, its epidemiology, the social values underlying human relationships and effective strategies used to prevent violence and reduce its effects, the BVP has taken up a public health approach. This approach is rooted in the belief that violence is preventable. It emphasizes robust collaborations in analysis and planning, and comprehensive strategies based upon evidence that promote a commitment to amplifying conditions that protect against violence and addressing conditions that elevate the risk for violence.

[2] Peace and Violence, Council of Europe, https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/peace-and-violence

Prioritizing Violence Prevention

Similar to municipalities across Canada, Edmonton is investing in community safety and wellbeing strategies. Edmonton's Community Safety and Well-being Strategy (CSWB) is guided by the vision for becoming the safest city in Canada by 2030. To help achieve the vision and overarching aims of the CSWB, the City of Edmonton has prioritized the prevention of violence focusing on reducing immediate risks and catalyzing longer term violence prevention goals.

CSWB is the City's overarching approach to addressing the root causes of complex social challenges and ensure all who make Edmonton home feel a sense of belonging and safety. CSWB encompasses a number of interconnected initiatives, frameworks and plans related to Council-approved seven pillars of action: Anti-Racism, Reconciliation, Pathways in and out of Poverty, Well-Being, Safe and Inclusive Spaces, Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention and Equitable Policies.

To enhance violence prevention coordination in Edmonton, the Community and Public Services Committee reviewed the 'Community Safety and Well-being Implementation Update' report and recommended that City Council approve a motion to develop a violence prevention action plan. This was subsequently approved on September 12, 2023, and passed as follows:

That Administration provide a report with the development of a violence prevention action plan, in collaboration with partners, as part of the broader Community Safety and Well-Being strategy, highlighting key priorities, including but not limited to youth and neighbourhood prevention, and related funding requirement; and provide a memo midway as an update on this work.

The BVP outlines the role of the City and guides the direction and scope for what is needed to reduce violence and stop violence before it begins. The BVP touches upon many CSWB pillars including Anti-Racism, Reconciliation, Well-Being, and Safe and Inclusive Spaces, and most notably the Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention pillar. This pillar states that crime and crises can be reduced and prevented through comprehensive understanding of community needs and by addressing root causes, focusing interventions on specific areas and coordinating actions across sectors. The BVP is the evidence-informed framework that will analyze local needs and implement targeted activities. Progress in this pillar positively influences outcomes across other CSWB pillars and furthers commitments within the CityPlan, ConnectEdmonton and Council Priorities.

How the Blueprint For Violence Prevention was Built

The BVP is meant to create the foundations for which the work can happen in a responsive manner, flexible to emerging issues, priorities and landscapes. It was developed through an 11 month preliminary needs assessment that was multifaceted and included:

- Defining violence
- Review of existing literature on violence prevention
- Jurisdictional scan of strategies in other cities: public health approach
- Focused engagement and guidance from system leaders
- Analysis of localized multi-source data

The use of mixed methods in the needs assessment ensures the BVP is not only data-driven but enriched with localized experiences and insights.

Defining Violence

While there is no agreed upon, universal definition of violence, many governments and organizations worldwide have adopted the World Health Organization's definition of violence, as outlined in the World Report on Violence and Health (2002).

The BVP has opted to use a modified version of the definition to include emotional, psychological and sexual force or power.

> " *The intentional use of physical, emotional, psychological and sexual force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.* "

Defining Violence Prevention

Violence prevention refers to the reduction of violent victimization or perpetration through direct efforts to remove or reduce underlying causes.

Categorizing Violence

Violence can be categorized into three broad divisions. Each division includes multiple forms of violence[3]:

Subcategorized into suicidal behaviour and self harm.

The BVP will not include specific efforts to address self directed violence. This is more appropriately addressed through the current efforts of the Strategy for Community Mental Health.

www.together4cmha.ca

An act inflicted by an individual or small group of individuals upon another individual or small group.

Interpersonal Violence is further divided into:

Family and intimate partner violence occurs between intimate partners or family members and often (but not exclusively) occurs at home. Includes child abuse, intimate partner violence and elder abuse.

Community violence occurs between unrelated individuals who may/may not know each other outside of the home. Includes random acts of violence, sexual assault by strangers, and violence in institutional settings.

Described as either social, political, or economic and suggest the possible motives for states or larger groups of individuals.

Collective violence can be committed to advance particular social agendas, including those of organized groups.

Violence and Crime are NOT the Same

Although violence and crime do overlap in many cases, they are not the same thing. Some types of crime are violent (murder, assault), while other crimes may involve no direct violence (possession of illicit drugs). Conversely, not all types of violence are criminalized (psychological violence).

---

[3] Krug, E., Dahlber, J., Mercy, J., Zwi, A., and Lozano, R. (2002). World report on violence and health. World Health Organization Geneva. https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/42495/9241545615_eng.pdf
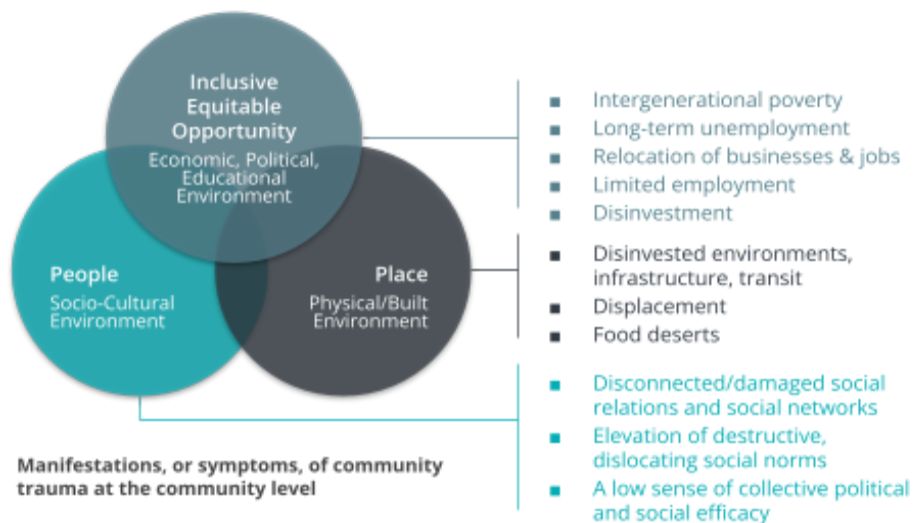
Community Trauma

Violence is pervasive and can be traced back to the intersections between poverty, racism, inequities, lack of economic opportunity, structural factors and broad social norms that support and perpetuate violence. Different forms of violence can have interrelated traumatic effects, which can impact health and behaviour across the lifespan[4].

While traumatic experiences can impact an individual's health and well-being, it can also be a shared experience that impacts entire communities. Collective trauma, also referred to as community trauma, is defined as "an aggregate of trauma experienced by community members or an event that impacts a few people but has structural and social traumatic consequences."[5]

While the causes vary, research suggests it is typically rooted in structural and social inequities and disproportionately impacts communities experiencing high rates of violence. Adverse community experiences have a negative impact on community well-being, defined as the "combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfill their potential."[6]

Trauma can be a barrier to the most successful implementation of healing and well-being strategies, including those to prevent violence. A

Inclusive Equitable Opportunity
Economic, Political, Educational Environment

People
Socio-Cultural Environment

Place
Physical/Built Environment

- Intergenerational poverty
- Long-term unemployment
- Relocation of businesses & jobs
- Limited employment
- Disinvestment

- Disinvested environments, infrastructure, transit
- Displacement
- Food deserts

- Disconnected/damaged social relations and social networks
- Elevation of destructive, dislocating social norms
- A low sense of collective political and social efficacy

Manifestations, or symptoms, of community trauma at the community level

number of community-level strategies are emerging to address community trauma and promote community healing and resilience[7].

[4] Wiseman, J. & Brasher, K., Community wellbeing in an unwell world: Trends, challenges, and possibilities. *Journal of Public Health Policy*, (2008) 29(3), 353-366. https://www.jstor.org/stable/40207196

[5] Pinderhughes, H., Davis, R. A., & Williams, M. (2015). Adverse community experiences and resilience: A framework for addressing and preventing community trauma. Prevention Institute. https://www.preventioninstitute.org/sites/default/files/publications/Adverse%20Community%20Experiences%20and%20Resilience.pdf

[6] Wiseman, J. & Brasher, K. (2008). Community wellbeing in an unwell world: Trends, challenges, and possibilities. Journal of Public Health Policy, 29(3), 353-366. https://www.jstor.org/stable/40207196

[7] Pinderhughes, H., Davis, R. A., & Williams, M. (2015). Adverse community experiences and resilience: A framework for addressing and preventing community trauma. Prevention Institute.

Socio-Cultural Strategies	Built Environment Strategies	Economic Strategies
Strategies intended to counter the symptoms of community trauma and support healing and connection between people, while shifting norms to support safe and healthy behaviours.	Strategies focus on improving the physical environment, reducing deterioration, and creating space for positive interaction. Reclaiming public space to be appealing to residents, reflective of community culture, and a source of pride can contribute to a sense of community worth and be supportive of healing.	Strategies to improve economic opportunities for youth and adults in highly impacted neighbourhoods are critical to the success of attempts to heal from community trauma, improve community health and wellness, and resist the pressures of gentrification and dislocation.
Some of the most successful youth violence prevention programs build on existing community assets and are dependent on community members and organizations that connect people to a supportive community.		

Violence is Experienced Disproportionately

Violence can affect anyone, anywhere – but it does not affect people and communities equally. Research shows that "male perpetrators inflict higher rates of violence on women, Indigenous Peoples, and equity-deserving groups and that violence is more frequent, severe, and life changing."[8]

Violence is a health equity issue, and preventing violence is an important component of achieving equity in health and in communities. Health inequities are the result of a history of discriminatory actions by government and larger society, as well as current policies and practices that favour certain populations and further diminish opportunity for others. An overwhelming number of risk factors for violence have accumulated in some communities, without resilience factors to protect against violence. Some communities and groups are far more exposed to the poor neighborhood conditions that give rise to violence and other health inequities. Preventing violence has value, not just in saving lives, but also as a means to foster well-being, promote health equity, and strengthen communities[9].

---

[8] Litviniuc, A., & Wells, L. (2022). Recommendations for the IMPACT collective on advancing social inclusion of equity-deserving groups to stop violence before it starts. https://preventdomesticviolence.ca/recommendations-for-the-impact-collective-on-how-to-advance-social-inclusion-of-equity-deserving-groups-to-stop-violence-before-it-starts/
[9] Violence and Health Equity, Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth through Violence Prevention, nd, https://www.preventioninstitute.org/sites/default/files/publications/Violence.HealthEquity.Overview.pdf

Public Health Approach

The public health approach is an interdisciplinary and science-based approach that draws knowledge from many disciplines and provides a "comprehensive way to help people, organizations, and systems understand how to prevent violence"[10]. This approach seeks to improve the health and safety of everyone by addressing the underlying risk factors that increase the chance someone will become either a victim or perpetrator of violence.

