PEACE IN MOTION

Toledo's Path To Community Safety

Acknowlegements

Thank you to all that contributed perspective, expertise, and heart to this effort. The work has never stopped.

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Youth Focus Groups and Outreach
Cordae, Syriana, Javon, Martin, Jason, Dave, Kenzie, Sophie, Delaney, and youth at Maritime Academy, Rogers, Whitmer, Woodward, Scott, Waite, and Bowsher.

Mayor's Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence & Save Our Community
Every person that started the initiative, led, staffed, and/or supported the work through the years.

Advisors & Technical Assistance Providers
An incomplete list: Anthony Smith, Cities United; Doc Woods, No More Red Dots; Dr.'s Jonathan Jay and Emma Gause, Boston University; Mallory O'Brien, Johns Hopkins; Jennifer Clammer, James Timpson, and Tone, Roca Inc & Rewire CBT.

Organizing Structure

COMPREHENSIVE 5-YEAR PLAN

A cross-sector, community-engaged-and-owned plan that will guide efforts at addressing gun violence over the next 5 years. The plan is part of an ongoing public health approach to addressing gun violence. Having the plan adopted by City Council ensures policy, practice, and resource decisions are informed by community efforts to address violence.

COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE

A cross-disciplinary team of individuals and organizations closest to the issue of gun violence. This group was convened to develop the comprehensive 5-year plan, to improve cross-sector coordination, and to engage in shared learning.

EXECUTIVE TABLE

This group, chaired by the Mayor, provides executive leadership and oversight. This group drives policies, practices, and resources.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION COUNCIL

A multi-sector team that will review non-fatal and fatal gun violence data and specific cases that reflect trends in order to identify problems and develop solutions. The VRC will provide support with ongoing data-driven decision-making.



Greetings Beloved Neighbors,

Peace in Motion centers those impacted by gun violence in our communities by taking a block-by-block approach to build a community-wide framework to reduce gun violence. This is not just another plan, but a collection of voices from all aspects and experiences across our city. We are grateful for the work being done by the Community Action Table.

Almost one year ago, a group of community leaders gathered to discuss the important issue of gun violence. We all agreed that it was a major problem in our community, and we were determined to take collective and strategic action to address it. We identified the focus areas that would be needed for a comprehensive approach and formed working groups to address each one. The working groups researched best practices, strategic outcomes, current solutions, and gaps. We then presented our findings to a larger group that meets monthly - the Community Action Table. Since then, we have been working together to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce gun violence in our community.

We are confident that this group can make a difference. We are all committed to this cause, and we are working tirelessly to find solutions. Collectively we present these most critical recommendations:

1. **Identify community safe havens/hubs through youth-led participatory mapping** and then bolster these locations with programming, training, recreational activities, supportive services and National Safe Space designation.

2. **Coordinate initial contact and begin trauma-informed safety planning within 72 hours of an incident**. Offer appropriate services and support, including meeting with families and networks to diffuse tension and reduce the likelihood of retaliation; provide support v de-escalation at memorials; provide a safe space and a rapid relocation.

3. **Develop a flexible donor-advised fund that reduces gaps in access to resources for those impacted by gun violence.** Applicants can utilize up to $2,000 in assistance for basic needs, temporary respite, relocation, minor home repairs and modification, lost wages, burial, funeral and memorial costs.

The time to act is now! We have come so far on this journey, and we've accomplished so much together. But now it's time to take the next step and make this vision a reality. We call upon private foundations, public charities, local corporations, national chairs and government to pull our financial resources together. We urge the entire Toledo community to support the Peace in Motion Plan for the next three to five years so we can create a better, brighter future for everyone. Together we can create a city where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

The Community Action Table

Greetings Toledoans,

In 2023, I established the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) to help Toledo address gun violence through using a public health approach. The idea is to address the root causes of gun violence in this city, and to minimize the preventable loss of life as well as the everyday impact these traumas have on our community.

Successful cities have ecosystems that protect citizens and promote safety. This ecosystem is made up of families, schools, police, churches, employers, health-care providers, social service agencies, violence interrupters, and countless other community members, all of whom want the same thing: for everyone in this city to live happy, healthy lives.

Last year, MONSE began convening a community action table of dedicated Toledoans from grassroots, institutional, and individual organizations who want to help. Now, after a year of consistent hard work, the community action table is ready to present its recommendations to address gun violence in Toledo for the next five years and beyond.

I am grateful for the work these outstanding individuals are doing for Toledo. We have already seen a significant decrease in gun violence in Junction and Englewood (from 11 homicides to 2) and the North Side focus area (from 8 homicides to 2) compared to the year prior to implementation of violence interrupters.

In addition to the progress in these targeted neighborhoods, Toledo has seen an overall citywide reduction in all categories of crime– including violent crime and homicides– since the pandemic-related highs of 2021. In fact, Toledo is on pace to see homicides decline for the third consecutive year in 2024.

But even as we celebrate these successes we know there is more work to be done. The research shows that we must place our focus on the most vulnerable population, and then expand our efforts from there. These early results bring a renewed sense of hope that we can continue to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal shootings city-wide.

The recommendations in this plan reflect the complexity of the problem at hand. There is no one single solution, but working together to build a system of support will ensure that Toledo is a city where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



Wade Kapszukiewicz
Toledo Mayor

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To Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and The Citizens of Toledo,

The release of "Peace in Motion: Toledo's Path to Community Safety" shows what can happen when Political Will and Public Will align towards a common goal.

From day one, you, your team, and concerned citizens from all walks of life - have been focused on creating a comprehensive ecosystem that will identify, engage and support those who are most at risk of being impacted by community violence. Your team has spent 1000's of hours in the community listening to and learning from those on the frontline, they have created space for everyday citizens to feel heard and seen.

This has not been an easy process, in the midst of building out "Toledo's Path to Community Safety," families have continued to experience loss and pain – loss and pain that vibrates throughout the whole city. Through this loss and pain, the community has continued to show up for each other – building a path to a safer Toledo. They showed up because they believe in the possibilities of Toledo.

The five pillars that have been identified to guide the work: ***enhancing the CVIP ecosystem, improving coordination and shared accountability, fostering hope and healing, accessing opportunities, and building engaged neighborhoods and networks*** – will be foundational to the success of Peace in Motion.

The work to develop your comprehensive public safety plan, along with ist release are phases in your journey – there is much more work on Toledo's Path to Community Safety.

To reach your bold goals, it's going to take all of Toledo coming together, working towards a common vision – and centering those who have been disproportionately impacted by community violence.

Now is your time, and with this plan guiding your work – I am confident that lives will be saved.

I want to thank each of you for your leadership and for your commitment to build pathways to a safer Toledo.

In Partnership,

Anthony Smith, Executive Director

Hi Everyone,

To the Community Action Table – we're eternally grateful for the time, care, and heart you've poured into one another, this community, and ultimately into Peace in Motion: Toledo's Path to Community Safety. The plan is only a continuation of the work you all have done since long before the *Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence* or *Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement* came into existence. Thank you for your patience, your willingness to have deep, uncomfortable, and occasionally tense conversations. Discussing gun violence isn't easy, generally; to do so while owning the pain of loss, injury, and incarceration from being on the other side of the gun felt impossible initially. Yet you all continued to lead with dignity and respect. That's special; that's rare. Thank you for continuing to keep peace in motion – we all know the work never stopped.

To all impacted by violence, especially those in "the trenches" or having to navigate them every day: know that there is a community of folks committed to you and your wellbeing. There's a path forward for every person, regardless of where they begin. That includes justice and restoration. There are plenty of young men and women from similar backgrounds that have grown past a rough past and now reach back to help.

For all of us with "2 ears and 1 mouth:" thank you for listening to one another, developing common goals, and honoring the perspectives of others.

To Toledoans – Gun violence has impacted us all, whether directly or indirectly. All of us are united in our desire for a solution. Members of our community have worked tirelessly for the past 12 months to develop this plan. These recommendations are based on the experiences of those most impacted by gun violence and those working to end it. They also align with strategies that have a proven track record of success in other cities. I firmly believe this plan will work when implemented, but we need your support. No one person, program, or idea can bring about this change in isolation. Each of us has a role to play. My hope is that as you read this plan, you see opportunities to join us in our work and be part of making Peace in Motion's vision a reality.

