

Jurisdictional Scan

Administration conducted a jurisdictional scan of municipalities in Canada and internationally to compare and evaluate how other cities are tackling violence with a public health approach and the impact and outcomes of their programs and policies. This scan highlights the jurisdictions that had a specific focus on violence prevention and reduction. Many of these jurisdictions focus on implementing solutions to prevent gun violence and upstream efforts to prevent youth from being impacted by violence.

While the experience of violence and overall approaches may be similar across jurisdictions as outlined in the table below, it is also important to recognize the need to tailor interventions to be responsive to localized needs and opportunities as is articulated through data, community input, and lived experience.

Note:

Funding differs significantly between Canada and the US, similarly between Canada and Scotland and the United Kingdom (UK). These differences are primarily due to how funding is allocated from the United States Federal Government to individual States and jurisdictions in the UK.

Successes only reflect changes in crime statistics that were highlighted as a result of the violence prevention strategy and its related efforts. Many of the jurisdictions have or are in the process of undertaking comprehensive evaluations with a focus on the outcomes of specific programs and initiatives versus the overall violence prevention strategy. These results fall outside of the scope of the scan, but will be vital information to examine as part of the next phase of the Blueprint for Violence Prevention.

Overview

Toronto	Safe TO: Toronto's Ten-Year Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan ¹
Description	SafeTO uses a public health approach to achieve its goals as it recognizes the interconnectedness of complex conditions and mobilizes a wide range of

¹ City of Toronto, Safe TO: Toronto's Ten-Year Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (2021), <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-168551.pdf>

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	evidence-informed interventions to respond to these conditions while monitoring the results from upstream prevention efforts to advise ongoing investments and system reform.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce vulnerability • Reduce violence • Advance Truth & Reconciliation • Promote healing and justice • Invest in people • Invest in neighbourhoods • Drive collaboration and accountability
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12 million (2022)
Successes	<i>See Introduction Note</i>

Vancouver	Vancouver's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy ²
Description	A multi-year strategy that emphasizes preventative approaches to mitigate social and community level risk factors associated with gun and gang violence in the city. It will support community-based prevention and intervention strategies tackling youth violence in the City, as well as promote individual and community well-being, safety and belonging in Vancouver, via community-based research, collaboration and a new granting program.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safer and protective community environments and public spaces • Identify and strengthen community based supports for healthy child development • Improve the coordination and delivery of positive youth development services • Connect youth with caring adults • Lessen the impacts of serious violence and crime on children and youth

² City of Vancouver, Vancouver's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy (2023).
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/youth-safety-violence-prevention-strategy.pdf>

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Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding through the federal grant - Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF)• \$4.3 million multi-year funding (as per BSCF timeline of 2022-2026)
Successes	<i>See Introduction Note</i>

Chicago	Peoples Plan for Community Safety ³
Description	The City developed a public health framework for community safety to implement a whole-of-city approach to violence prevention and ensure equitable investment in the communities with the highest levels of disinvestment and lack of opportunity. Shootings and homicides recorded in Chicago fell by 13 per cent in 2023 as violence rates returned to pre-pandemic levels, but the number of people killed last year was still among the city's highest over the past two decades. Launching in December 2023, the comprehensive framework was instrumental in understanding the wide array of violence prevention programming in the city of Chicago.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People Based: Immediately interrupt violence by supporting the people most acutely impacted<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Adults of Highest Promise◦ Youth of Highest Promise◦ Victims and Survivors• Place Based: Address the root causes of violence, focusing on high opportunity neighborhoods<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Education◦ Economic Opportunity and Upward Mobility◦ Housing◦ Health◦ Community Environment◦ Policing

³ City of Chicago, People's Plan for Community Safety (2023).

https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/sites/public-safety-and-violenc-reduction/pdfs/CommunitySafety_Onepager_LastUpdated_12152023.pdf

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Annual Funding	Unknown
Successes	The strategy was launched in December 2023 and currently is piloting a number of initiatives. Data is not currently available to speak to successes at this time.