> *Violence can be prevented. This is not an article of faith, but a statement based on evidence.*
>
> World Health report on violence, 2022

The public health approach includes four key steps:

ITERATE
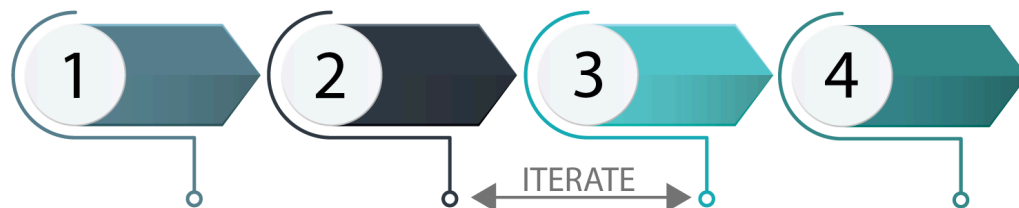
Identify and Define the Problem

This includes uncovering as much basic knowledge as possible about all parts of violence through systematic data collection.

Identify Risk and Protective Factors

This includes investigating why violence occurs and specifically, why some individuals or communities experience different levels of violence.

Develop and Evaluate Interventions

This step includes the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions and strategies to see what works.

Widely Implement Promising Interventions

The final step is to scale up effective interventions for the most significant impact. Evaluate their impact and cost.

Risk & Protective Factors

To reduce and ultimately prevent violence, what causes it needs to be understood. Risk factors are elements that increase the likelihood of individuals experiencing violence. These
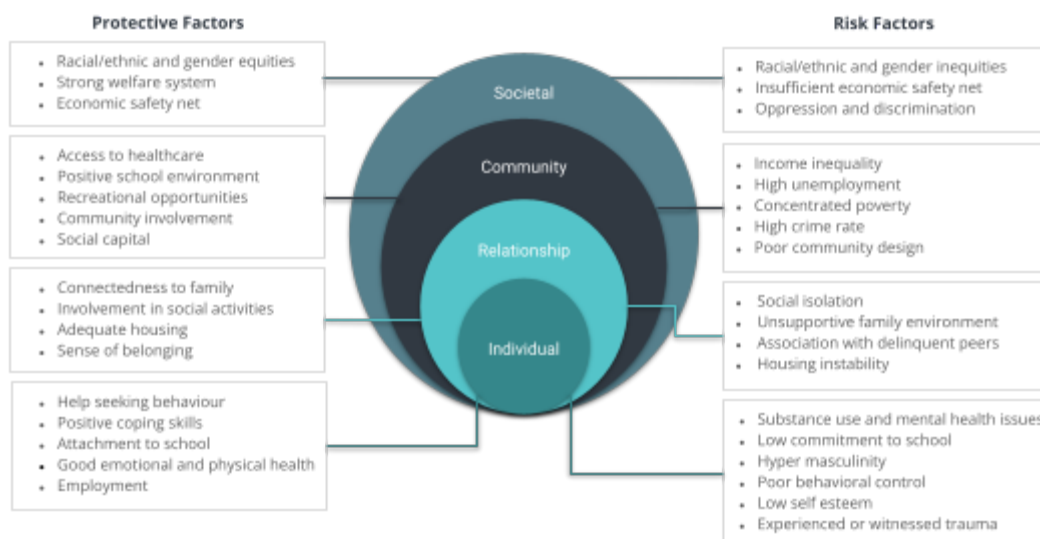
---

[10]Veto Violence. (n.d.). Violence Prevention Fundamentals, https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/main/assets/pdf/prevention/fundamentals/ViolencePreventionFundamentals.pdf

can include rigid societal beliefs regarding gender roles, limited job opportunities, and family conflicts. Conversely, protective factors are those elements that decrease the likelihood of experiencing violence or enhance resilience in the face of risk factors. Examples of protective factors include having a caring adult in one's life and access to mental health services. Both risk and protective factors have a significant impact on entire communities, influencing various forms of violence. Risk factors are cumulative—the more a person is exposed to, the higher the risk of being involved in violence.

However, it is important to acknowledge that these are only potential risk factors. The presence or absence of risk and protective factors are one component amongst the complexity of peoples lives and experiences and therefore will not have the same effect on everyone. Just because a person may experience multiple risk factors, it does not predict whether they may experience or perpetrate violence.

Socio-ecological Model

The Socio-ecological Model emphasizes the roles of four levels of society: individual, relationship, community, and societal. When viewing violence through an ecological lens, no single factor can explain why some people are violent. Instead, violence occurs as the result of a complex interplay between individuals, relationships, social, cultural, and environmental factors[11]. The Socio-ecological Model highlights how factors across these different levels are interconnected.

Protective Factors
- Racial/ethnic and gender equities
- Strong welfare system
- Economic safety net

- Access to healthcare
- Positive school environment
- Recreational opportunities
- Community involvement
- Social capital

- Connectedness to family
- Involvement in social activities
- Adequate housing
- Sense of belonging

- Help seeking behaviour
- Positive coping skills
- Attachment to school
- Good emotional and physical health
- Employment

Societal
Community
Relationship
Individual

Risk Factors
- Racial/ethnic and gender inequities
- Insufficient economic safety net
- Oppression and discrimination

- Income inequality
- High unemployment
- Concentrated poverty
- High crime rate
- Poor community design

- Social isolation
- Unsupportive family environment
- Association with delinquent peers
- Housing instability

- Substance use and mental health issues
- Low commitment to school
- Hyper masculinity
- Poor behavioral control
- Low self esteem
- Experienced or witnessed trauma

---

[11]Krug, E., Dahlber, J., Mercy, J., Zwi, A., and Lozano, R. (2002). World report on violence and health. World Health Organization Geneva. https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/42495/9241545615_eng.pdf

Prevention Approaches

Violence prevention includes both preventing **perpetration** and **victimization** of violence. Approaches to prevention can be time based before and after violence has occurred.
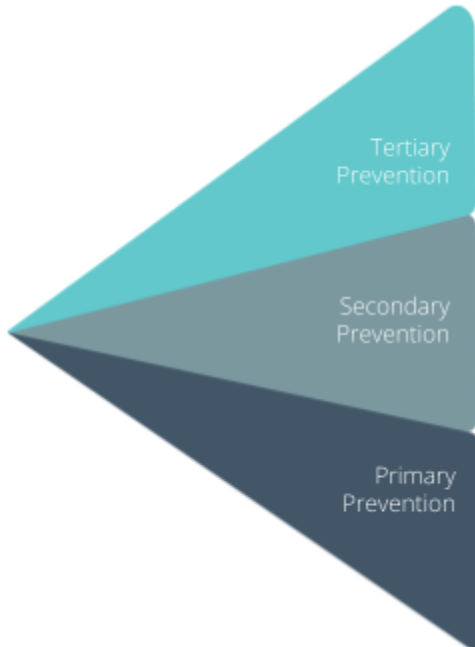
Rebuild and Recover
Is a long-term approach after a violence event has occurred. Efforts may include rehabilitation of the perpetrator, or social services to lessen emotional trauma to the victim.

Intervene Early
Takes place immediately after violence occurs and deals with the short-term consequences, focusing on the immediate needs following the event, and attempts to avoid reoccurrence.

Prevent
Takes place before violence occurs (programs and strategies to reduce risk factors that may put people at higher risk).

Tertiary Prevention

Secondary Prevention

Primary Prevention

Approaches to prevention can also be population based ranging from targeting the general public to interventions that target the smaller subset of the population that are at risk of or have already experienced or perpetrated violence.

Universal: prevention focuses on a population without knowing individual risk. (ex. Public awareness/education)

Selected: prevention focuses on individuals or groups that show increased risk for violence. (ex. Parenting workshop for single parents living in a high crime neighbourhood)

Indicated: prevention is targeted towards those who have already demonstrated violence behaviour or have already experienced being a victim of violence. (ex. Counselling sessions for perpetrators of domestic violence)
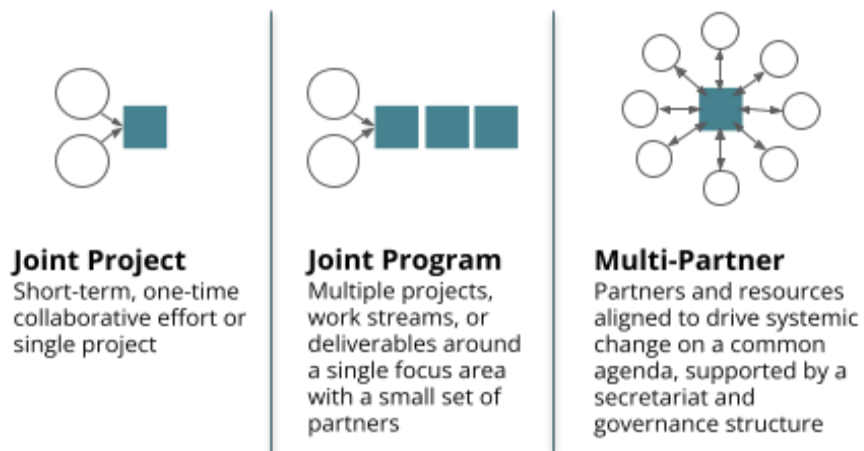
Preventing Multiple Forms of Violence

While historically, violence prevention efforts have centred on particular forms of violence, The BVP promotes a cross-cutting approach, guided by research that points out the strong interconnections between different forms of violence. Those who are victims of one form of violence are likely to experience other forms of violence. There is evidence to suggest that experiencing one type of victimization can lead to a doubling or tripling of the risk for another type of victimization. By targeting risk and protective factors linked to various forms of violence, the public health approach may prevent multiple forms of violence at once. This approach maximizes the impact of violence prevention efforts, enabling the strategic use of resources, knowledge, and expertise in ways that can protect people and communities from violence.

Cross-sectoral Collaboration

A public health approach to violence prevention requires engaging diverse partners and sectors to address the underlying risk and protective factors that influence violence. This is the shared responsibility of multiple sectors. Some sectors that influence the likelihood of violence and should be considered in a whole of society approach to violence prevention include: public health and healthcare, justice (including police), education, social services, housing, economic development, civil society organizations, and all orders of government. These sectors, often acting individually, have struggled to address systemic inequity and effectively respond to community violence, trauma and injustice. By emphasizing collective impact, actions taken by individual sectors can each potentially create substantial reductions in violence.[12]

There are many ways to collaborate.

