

North Carolina Violence Prevention Activities 2023-2024



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

North Carolina views violence, including firearm violence, as both a public safety and a public health issue. North Carolina had existing state and community level existing assets, initiatives, programs that are briefly described in the white paper [Keeping Families and Communities Safe](#). Through collaboration between the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), we have built upon these existing efforts to expand our work to reduce violence and make communities safer and healthier. This document lays out accomplishments and actions that have been taken in the past year and what is anticipated for the remainder of 2024.

Administrative



Accomplished

- March 2023:** Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) established by Governor Cooper via [Executive Order 279](#) to be located in Department of Public Safety.
- July 2023:** Hired an OVP Executive Director.
- Sept 2023:** DPS and DHHS Executed Memorandum of Agreement — NCDHHS to provide position and funding for OVP Deputy Director.
- Dec 2023:** [OVP Community Violence Advisory Board](#) named.
- Dec 2023:** First organizing Advisory Board Meeting.
- Feb 2024:** In-person OVP Advisory Board Meeting.
- Feb 2024:** Submitted funding proposal to GCC for Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs.
- March 2024:** OVP Deputy Director began.



Planned

- Fall 2024:** Hire grant funded Program Manager to oversee Technical Assistance.

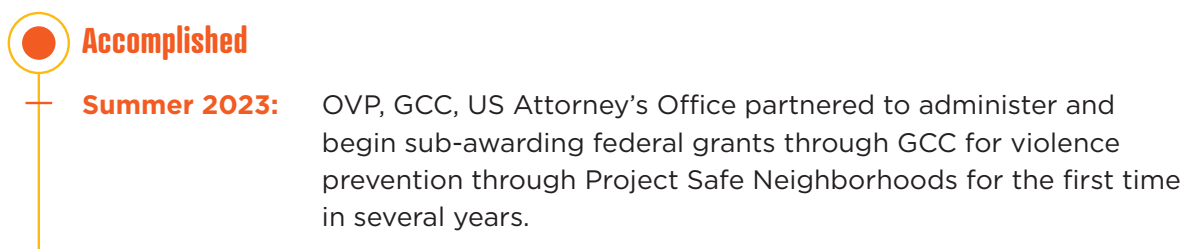
Safe Storage



Violence Interruption Programs



Project Safe Neighborhood



Planned

— **Spring 2024:**

OVP, GCC, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina to receive sub-awarded grant funding for Project Safe Neighborhoods.

— **2024:**

OVP, GCC, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina to receive sub-award grant funding for Project Safe Neighborhoods.

— **2024:**

OVP, GCC, Wake County Government, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern Districts of North Carolina partnering to offer Wake County Training and Technical Assistance Support for their Safe Wake strategy.

Suicide

Accomplished and Ongoing Work

— **2023:**

Continuation of Safe storage efforts, CALM (Counseling on Access to Lethal Means) training and train-the-trainer events, gatekeeper training, creation of local FST (Firearm Safety Teams), Faith Leaders for Life Coalition, and local community suicide prevention teams.

— **Oct 2023:**

Hired a State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, in conjunction with the UNC Suicide Prevention Institute, to coordinate work of the [NC Suicide Prevention State Action Plan](#).

— **Nov 2023:**

Collaboration with Academic Partners - UNC Suicide Institute Symposium - Forum 1 - connecting researchers and bridging to communities [ncIMPACT suicide prevention teams](#) (15 teams covering 24 counties).

— **Dec 2023:**

Suicide Data webinar (highlighting firearms work) to ncImpact suicide prevention teams.

— **Feb 2024:**

UNC Suicide Institute Symposium Forum 2 - ncImpact local suicide prevention teams.

Planned

— **2024:**

Launch new Suicide Prevention landing page, continuation of support of local Firearm Safety Teams and coalition, Faith Leaders for Life program and coalition, CALM training and train the trainer, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and gatekeeper trainings.

