NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

2025 END OF YEAR REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Governor Stein,

It is with great pride and much gratitude that I share with you our 2025 end of year report. This has been a dynamic and challenging year, with significant change across our country and state. Our communities faced uncertainty that deeply affected the existing and emerging systems and programs designed to keep them safe. Through it all, the Office of Violence Prevention has remained grounded in our mission — to support the growth and sustainability of local violence prevention efforts. We've worked with determination and care to meet the moment and serve our communities as best we can.



Siarra Scott, MPH, CHES Director, NC Office of Violence Prevention

The GCC CVIPI grant sub-award we received last fall has continued to be a critical resource for our team. This grant is set to end in September 2026. It has not only enabled us to offer more support and resources to local communities, but it has also helped us build the internal infrastructure needed to carry out this work. This year our team has expanded by two additional program coordinators as well as a new Deputy Director, which was made possible through our partnership with DHHS. We are now a team of five, with one current vacancy for an Epidemiologist position.

Since our office was created, partnership has been at the center of what we do and how we're able to move this work forward. I would like to specifically acknowledge our key partnerships with DHHS and their DPH Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, as well as internally with our DPS Division of Juvenile Justice and Governor's Crime Commission and their Criminal Justice Analysis Center.

Last year we released our Community Violence Strategic Plan, and we have spent most of this year moving from planning to action. While community violence will remain our primary focus for the time being, our team has also sought out opportunities to support and amplify efforts around different areas of violence led by other entities around the state. In this report you will find an overview of what my team has been working on over the past year. We are extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish, together, as a small but dedicated team, alongside our partners and constituents. While we've made meaningful strides, we also recognize the ongoing challenges and remain committed to learning and adapting to continue to best support our constituents and grow this work in the future.

In the coming year, our top priorities are to reinstate the Community Violence Advisory Board, amplify our strategic plan implementation and expand transparency of our progress, support the work of the Gang Prevention and Intervention Taskforce, and secure additional resources to sustain our office's infrastructure and programmatic capacity. As always, this will be done with intention and in collaboration with our local, state, and national partners.

Thanks to you and your team for your continued support! Sincerely,

Silvet

ABOUT THE OFFICE

On March 19, 2023, Gov. Roy Cooper signed Executive Order 279, making North Carolina the first state in the South to establish a statewide Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). On August 19th, 2025, Governor Josh Stein signed an <u>Executive Order</u> to continue the OVP, reaffirming the Office's role in continuing to reduce violence and its associated harms.

Mission

Reduce violence, harm from violence, and firearm misuse in North Carolina

Vision

A North Carolina where all communities have the tools, resources, and expertise needed to create and maintain safety and well-being

Approach

A North Carolina where all communities have the tools, resources, and expertise needed to create and maintain safety and well-being

Core Functions



Connect

Enable access to resources, information, subject matter experts, etc. to support violence prevention work



Convene

Provide opportunities for networking to foster peer-to-peer learning and community collaboration



Collaborate

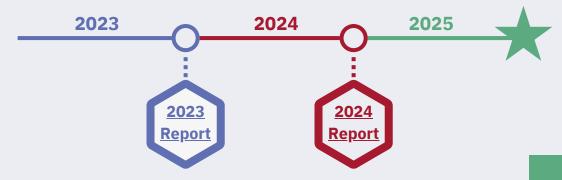
Work together with local, state, and national entities to increase collective impact and demonstrate "whole of community" coordination



Train

Prepare communities to effectively implement evidence-based strategies and measure impact

Review the 2023 and 2024 reports for a snapshot of activities since OVP's establishment.



04

SUMMARY OF 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following section highlights OVP's accomplishments in 2025 across each of the office's core functions.

CONNECT

937 attendees were **connected** through a variety of OVP hosted events and activities.



CONVENE

79 cities and 34 counties across North Carolina were reached and represented at OVP convenings.



COLLABORATE

100 County Violence Profiles were produced through an interdepartmental partnership between NC Department of Health and Human Services and NC Criminal Justice Analysis Center.



TRAIN

157 participants reported gaining new knowledge or skills across eight educational opportunities offered by OVP.



4

2

3

FIREARM VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Over the last decade, the prevalence of firearm-related deaths and injuries has significantly increased in North Carolina underscoring a critical need for targeted violence prevention initiatives. The following statistics offer a snapshot of the scope and severity of firearm-related violence in the state.

Interpersonal Firearm Violence



Between 2014-2023, firearms were used in **78%** of homicides.¹

Rate of Homicide/Assault Deaths Due to Firearms (per 100,000), 2019 to 2023.2



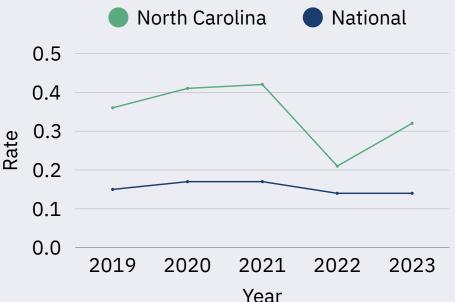
North Carolina **5.83**



United States **7.16**

Unintentional Firearm Use

Annual Rate of Fatal Injury Due to Unintentional Firearm Use (per 100,000), 2019 to 2023.²



From 2014-2023, deaths due to unintentional firearm use have increased by **81%**.¹



visits due to firearmrelated injuries have increased by 28%.³

Sources:

¹NC-VDRS, 2014-2023

²CDC WISQARS, 2019-2023

³NC DETECT, Emergency Department (ED) Visit Data, 2017-2024



TIMELINE OF 2025 ACTIVITIES

The table below provides a detailed overview of the key activities OVP accomplished in 2025. Each activity is linked to one or more of the office's core functions, demonstrating the progress that has been made in each area.