Joint Project
Short-term, one-time collaborative effort or single project

Joint Program
Multiple projects, work streams, or deliverables around a single focus area with a small set of partners

Multi-Partner
Partners and resources aligned to drive systemic change on a common agenda, supported by a secretariat and governance structure

---

[12] Krug, E., Dahlber, J., Mercy, J., Zwi, A., and Lozano, R. (2002). World report on violence and health. World Health Organization Geneva. https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/42495/9241545615_eng.pdf

Jurisdictions Using a Public Health Model

Scotland
Since 2006/2007 to present there has been a **48% decrease** in non-sexual violent crime; **38% decrease** in homicide; and **43% fall** in attempted murder and serious assaults.

Greenbay
Gun related incidents dropped to 82 in 2021 and 61 in 2022.

Philadelphia
Homicide rate **down 22% in 2021** from the previous year and was **stable at 20% in 2022.**
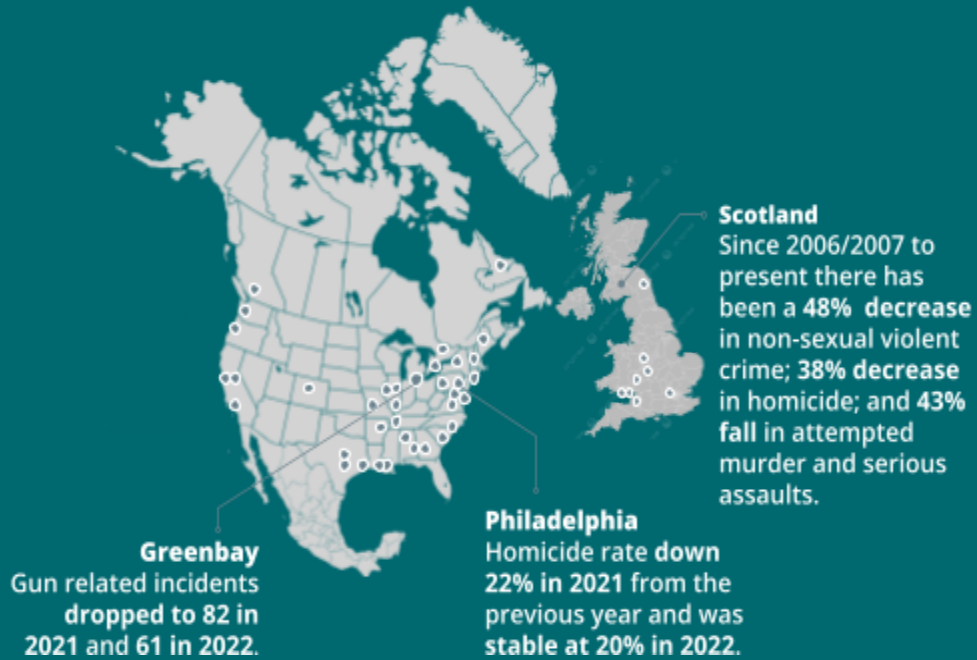
Cardiff Model

The Cardiff Violence Prevention Model is a multi-agency approach to violence prevention that relies on the strategic use of information from health and law enforcement organizations to improve policing and community violence prevention programs. The model was developed based on the understanding that a significant amount of violent crime is not reported to law enforcement - therefore relying solely on data from law enforcement does not provide a fulsome understanding of where violence is occurring, further limiting the ability to develop successful solutions.

Results from a multiyear evaluation of the Cardiff model showed a 32% reduction in police recorded injuries and a 42% reduction in hospital admissions for violence-related injuries.

Cardiff University. The Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention.
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/documents/2665796-the-cardiff-model-for-violence-prevention

Data Approach

Data is critical to providing a better understanding of the nature, magnitude, severity, and frequency of violence. It can also help understand the types and forms of violence, the underlying risks and protective factors, costs, as well as what works and what doesn't to prevent and respond to violence.

There is a wealth of research on violence and indicators that measure the conditions that place communities at greater risk for violence. Some studies have examined the connections between community characteristics and individual behaviour, such as demographic characteristics of residents, the social and physical characteristics of the neighborhood environment, and some of the social processes occurring among residents of the most affected neighborhoods. Other studies have examined broader issues related to social infrastructure that contribute to the uneven distribution of people and resources. As outlined in the previous section, public health frameworks bring an additional layer, examining the connections between greater risk of violence from inequities due to race, gender, socioeconomic status, and geography.[13]

Data holds immense power, but its collection, interpretation, and use demand careful consideration as it shapes resource allocations and perceptions of truth and reality. Therefore, it's crucial to acknowledge the potential for data violence, which includes harm caused by biased research processes, algorithms, and automated systems. Both historically and today, such biases and inequities embedded in data practices must be carefully considered to prevent unintended harm to individuals and communities.

> " *When we collect and analyze our own data, we do so with an understanding of our culture, our history, and our lived realities. We can tell our stories in a way that honours our experiences and reflects the true complexity of our lives. This knowledge is crucial for making informed decisions about our future. It allows us to identify the challenges we face, celebrate our strengths, and create solutions that are rooted in our values and traditions.*
>
> Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre "

---

[13] Armstead, T. L., Wilkins, N., & Nation, M. (2021). Structural and social determinants of inequities in violence risk: A review of indicators. *Journal of community psychology*, *49*(4), 878-906.

Early Explorations

Early Discussions	Over the course of 2024, discussions with community based capacity organizations surfaced the significant data work underway at the community level. Discussions highlighted the hope for greater access to data, data sharing, and capacity strengthening opportunities.
Data Sources Explored	- Statistics Canada, 2021 Census Data - Statistics Canada, Canadian Multiple Deprivation Index - Statistics Canada, Proximity Measures - EPS Crime Data 24/7 Crisis Diversion - Alberta Health (IDHA)- Interactive Health Data: Injury, Demographics, Survey - Alberta Community Health Survey, Chronic Diseases - Administrative Data: 311, 211, Community Recreation and Culture, Public Safety and Security, Community Standards, Community Safety Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED & Safety Audit Data; Social Development Housing Needs Assessment & lived experience studies
Data Limitations	**Readily Accessible Qualitative Data Versus Quantitative Data** When working with different geographic data, there are two types of data that are either qualitatively or quantitatively categorized. When exploring data regarding violence and violence prevention there is an important role for both types- however the bulk of data available is quantitative as opposed to the qualitative, more subjective data that would be beneficial. **Data Aggregation** When looking at types of violence, data at the localized level can be challenging to identify. **Victims Surveys** Factoring the reality of under reporting especially when it comes to more sensitive topics such as intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

At A Glance[14]

To gain a cursory understanding of violence and its underlying risk factors, and resiliency in communities and their protective factors, various data sources have been examined as part of the preliminary assessment, leveraging existing systems and community-based data and analysis.

It is of importance to note that this is not representative of a robust analysis, nor does it include all relevant data sources - it is a sampling of some of the risk and protective factors outlined in the previous section. It does not make explicit correlations between risk factors and violence. It also does not include an intersectional analysis, which is required given the relationships amongst social determinants or socioeconomic factors.

By identifying the factors which correlate with the risks of increased exposure to violence and understanding the profile of these risk factors across the city, enables for focusing on preventative work more effectively. Similarly important is identifying the factors which correlate with protective factors that decrease the risks of violence.

There are hundreds of indicators related to violence and associated risk and protective factors,[15] there is no universal or clear method for combining data from multiple sectors and measuring patterns and impacts of violence at a city level in a comprehensive manner.

This work requires collaboration with all the partners at the table, including people and communities most impacted by violence to ensure a localized and tailored approach. A risk and protective factor index will be developed collaboratively in the next phase of implementation planning.

---

[14] Some data did not always have consistent geographies, measures or years of reference.

[15] Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Violence Indicators.
https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/violence-indicators-guide-database/database

Housing[16]

Housing can function as both a risk and protective factor for victimization or perpetration of violence. Safe, secure, and affordable housing reduces the likelihood of violence being perpetrated by members of the household. Conversely, unsafe, insecure, and unaffordable housing may increase the likelihood of violence.

People experiencing homelessness, especially rough sleepers, are exposed to higher levels of violence than compared to the general public.

The effects of affordability issues and/or housing instability and insecurity may increase the likelihood of members of the household becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.

Housing Instability (2023)

Almost 1 in 8 households struggle to cover housing costs or live in unsafe or crowded homes and can't afford to move.
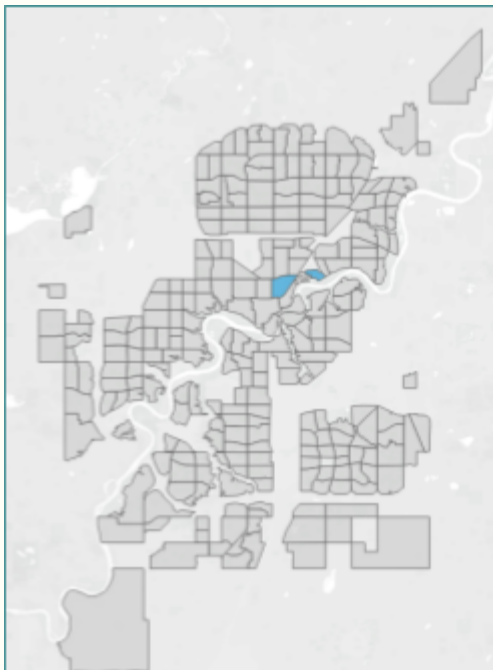
The blue shading shows that for a household whose yearly income is $31,200, there are **two** neighbourhoods in Edmonton where the median monthly rent is affordable. Maximum affordable housing costs is $780 a month.

There are a total of **394,485** households in Edmonton and this represents a nearly **10%** increase since 2016. Single detached dwellings make up the majority of all dwellings at **50%** in Edmonton, which is a lower share compared to **60%** in the province of Alberta as a whole. Approximately **36%** of Edmonton households are renters, a slight increase from the previous census period.

By 2026, it is expected that **59,000** households will be in core housing need, the highest since the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation began tracking in 1990.