- **March 2024:** Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Training For Trainers Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium; Greenville, NC. Training for the nclmpact teams on safe messaging surrounding suicide. Presentation of Faith Leaders for Life Program at national Health Equity conference.
- **June 2024:** CALM Training For Trainer.
- **June 2024:** Final Forum for nclmpact teams.
- **Oct 2024:** Virtual NC Injury Free Academy on Suicide Prevention.

Reentry

Accomplished and Ongoing Work

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION

- **Educational Programming** — includes HiSET, Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, vocational training and apprenticeships. Multiple partnerships with four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, and small businesses.
- **State IDs for Incarcerated People** — DAC partnered with DMV to provide state IDs prior to release to eligible individuals.
- **HOPE University** — provides free educational programming for all incarcerated people and for up to a year after release. Popular courses include culinary arts, carpentry, finances, plumbing, legal studies and more. More than 665,000 courses completed and over 2.1 million hours spent learning (as of 2/29/24).
- **Local Reentry Councils** — LRCs are an organized network of individuals and agencies that provide programming and support for justice involved people. This includes housing, employment, transportation, MAT (medication assisted treatment) and more. There are currently 17 LRCs and 26 emerging Councils serving a total of 30 counties. Emerging LRCs are funded through community partnerships and organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT CORRECTION/DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Medicaid Eligibility** — Effective December 1, 2023, 2,105 incarcerated people were approved for Medicaid under Medicaid expansion. DAC has identified 4,800 with release dates in the next 6 months. 4,000 of those will be eligible for Medicaid.

- **Serious Mental Illness Specialist Care Coordination** — Liaisons of Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations, under oversight of NCDHHS, work with the Department of Adult Correction (DAC) to develop re-entry plans and care coordination for individuals with SMI (Serious Mental Illness) and specific convictions for violent crime (murder, sex offenders, gender-based violence) up to 90 days pre-release.
- **49 re-entry programs statewide** — 43 tailored to Substance Use disorder (SUD), 6 focus on Serious Mental Illness (SMI), 12 Local Health Departments overdose prevention activities, housing provider statewide.
- **UNC FIT Wellness Clinic** — Delivers whole person health care, peer support care coordination, along with connections to community supports (e.g., housing, transportation, phones) to people released from prison with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and a history of treatment non-compliance, reported aggression, or recent solitary confinement.
- **Justice Reentry & Reintegration Initiative — Intellectual and Developmental Disability/Traumatic Brain Injury (IDD/TBI) Pilot** — Available in 14 of DAC's 56 correctional facilities, serves eight counties; provides Individual Re-Entry Plan (IRP) development and ongoing post re-entry supports for individuals with I/DD and TBI including skill-building, assistance with basic needs (e.g. housing, transportation, employment); educates the DAC staff, re-entry providers and justice system partners of needs of people with IDD/TBI.

Nov 2023:

Submitted new Medicaid 1115 waiver proposal to extend Medicaid coverage of services in the 90-day period prior to release for all incarcerated Medicaid eligible adults and youth. Proposed services include case management, medication for opioid use disorder, and a minimum 30-day supply of prescription medication. More details available in the [October 2023 fact sheet](#).

Jan 2024:

Governor Cooper signed [Executive Order 303](#), setting an transformative, whole-of-government approach to improve reentry for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated North Carolinians. This work aims to dramatically improve reentry success by 2030.

 **Planned**

Fall 2024:

If 1115 Waiver Request approved by CMS, expansion of Medicaid coverage of services 90-day pre release.

Medicaid Expansion

Accomplished

- Dec 2023:** Medicaid Expansion went into effect, expanding coverage to low-income adults. On December 1, over 273,000 people who were covered by Family Planning Medicaid were automatically enrolled in full Medicaid. Since then, an average of 1,000 people a day are being enrolled. This will help to meet the needs of adults, parents, and families supporting health and economic stability.

