

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECT

Can We Make Communities Safer Without Relying On Police?

Yes! In November 2020, the John Jay Research & Evaluation Center published [Reducing Violence Without Police: A Review of Research Evidence](#), describing policies, programs, and research that show violence in communities can be reduced without policing, rather by investing in communities and community-serving organizations. Violence in the community should be addressed with community-level interventions that focus on the health and safety of whole populations and not only high-risk individuals.

Below are seven strategies identified as key areas for non-policing interventions and policies:



(1)
improve
the physical
environment



(2)
**strengthen
anti-violence
social norms
and peer
relationships**



(3)
engage
and
supporting
youth



(4)
reduce
substance
abuse



(5)
mitigate
financial
stress



(6)
reduce the
harmful effects
of the justice
process



(7)
confront
the gun
problem

A growing body of research provides strong evidence for interventions that address violence as behavior shaped by social norms and the relationships people share with their peer networks. The way communities and peers model conflict resolution influences people's attitudes and behaviors on how to address issues themselves. Displaying ways to resolve issues constructively and without violence will result in safer communities. The success of these interventions relies on two necessary elements: community outreach & direct interruption or mediation of neighborhood conflicts by trained people known to the community and trusted by residents.

Below are interventions to reduce and prevent community violence by **strengthening anti-violence social norms and peer relationships**:

- 1) Reduce gang violence through community engagement.
- 2) Partner with African-American churches to sponsor community health outreach efforts.
- 3) Build positive adult connections.
- 4) Improve maternal closeness offer familial support daily and limit exposure to violence.
- 5) Support anti-violence social norms via community outreach workers and interrupters.
- 6) Offer individually tailored social service and

substance abuse treatment.

- 7) Use hospital-based interventions with victims of violent injuries to dissuade seeking revenge.

EXAMPLES

- 1) [Cure Violence/Barbers & Beauticians Collective](#)
- 2) [Silence is Violence](#)
- 3) [Southern Solidarity](#)
- 4) [N.O. Mutual Aid Society](#)
- 5) [N.O. Community-Police Mediation Program](#)