Philadelphia	The Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities ⁴
Description	In the Spring of 2021, an updated strategy for gun violence prevention and to reduce the rising gun violence rates was launched, with a focus on the root causes of violence, including structural racism, poverty, and disinvestment in underserved communities.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected and thriving youth, young adults and families • Coordinated city services and planning • Safer and healthier neighbourhoods • Strong community engagement and partnerships
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$209,777,709 in 2023⁵
Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The homicide rate in Philadelphia has dropped in each of the last two calendar years. Current statistics show that homicides year to date are down by 21.8 per cent over 2021, and down by 19.6 per cent over 2022 • Through the first six months of 2023, the overall rate of shootings in Philadelphia (defined as shooting victims) decreased by 26 per cent over the same period in 2022 and by the end of October, shootings were down by 24.5 per cent over the same period in 2022. • Shooting incidents (defined as shots fired from a weapon) are down by 22 per cent over 2022; <p>Sources: Philadelphia Police Department, Crime Maps and Stats</p>

⁴ City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities (2023).

<https://www.phila.gov/media/20210414123750/RoadmapToSaferCommunitiesSpring2021.pdf>

⁵ City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia's Roadmap to Safer Communities: Violence Prevention Investments Update (2023).

<https://www.phila.gov/media/20230302190339/2023-Violence-Prevention-Investments-Update.pdf>

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Boston	Boston Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative ⁶
Description	The Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Initiative is a violence prevention strategy that reduces street violence in city neighbourhoods using increased community organization and mobilization. Each VIP neighborhood has its own resident coalition coordinated by a local community organization. VIP coalitions ensure that residents have the knowledge and resources they need. They make residents feel empowered to be part of the solution and create sustained change in their communities.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIP Neighborhood Coalitions recognize and promote neighborhood assets as they determine neighborhood needs. • Children and youth engage in positive activities, develop leadership skills, and take leadership roles in the neighborhood. • Residents have equitable access to the necessary resources for physical and emotional wellness. • The physical environment of the neighborhood encourages outdoor activity and social connection. • When incidents of violence occur community members lead public actions. They shift norms and expectations about violence and promote community building.
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately \$5.3 million • All funding provided by the federal government
Successes	<i>See Introduction Note</i>

⁶ City of Boston, VIP Neighbourhood Coalition.

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/violence-prevention/violence-intervention-and-prevention-vip-initiative/vip-neighborhood-coalition>

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Greenbay	City of Green Bay Community Safety Plan ⁷
Description	The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) fosters safe and resilient neighborhoods where all residents can thrive, promoting evidence-based solutions to reduce violence and interrupt cycles of retaliation. In collaboration with residents, community organizations, and various city departments, OVP builds up the collective power of the community to disrupt the root causes of violence by creating a culture of mentorship and well-being. The OVP was launched in 2023 and builds on previous success that Green Bay had with this type of approach.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun violence reduction • Community violence intervention • Sustainable and impactful OVP
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million
Successes	Gun-related incidents in the city increased from 18 in 2018 to 82 in 2021, according to the city. That number fell to 61 in 2022 and 38 last year. These successes can not be directly attributed to the OVP specifically given it was launched in 2023, however, the approach that the OVP utilizes builds on previous work that is credited for this success. This included utilizing neighbourhood response teams, community connections, community police centres and new technology for a comprehensive approach towards gun violence. The OVP builds on this approach in an effort to continue to experience a downward trend.

Milwaukee	Milwaukee Blueprint for Peace ⁸
Description	A community-driven agenda for addressing the complex factors that drive violence in our city. Rooted in a public health approach to violence prevention, this Blueprint calls for strategic, aligned, and sustained investments and action to prevent violence, build resilience, and create a safer, healthier city with emphasis on improving

⁷ City of Green Bay Office of Violence Prevention, Community Safety Plan: An Introduction (2024).

<https://www.greenbaywi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12521/Community-Safety-Plan-Introduction---June-2024?bidId=>

⁸ City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention, Blueprint for Peace (2017).