Awareness and Sharing of Best Practices

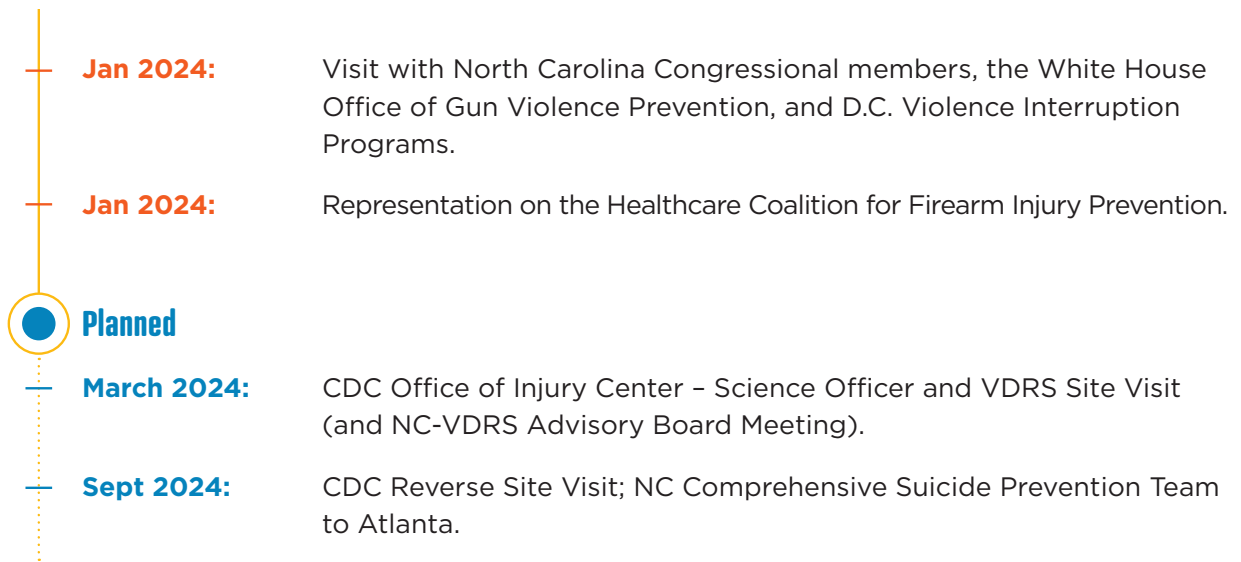
Accomplished

- Nov 2022:** White Paper — [Public Health Approach](#).
- Feb 2023:** NC Public Health Leaders Conference.
- July 2023:** [North Carolina Medical Journal Issue](#) — [DPS-DHHS commentary and Governor sidebar](#).
- Sept 2023:** [Firearm Safety Conference](#) — 20th anniversary of Violent Death Reporting System.