To our elected officials – we know the weight of responsibility felt by each of you when you receive news of another fatal shooting in our city, the desire to provide answers when people ask what you are going to do about gun violence. You've been elected by our residents to represent them and provide a safe Toledo for all of us to share. It is our hope that this plan will spur new ideas for innovation in how our city addresses gun violence. This plan is not for the government of Toledo to implement, but rather for our entire community to embrace and make real. Thank you for the trust shown and the scrutiny given to the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement - nothing short of the best will suffice when addressing an issue this important. v

Malcolm Cunningham, Director

Josh Davies, Commissioner

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Introduction



Vision: A safe, vibrant, and engaged Toledo grounded in strong neighborhoods and networks, empowered households, and resilient individuals.

Mission: we seek to eliminate the root causes of violence.

WHY PEACE IN MOTION?

Peace in Motion: Toledo's Path to Community Safety is the result of 12 months of tireless work from the Community Action Table. Yet, the pain of losing people to gun violence, the collective trauma, and - critically - the efforts to prevent and address violence in our community stretch back much further. Mothers, fathers, and families who lost their children helped create this plan. People on the other end of the gun helped as well. Both people prosecuting crimes and those formerly incarcerated contributed their perspectives. Centering the voices and lived experiences of those most affected by gun violence is critical to creating and sustaining long-term solutions.

We're in motion because the work of preventing and addressing gun violence doesn't stop.

We're on the path to community safety because – while never satisfied - we see progress in reducing violence.

Toledo saw a 34% reduction in homicides in comparison to a roughly 9% drop in fatal shootings nationwide in 2023. While encouraging, 2023 also saw a sharp, tragic uptick in the number of youths under 18 fatally shot. In 2024, much of the community focused its efforts on reducing gun violence during the summer months when youth are out of school. Within the city, the Department of Parks and Youth Services supported more than 60 community-based youth programs and dozens of neighborhood movie nights, concerts, and family-friendly events. The Police Department continued focused deterrence in high crime areas. The Department of Urban Beautification hosted block-by-block cleanups. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) and Save Our Community (SOC) focused on supporting community-owned violence prevention events and activities; supporting their 61-person caseload with programming and employment opportunities; and coordinating responses to shootings into homes, nonfatal shootings, and homicides in their focus areas. In comparison to previous summer breaks, the number of fatal shootings has a promising downward trend; as of August 9th, the time of this writing, the city has lost 5 lives over the summer to gun violence - the fewest since 2016. The work continues, but we on the path to community safety.

34%

Approximate decline in gun homicides in Toledo in 2023

9%

Approximate decline in gun homicides nationwide in 2023

Timeline

2020

Mayor's Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence. That September, in response to a spike in nonfatal and fatal shootings during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz established an initiative aimed at treating gun violence as a public health crisis.

Public Health Crisis. Toledo City Council voted unanimously to declare gun violence a public health crisis that December.

2021

Save Our Community. That February, the city hired JoJuan Armour as the program manager for a new violence interruption program. Armour engaged with the community, reviewed data, and worked with partners to understand community needs and identify focus areas. This resulted in the development of the Save Our Community Violence Interruption program based on the Cure Violence model. The first Interrupters were hired in August 2021. The Junction-Englewood area records 2 homicides in 2021, down from 11 in 2020.

2022

Save Our Community - Lagrange Corridor. The Lagrange team has 2 homicides, down from 8 the previous year. Nonfatal shootings and shootings into homes are down as well.

Public Health Approach to Public Safety. Former Fire Department Chief Brian Byrd takes over as head of the Public Safety Department, overseeing police, fire, and SOC. The department incorpotes a public health approach into city-wide safety efforts, focusing on prevention, intervention and enforcement.



2023

Cities United. That February, the city began formal engagement with **Cities United** to provide technical assistance in continuing to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing gun violence in Toledo. Cities United conducts key stakeholder interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders, including Save Our Community, business leaders, community-based organizations, public safety, the faith-based community, and youth.

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement. That May. Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) and a new director dedicated to continuing the work to address gun violence. The office's mandate is to continue to bolster the Save Our Community Violence Interruption program and to engage with community stakeholders to develop a comprehensive, community-based plan to address gun violence.

Community Action Table. That August, MONSE convenes a group of community leaders, residents, organizations, and system partners most impacted by gun violence to improve cross-sector coordination, share resources, and develop the comprehensive plan. The group establishes 8 working groups that address specific facets of gun violence and its root causes.

Save Our Community School Team. That September, SOC expands to Woodward, Waite, and Scott high schools and Maritime Academy. Expanding Save Our Community into these four area high schools allowed the program to establish more direct, consistent connections with students who are at the highest risk of experiencing violence.

2024

Comprehensive Safety Plan. That August, MONSE, the Community Action Table, and Cities United unveil the first draft of the safety plan, *Peace in Motion*, for community review and feedback.

Plan Guide

Peace in Motion includes recommendations from the eight Community Action Table working groups and MONSE's strategic planning efforts. All of the finalized recommendations are informed by stakeholder interviews, surveys, focus groups*, data, reviewing other plans and reports, and technical assistance from experts in long-term neighborhood safety planning efforts. Working groups required representation from community members, content experts, and those directly impacted by community violence. The working groups are as follows:

Built Environment: Increase protective factors and reduce blight, disinvestment, and other built environment factors associated with a higher risk of gun violence.

Capacity-Building: Build grassroots and community-based organization's ability to do evidence-informed, high-quality community violence intervention and prevention work.

Conflict on Social Media: Increase protective factors while screening for and addressing violent conflict influenced by social media and other group messaging tools.

Coordinated Response: Establish coordinated system-and-community-based responses to gun violence.

Inclusive Workforce Development: Invest in the people and communities that have been most impacted by systemic economic injustice.

Public Housing Safety: Increase public housing safety and reduce risk factors related to gun violence in multifamily unit housing.

Victim and Survivor Services: Provide trauma and healing-informed, person-centered support for people, communities, and networks affected by gun violence.

Youth Engagement: To provide youth at high-risk of violence with positive experiences centered around programming, mentorship and jobs to deter violence and restore hope within our community.

Gender-Based Violence: In recognition of concerns about violence against women, MONSE requested that the city's Gender Equity Manager form a working group to develop recommendations for inclusion in the final version of the plan.

This plan includes 42 recommendations. These recommendations have been divided into **5 Pillars** that identify which working group(s) developed the recommendation and how they contribute to achieving plan goals and objectives.

5 Pillars:

1. ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION ECOSYSTEM

2. IMPROVING COORDINATION AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

3. FOSTERING HOPE AND HEALING

4. ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

5. BUILDING ENGAGED NEIGHBORHOODS AND NETWORKS

**Peace in Motion* includes quotes from focus groups and stakeholder conversations conducted by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Cities United in February 2023.

Goals and Objectives 2025 - 2029

Impact is difficult to quantify, generally. When considering violence, specifically the root causes of gun violence, it is only that much more difficult. Some things can't be counted, yet they matter when considering root causes. How does one measure hope, pride, or trust at a neighborhood-level? Others can be counted, but don't always align with the purpose of a strategy or a program. In this plan, and the ongoing work that MONSE, Save Our Community, and others engaged in this work pursue, we are focused on preventing and addressing interpersonal violence within communities while working to eliminate its root causes. Peace in Motion will measure success against these goals and objectives.