---

[16] Humankind. Experiences with Housing and Violence. 2023.
https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/10649/housing-exploratory-research-final-report-july-2023.pdf

Income

Income can function as both a risk and protective factor for victimization or perpetration of violence. Income inequality as a risk factor has been associated with bullying, child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, sexual violence and youth violence perpetration.[17]

Community Data program - CDP Regional profile Dashboard based on Statistics Canada 2021 Census Tract of Edmonton CMA
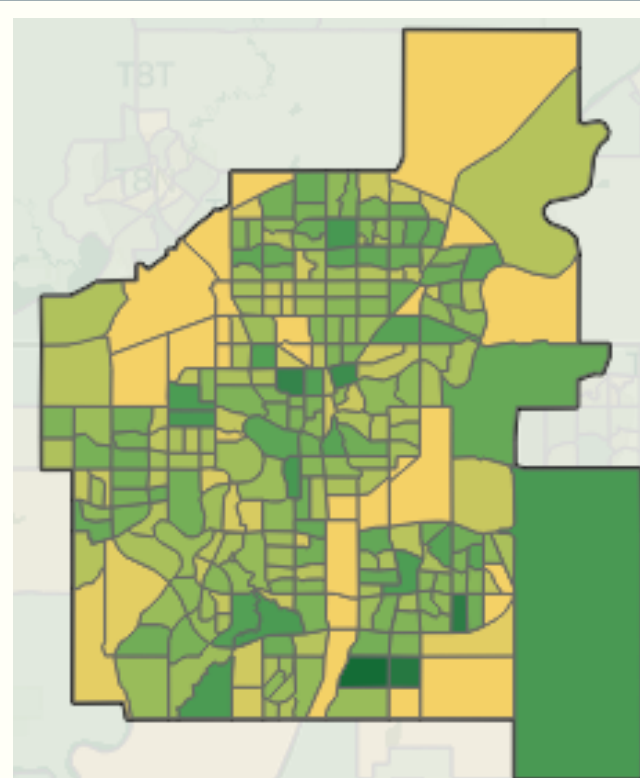
Number of people with income between $10,000 to $19,999
25.0 — 930.0

This map is taken from Community Data Program's 2021 Census Profile Income Dashboard,[19] with the census tract of Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area selected and from this, the regions belonging to the City of Edmonton selected.

The map shows the Edmonton area with color grading to the number of people with an annual income between $10,000 to $19,999. This income range was chosen as $22,060 was the poverty threshold of a single person in Edmonton.

The darker the green color indicates a greater number of people within this income range.

In areas with the darkest green color, 930 people belong to this low income bracket, and in areas with the lightest color, around 25 people belong to this income bracket.

Family Size	LICO[18] (after tax)
1 person	$22,060
2 persons	$26, 849
3 persons	$33,433
4 persons	$41, 710

Statistics Canada, Low Income Cut-off (LICO) 2020

Minimum Wage in Alberta is **$15 per hour**

11.9% of Edmontonians earned $15 per hour or less

59.5% of minimum wage earners in Edmonton were women.[20]

A single person working full-time: **$24,685** after tax.

---

[17] Eckenrode J, Smith EG, McCarthy ME, & Dineen M (2014). Income inequality and child maltreatment in the United States. Pediatrics, 133(3), 454–461.
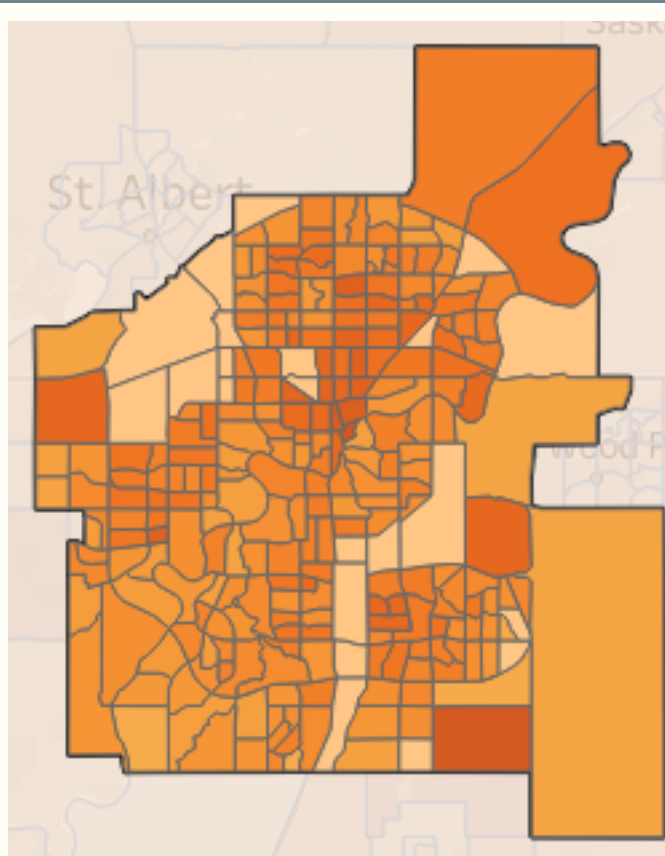
[18] LICO (after tax) is the income threshold below the amount a person/family must allot to the average costs of living, which includes food, shelter, clothing, and other necessary expenses.

[19] https://communitydata.ca/data/2021-census-profile-income-dashboard

[20] Vital Signs. Making Ends Meet in Edmonton.https://edmontonsocialplanning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Final-2021-Vital-Signs_ALL_10.34x20.5-v11_print.pdf

Employment

Employment can function as both a risk and protective factor for victimization or perpetration of violence. Economic disadvantage and income inequality are associated with increased risk of violence. Research shows intersections between employment and intimate partner violence, where violence can impact an individual's job stability or security and employment.[21]

Community Data program - CDP Regional profile Dashboard based on Statistics Canada 2021 Census Tract of Edmonton CMA

This map is taken from Community Data Program 's '2021 Employment Profile Dashboard[22]

The data is from Statistics Canada's 2021 census tract of Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area selected and from this, the regions belonging to the City of Edmonton selected.

It shows the Edmonton area with color grading to show the unemployment rate.

The darker the orange color indicates a greater unemployment rate. In areas with the darkest orange color, unemployment rate is 22.4% and in areas with the lightest color, unemployment rate is 0%.

Only 45% of Edmontonians feel there are adequate job opportunities.[23]

In December 2024, Edmonton had an employment rate of 63.7% which is down from December 2023, where the employment rate was 64.4%.[24]

---

[21] WomanAct: Women Abuse Council of Toronto. Issue Brief: Employment sabotage and disruption as a form of economic abuse.
https://womanact.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WomanACT_Issue-Brief-Employment-Sabotage.pdf
[22] https://communitydata.ca/data/employment-profile-dashboard-2021
[23] Vial Signs. Making Ends Meet in Edmonton.
https://edmontonsocialplanning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Final-2021-Vital-Signs_ALL_10.34x20.5-v11_print.pdf
[24] https://economicdashboard.alberta.ca/dashboard/employment-rate/

Education

Education can function as both a risk and protective factor for victimization or perpetration of violence. Research demonstrates a strong association between education and crime, emphasizing that education as a human capital investment increases work opportunities and potential economic opportunities, acting as a protective factor against violence and crime.[25]

Studies have also documented the links between all forms of violence in childhood adversely impacting educational outcomes, including school dropout/graduation, school absence, and academic achievement.[26]
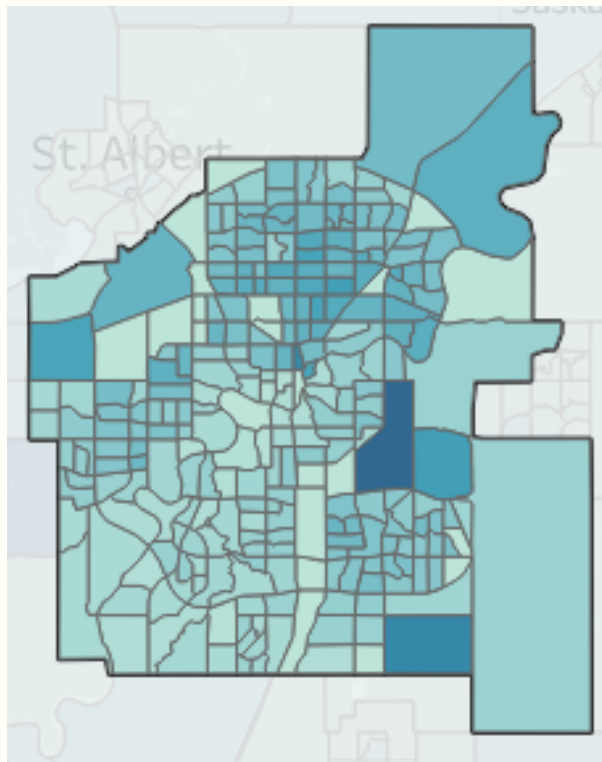
% of people with below High School Education

0.04 — 0.55

This map is taken from Community Data Program 's '2021 Education Profile Dashboard' with a census tract of Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area selected from this, the regions belonging to the City of Edmonton selected.

It shows the Edmonton area with color grading to the % of people with no high school degrees.

In areas with darker blue color, 0.55% of people have below high school education and in areas with the lightest color, 0.04% people have below high school education.

Community Data program - CDP Regional profile Dashboard based on Statistics Canada 2021 Census Tract of Edmonton CMAStatistics Canada, 2021 Census

In the 2021 school year, completion rates for high school were 78.2% for public school and 85.9% for Catholic school. One contributing factor to high rates of school completion is the presence of wraparound services in Edmonton's most vulnerable schools through the All in For Youth program. Attendance in Out of School Time (OST) and mentoring programs have been linked to students' feeling more connected to their schools, increasing the likelihood of graduating high school.[27]

[25] Lochner, L. (2020). Education and Crime. The Economics of Education. Second Edition. https://economics.uwo.ca/people/lochner_docs/edu_crime_lochner.pdf
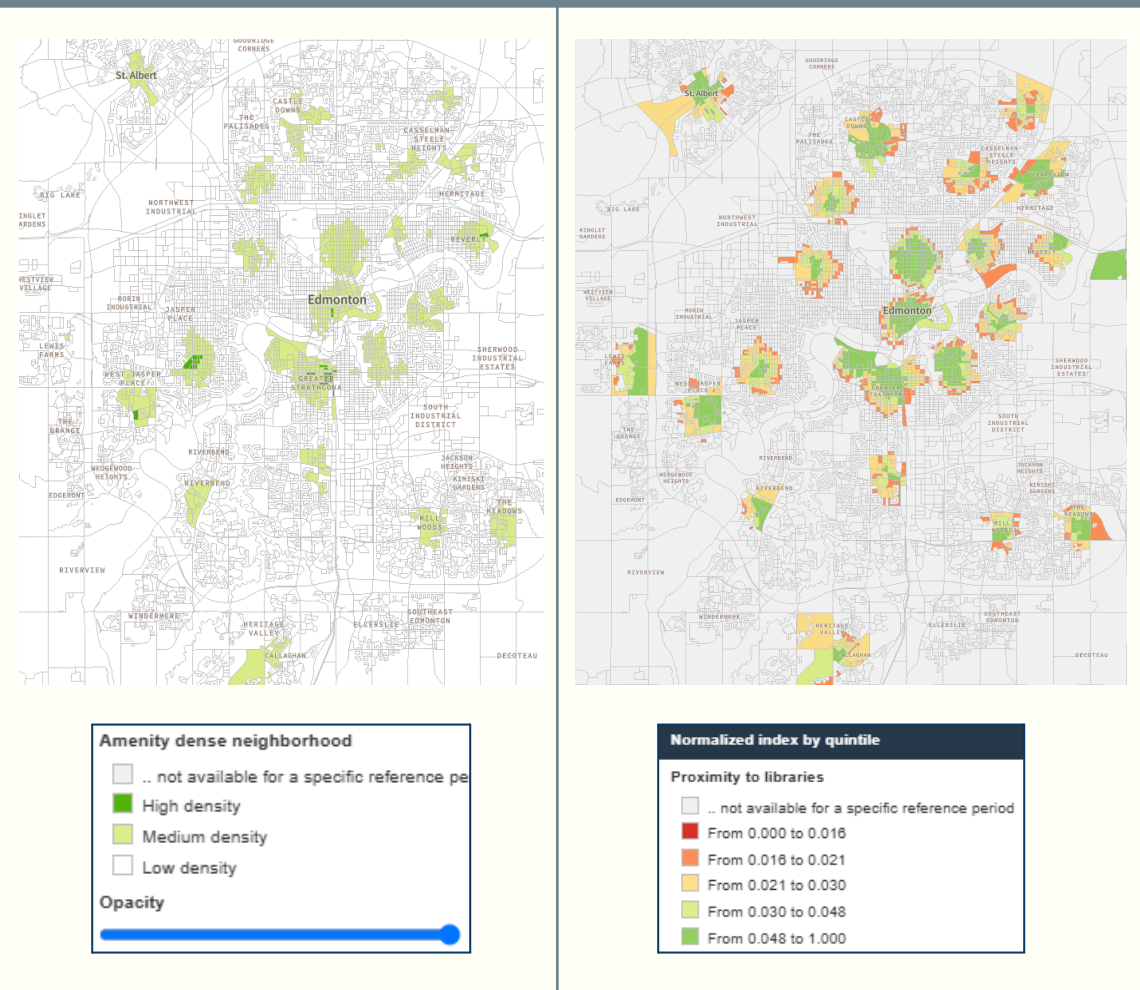
[26] Fry, D., Fang, X., Elliott, S., Casey, T., Zheng, X., Li, J., ... & McCluskey, G. (2018). The relationships between violence in childhood and educational outcomes: A global systematic review and meta-analysis. Child abuse & neglect, 75, 6-28. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213417302491