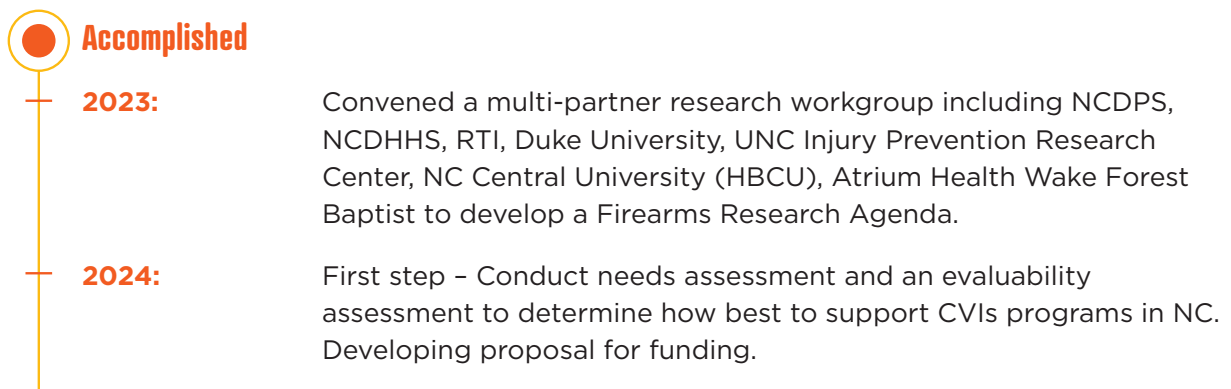
National/Federal Engagement

Accomplished or Ongoing Engagements

- 2023:** ASTHO (Association of State and Territorial Health Officers) multi-state Catalyst Center for Firearm Injury Prevention — [Road map for Using a Public Health Approach to Prevent Firearm Injury](#).
- 2023:** Participating in the development of a state targeted violence and terrorism prevention (TVTP) strategy with NC DPS and the Department of Homeland Security Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3).
- Sept 2023:** Participated in the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI), Annual Conference — [Building a Sustainable Future](#).
- Dec 2023:** Representation on American Medical Association Firearm Injury Prevention Task Force (ongoing).



Research



Funding



Federal

BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT

- **\$7.6M to NC Governor’s Crime Commission via the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP).** Uses:
 - \$2.5M for NC SAFE, DPS-led safe storage campaign. This funding is for the second part of the campaign initially launched in 2023 with state dollars. The program includes educational materials, safe storage equipment and public service advertising.
 - More funding for CVI/HVI in 2024.

- **\$4M to NC Governor’s Crime Commission via Office of Justice Programs’ Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) competitive funding.** Uses:
 - \$500K (Proposed) for OVP to hire a program manager in Office of Violence Prevention to specifically provide training and technical assistance to local communities.
 - Funding to Communities forthcoming.
- **\$1.4M in FFY23 via NCDHHS Mental Health Block Grant.** SAMHSA approved uses:
 - Update of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan.
 - Training for Behavioral Health Response Team members and staff within emergency shelters.
 - Community Collaboratives training, technical assistance and resources to respond to traumatic events/disasters (DCFV portion).
 - Culturally and linguistically competent messaging, education & awareness campaign.
 - First Episode Psychosis: trauma training for staff and education/awareness materials to broaden outreach.
- **\$29.3M to the NC Department of Public Instruction via the Student Support Block Grant.** Uses:
 - Retain current school-based mental health professionals.
 - Increase the number of highly qualified and skilled school counselors, school social workers, and school mental health clinicians.
 - Train and re-specialize school-based mental health providers and provider candidates through tuition assistance, intensive training, stipends and school-based internships that lead to employment and licensure.
 - Partner with a minority-serving institution (UNCP) and two other institutions (NCSU, UNC-Charlotte) of higher education to recruit, train and re-specialize SBMH providers, provide travel stipends for internships in identified LEAs, and stipends for internship supervisors.
- **\$29,367,638 to the NC Department of Public Instruction via the Stronger Connections Grant Program.** Uses:
 - To create safer and healthier learning environments for students and providing support for ongoing needs of families, educators, and communities.
 - Public school units are identified as “high-need” by the US Department of Education are eligible for funding.

OTHER FEDERAL

- **\$775,000 to the NC Department of Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) via Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Second Chance Act funds.** Uses:
 - Fund the Reentry to Resilience (R2R) Program serving youth returning from Youth Development Centers to the counties of Mecklenburg, Nash, Wilson, and Edgecombe.
 - Fund an intake coordinator for the R2R program.
 - Fund a process study and outcome evaluation of the program by RTI.
- **\$746,000 to NC Department of Public Safety, JJDP via the OJJDP Second Chance Act funds.** Uses:
 - Provide vocational training, employment assistance and intensive wraparound case management services to juveniles approaching transition age (17 and half years and older) reentering the community from Youth Development Centers.
 - Juvenile re-entry Programs will serve the counties of Craven, Carteret, Pamlico, and Pitt in North Carolina.
- **\$990,763 to NC Department of Public Safety, JJDP via the OJJDP Juvenile Reinvestment Funds.** Uses:
 - Pilot Restorative Justice programming in juvenile facilities including a formative study by RTI.
 - Implementation and Validation studies of Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument.
 - Validation of the North Carolina Detention Assessment Tool.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUNDING

- **\$750,000 from NC Governor's Crime Commission** to expand hospital-based violence prevention and intervention programs.
 - Awarded to two hospital programs 10/23.