1. Reduce Gun Violence

1. Reduce the rate of nonfatal and fatal shootings city-wide by 10%
2. Reduce the number of nonfatal and fatal shootings of youth (under 18 years old) and young adults (under 25 years old) by 20%
3. Reduce the rate of Black males shot and killed by 20%
4. Reduce the number of Black women shot and killed by 40%
5. Reduce nonfatal and fatal shootings in focus areas by 15%
6. Reduce shootings in to homes in focus areas by 20%

2. Change Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors

1. At 6 months of enrollment in SOC and other CVIP programs, participants will:
    1. Improve ***Attitudes Towards Interpersonal Peer Violence****
    2. Change ***Beliefs About Conflict****
    3. Increase ***Resiliency and Protective Factors****
2. At 1 year of enrollment in SOC and other CVIP programs:
    1. Reduce additional gun charges
    2. Reduce violent crimes
    3. Reduce serious fights
    4. Reduce violent crime recidivism
    5. Reduce violent injuries
    6. Reduce violent injury re-hospitalization

**Attitude Towards Interpersonal Peer Violence* is a reliable measure of one's attitude towards violence along with knowledge and skills related to resolving conflict non-violently. *Beliefs About Conflict* measures beliefs about conflict and perception of how one's family views fighting and weapon carrying. *Resiliency and Protective Factors* is a strengths-based questionnaire that assesses protective factors linked to resilience and positive outcomes in the face of childhood and adolescent adversity exposure.

3. Neighborhood Change

1. Improve neighborhood-level ***Collective Efficacy****
2. Reduce disinvestment and disrepair in core neighborhoods
3. Reduce gun homicides within ½ mile of schools in SOC focus areas

4. Address Social Determinants

1. Align with the **Toledo Housing** and **Land Use** strategies.
    1. Increase median household income in core neighborhoods.
    2. Increase home-owners in core neighborhoods.
2. Increase the number of people from core neighborhoods employed in living wage jobs
3. Increase the number of opportunity-youth and young adults under 25 engaged in school, employment, or job training
4. Increase net worth, credit score, and median household income among participants in SOC and all CVIP or re-entry workforce development programs

5. Ecosystem and Societal Changes

1. One Hospital-Based Violence Intervention at a high volume trauma center
2. One training and capacity building program for CVIP professionals
    1. 75 individuals trained as CVIP workers
    2. 10 people trained as trainers in Rewire CBT
    3. 10 people trained as trainers in an additional evidence-based CVIP
3. One umbrella organization with the capacity to service and provide technical assistance to grassroots CVIPs
4. Sustained, braided funding supports CVIPs in core neighborhoods
    1. CVIP programs are able to bill for services
5. The Community Action Table becomes community-owned
6. The Violence Reduction Council serves as the hub for ongoing data-driven decision-making
    1. State-wide policy protection for Violence Reduction Councils
7. Support benefits cliff policies and programs that reduce the impact of savings and employment on benefits so more from core neighborhoods can transition into living wage jobs
8. The Healing & Compassion Fund is robust and able to self-sustain

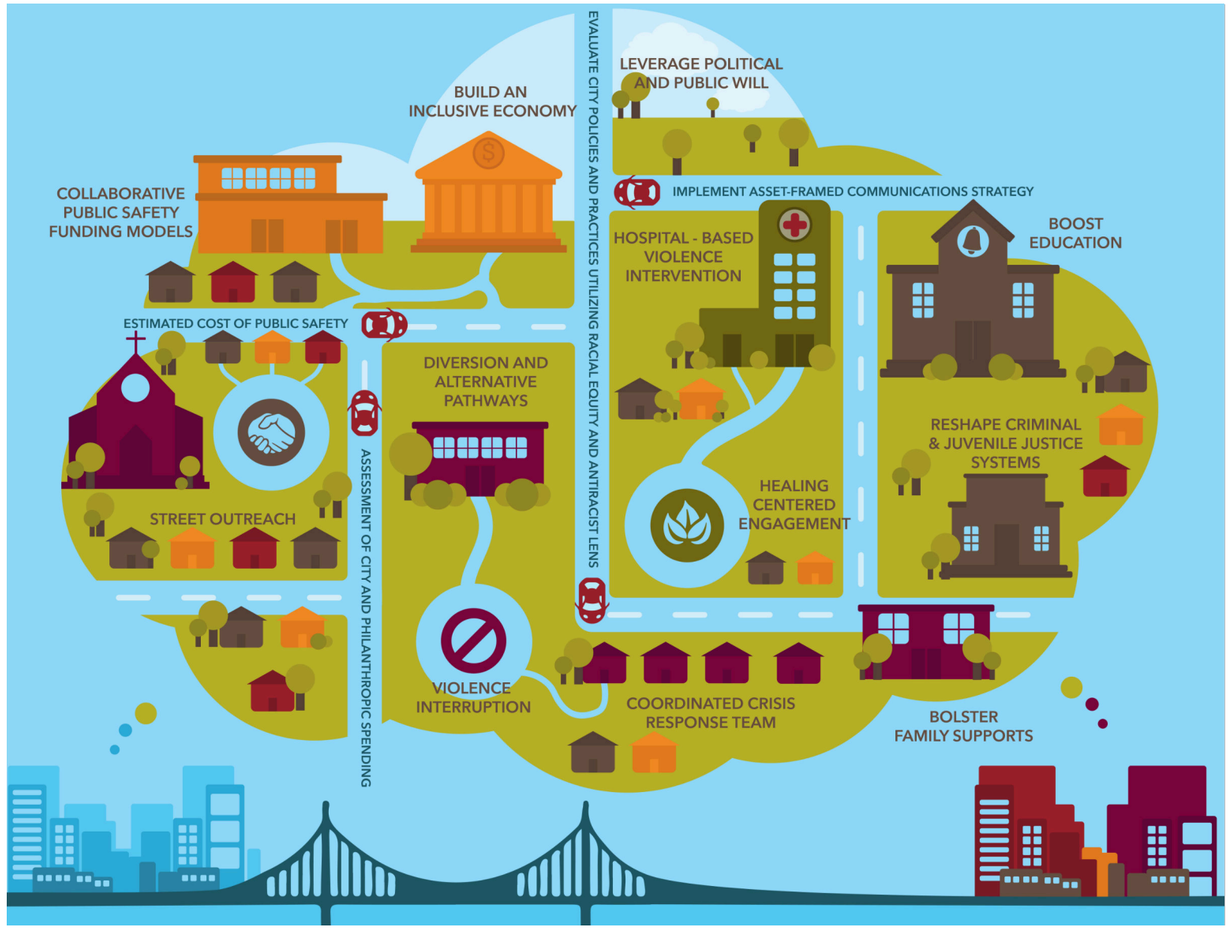
* *Collective Efficacy* is a reliable measure of informal social control, social cohesion, shared accountability, and trust. It assesses how effective a community is at achieving goals and has been shown to predict community-level outcomes related to violence, health, and wellbeing.

Pillar 1:

ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION ECOSYSTEM

Purpose: To implement & share evidence-based practices throughout Toledo's CVIP ecosystem so that the work being done to reduce gun violence aligns with best practices; to create a broad coalition of stakeholders committed to this work.

Goal Alignment: All Goals and Objectives



Whether a forest or community safety, a healthy, thriving ecosystem responds to changes in conditions, shares resources and is resilient. Any attempt at strengthening an ecosystem can't just rely on one program, strategy, or resource.

Recommendations

1. Save Our Community Sustainability Plan

Considering the existing strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities - including the end of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding after 2025 – how should the city's backbone community violence intervention and prevention program look in the future? Develop a model to sustain SOC beyond 2025, including where the program should be housed, how it should be structured, and how it should be funded.

Work group: MONSE Strategic Planning

2. Hospital-Based Violence Intervention

Establish a best-practices hospital-based violence intervention focused on individuals, households, and networks experiencing violent injuries that result in hospital admission. Begin at the trauma center with the highest volume of gun violence injuries.

Work group: Coordinated Response

3. CVIP Academy

Establish an academy that trains organizations, individuals, and programs in evidence-based and promising CVIP practices, models, and strategies. The academy will provide foundational expertise and capacity to sustain CVIP programs in Toledo.

Work groups: Capacity-Building and MONSE Strategic Planning

4. Foundational Competencies for Victim & Crisis Response

Establish foundational, evidence-based requirements for the network engaged in coordinated response to gun violence. These will likely include best practices in victims' services and the **NOVA Community Crisis Response** model.