[27] All in for Youth Year 8 Evaluation Report (2024)

Social Infrastructure[28]

Social Infrastructure is considered to foster resiliency and health in communities. Parks, Recreation Centres and Libraries are important parts of the social infrastructure ecosystem. Currently, there are over 875 park areas within the 388 Edmonton Neighbourhoods, 21 Edmonton Public Library branches, and 20 City of Edmonton recreational facilities.

To understand the relationship between wellbeing and social infrastructure, the Australian Urban Observatory developed a social infrastructure index and while largely developmental it measures distance to various types of social infrastructure, noting proximity as an indicator of well planned social infrastructure. Using the Statistics Canada Proximity Measures provides a starting point until a localized proximity index can be developed.

Amenity dense neighborhood
- ☐ .. not available for a specific reference pe
- ■ High density
- ■ Medium density
- ☐ Low density

Opacity

Normalized index by quintile

Proximity to libraries
- ☐ .. not available for a specific reference period
- ■ From 0.000 to 0.016
- ■ From 0.016 to 0.021
- ■ From 0.021 to 0.030
- ■ From 0.030 to 0.048
- ■ From 0.048 to 1.000

Statistics Canada, Proximity Measures

The amenity dense neighbourhood composite indicator on the left in above was selected as it indicates neighbourhoods that have access to basic needs for a family with minors.

---

[28] Definition: Social infrastructure is comprised of the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities and enable society to work effectively.

The proximity measures included within this composite are grocery store, pharmacy, health care facility, child care facility, primary school, library, public transit stop, and source of employment. A high amenity density neighbourhood is defined as an amenity dense neighbourhood that has proximity measure values in the top third of the distribution for each of the eight proximity measures.

The proximity to libraries map on the right in above was selected to highlight an example of one of the ten measures of proximity in the Statistics Canada, Proximity Measures Database. This database provides information at the dissemination block level about the distance and amount of access to essential services and amenities in a given neighbourhood. The measures are released as a normalized index value ranging from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates the lowest proximity and 1 the highest proximity in Canada.

Crime Data

The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS), in co-operation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). Crime statistics offers information on the nature and extent of police-reported crime and crime trends, as well as examining specific issues about crime.

The Criminal Incidents and Violent Criminal Incidents Involving Weapons chart was taken from the Edmonton Police Service release of 2024 Crime Stats.[29] The Violent Crime Severity Rank was provided from the Police Reported Crime Statistics release from CCJCSS. The CCJCSS will release 2024 data in July 2025.
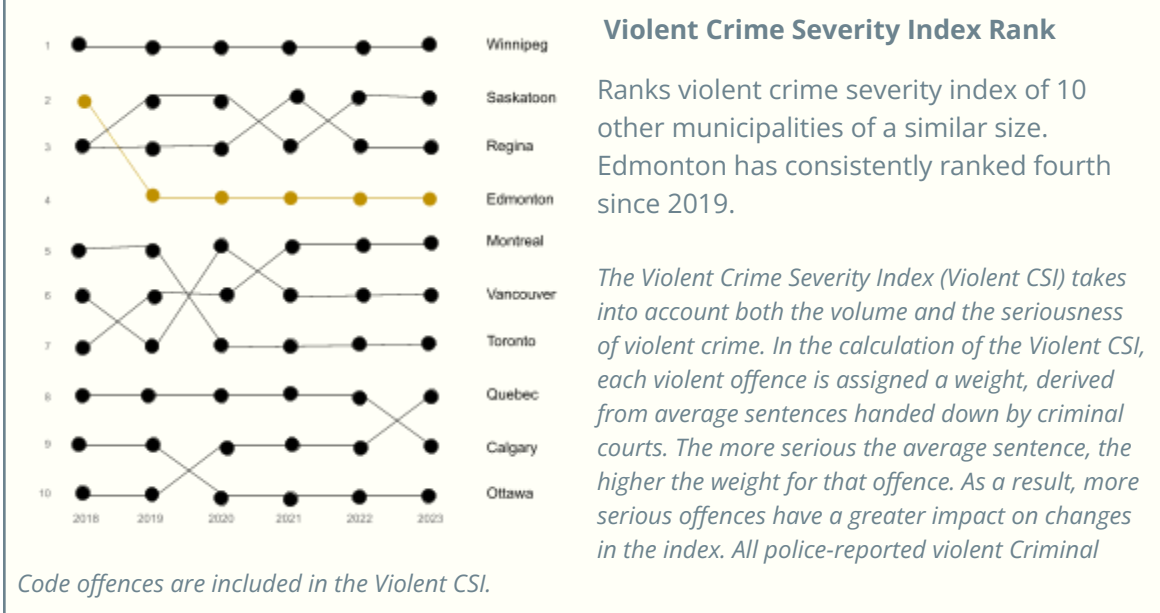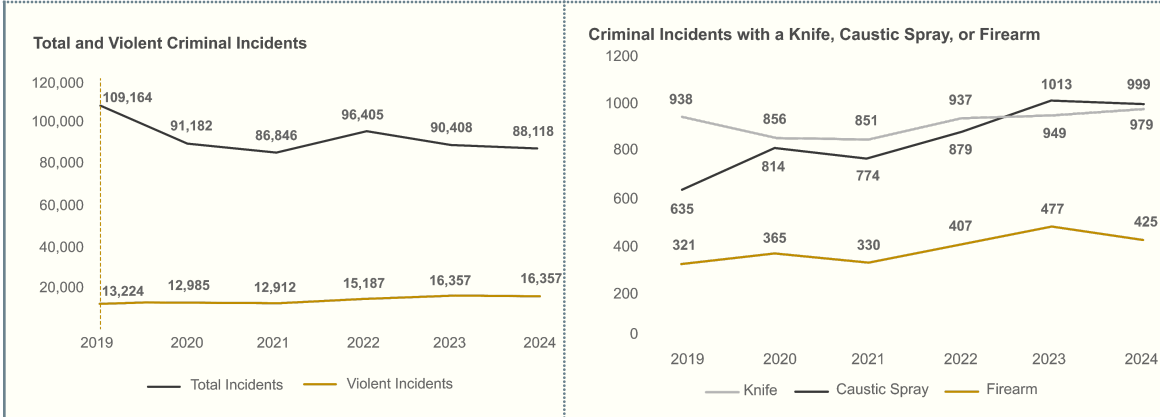
Criminal Incidents (2024)

The total number of city-wide criminal incidents decreased by 2.5% in 2024. The total number of city-wide violent criminal incidents increased by 1.8% in 2024

Note: There is a delay in finalizing incident categorization as some investigations are still in progress.

Violent Criminal Incidents Involving Weapons

Violent criminal incidents involving the presence or use of the most common weapons decreased by 1% between 2023 and 2024. Firearm and caustic spray incidents decreased, while knife incidents saw a slight increase.

---

[29] Edmonton Police Service. Media Release.
https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/News/MediaReleases/epccrimestats2024

Total and Violent Criminal Incidents

Total Incidents: 109,164 (2019), 91,182 (2020), 86,846 (2021), 96,405 (2022), 90,408 (2023), 88,118 (2024)
Violent Incidents: 13,224 (2019), 12,985 (2020), 12,912 (2021), 15,187 (2022), 16,357 (2023), 16,357 (2024)

Criminal Incidents with a Knife, Caustic Spray, or Firearm

Knife: 938 (2019), 856 (2020), 851 (2021), 937 (2022), 1013 (2023), 999 (2024)
Caustic Spray: 635 (2019), 814 (2020), 774 (2021), 879 (2022), 949 (2023), 979 (2024)
Firearm: 321 (2019), 365 (2020), 330 (2021), 407 (2022), 477 (2023), 425 (2024)

Violent Crime Severity Index Rank

Ranks violent crime severity index of 10 other municipalities of a similar size. Edmonton has consistently ranked fourth since 2019.

The Violent Crime Severity Index (Violent CSI) takes into account both the volume and the seriousness of violent crime. In the calculation of the Violent CSI, each violent offence is assigned a weight, derived from average sentences handed down by criminal courts. The more serious the average sentence, the higher the weight for that offence. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index. All police-reported violent Criminal Code offences are included in the Violent CSI.

Types of Violence (Jan 1 to Jan 26, 2025 Occurrences, EPS Crime Statistics)

0	**885**	**189**	**55**	**81**
Homicide	Family Violence	Sexual Violence	Weapons Violations	Robbery

Youth Violence
According to Edmonton Police Service Young People Strategy, in 2019 young people aged 10 to 24 made up 17.9% of Edmonton's population but contributed to 31% of violence incidents, and made up 29% of violent offenders. Additionally young people of the same age category also accounted for 31% of victims of violent crimes[30].