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDING VIA GCC AND US ATTORNEY OFFICES

- Wake County Sheriff — \$25,000 — Funds will increase substance use prevention programming at five schools and support gang violence intervention and prevention activities (including violent crime, firearm offenses, gun violence and drug and human trafficking) for high-risk communities.
- City of Fayetteville Police Department —\$35,000 — This grant will assist the Fayetteville Cumberland Reentry Council to continue to provide therapy services for their clients and our Police Activity League (PAL) program with camp enhancements. The PAL program helps mitigate gang violence.
- New Bern Police Department — \$35,000 — Part of the funds will focus on educating juveniles about gun violence and provide additional re-entry resources.

- NC Community Outreach & Wellness Center, Inc — \$20,000 — ENC Street Keepers is a Community Violence Interruption Program uses a public health approach with five employed local street keepers that operate within the community. This is a pilot program that will utilize credible messengers to interrupt violence and defuse immediate tensions.

MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

- **Recurring 5% required set-aside for Crisis Funding.** Uses:
 - Suicide prevention including the new Peer Warm Line.
 - Enhanced Mobile Crisis Teams for children and families.
- **\$720,000 per year for re-entry programs for people with serious mental illness and violent offences.** Uses:
 - Dedicated care coordinator and liaison in each behavioral health managed care organization to provide in-reach and re-entry planning for individuals with serious mental illness and targeted convictions (violent offences and sex offenses)
 - Ensure medication stability and clinically appropriate interventions and wrap around services post release to prevent re-offending.
 - Small population of high need/high risk individuals and planning is done jointly with Dept of Adult Correction.
 - Funding does not include treatment costs, which are separately accounted for within the array of Medicaid/State funded services.

COVID SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

- 5% set-aside for crisis-related projects, including suicide prevention.

SAMHSA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

- \$5,252,972 (2022-2024) and \$13,492,492 (2023-2026) for 988. Uses:
 - Expansion of the call center to respond to 24/7 calls/chats/texts and meet 90% in state answer rates.
 - Integration with 911/Public-Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and Mobile Crisis Response for individuals needing that level of care. PSAPs are types of call centers where the public's telephone calls for first responders (such as police, fire department, or emergency medical services/ambulance) are received and handled.
 - Ensure effectiveness in working with Tribal and Latinx communities who reach out to the 988-call center through assessment of current training and practices, conduct training for crisis counselors and technical assistance while educating the community and building trust.
 - Instate communications/marketing of 988.

CDC

- **\$4.35M (2020-2025) Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant and \$792,640 (2022-2024) COVID-19 Health Equity Grant to DHHS Division of Public Health** for Suicide Prevention. Uses:
 - Creation of state action plan and state-wide suicide prevention Advisory Board (CSPAC).
 - Safe storage efforts: CALM (Counseling on Access to Lethal Means) training and train-the-trainer events, creating of FST (Firearm Safety Teams).
 - Funding for local community suicide prevention teams with deliverables of gatekeeper training, CALM training, and creation of FST team.
 - Training and Technical support, including Gatekeeper training: Faith Leaders for Life, Start With Veterans, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and train-the-trainer events, Injury Free Academy focused on suicide prevention and youth suicide prevention, specific to LGBTQ+: How to Be An Ally.

Federal/State – Medicaid

- Medicaid 1115 waiver [Healthy Opportunity Pilots Fee Schedule](#) — to help fund Violence Intervention Services. Medicaid expansion as of December.

Local/County/City

- Multiple local municipalities have provided funding for community violence intervention programs (e.g., New Hanover County/ Wilmington — Port City United, Mecklenburg County/Charlotte — Office of Violence Prevention, Durham County/Bull City United).

Philanthropy

- Hospital foundations funding start-up of Hospital Violence Interruption Programs (e.g., Novant Health).
- Potential future philanthropy funds award for research proposal.



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