Work group: Coordinated Response

5. 72-Hour Community Response and Continuum of Care

Coordinate initial contact and trauma-informed safety planning within 72 hours of an incident. Offer appropriate services and support, including meeting with families and networks to diffuse tension and reduce the risk of retaliation; providing support and de-escalation at memorials; providing a safe space; and rapid relocation.

Work groups: Coordinated Response and Victim & Survivor Services

6. Victim & Survivor Services Team

Develop a community-based victim and survivor services team that assists individuals and families in the aftermath of violent crimes.

Work groups: Victim & Survivor Services and Coordinated Response

7. Social Media Intervention Team

Adapt the **E-Responder** training to the local context to interrupt potential and actual violence connected to social media. If an inflammatory post is made, violence interrupters will contact the involved parties or their social ties to de-escalate, mediate, and peacefully resolve conflicts. In addition, build a network of credible community members trained in E-Responder. This network will track incidents, intervention results, and follow-up services.

Work groups: Social Media and MONSE Strategic Planning

8. Youth Fellowship / Leadership Program

Develop a fellowship program that centers the voices, perspectives, and skills of youth heavily impacted by gun violence. Youth will engage in service learning, action research, and problem-solving; they will also be compensated for their time.

Work groups: Conflict on Social Media, Youth Engagement, and MONSE Strategic Planning

9. Rapid Relocation

Procure and/or tap into existing resources for rapid relocation and temporary respite for people and households at acute high risk of gun violence. Develop a regional network of supportive programs for relocation between cities.

Work group*:* Coordinated Response

10. Technical Assistance for CVIP Workers and Organizations

Develop a position and suite of services and supports to advance the capacity building efforts included in the comprehensive plan. Support foundational and ongoing training specific to CVIP. Support network of people closest to the work with training and ongoing practice in restorative justice, restorative practices, mediation, Rewire CBT, NOVA, and other foundational skills for violence intervention and prevention

Work groups: Capacity-Building and MONSE Strategic Planning

11. Bolster an Umbrella CVIP Organization

Support a local organization engaged in CVIP to serve as the umbrella organization. This organization will be responsible for capacity-building programming and administrative work, including grant writing, reporting, acting as a fiscal agent, and managing payroll for grassroots CVIP organizations.

Work group: Capacity-Building

12. Increase Credible Mentorship

Identify and bolster existing mentorship programs that work with opportunity youth and young adults. Identify and procure funding to implement one evidence-informed mentorship program designed to work directly with youth at highest risk of exposure to gun violence.

Work groups: Inclusive Workforce Development, Public Housing, and Youth Engagement

13. Regional CVIP Convening

Convene CVIP, systems, public safety, and other relevant stakeholders for a conference to discuss best and emerging practices, connect and enhance networks of support for clients, communities, and organizations, and celebrate progress in the field of violence intervention.

Work group: MONSE Strategic Planning

14. Toledo Cost of Gun Violence Study

A study by the **National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform** that uses local data to identify the governmental costs of gun violence. The costs are based on six categories, including crime scene response, hospitalization and rehab, criminal justice, incarceration, and lost tax revenue. Each nonfatal shooting results in more than **$570,000** in costs. Each fatal shooting results in more than **$880,000** in costs. Reducing gun violence by 10% could save more than $20 million in government savings every year. Investing in cost-effective, evidence-based solutions is critical to reducing these long-term costs. These findings are critical for tax payers, system-level leadership, funders, community-based organizations, community leaders, relevant governmental agencies, and grant writers - among others.

Work group: MONSE Strategic Planning

“Successful cities have ecosystems that protect citizens and promote safety. It is made up of families, schools, police, churches, employers, health-care providers, social service agencies, violence interrupters, and countless other community members, all of whom want the same thing: for everyone in this city to live happy, healthy lives.”

- Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Capacity Building *In Motion*

In fall of 2023, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement worked with Cities United to arrange a training series for the Save Our Community team to learn Roca's evidence-based Rewire CBT, a seven-skill cognitive behavioral toolkit for front-line CVIP staff to help young people develop lifesaving skills and make healthier choices. However, numerous other organizations beyond Save Our Community are doing important work with young people in Toledo who are at risk of experiencing gun violence. In order to share this important skillset and toolkit as widely as possible, leaders from Go Tyme Grynd, The Program Inc., Man Day with Hassan, DDYC, Hoodstock Foundation, the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, and others were invited to join the training. At the end of the 8-week course, staff at these partnering organizations walked away with a shared evidence-based skillset to begin implementing in their work. MONSE continues to explore opportunities to bolster those on the ground doing the work.

MONSE is not the only group seeking to build capacity in Toledo. The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) has hosted numerous National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA) Community Crisis Response Team Trainings. They, like MONSE, invited a range of partners to attend the training. In the aftermath of the training, MHRSB has called on those who received the NOVA training to be part of coordinated response efforts following shootings in the community. A long-term goal is to train more community partners in the NOVA model, thus helping to fulfill several recommendations.

Recommendations Supported by Expanding these Efforts:

4. Foundational Competencies for Victim & Crisis Response
5. 72-Hour Community Response and Continuum of Care
6. Victim & Survivor Services Team

"Many of these organizations aren't dealing with the kids in the trenches... How do you clean up the mud if you aren't going to put your hands in it."

- Community Stakeholder

Pillar 2:

IMPROVING COORDINATION AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

Purpose: To ensure that CVIP work happening at all levels, from grassroots to executive level, is empowered to contribute their expertise towards a coordinated, community-wide effort that seeks to fill gaps, avoid duplicated services, and eliminate silos within the CVIP ecosystem.

Goal Alignment: All Goals & Objectives

"[As a community, sometimes] we want one hire, one commission, one person to be the answer. That doesn't work. We need a collective effort to reduce violence."

- Community Stakeholder

Recommendations

1. Needs Assessment & Landscape Analysis

Assess Toledo's current CVIP landscape, including capacity, focus areas, and alternative CVIP models (e.g., group-based violence intervention, intimate partner intervention, workforce programs, street outreach, pre-release) to inform the future direction of the CVIP ecosystem. This assessment will inform which modules are developed and/or included in the CVIP Academy.

Work groups: Capacity-Building, Inclusive Workforce Development, Youth Engagement, and MONSE Strategic Planning

2. Community-Level Coordinated Response*

* Includes "Foundational and Ongoing Training Specific to CVIP," "72-hour Community Response and Continuum of Care," and "Rapid Relocation" found in Pillar 1: Enhancing the CVIP Ecosystem.

3. System-Level Coordinated Response*

*Includes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention," and "Foundational Competencies for Victim & Crisis Response" found in Pillar 1.

4. Handle With Care Protocol with Schools

Establish **Handle With Care** protocol with appropriate partnerts to support students, households, and networks impacted by incidents of gun violence, beginning with SOC-focus schools. Gain **Handle With Care** Ohio certification.

5. Community-Public Safety Liaison

Develop a community-public safety liaison role that assists in communication between public safety and victims and survivors.

Work group: Victim & Survivor Services

6. Workforce Development Hub & Resource Guide

Identify and synthesize existing studies, funding opportunities, and services relevant to Toledo workforce development to develop a guide for inclusion in the Healing Hub project.

Work group: Inclusive Workforce Development



Community Action Table participants work through a community-centered engagement activity to identify additional people, neighborhoods, and organizations that need to be included in the planning process.



The Community Action Table is a diverse team representing education, healthcare, public safety, city and county government, grassroots organizations, community-based organizations, and residents impacted by violence. They worked together for 11 months to develop the recommendations included in *Peace in Motion*. CAT was often joined by elected officials, including Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

Pillar 3:
FOSTERING HOPE AND HEALING

Purpose: To provide trauma-informed, healing-centered support to individuals and communities who have experienced gun violence and create services and systems that address common challenges faced by those who are most impacted.

Goal Alignment:

1. Reduce Gun Violence
2. Change Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors
   - 2.1.1. Improve Attitudes Towards Interpersonal Peer Violence
   - 2.1.2. Change Beliefs About Conflict
   - 2.1.3. Increase Resiliency & Protective Factors
5. Address Social Determinants
   - 5.8. The Healing & Compassion Fund is robust and able to self-sustain without depending on an annual allocation from the City.