---

[30] Edmonton Police Service, Young People Strategy (2020).
https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/CommunityPolicing/CommunityInitiatives/YoungPeopleStrategy

A Note on Youth Violence
There are a number of challenges in collecting youth based statistics, particularly in relation to violence and criminal offences. Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, personal information about young people is protected and cannot be publicly shared. Rehabilitation and reintegration are central tenets of the Act, and the focus on diversion and alternative measures to move young people away from the justice system, and therefore those interactions are not recorded in official crime statistics. In addition, an individual is not considered criminally responsible until the age of 12 and therefore cannot face criminal charges. Given these challenges, statistics are under-representative of violence occurring among youth.

Gender Based Violence

Violence based on gender norms and unequal power dynamics, perpetrated against someone based on their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender. It takes many forms, including physical, economic, sexual, as well as emotional (psychological) abuse.[31] Gender-based violence is a unique form of violence that often does not respond to broader reduction efforts. It exists in countries with low homicide rates and does not necessarily drop when other violence indices fall. Policies, investments, and interventions specifically targeting gender-based violence are needed.[32]

Edmonton

Intimate partner violence, a subset of gender-based violence, occurrences decreased by 3.1% in 2024. Since 2019, there has been an increase of 10.7% or 885 domestic occurrences. (Domestic violence here refers specifically to intimate partner violence).

Domestic Violence Occurrences

*There is a delay in finalizing incident categorization as some investigations are still in progress.
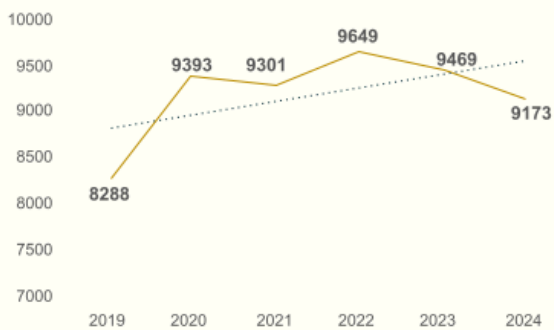
The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) responded to a total of 13,783 domestic violence incidents in 2023. Of those incidents, 6,348 resulted in domestic violence charges.[33]

---

[31]Government of Canada. Women and Gender Equality Canada. Gender-based violence glossary. https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/gender-based-violence-glossary.html
[32] Halving Global Violence Task Force, " Beyond the Battlefields: Practical Strategies to Halving Global Violence in our Homes, Streets, and Communities," New York University Center on International Cooperation, July 2024, https://www.sdg16.plus/resources/halving-global-violence-flagship-report.
[33]https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/we-re-in-an-epidemic-deaths-of-two-women-in-alleged-domestic-abuse-cases-raising-red-flags-1.7166657

Canada

From 2011 to 2021, an average of 102 women and girls were victims of gender-related homicide per year in Canada, totaling 1,125 over the period. Of these homicides, 93% were committed by a male intimate partner or family member of the victim.[34]

Between 2019 and 2023, there were 979 victims of intimate partner homicide, and—similar to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in general—73% (719 victims) were women.[29]

In 2022, 184 women and girls were violently killed, primarily by men. One woman or girl is killed every 48 hours. [35]

Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of intimate partner homicides in Canada. While Indigenous women account for about 5% of all women in Canada, they accounted for 22% of all women killed by an intimate partner between 2019 and 2023. In 2023, 49 women, 11 of whom were Indigenous, were killed by their partner in Canada. [36]

In Canada in 2023, of the 123,319 people aged 15 and over who experienced IPV, 78% were women.[31]

In 2023, the rate of intimate partner violence was nearly four times higher for women and girls (549 victims per 100,000 population) than for men and boys.[31]

Almost half (49%) of LGB+ women indicated that they had been physically or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner since age 15, almost double what was indicated by heterosexual women (25%).[31]

Hate Crime

Across Canada, police services use a single definition of hate crime to ensure collected data and reporting is consistent and comparable. As defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey Manual (2022) , a hate crime is a criminal violation motivated by hate, based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. Only three sections of the Canadian criminal code specifically deal with hate crime: s. 318, s. 319. And s. 430.[37]

A hate incident is a non-criminal action committed against a person or property, the motive for which is based in whole or in part upon the same characteristics mentioned above. Given hate incidents non-criminal nature, police are limited in their ability to be involved. Hate incidents often go unreported.[38]

[34]https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/facts-stats.html
[35] https://femicideincanada.ca/callitfemicide2018-2022.pdf
[36] https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/facts-stats.html
[37] https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd16-rr16/p1.html
[38] https://stophateab.ca/

Reports of hate crimes to police have more than doubled from 1,951 hate crimes across Canada in 2019 to 4,777 in 2023.[39] Hate crimes motivated by hatred based on race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation were the most prevalent in Canada in 2023 (Statistics Canada, 2025). It is important, however, to recognize that hate crimes are under-reported, and actual occurrences of hate crimes are likely higher than the number reported to police.[40,41] Data collection on hate crimes has recently begun to recognize that hate crimes often target people at intersections of their identities and now includes a secondary motivation.[42,43,44,45] However, it can take some time for that new data to become available (Statistics Canada, 2025).

Non-criminal acts motivated by hate, defined as hate incidents can still cause significant harm, and must be taken seriously, especially as they can be a regular experience in people's lives (Bell & Perry, 2015; Perry, 2010).[46,47,48,49] While there is no national data on the prevalence of hate incidents, StopHateAB is a third-party reporting option for people to record their experiences of hate incidents in Alberta. According to their site, they have received 504 validated reports of hate incidents across Alberta since they began collecting this information in 2017, with recent increases in motivations of hatred towards people based on their race or ethnicity, and then gender identity or sexual orientation.[50]

Edmontonians agreed that in the city the following faced discrimination (2023).

69% Indigenous People

61% Visible Minorities

56% Refugees

44% Women
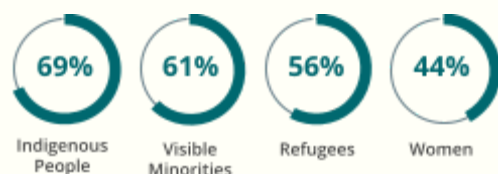
Reporting experiences of racism (2022).

45% Black, Indigenous and People of Colour

CSWB Dashboard

[39] Statistics Canada. (2025, February 4). Police-reported Information Hub: Hate crime in Canada. Statistics Canada. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2024013-eng.htm

[40] Perry, B. (2010). Policing hate crime in a multicultural society: Observations from Canada. International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice, 38(3), 120–140. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlcj.2010.10.004

[41] Erentzen, C., & Schuller, R. (2020). Exploring the dark figure of hate: Experiences with police bias and the under-reporting of hate crime. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 62*(2), 64-97.

[42] Chakraborti, N. (2015). Framing the boundaries of hate crime. In Hall, N., Corb, A., Giannasi, P., & Grieve, J. (Eds.), *The Routledge international handbook on hate crime* (pp. 13-23). Routledge.

[43] Mason-Bish, H. (2015). Beyond the silo: Rethinking hate crime and intersectionality. In Hall, N., Corb, A., Giannasi, P., & Grieve, J. (Eds.), The Routledge international handbook on hate crime (pp. 24-33). Routledge.

[44] Urbanik, M., Maier, K., Tetrault, J. E. C., & Greene, C. (2023). Hate crime and class vulnerability: A case study of White Nationalist violence against Unhoused Indigenous people. British Journal of Criminology.

[45] Turlock, L., & Mayan, M. (2023). What happens when someone reports a hate crime or incident in Edmonton? Report & recommendations. REACH Edmonton. https://reachedmonton.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/CCEE-Research-Report-2023.pdf

[46] Bell, J., & Perry, B. (2015). Outside looking in: The community impacts of anti-lesbian, gay, and bisexual hate crime. Journal of Homosexuality, 62(1), 98-120. https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2014.957133

[47] Perry, B. (2010). Policing hate crime in a multicultural society: Observations from Canada. *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice, 38*(3), 120–140.

[48] Chaudhry, I. (2021). Making hate visible: Online hate incident reporting tools. *Journal of Hate Studies, 17*(1), 64–73

[49] Facing Facts. (2012). *Facing facts! Hate crime monitoring guidelines.* Facing Facts. https://www.facingfacts.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/02/Guidelines-for-monitoring-of-hate-crimes-and-hate-motivated-incidents-PROTECTED.pdf

[50] StopHateAB. (2024, April). *Stop Hate Alberta: Report to the community (2024)*. StopHateAB. https://sites.google.com/albertahatecrimes.org/ahcc/stophateab-ca-2024-update

> **Emergency Department Visits and Injury Costing**
> While health care utilization is typically associated with health system performance and costing, emergency department visits for violence related injuries can provide additional insights into violence.

In 2023, Alberta, Edmonton, and Calgary respectively, reported 17,157, 4,618, and 4,919 emergency department visits due to violence and purposely inflicted injury. Edmonton was slightly up from 2022 which saw 4,126 emergency visits. Of the 4,168 emergency visits in 2023, 1,895 were female, a 16% increase from 2022.[51] Calgary was relatively similar to Edmonton with 4,919 emergency visits.[32]

While costing information on violence has not yet been developed in this phase of work, available information at the provincial level shows on average that violence-related injuries cost Albertans approximately $653 million each year, roughly a per capita cost of $77.[52] While costing studies on crime and violence are prone to challenges in methodology and data limitations, a 2014 report estimated that the total cost of crime in Canada was approximately $43.2 billion of which $28.7 billion accounted for total tangible costs and $15.5 billion for total intangible costs.[53]

System Stewardship Table

Collaborating across sectors and with systems partners was integral to the development of the BVP, and will continue to be a key mechanism to inform the implementation phase, adjusting as necessary to meet the needs of the BVP as it evolves. The systems stewardship table brought together different parts of the system, including health, enforcement, the social sector and the City of Edmonton to strategically align in violence prevention planning, emphasizing the prevention of violence before it starts and when it does occur, reducing further harm. The stewardship table was able to advise on ways to optimize and coordinate violence prevention efforts, aligning interests as mutually interdependent systems, and

---

[51] Alberta Interactive Health Data Application.
http://www.ahw.gov.ab.ca/IHDA_Retrieval/selectSubCategoryParameters.do
[52] https://injurypreventioncentre.ca/issues/violence
[53] https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/ccc2014/conclusion.html

identify levers available to each partner that could collectively be utilized for a whole of society approach to violence prevention. Each of these sectors have different roles within the violence prevention ecosystem.

The System Stewardship Table included representation from:
- The City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Police Service
- REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities
- Alberta Health Services

City's Role In Violence Prevention

Municipal governments, as the order of government closest to the people, are uniquely positioned to understand the complex challenges facing their communities, even when those challenges extend beyond jurisdictional responsibilities. While local governments benefit from key advantages compared to other orders of governments such as localized focus, manageable scale, deeper connections to the community, ability to build social capital, knowledge of local needs and agility to convene multisector dialogue, local governments face significant challenges, including limited financial resources and higher orders of government determining their powers and limitations.[54] For some municipalities, the increasing number of responsibilities to address the many complex and interwoven social issues facing residents, coupled with rising citizen expectations, has created confusion and frustration about the different roles of government. A lack of clarity around the function of local government can contribute to an erosion of public trust.

