

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 support
youth



(4)
reduce
substance
abuse



(5)
mitigate
financial
stress



(6)
**reduce the
harmful
effects of
the justice
process**



(7)
confront
the gun
problem

Despite the best efforts of state and local governments, their nonprofit partners, and residents themselves, in every community when violence does occur, the formal justice system will be expected to respond. Communities should ensure that operations of the justice system do not add to violence problems.

Below are interventions to reduce and prevent community violence by **reducing the harmful effects of the justice process**:

- 1) Divert felony offenders from prosecution.
- 2) Decline to prosecute marginal misdemeanor defendants.
- 3) Reduce the use of juvenile detention.
- 4) Increase citizen perception of the legitimacy of the justice system.
- 5) Organize interventions around procedural justice.

EXAMPLES

- 1) [Louisiana Center for Children's Rights](#)
- 2) [Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana](#)
- 3) [VERA Institute of Justice](#)
- 4) [Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition](#)

- 5) [Promise of Justice Initiative](#)
- 6) [Cornerstone Builders | Catholic Charities](#)
- 7) [Goodwill Industries Re-Entry Program](#)
- 8) [Sister Hearts Decarceration Program](#)
- 9) [Roots of Renewal](#)
- 10) [Voice of the Experienced \(VOTE\)](#)
- 11) [Citizen SHE United](#)
- 12) [NOLA Defenders for Equal Justice](#)
- 13) [POWER Coalition](#)
- 14) [The Bail Project New Orleans](#)
- 15) [National Bail Fund Network](#)
- 16) [RAICES](#)