Recommendations

1. Healing and Compassion Fund

Develop a flexible donor-advised fund that reduces gaps in access to resources for those impacted by gun violence. Applicants can utilize up to $2,000 in assistance for basic needs, temporary respite, relocation, minor home repairs and modifications, lost wages, burial, funeral, and memorial costs. The fund is not a replacement for Victims' Compensation, Trauma Recovery Centers, health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, or otherwise; it is meant to provide support to victims of gun violence swiftly while reducing common barriers to accessing traditional victims' compensation.

Work group: Victim and Survivor Services

2. Healing Hub Resource Guide and Resource Navigators

Develop and maintain a resource guide/clearinghouse that provides a thorough listing of services, support groups, and organizations that are available to support those impacted by violence. Include 211 as a standalone, develop an external website, and train 211 Resource Navigators in the Healing Hub to ensure safe face-to-face accessibility for those impacted by violence.

Work groups: Victim and Survivor Services, Inclusive Workforce Development, Youth Engagement, and MONSE Strategic Planning

3. Virtual Safe Spaces

Create or support virtual safe spaces or forums where individuals can discuss conflicts, grief, or other concerns openly under the guidance of trained moderators, fostering dialogue, healing, and understanding when in conflict.

4. Online Conflict Mediation Workshops

Offer online workshops for community members, particularly youth, on conflict resolution techniques specific to social media interactions, empowering them to de-escalate online tensions.

Work group: Conflict on Social Media

5. Youth Peer Support

Train youth in mediation, violence prevention, and substance use prevention.

Work group: Youth Engagement and MONSE Strategic Planning

6. Medical Debt Forgiveness for Gun-related Injuries

Reduce the burden of gun injury-related medical debt by identifying and seeking forgiveness for medical debts tied to billing codes for assaultive gun injuries at Mercy, Toledo Hospital, UTMC, physical rehab, and other health serving organizations supporting Toledoans impacted by gun violence.

Work group: MONSE Strategic Planning

7. Victim and Survivor Services Team*

Develop a community-based victim and survivor services team that assists individuals and families in the aftermath of violent crimes.

Work groups: Victim & Survivor Services and Coordinated Response

*Included in “Enhancing the Ecosystem Pillar” as well.





(Above image) Save Our Community staff Diana Vasquez and Matthew Smith Jr help paint a garage during the Paint if Forward festival in the Junction focus area.

(Left image) Save Our Community’s Sierra Webb speaks at the National Wear Orange gun violence awareness day at the Peace and Healing Commons.

Fostering Healing and Improving Coordination

Gun violence inflicts pain and trauma on all who experience it. In the aftermath of a shooting incident, families face a slew of challenges that can persist for a lifetime. Fatal shootings, non-fatal shootings, and shootings into homes each present their own obstacles. *How can I move forward after this loss? Will my loved one be OK? Am I safe in my home? How am I supposed to deal with this?*

A range of dedicated individuals and organizations work to support individuals, families, and communities in the aftermath of gun violence. Emergency rooms, social workers, community-based organizations, fellow survivors, and city departments each have a role to play. If those efforts are not coordinated - if the “secondary responders” are not communicating and working together - the impact on families can be harmful. Currently, many responders exist in “silos,” meaning that communication and coordination between different groups is limited.

Working to develop and implement standard practices, communication flows, partnerships, and procedures throughout the network of individuals and organizations that respond to incidents of gun violence will ensure that those impacted receive the highest quality support that is trauma-informed and victim-centered.

HOW DOES COORDINATION LOOK *IN MOTION?**

A long-simmering conflict escalates after one youth involved in the dispute makes a social media post that shares his location and calls out the people he is beefing with. Hours later, shots ring out in front of his home, and the young man is rushed to the hospital.

Shortly after the shooting, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) is notified of what took place and receives preliminary information from an unusual incident report. MONSE begins work establishing a coordinated response.

First, MONSE reaches out to Save Our Community team members, sharing initial information and asking who knows the families involved. *What is the likelihood of retaliation? Who else will be impacted, and how can we support them? Is there someone we can talk to to turn down the temperature on this situation?*

Next, MONSE connects the hospital social worker with Sisters 4 Unity and a member of SOC. Within hours, two members of the coordinated response team – one from Sisters 4 Unity and one from SOC – arrive at the hospital. They meet with family members in the waiting room to offer support and comfort. One of them leaves to buy food for everyone, since the family has not left the hospital.

The next day, additional partners – the Trauma Recovery Center, Good Grief of Northwest Ohio, school administrators, mental health providers, and more – are notified of what took place, what response has occurred so far, and how they may be able to assist.

Several days later, the young man pulls through his injuries and is expected to recover, but the road will be long. SOC team members meet with him and his family once he has returned home to offer him a spot on the SOC caseload. He begins meeting with an Interrupter weekly.

In the coming weeks, Sisters 4 Unity continues checking in on the young man's family to see what additional support they may need. The shooting damaged their door, so Sisters 4 Unity finds a local organization to repair the damage.

As summer winds to a close, and the young man prepares to return for his senior year of high school, MONSE reaches out to the school administrators to discuss what school-based supports they can provide during the school year. The young man receives in-school mental health support and enrolls in a job training program. After graduation, he joins the SOC Jobs program and begins to earn a living wage.

"[Community gun violence] builds a character that many of us will never understand. We need to have a plan to address trauma. Because it's turning people cold. They dont even cry. Have to touch on that trauma piece. That's one of the main components. To become a "savage" or however they want to call it. Many of them don't want to, but it's how they survive."

- Community Stakeholder

Pillar 4:
ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

Purpose: To ensure that risk factors for experiencing gun violence are replaced with opportunities and other protective factors, which will be designed specifically to meet the needs of those at the highest risk of experiencing gun violence

Goal Alignment:

1. Reduce Gun Violence
2. Change Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors
   2.1.3. Increase Resiliency and Protective Factors
4. Address Social Determinants
   4.2. Increase the number of people from core neighborhoods employed in living wage jobs.
   4.3 Increase the number of opportunity-youth and young adults under 25 engaged in school, employment, or job training.
   4.4. Increase net worth, credit score, and median household income among participants in SOC and all CVIP or re-entry workforce development programs.



Youth in SOC's employment program pilot walk through an overgrown lot with Jairus Williamson to check for trash before beginning to mow.

Recommendations

INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES IN PURSUIT OF OPPORTUNITIES

1. Career Pathways & Career Coaching

Fill gaps in career counseling efforts to better support core neighborhoods, focusing on those at elevated risk of or impacted by violence.

2. SOC Employment

Develop a suite of workforce opportunities for SOC clients, ensuring enhanced support that includes job coaching and shadowing, financial literacy, and supportive training alongside SOC staff and other appropriate partners. Support transitional-aged participants with pathways to employment and careers within the city and other relevant living wage jobs.

3. Resume the Youth Build Program

Identify backbone organization(s) and funding to stand up Toledo Youth Build. **Youth Build** "partners with opportunity youth (youth aged 14 - 24 not in school, employed, or in training) to build the skill-sets and mindsets that lead to lifelong learning, livelihood, and leadership."

4. In-Person Employment Tours and Job Placements

Expose opportunity youth to the depth and breadth of career opportunities. Offer in-person employment tours and job placements.

5. Mobile Outreach for Workforce and Career Development

Mobile outreach that caters to identified neighborhoods by bringing career and workforce resources directly to those neighborhoods. Initially these will operate as scheduled pop-ups, with the long-term goal of establishing a Mobile Outreach Unit.

Work groups: Inclusive Workforce Development, Youth Engagement, Public Housing Safety, and MONSE Strategic Planning

"How do you create a pipeline for folks to get into the pipeline of those 2700 city jobs? There's not a pathway that says that there's a [good paying] job for you in Toledo."

