

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 skills & 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**