For the issues of community safety and violence, police and the justice system have traditionally been viewed as the primary holders of responsibility. However, jurisdictions across the globe have shifted to a balanced approach, recognizing the need to mobilize local partnerships. Peace in Our Cities, a global network of 24 cities (including Edmonton) with the ambitious goal to halve urban violence by 2030, emphasizes the importance of civilian leadership in local violence prevention strategies as this type of leadership is more likely to support the multidisciplinary approaches required, rather than limiting to law enforcement strategies[55].

The City plays five distinct roles in preventing violence:

---

[54] Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Municipal Structures: An Alternative Dialogue for Municipalities in Alberta, October 2022, https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Municipal-Structures-An-Alternative-Dialogue-FULL.pdf
[55] Flom, H., Baldo, A.M. (2024). Lessons from Effective Offices of Violence Prevention, Peace in our Cities. https://stanleycenter.org/publications/offices-of-violence-prevention/

1) **Bylaws and Policy**

The City directly oversees public safety services including, Community Peace Officers (General Duty, Park Rangers, Transit, Animal Control) and Municipal Enforcement Officers. The City also indirectly oversees the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), as the City established the EPS and, via bylaw, established the Edmonton Police Commission that is responsible for directly supervising the EPS.

Under the *Municipal Government Act*, municipalities may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property. The City also oversees Zoning which helps shape and improve safety, public health and welfare of residents and the environment.

2) **Convene and Coordinate**

The City plays an important role in convening and coordinating multiple different sectors, agencies, and orders of government to work towards a common vision, such as violence prevention.

3) **Investment**

While the City holds limited financial levers there are ongoing efforts to align City investments and optimize resources, alongside leveraging resources from other orders of government and funders to maximize impact.

4) **Localized Understanding of Needs**

Edmonton knows what Edmonton needs. The City is best positioned to promote understanding of unique local context, needs and opportunities through Edmonton-specific quantitative and qualitative data, community input and lived experience, that can inform localized responses and investments.

5) **Intergovernmental Relations**

Effective intergovernmental collaboration between all orders of government and other key partners is essential to creating safe and secure communities. Violence prevention is a shared responsibility across multiple orders of government and other stakeholders, and all orders of government take different actions in these spaces through their various levers.

Role of System Stewardship Partners

REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities	
Role	REACH brings together community, service agencies and government to get things done, with the ultimate aim of preventing violence to create safe communities.
Alignment to Strategic Plans	**REACH's 2024 Business Plan** includes eight areas of focus aligned with violence prevention: combatting human trafficking and exploitation, diverting crisis, prioritizing anti-racism, indigenization and lived experience, supporting immigration and refugees, mitigating addiction and mental health problems, building safe and inclusive neighbourhoods, preventing violence, and promoting family, child and youth success.
Level of Prevention	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary

Edmonton Police Service (EPS)	
Role	To be relentless on crime and a leading partner in building community safety.
Alignment to Strategic Plans	**EPS Strategic Plan** outlines the mission, goals, and outcomes that help achieve the vision of "a forward thinking police service that strengthens public trust through addressing crime, harm and disorder."
	Crime Reduction Plan outlines the plan to reduce violent crime in Edmonton. Guns & Gangs Strategy: Focuses on identifying, suppressing, investigating, and preventing gun and gang activity to enhance the safety of communities in Edmonton.

	Edmonton Young People Strategy reflects the responsibility police have in reducing the dangers crime and violence poses to some of our youngest and most vulnerable demographics.
Level of Prevention	Secondary, Tertiary

Alberta Health Services (AHS)	
Role	Delivers health services including health promotion and injury prevention, primary care and acute care across the province.
Alignment to Strategic Plans	Alberta Health Services has provincial policies and procedures for respectful workplaces & the prevention of harassment & violence. These policies & procedures are supported with annual required organizational learning for all staff. AHS Health Promotion & Public Health support various communities to create healthy & thriving places to live, learn, work, play & age, by creating community connections and acting on the issues that most matter.
Level of Prevention	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary

Focused Engagement

Administration conducted a focused engagement from May to October 2024. Most of the participants engaged were from Edmonton, but some notable experts were from other parts of Canada and the United States. A focused approach with existing collaborative tables and MOU partners was selected to ensure that the insights gathered from previous engagement efforts are honoured; to ensure that this project did not contribute to widespread engagement fatigue; and to make best use of the limited time and resources available.

The focused engagement included the following four phases:

1. Socializing
2. Analysis of Previous Engagements
3. Focused Conversations

4. Open House

Themes from the engagement

Address Root Causes

Coordination & Collaboration

Opportunities with Families and Schools

Community Co-Creation

Evaluation and Outcomes

Accountability

Supports for Newcomers

Connection & Vibrant Communities

Sustainable Funding and Equitable Resourcing

A summary of the approach and findings can be found in the What We Heard Report.

> "When looking at geographic areas where violence is concentrated we need to dig deeper into if those areas are underserved with things like housing and access to grocery stores etc."
>
> - Blueprint for Violence Prevention Focused Engagement, 2024

Blueprint for Violence Prevention

The Blueprint for Violence Prevention (BVP) is the City of Edmonton's plan for reducing and preventing violence. It sets out three measurable and tangible goals to address crime and violence, as well as their causes, and outlines key opportunities and work underway that will be explored in the next phase of implementation planning to strategically achieve the goals.

It is long-term focused, building in resiliency to anticipate and navigate uncertainties. It embraces agility for adaptation based on evolving conditions and partner and community needs. It is strategic, setting the guideposts for determining the most impactful levers to optimize investments, partnerships, and resources. And it lays the foundation for sustainability through a whole-of-society approach, rallying together communities, law enforcement, health and education systems, business, and academic experts around a shared vision.

BVP is not an action plan. While an action plan outlines specific actions and the resources, timelines and measures of success associated with those actions, the BVP provides a high-level vision, goals, and opportunities. The associated resources, timeline and measures for those opportunities, and others that might be identified as this work continues, will be further developed in an implementation plan.

The development of the BVP in this manner is intentional in order to set a common vision and most importantly secure time to build relationships and the mechanisms to:

- Develop the BVP implementation plan and support the Violence Reduction Network in implementing identified opportunities.

- Complete a phase two needs assessment, expanding data analysis and gaining further insight on the lived experiences of individuals experiencing and/or perpetrating violence.

- Conduct further engagement specifically focusing on priority areas and populations that may be highlighted through further needs assessments. This may include specific neighbourhoods or population groups such as youth, men and boys, newcomers, Indigenous communities etc.

- Ensure targeted and coordinated investments are secured to further the goal areas. This includes a review and possible refinement of City grant programs and investments to maximize alignment with the findings of the phase 2 needs assessment.

- Identify corporate actions, assets and services that can be leveraged across Administration to improve violence prevention.
- Continue to monitor the intergovernmental landscape, build relationships, collaboratively pursue shared goals, and maximize investment opportunities;
- Develop an indicator framework which will assist the Violence Reduction Network with the collection, interpretation and communication of data; and
- Develop a strong evaluation framework to measure progress and effectiveness of the BVP actions and related investments.

VISION

Together we can make Edmonton a safer city.

GOALS

There are three broad goals that reflect the vision for the future and what the research and localized expertise has described as necessary for reducing and preventing violence in Edmonton.

1) **Build Structure for Impact and Sustainability**

   While there are many existing committees and working groups that contribute to local violence prevention, there is opportunity to strengthen and connect governance structures, and develop shared strategic direction and alignment. The governance structure will be the mechanism in which the public health approach to violence prevention is operationalized in Edmonton - utilizing a comprehensive multisource data approach and cross sectoral representation.

2) **Reduce and Prevent Violence in the Near Term**

   While prevention is critical to long term change, investment and goals to stop violence before it happens can not be realized without near-term violence intervention strategies. Preventing violence in the near term means addressing violence that is already occurring through tailored place-based and people-based strategies that interrupt violence.

3) Move Upstream

Upstream approaches to violence prevention are about more than the absence of crime; they are about creating a place and conditions where everyone has a range of opportunities to thrive. Starting upstream means tackling structural and social determinants to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for priority populations through investment, skill development and increased access to services and opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities are a non-exhaustive list of actions that could be explored by the Violence Reduction Network. The opportunities identified emerged from the research and engagement as areas that could further the three goal areas. As the violence prevention landscape evolves, new research becomes available, and additional engagement and needs assessments are completed, additional opportunities may be added.

WORK UNDERWAY

These are areas of opportunity that were identified through the development of the BVP and are currently being explored by Administration with partners. These are actions that are aligned with existing mandates and areas of work, and therefore could begin prior to the finalization of the BVP.

"*The work is already happening. It's about supporting and sustaining this work more effectively.*"

- Blueprint for Violence Prevention Focused Engagement, 2024

Goal 1   Build Structure for Impact & Sustainability

Establish a governance structure and network that supports the implementation of a public health approach to violence prevention in Edmonton.

Key Opportunities

1.1 Convene cross-sectoral partners from existing community safety and violence-focused working groups and committees to establish a Violence Reduction Network consisting of three core working groups:
1. Oversight Board
2. Strategic Working Group
3. Operational Working Group

1.2 Establish new forms of data and information collaboration across different sectors — including private companies, research institutions, and government to exchange data and develop insights to understand the needs and opportunities within communities.

Work Underway

- Build on the partnerships developed through the Systems Stewardship Table and focused engagement to align existing efforts within the violence prevention ecosystem in Edmonton.
- Initiated the Edmonton CMA Community Data Program, a social development initiative for municipalities and community sector agencies to access analytical tools and customized data from Statistics Canada and other providers at reduced costs and receive data training and capacity building.
- Developing a localized safety and violence monitoring tool by leveraging the Community Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard and the Urban Safety Monitoring Tool.

Goal 2   Prevent Violence in the Near Term

Address violence that is already occurring through tailored place-based and people-based strategies that interrupt violence.

Key Opportunities

2.1 Identifying joint and/or complimentary initiatives with EPS Crime Reduction Plan

2.2 Use data to identify and address environmental factors within neighbourhoods that can be modified to prevent violence (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED))

2.3 Develop an inventory of violence prevention initiatives and programs in Edmonton that work with and support communities (geographic and social) who are already experiencing violence (perpetrators and victims).

    2.3.1 Explore the availability of violence prevention initiatives that integrate Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, particularly for reducing recidivism in offenders and youth who have experienced violence or a traumatic event.

Work Underway

- Identifying joint and/or complimentary initiatives with EPS Crime Reduction Plan
  - Leveraging the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET) partnership with EPS to bridge strategic and operational responses to safety and security concerns and help build trusting relationships between residents and police.
- Developing partnerships with post-secondary institutions for geospatial analysis of the relationships between neighbourhood socioeconomic status and violence to inform targeted responses.

