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

In order to reduce violence in the United States, the topic of firearms must be addressed. Undoubtedly, firearm availability is associated with rates of homicide across the U.S. Reducing firearm availability limits access to those who might be inclined to use them to commit violence or to those who are vulnerable to unintentionally harm themselves or others.

Below are interventions to reduce and prevent community violence by **confronting the gun problem:**

1) Prohibit people with previous convictions for domestic violence charges from possessing or purchasing firearms.
2) Enact child-access-prevention (CAP) laws.
3) Reduce firearm availability for individuals with documented histories of interpersonal violence.
4) Implement comprehensive background check laws coupled with purchasing licenses.
5) Implement handgun purchaser licensing laws.
6) Remove "Stand Your Ground" (SYG) laws.
7) Add waiting periods for purchasing firearms.

8) Implement mandated reporting of lost or stolen firearms.
9) Extend background check requirements to private transfers.
10) Utilize strong regulation and oversight of licensed gun sellers.
11) Maintain "No Issue" or "May Issue" laws rather than "Shall Issue" laws.

EXAMPLES
1) Generational Gun Violence Reduction Program
2) Everytown for Gun Safety

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