- Community Stakeholder

Pillar 5:

BUILDING ENGAGED NEIGHBORHOODS AND NETWORKS

Purpose: To support people, families, friends, networks, and neighborhoods with tools, resources, and opportunities for meaningful engagement in the work being done to reduce violence. Key focuses include addressing the intersections of the built environment and violence and the role that networks, whether online, social, or otherwise, play in increasing risk or protecting against violence.

Goal Alignment:

1. Reduce Gun Violence
3. Neighborhood Change
   - 3.1 Improve neighborhood Collective Efficacy.
   - 3.2 Reduce disinvestment and disrepair in core neighborhoods.
   - 3.3 Reduce gun homicides within ½ mile of schools in SOC focus areas.



Community members hold a peace and unity march along Detroit Avenue after a spate of gun violence.



Youth Commissioner Dave Bush shares poetry with people attending the Paint it Forward festival in the Junction neighborhood. Organizers of the event cleaned up a dilapidated garage and converted it into a temporary art gallery and gathering space.



Save Our Community staff (from left to right) Matthew Smith Jr., Christopher Matthews, and Eduardo Adams help landscape an Englewood neighbor's yard during a Rock the Block event sponsored by the Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Recommendations

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND VIBRANCY

1. Safe Passage to Schools

Focus blight reduction, beautification, and place-making efforts on high-trafficked routes to schools. Bolster the network of community volunteers willing to support safe passage before and after school. Initial efforts should focus on youth that walk, bike, or ride the bus to or from school, beginning with SOC and **Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas** (NRSA).

Work group: Built Environment

2. Embed Mediation and Restorative Practices in the Community

Support community leaders/influencers with training in high quality mediation, conflict resolution, and restorative practices training.

3. Identify and Bolster Community Safe Havens/Hubs

Engage in participatory mapping with youth to identify safe havens. Bolster locations with programming, training, recreational activities, and supportive services. Acquire the **National Safe Space** designation.

Work group: Youth Engagement

4. Support Youth-Led Community Projects

Identify and support at least one youth-led community project per quarter that fosters community engagement, peace, and leadership skills. This recommendation will focus on projects in SOC areas, NRSA areas, and others as appropriate.

Work group: Youth Engagement

5. Neighborhood Process for Assessing and Addressing Safety Concerns

Develop a guide and deploy a set of evidence-based practices to assess and address safety concerns. The guide should speak to the built environment and neighborhood-level cohesion and trust. It should also include implementation, including how to access various resources that help address identified concerns.

Support community-based organization (CBO) and grassroots efforts with resources to help address community-identified safety concerns, reduce blight, beautify, and/or improve social connectivity. Resources may include small dollar grants, training in best practices (e.g., **Safe-Growth**), bulk trash pickups, etc. Coordinate with City, **Land Bank**, and CBO strategies, including **block by block**, **Rock the Block**, **Litter League**, **White-Box Program**, **lead remediation**, and **roof repair grants**.

Work group: Built Environment & MONSE Strategic Planning

COMMUNITY-WIDE SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

6. Community Engagement Campaign

Launch social media campaigns to promote community cohesion and positive messaging, encouraging residents to share uplifting content and support one another, thereby counteracting negative influences.

7. Anonymous Reporting System

Implement an anonymous reporting system where community members can report concerning social media activity or potential conflicts. This will allow violence interrupters to intervene proactively.

8. School-Based Digital Citizenship and Conflict Resolution

Beginning with SOC focus schools, collaborate with local schools to incorporate digital citizenship and online conflict resolution skills into the curriculum, ensuring that young people are equipped with the tools to navigate social media safely and responsibly.

Work group: Social Media

9. Social Media Action Research Team

Engage youth as compensated co-researchers with **Boston University RISE Lab** to better understand the connections between social media and violence and develop actionable recommendations.

Work groups: Social Media and MONSE Strategic Planning

10. Disinvestment and Disrepair Index

Reversing physical disinvestment by remediating abandoned buildings and vacant lots is an evidence-based strategy to reduce urban firearm violence. The **Disinvestment and Disrepair Index** utilizes was developed by Boston University RISE Lab utilizing Lucas County Landbank and the city of Toledo. The index identifies areas in a 5-minute walking area that have increased odds of gun violence. Each increase in overall disrepair conditions on a parcel result in 1.68 times higher odds of gun violence. Parcels with the highest levels of disinvestment results in an estimated **20.16 times higher odds of gun violence associated with that area's disrepair conditions.** This index is a way to target intentional blight remediation, repairs, greening and cleaning initiatives, job development programs, beautification initiatives, and so on. This recommendation will focus on projects in SOC areas, NRSA areas, and others as appropriate.

Work groups: Built Environment and MONSE Strategic Planning



Artists James Dickerson and Yusuf Lateef install a temporary sculpture in an overgrown lot.

Why Focus on the Built Environment?

Our physical surroundings have a significant impact on how we think, act, and view the world. In cities across America, gun violence is concentrated in neighborhoods that share certain characteristics: they have a history of disinvestment fueled by redlining and forms of structural racism that resulted in concentrated poverty, blight, lack of economic opportunity, and other risk factors for gun violence.

Specific policies were passed that created these circumstances, and new policies and practices exist that, if implemented, can help create positive change and promote peace in our neighborhoods. As an example, the city - in partnership with several grassroots and system-level partners, was awarded a **$20 million RAISE grant** that will reconnect the Uptown and Junction neighborhoods once split by highway construction and urban renewal.

Beyond undoing policies, physical disrepair and blight have an **impact on violent crime**. Proactively addressing these issues - transforming vacant lots into vibrant greenspaces or rehabilitating a home in disrepair - not only transforms those spaces from risk factors to protective factors that help reduce gun violence, but are also moderate investments that save taxpayers money.

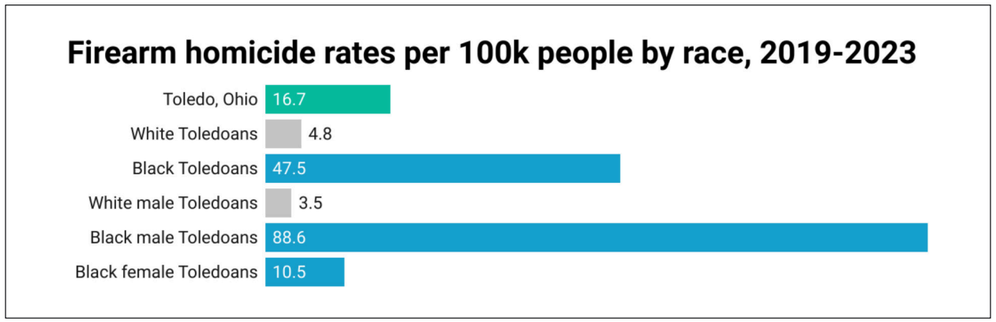
Youth walking, riding, and biking to and from school deal with the reality of these dangers every day. They avoid certain corners, sometimes taking a longer route home, to make sure they arrive at their destination safely. Focusing on environmental factors in neighborhoods closest to schools can promote safety for our students.

Understanding the Problems

As of 2020, firearm deaths have surpassed motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death for children and youth in America, driven mainly by a sharp increase in gun homicides. Similarly, Toledo has seen an increase in firearm deaths that overwhelmingly impact young Black men in Toledo's core neighborhoods. Gaps in injury, death, and exposure to gun violence existed before the pandemic but doubled in 2020. This undue burden faced by Black men cannot be addressed without intentionally centering our efforts on them.

In Toledo, both victims and shooters are primarily Black males between the ages of 14 and 29, who are **3% of Toledo's population yet were 54% of all firearm homicide victims between 2019-2023.**

Without context, the public discourse surrounding gun violence rarely identifies solutions beyond policing and incarceration. In Toledo, the root causes of urban gun violence include policies, structural racism, the built environment, social capital, intergroup dynamics, and individual factors. Critically, research tells us what the community already knows about gun violence: families, friends, schools, networks, and entire communities are often left to put the pieces together. To address this issue we have to understand the problems and solutions to address root causes. The following section provides context on some of these root causes.



INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

Being a victim of gun violence increases the likelihood of illegal gun-carrying, further victimization, and gun violence perpetration. These individuals have often been repeatedly exposed to community violence. Repeated exposure to violence disrupts healthy development, including how brains process information – resulting in either numbing or hyper-awareness of perceived threats, mirroring symptoms of PTSD. Chronic exposure to violence creates challenges, including poor self-esteem, no concept of a future, a sense of hopelessness, and distrust. To many of those most impacted, gun carrying is seen as a viable solution when distrust in public safety is high, yet gun-carrying is associated with a significantly higher risk of being a victim or perpetrator of gun violence. Comments from stakeholder interviews in Toledo corroborate this, indicating that guns provide a sense of safety often unavailable:

"How do we replicate the safety of a gun? They'll feel protected, it will help feed them when needed. If we don't address that fundamental thing, we can't get anywhere."

PERSON-TO-PERSON FACTORS

Social networks within communities influence gun violence. Whether access to weapons, exposure to gunshot victims, or online, one's network influences the risk of violence perpetration or victimization. Braga et al. uncovered that people at high-risk of gun violence that live in disinvested neighborhoods have access to "community guns." Stakeholder interviews with Toledo youth reflect his as well. Many youths discussed how easy it is to access guns:

"There are more guns than people," "nowadays everybody has a gun," and guns are easy to *"pass around,"* or buy.

Stakeholder conversations also alluded to small groups and families that remain locked in perpetual cycles of revenge. One participant described the mentality as a process of grief, substance use to self-medicate grief, and substance use as a gateway to retaliation:

"It's the outrage... We're lamenting our boy being shot, drinking some henny... now we're juiced up and fired up. We want you [the perpetrator]."

Several also identified street justice & fear of revenge for cooperating with police as a motivator*: "In our community, we know who the shooters are, but don't speak often because of fear of retaliation. [It's the] reason block watch failed – people don't want to be classified as a snitch because it's hazardous to health and to property."*

COMMUNITY FACTORS

Living or attending school near where a gun homicide has occurred is also associated with poorer mental health, academic performance, and behaviors - even when accounting for socioeconomics, crime rates, and other common risk factors. This is because **repeated exposure to violence** disrupts healthy development, including how brains process information. This repeated exposure can result in either numbing or hyper-awareness of perceived threats. Those experiencing this chronic exposure to violence face several **challenges,** including poor self-esteem, no concept of a future, a pervasive sense of hopelessness, and distrust. All considered, chronic exposure to and fear of community violence begets changes in how one's brain and body processes information; gun carrying is seen as a viable solution when distrust in public safety is high; gun-carrying is associated with significantly higher risk of being a victim or perpetrator of gun violence.

Consider how being exposed to community gun violence impacts a 13-year-old who has lived on a certain block or attvended a certain school since 2019. This teenager is likely to have lived or attended school within a ½ mile of 10 or more firearm homicides.

SOCIETAL FACTORS

The illicit gun market has changed throughout the US - including in Toledo. One stakeholder within TPD noted that the number of guns stolen from private owners, especially out of cars and homes, has risen swiftly. These crimes of opportunity appear to have increased throughout the country, with an estimated **300,000 to 600,000 guns stolen yearly.** This rise in thefts may be due to increased gun carrying and more guns being left unsecured in cars and homes, resulting in additional opportunities for crime. Toledo is no exception, with gun thefts rising by 59% between 2010 and 2015 and 96 guns reported stolen from cars alone in 2020. Whether teenagers, police, pastors, or prose-cutors, all stakeholders feel the high number and ease of access to guns used illicitly is a problem in Toledo, Ohio.

"Last year, there were over 1,700 guns [removed]. Every year we break the record for the number of guns pulled off the street."
—Toledo Police Officer

Whether teenagers, police, pastors, or prosecutors, all stakeholders feel the high number and ease of access to guns used illicitly is a prob-lem in Toledo, Ohio. Stakeholders believe this proliferation is due to policies and practices. This section provides federal and state context-that inform the high availability of guns used illicitly in Toledo.

Policies Enabling High Access to Guns Used in Crimes

As context on federal policies beyond the Second Amendment, consider the Gun Control Act of 1968 and the 1986 Firearm Owners Protection Act. The Gun Control Act of 1968 prohibited interstate sales of firearms and ammunition while disallowing felons, minors, and individuals with mental illnesses, among others, from possessing guns. The law placed liability on gun dealers by enforcing record-keeping requirements and holding them accountable if guns were sold to people to prohibited individuals. The 1986 Firearm Owner's Protection Act limited many of the provisions established in 1968. This included rolling back gun dealer liability and limiting the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearm's (ATF) ability to provide gun or ammunition dealer oversight and enforcement. Since its passing in 1986, gun purchases have grown swiftly. Presently, at least 352 million guns are likely in America - more guns than people living in America. One Toledo Police Department (TPD) officer referenced these 100s of millions of guns, saying, *"the horse is out of the barn since we have no real control over it."*

Ohio is one of several states that allow unlicensed private sellers to sell guns without background checks. One officer alluded to these private secondary markets, noting that [paraphrased] *"gun sales can be tracked to the original purchase but then sold afterward without any recordkeeping or background check requirements."* States that require background checks for private gun sales are associated with reduced homicide, suicide, and gun trafficking rates. Of 63,912 guns used in a crime in Ohio between 2017-2021, 84% were initially purchased within Ohio. 3 out of 4 of the remaining guns were purchased in states also lacking background check requirements in the private gun market. Ohio also supplied 66,779 guns eventually used in a crime outside of the state over that same time frame.

Senate Bill 215 enabled permitless carry in 2023, removing all training and permitting requirements for carrying a concealed weapon in Ohio. As one Toledo judge noted, *"it starts with the proliferation of guns ev-erywhere. I feel for the police officers. With changes in State law, ap-parently just about anyone can have a gun at any given moment."* The number of states allowing permitless carry has grown from just Ver-mont in 2001, to six in 2015, to 25 as of January 2023.

While research concerning the impact of permitless carry is in its early stages, less restrictive concealed carry requirements are consistently associated with higher rates of gun suicide, homicide, and assaults. Furthermore, live firearm training is no longer required in 32 states. Removing this requirement is associated with an 18.3% increase in the rate of gun assaults.

Understanding the Problems:

THE COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform collaborated with the City of Toledo to conduct a cost of gun violence study. This study utilizes local costs and a standardized model to identify specific governmental costs per nonfatal and fatal shooting. The costing model includes crime scene response, hospital and rehabilitation, criminal justice, incarceration, victim support, and lost tax revenue. Each fatal shooting in Toledo costs **$883,771.95.** Each nonfatal shooting costs **$572,038.34**. Between 2019 and 2023, this resulted in over $770 million in governmental costs.

Addressing the Problems:

EXAMPLES FROM THE ECOSYSTEM

Countless programs, organizations, and individuals work every day in Toledo to prevent and address gun violence. This plan is *In Motion* because their efforts do not cease. Below are brief snapshots of some of the work already underway in Toledo, but this is far from a comprehensive picture of Toledo's CVIP ecosystem.

Harbor FACES: Harbor's Families and Communities Enhancing Stability program identifies young members of the community who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which can have long-term negative impacts on health and wellness. FACES works with preschools and families to provide experiences that counteract the negative impact of ACEs, thereby helping to interrupt the pre-school-to-prison pipeline and providing youth with opportunities to flourish.

Sisters 4 Unity: Sisters 4 Unity is a grassroots organizations founded and led by mothers who have lost children to gun violence. They provide peer support to famillies that experience the traumatic loss of loved ones to gun violence and help to ensure families know they are not alone in their grief. Sisters 4 Unity helps to connect the families they work with to resources and supports. They also organize the annual Communities Against Violence march in Toledo.

Hoodstock Foundation: Hoodstock Foundation is a grassroots organization working to promote peace, change, economic growth, and youth empowerment. They work to bring about positive change by working with those impacted by gun violence and providing positive mentorship. Hoodstock Foundation also organizes an annual back-to-school giveaway. In August 2024, they distributed nearly 500 backpacks to students preparing to return to school.

