Hampton Roads Regional Violence Prevention Framework

Gun Violence in concentrated area committed by a limited group of actors and their associates.

Concentrated Poverty

Racially Concentrated
Communities are largely underserved, under-resourced, & underrepresented.

Deficient Opportunities
Lacking access and/or desire to obtain knowledge, skills and abilities required for sustainability. Spiraling patterns of generational poverty, crime, and community disinvestment.

Inequities
Both structural and systemic controls containing overt and implicit biases.

Deep Roots
Perpetual Systems of Marginalization.

Difficult to address the historical and continuing impacts of segregation.

Access to Guns

High-Risk Individuals
Circulating guns into the community through theft, illegal transfers, and their constitutional right to bear arms.

Fear & Protection
Social and Economic issues fuel violence and perceptions that guns are required for safety.

Societal Norms
Anticipating risk of affiliated or unaffiliated acts of violence and/or retaliation.

Money, Power, Respect
Individuals looking to validate status, control, and self-governance.

Difficult to mitigate access to weapons in the hands of those looking to ensure safety, self-worth, and personal value.

Desensitized Communities & Individuals

Perpetuated Imagery
Prevalence of violence as an accepted reality in everyday life.

Social & Environmental
Acts of violence in schools, homes, and communities. Violence normalized in media and popular culture.

Sense of Hopelessness
Communities no longer feel empowered or safe to provide correction. Individuals lack morality, value of life, positive role models, or strong family structures.

Generational Behaviors
Cycles of Trauma and stigma associated with seeking professional help.

Societal and community norms encourage desensitization and normalize violence.

Judicial System

Ineffective Deterrence
Perpetrators do not fear consequences. Citizens do not cooperate as they see perpetrators receive light sentences.

Judicial Accountability
Comparatively light sentences for serious offenses. Perpetrators not consistently punished.

Political Pressure
Lawmakers have a preference for lighter sentences. Appoint judges that share this philosophy, leading to more lenient sentencing.

Community Norms
Politicians and Judges do not fully understand the impact of their sentences on community perceptions.

Perpetrators do not fear consequences. Citizens do not cooperate because they fear retaliation.

Mental Health/ Unaddressed Trauma

Unaddressed Trauma
Individuals experience significant trauma that is not professionally addressed.

Insufficient Resources
Not enough mental health services to meet the need. Cost of services presents challenges.

Societal Norms
The stigma attached to mental health challenges and seeking professional help.

Education
Individuals are unaware of the signs, effects, and importance of treating trauma.

Individuals do not recognize the importance of treating trauma and the negative effects of unaddressed trauma.

Family Dysfunction

Insufficient Support
Economic, emotional & resource challenges lead to insufficient support systems.

Survival Mode
Scarcity leads to focus on survival. May lead to neglect of other values and supportive actions.

Poor Role Models
Lack of access to positive mentors and role models in the home. Few examples of accessible pathways to success.

Lack of Parenting Skills
Lack of proper parenting skills. Continuation of generational parenting practices that may lead to trauma.

Violence may be reinforced as a legitimate response within the home.

Poor Conflict Resolution

Lack of Education
Have not learned appropriate conflict resolution skils & view gun violence as a legitimate response

Lack of Modeling
Proper conflict resolution is not taught or modeled in the home or in the environment

Under-Utilized Resources
Not utilizing available conflict resolution classes or resources. Not valued, do not see the issue with the current approach

Poor Marketing
Not utilizing available conflict resolution classes or resources. Not valued, do not see the issue with the current approach

Must show the value and need to improve conflict resolution skills