Goal 3 Move Upstream

Tackle structural and social determinants to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for priority populations through investment, skill development and increased access to services and opportunities.

Key Opportunities

3.1 Build upon existing efforts that promote strengthening social, emotional and life skill development among youth to ensure equitable, positive youth development.

   3.1.1 Enhance the availability of safe spaces for youth through community programming such as out of school time initiatives.

3.2 Work with communities to identify social infrastructure[56], community based assets, social networks and social capital, including opportunities to build upon and leverage existing asset-based resources.

   3.2.1 Assess the availability and accessibility of culturally-accessible community spaces.
   3.2.2 Enhance programs and services that support positive family development and wellbeing.
   3.2.3 Draw upon the existing REACH Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative

Work Underway

   ■ Systematic review of aligned City strategies and initiatives to identify common objectives. Including but not limited to:
      ■ Edmonton Anti-Black Racism Action Plan

---

[56] Definition: Social infrastructure is comprised of the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities and enable society to work effectively.

- Truth and Reconciliation Municipal Response
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA
- Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy
- Gender-Based Violence
- Homelessness and Housing Services Plan
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Safe Spaces Action Plan
- Exploring current understandings and definitions of Social Infrastructure to inform the scope of inventory and assessments moving forward.
- Working with post-secondary institutions and students to develop an investment case that demonstrates the social and economic returns that can be achieved by strengthening investments in violence prevention.

Connecting the Dots: Violence Reduction Network

The opportunities outlined above will be explored through the creation of a Violence Reduction Network, building on existing networks and established partnerships already in place.

This network will seek to actively engage community, government, First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders, health, education, social and economic sectors, academia and enforcement. With this cross-sectoral representation, the Network will provide advice on objectives and activities related to violence prevention, including enhancing partnerships and collaborations, aligning and leveraging resourcing and capacity, commissioning evidence-based interventions that invest in places and people, improving data sharing between partners, and tackling structural and systemic social determinants. The creation of the Violence Reduction Network is a key component to the implementation of the Blueprint as it is the governance mechanism that allows for lasting sustainability of the plan beyond the identified opportunities, political cycles, and organizational changes.

The Violence ReductionNetwork will consist of three core working groups:

1) The **Oversight Board** will provide direction and oversight:
   - Establish agreement on appropriate partners and develop charter for roles, expectations and accountability.
   - Recommendations on resourcing and investments.
   - Promote multisectoral working and drive system change.

2) The **Strategic Working Group** will provide strategic direction:
   - Develop responsive and accessible communication and campaign strategies to raise awareness of the Violence Reduction Network across strategic, operational and delivery partners.
   - Develop a sustainability plan and long term budget through a variety of funding streams (intergovernmental) and explore integrated investments.
   - Develop a Strategic Violence Prevention Asset and Needs Assessment to identify priority place-based and people based responses in collaboration with communities.
   - Ensure the views and voices of communities are embedded in strategic planning and operations.
   - Conduct a process evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the violence reduction network and whether alternative structures should be explored.

3) The **Operational Working Group** will:
   - Develop response strategies and implementation priorities, informed by the Strategic Violence Prevention Asset and Needs Assessment, evaluations and evidence of "what works".
   - Monitor implementation of response strategies including against the success measures set by the strategic operating working group.
   - Leverage existing platforms and initiatives for partners and communities to learn from one another and build capacity.

Principle	Description
Equity Based	Equity is more than a list of strategies, it is a mindset and commitment to addressing interpersonal, institutional, cultural and structural racism and other forms of inequities, to understanding and acknowledging social and historical contexts, and prioritizing the interests and participation of communities whose interests and involvement have been historically excluded.
Community Based	Respecting the right of all community members to be informed, consulted, and involved in the design and implementation of local solutions, centring people with lived and living experience, as well as including community leaders within governance structures, and supporting community capacity building.
Evidence Based	Evidence-based strategies and resources are those that are based on critical thinking, research, data, and best practices that have proven to be effective. "Evidence" can mean quantitative research, but it can also mean the stories and experiences of people.
Accountability Based	Partners develop their own strategic accountabilities and work together to set clear and actionable targets that can be agreed upon with clarity on what they are or are not taking on as part of the plan.
Relationship Based	Building relationships with partners is vital for trust and provides the foundations for partners to work together towards mutual goals and objectives, leverage the diversity of experience to see problems and opportunities from new perspectives, and generate new solutions and adaptations to changing situations.

Next Steps: Action Planning, Implementation & Evaluation

Moving forward, stemming the tide against violence requires a range of expertise and collaboration across sectors and communities. The Blueprint for Violence Prevention builds upon the foundations laid by the Community and Safety Wellbeing Strategy and provides a path forward for how the City can sustainably respond to and prevent violence. It provides initial guidance and mechanisms to connect the dots between existing networks, initiatives and partners to refine and enhance how we as a community respond to and prevent violence in our city.

Along with timelines, accountabilities and intended outcomes for all opportunities identified through a local needs assessment, the Violence Prevention Implementation Plan will be built around seven essential conditions for sustainable implementation. These conditions emerged from three seminal United Nations resolutions, "1985 Victim Magna Carta"[57], "Guidelines for the Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention"[58] and the "Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime."[59] According to research conducted by University of Ottawa Professor Irvin Waller,[60] governments who have not prioritized each of these elements have failed to obtain and/or sustain significant reductions in crime.

1. **Permanent Violence and Crime Reduction Boards:** responsibility centre for developing and implementing integrated crime and violence prevention

2. **Informed by Crime Prevention Science and Data:** multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about crime problems, their multiple causes, and promising and proven practices.

3. **Planning using Diagnosis, Mobilization of Partners, Implementation, and**

[57]https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-basic-principles-justice-victims-crime-and-abuse
[58]https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023/resolution-1993-27_0.pdf
[59]https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/1990-1999/1995/ECOSOC/Resolution_1995-09.pdf
[60]Waller, I. (2019). *Science and secrets of ending violent crime*. Rowman & Littlefield.

> **Evaluation:** local plan for crime and violence prevention based upon diagnosis of crime problems, outlining targeted solutions, protocols and outcome evaluations.

4. **Mobilizing Sectors Able to Tackle Causes:** bringing together the community, health, social and economic sectors, enforcement, and government to solve complex problems and risk factors.

5. **Adequate and Sustained Funding:** long-term resourcing, including funding for structures and activities with clear accountability for funding, implementation and evaluation. Dr. Waller recommends the equivalent of 10 percent of what is being spent on the Criminal Justice System in a country or city.

6. **Standards and Training for Human Talent:** establishing standards and upskilling staff for planning, community engagement, or monitoring and evaluation functions.

7. **Public Support and Engagement:** support for the many roles the public can play in applying violence prevention science.

The Implementation Plan

In order to ensure the goals and objectives within the Blueprint are implemented as intended, the implementation plan will include a needs assessment, indicator framework, investment approach, intergovernmental strategy, engagement plan, accountability framework, and evaluation framework.

Needs Assessment

Implementation of the BVP will include a robust needs assessment that seeks to further our current understanding of the data and the evidence from a range of sources that reveals patterns, trends and hotspots in the extent and the risk of violence in Edmonton. The assessment will make a series of proposals for the Violence Reduction Network and its partners to consider as areas of future focus and delivery, including recommendations on place-based and people-based responses.

Engagement Plan

As a key component of the robust needs assessment, and to ensure effective implementation it is essential that a comprehensive engagement plan guide engagement efforts moving forward, specifically focusing on priority areas and populations that may be highlighted through further needs assessments. This may include specific neighbourhoods or population groups such as youth, men and boys, newcomers, Indigenous communities etc. Participation from the community must be inclusive and meaningful at all times.

Information gathered from the engagement efforts will be one of the inputs considered when developing localized actions through the implementation plan. This ensures that the implementation is responsive to the population it serves and responds to the localized experience of Edmontonians.

Indicator Framework

An indicator framework will be developed as a tool to organize and visualize the indicators related to violence and associated risk and protective factors. The framework will draw upon multiple different data sources and present the indicators as a cohesive set of factors that contribute to violence. The framework will assist the Violence ReductionNetwork with the collection, interpretation and communication of the data.

Investment Approach

In developing the Blueprint, the conversation about violence prevention emphasized the need for sustainable investments from all orders of government to design, activate and scale prevention initiatives and coordinated action amongst the City, communities, social, health, and education systems, policing, orders of government and business. Through the BVP, Edmonton will be able to ensure targeted and coordinated investments are secured and put into priority areas of focus based on data and local needs assessment.

Intergovernmental Strategy

All orders of government: municipal, provincial, Indigenous, and federal have a role to play in the prevention of violence. Municipalities are well positioned to build an understanding of local needs and opportunities, to further support intergovernmental and systems level planning and investments. An intergovernmental strategy will outline how we collaborate with other governments to promote the interests of, and secure investments for Edmonton through strengthened intergovernmental relations.

Accountability Framework

Accountability considers the ownership of responsibilities and the obligation to report on those responsibilities. An Accountability Framework will be developed which will outline the ownership of responsibilities relating to the initiative (including the specific roles of each sector partner), the purpose and intended results of the initiative, how performance will be monitored and measured, how evaluation will be conducted, and what reporting back to the public, governing bodies, and funders includes. For the City of Edmonton this will include the identification of corporate actions, assets and services that can be leveraged to prevent violence.

Evaluation

In order to monitor, evaluate and communicate the progress of the implementation of the Blueprint, a comprehensive evaluation framework will be developed. Given the number of sectors that will be involved, developing one shared evaluation plan for the activities associated with the Blueprint will be particularly important. The evaluation will demonstrate the impact of the collective action of all sectors involved in the Violence Reduction Network.

Evaluation in this context will help to:
- Demonstrate the contribution and impact of the Blueprint
- Help make adjustments to the approach during implementation
- Maintain accountability to stakeholders
- Demonstrate need for investment

Where new interventions are developed and tested, or existing interventions are adapted to new settings or population groups, it is critical to evaluate these initiatives before scaling up. Monitoring the impacts of the approach and the interventions over time will ensure that resources are invested in programs that work, that unintended and potentially harmful outcomes are prevented, and that programs are implemented with consideration of our local context.

A comprehensive evaluation framework for the Blueprint may include two types of evaluation:

1) **Process Evaluation** to explore how the Violence Reduction Network was developed and implemented, including key enablers, barriers and lessons learned in the first phase of delivery. This might include evaluating the multi-sector governance model, data sharing and analysis processes, and engagement efforts.

2) **Outcome Evaluation** to evaluate the effectiveness of the programming and interventions that are promoted by the Violence Reduction Network.

A detailed evaluation framework will be developed at the beginning stages of implementation of the Blueprint.