Good Grief of Northwest Ohio: Good Grief of Northwest Ohio provides peer support groups to young people who have experienced loss. Although their services extend beyond those impacted by gun violence, they have remained an engaged partner throughout the development of Peace in Motion and are working with MONSE, schools, and other partners to ensure their services are available to young people impacted by gun violence.

Mercy Health Toledo Trauma Recovery Center: Mercy Health Toledo Trauma Recovery Center provides compassionate care to individuals age 7 and older who have experienced trauma, including abuse, assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and gun violence. Certified Clinical Trauma Therapists use evidence-based therapy to promote healing and recovery. Additional services include group therapy for victims of crime, safety planning, community-based training, legal and court advocacy, and much more.

Go Tyme Grynd: Go Tyme Grynd is a gym and fitness center that provides a safe space and positive outlet that promotes physical and mental wellness for Toledo's youth. Among their programs is the Lil' Dogs Go Program, a free summer wellness program that includes fun exercise, socio-political discussions, and resilience-building activities. The leader of Go Tyme Grynd has participated in several MONSE-sponsored training in CVIP best practices and recently taught SOC's street teams the principles of public speaking.

Addressing the Problems:

SAVE OUR COMMUNITY

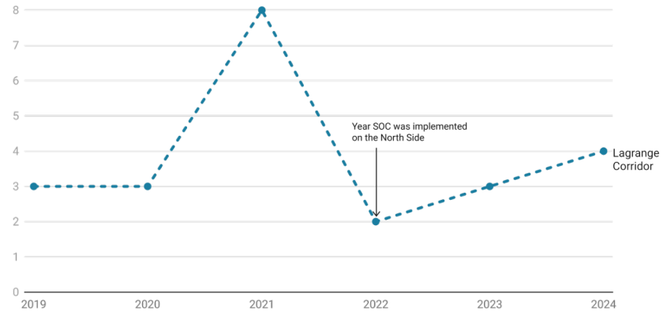
The City of Toledo launched its first community violence intervention and prevention (CVIP) program, Save Our Community, in 2021. Built on the **Cure Violence** model, SOC uses trained CVIP workers to (1) detect and interrupt potential violence; (2) reduce risks, change behaviors, and support those at highest risk of involvement in violence; and (3) work with the community to change social norms and build positive, resilient, and safe communities. SOC includes Violence Interrupters and Outreach Specialists whose unique lived experiences, personal and professional backgrounds, and wide-ranging skillsets make them credible messengers within the communities they serve.

Initially, SOC focused on neighborhoods that were hotspots for gun violence, specifically Junction, Englewood, and the Lagrange corridor. Compared to the year prior to implementation, gun homicides in **Junction fell from 9 to 2**, and in the **Lagrange* focus area from 8 to 2**.

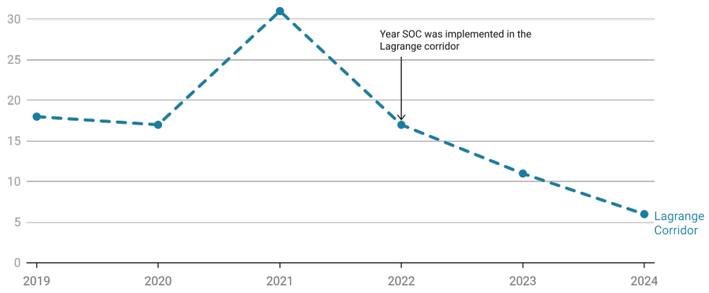
SAVE OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAM

In the 2023-2024 school year, Save Our Community expanded into four Toledo schools: Waite, Woodward, and Scott high schools and Maritime Academy. The impact of violence is not contained to neighborhoods – it is felt in schools as well. Often, conflict that begins outside of school carries over into the school day, and conflict that begins in school extends beyond the school day. Expanding Save Our Community into these four area schools allowed the program to establish more direct, consistent connections with students who are at the highest risk of experiencing violence. This program has seen promising results in its first year, with 88 individuals supported and **104 total mediations and de-escalations** that could have otherwise resulted in serious violence.

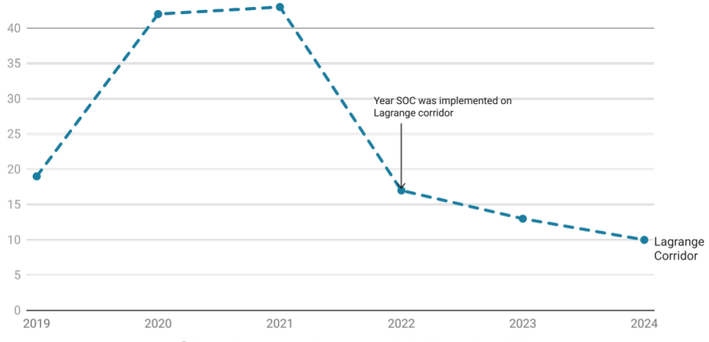
Gun Incidents in the Lagrange Focus Area, 2019 - Mid 2024



Fatal shootings, 2019 - mid 2024

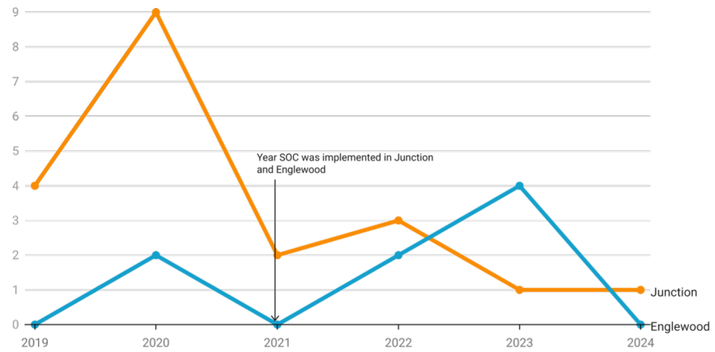


Nonfatal shootings, 2019 - mid-2024

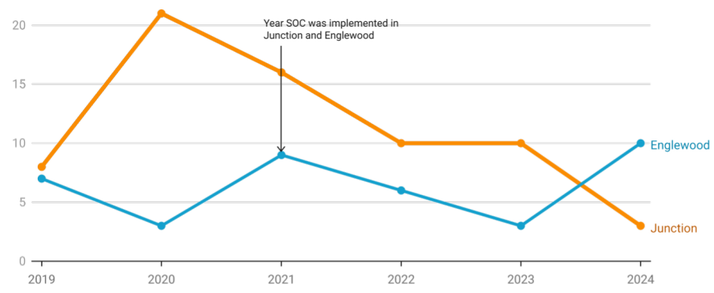


Shootings into homes, 2019 - mid-2024

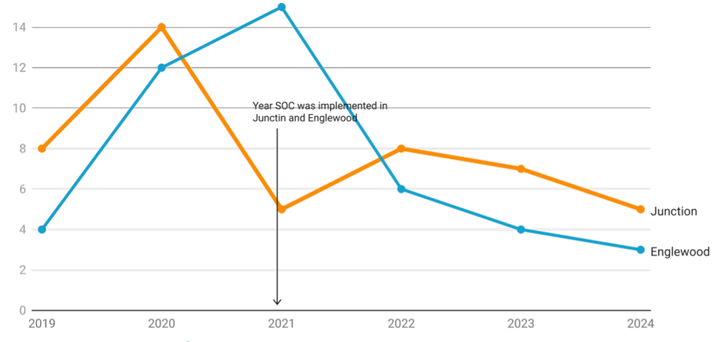
Gun Incidents in Junction and Englewood, 2019 - Mid 2024



Fatal shootings, 2019 - mid 2024



Nonfatal shootings, 2019 - mid-2024



Shootings into homes, 2019 - mid-2024

* The data included in all charts and maps are by neighborhood to ensure accuracy at the neighborhood-level throughout Toledo. The SOC focus area includes 2 neighborhoods (Bronson-Birckhead and Joe E Brown) and parts of the Sherman and Polish Village neighborhoods.