<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/sites/default/files/publications/Milwaukee%20Blueprint%20for%20Peace.pdf>

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	conditions in areas of the city most impacted by violence.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the shooting, stop the violence • Promote healing and restorative justice • Support children, youth and families • Promote economic opportunity • Foster safe and strong neighbourhoods • Strengthen capacity and coordination of violence prevention efforts
Annual Funding	Unknown
Successes	Milwaukee has seen a three year decline in homicides (2022-2024)

Seattle	Youth Violence Prevention Plan
Description	A comprehensive approach to ensuring all youth transition successfully to adulthood, healthy and violence free. It provides a framework for alignment of resources in the City's Human Services Department as well as future alignment with resources in other City departments such as Libraries, Parks, and Police.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and young adults transition to adulthood. • Youth and young adults achieve academic success. • Youth and young adults are safe from violence and free from justice system involvement. • Youth and young adults are healthy, physically, socially, and emotionally. • The Seattle Community is mobilized in support of these goals.
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million for violence reduction efforts
Successes	<i>See Introduction Note</i>

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Oakland	Department of Violence Prevention ⁹
Description	The Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) was established in 2017 to tackle the problem of violence in Oakland. Where previous city programs focused primarily on those at the center of violence, the DVP has an expanded prevention and intervention mission of advocating for and supporting families impacted by unsolved cold cases and addressing broader community trauma.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the specific places in Oakland with underlying conditions that generate the highest rates of violence • Support the specific people determined to be at: the center of violence, in-risk or at-risk for violence and exposed/adjacent to violence • Direct interventions at the individual, peer, family, and community levels • Provide services at the times and days of the week when violence occurs most • Reductions in the conditions described in DVP mandates will result.
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12.45 million for violence-prevention and intervention programs overseen, and in some cases directly provided, by the Department of Violence Prevention (DVP).
Successes	Oakland has seen a 13 per cent decrease in homicides and 23 per cent decrease in shootings in 2024 from the previous three year average

Scotland	Scottish Violence Prevention Framework ¹⁰
Approach	This Framework, launched in 2023 sets out some of the work the Scottish government and its partners are taking forward and contributing towards preventing and reducing the harm caused by violence. It also outlines areas for future development and will support a coordinated approach to the proposed activities

⁹ City of Oakland, Department of Violence Prevention, Strategic Spending Plan (2024).

<https://cao-94612.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/documents/Attachment-A-DVP-Strategic-Spending-Plan-FY-22-24-for-Report-1.pdf>

¹⁰ Scottish Government, Violence Prevention Framework for Scotland (2023).

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/05/violence-prevention-framework-scotland/documents/violence-prevention-framework-scotland/violence-prevention-framework-scotland/govscot%3Adocument/violence-prevention-framework-scotland.pdf>

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	within the Action Plan that will be developed and delivered in collaboration with key partners over the coming year and beyond.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling societal inequalities for women and preventing men's Violence Against Women and Girls • Tackling hate crime and addressing discrimination and prejudice in our society • Keeping people safe from harm • Reduce child poverty • Reduce reoffending, promoting reintegration to keep the public safe • Disrupting Serious Organized Crime across our communities • Reducing crime, including violence in our communities • Prevent antisocial behaviour • Supporting Children and Young People to develop positive relationships • Reduce the negative impact of social media • Help adults have healthier relationships • Address harm or the risk of harm from violence • Preventing and reducing alcohol and drug related harm and violence. • Preventing and reducing the harm caused by Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and poor mental health and wellbeing
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million (across multiple years)
Successes	<p>Scotland has seen a steady decrease in violent crime since 2006/2007 with the establishment of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).</p> <p>Since 2006/2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 per cent decrease in non-sexual violent crime • 38 per cent decrease in homicide • 43 per cent fall in attempted murder and serious assaults <p>This current strategy however launched in 2023, and no evaluation data is currently available to speak to its impact but continues to build on the success of the VRU.</p> <p>Extensive evaluation has been conducted specifically on VRU units across Scotland and the United Kingdom.</p>

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London, England	London's Violence Reduction Unit Strategy ¹¹
Approach	The strategy was developed to pioneer a partnership approach to tackling violence that is rooted in prevention and early intervention. The focus of the strategy is on stopping violence from happening by investing in and providing better access to positive opportunities for young people, families and communities. The strategy sets out how London will tackle violence both in the short term and how the partnership approach will lead to more sustainable long-term reductions in violence.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and young people safer• Partnership approach to delivering solutions• Violence is stabilized and reduced
Annual Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$9.5 million
Successes	<i>See Introduction Note</i>

¹¹ London's Violence Reduction Unit, Our Strategy to 2025. file:///C:/Users/cheans/Downloads/VRU%20Strategy%20(compressed)%20(1).pdf