MONTH ACTIVITY CORE FUNCTION

JANUARY

Internal Program Directory

NC OVP conducted 31 virtual site visits to meet with organizations across the state engaged in community violence prevention efforts. This provided a valuable opportunity to build an intentional connection with the professionals involved in community violence prevention, learn about their organization's mission and services, and identify ways that NC OVP can offer technical assistance and support. Following the completion of the site visits, NC OVP compiled the information gathered into an internal directory. The resource includes detailed profiles of each organization, their programs and services, and current points of contact. The directory serves as a vital internal tool, enabling staff to easily locate program information when providing technical assistance and conducting outreach. As NC OVP continues to engage with new violence prevention organizations and programs, their information is added to the directory to ensure staff remain informed of programs available across the state. As of December 2025, there are 88 violence prevention programs in the internal program directory.



ACTIVITY

CORE FUNCTION

MARCH

Vance County Listening Session

OVP collaborated with the Governor's Crime Commission and Pathways to Peace (P2P) to organize an in person listening session in Vance County. More than 200 community members attended the listening session, where they had the opportunity to talk about their experience with firearm violence, local programs that are available, and what they would like to see done in the community to address violence. OVP provided a brief presentation on community violence as a public health crisis, its impact on health and wellbeing, and how the office can be a resource to support this community in





2025 North Carolina Public Health Leaders Conference

addressing violence.

OVP Director Siarra Scott and OVP Epidemiologist Quenla Haehnel facilitated and participated on an expert panel discussing firearm injury and violence prevention in NC. The panel highlighted current trends in firearm violence across the state and current CVI (community violence intervention) programs being implemented in local communities to address this. The session was attended by 64 Public Health professionals.



Newsletter

In the Spring of 2025, NC OVP launched a quarterly newsletter to keep constituents informed on the office's initiatives and connect them to valuable resources to support their work. The newsletters highlight community events focused on firearm violence prevention, funding opportunities, relevant conferences, and other professional development offerings. Each issue also features an NC violence prevention program or partnership, offering readers insight into innovative strategies and collaborative efforts happening across the state. The newsletter was published in March, June, September, and November of this year and is shared with the 871 people on the NC OVP listsery.



APRIL

OVP Data Workgroup

The NC OVP Data Workgroup provides ongoing support for those professionals working to gather, organize and analyze data related to violence prevention trends and program analyses. The workgroup is represented by individuals from all over the state, working in government, academic, non-profit and private sectors. The workgroup met in April, July, September, and November.





		FUNCTION
APRIL	OVP Webinar: The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention In April, NC OVP held its first webinar training drawing 276 registrants, with around 60% attending live. The webinar facilitated by Dr. Belinda Rose Young, provided viewers with an in-depth overview of the fundamental components of the public health model as well as practical examples of how to apply this to the context of community violence.	•
MAY	Vance County Data to Action Training NC OVP hosted a 2-day training in Vance County, in collaboration with the GCC. The training walked a multi-sector community team through the first two steps of the public health approach. To start, the team gathered and analyzed data to understand how violence is impacting the county. Then, systems thinking tools were leveraged to better understand the complex factors contributing to these issues and to identify effective, sustainable solutions.	1
JUNE	County Violence Profiles NC OVP released county violence profiles for all 100 North Carolina counties. These one-page factsheets compile violence-related data using public health and criminal justice state-level data from the NCVDRS, NIBRS, and NC DETECT. The profiles were developed in collaboration with the NC DHHS, DPH, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch and the NC DPS, GCC Criminal Justice Analysis Center, marking the first data product developed through this interdepartmental partnership. These county violence profiles present key data on crime, violent deaths, and injuries. Designed as concise, one-page resources, they serve as valuable tools to support informed decision-making and advocacy efforts for violence prevention planning and programming.	9-8 8-8
	Webinar: Adapting to Change: Navigating Today's Violence Prevention Funding Landscape In partnership with KYS Consulting, NC OVP hosted a webinar focused on adapting to changes in the current violence prevention funding landscape. During this webinar, attendees learned practical strategies and actionable tips for identifying and applying to diverse funding sources to plan for long-term sustainability. The webinar drew 157 registrants, with approximately half attending live. Many participants represented North Carolina-based local government agencies or non-profit organizations. To extend its impact, the webinar was recorded and made available on the NC OVP Resource Hub, serving as an ongoing resource for violence prevention professionals.	1

JUNE

Community Violence Prevention Regional Meeting Series

NC OVP hosted a series of community violence prevention meetings across the middle, eastern, and western regions of NC. The meetings convened violence prevention professionals working across sectors to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and strengthen regional alignment in addressing community violence. A total of 150 people attended the regional meetings, representing 27 counties in NC.

Meetings were coordinated and planned with representatives from each region. Partners involved included Durham County Government, Duke Hospital, Buncombe County Justice Services, Durham County Public Health, Atrium Health's Hospital Violence Intervention Program, New Hanover County Health & Human Services, and the Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program at ECU Health.

Through day-long sessions, participants learned about ongoing initiatives, exchanged strategies and insights, and engaged in meaningful networking. Each meeting featured a dynamic mix of presentations and group activities designed to deepen understanding of violence prevention through a public health lens. Through facilitated discussions and presentations, attendees were introduced to the public health approach to violence prevention and community violence intervention and prevention (CVIP) ecosystems. The West and East Region meetings also incorporated a panel of individuals working in violence prevention across each respective region. Both panels discussed challenges and successes of developing their programs, support needed to overcome challenges, and partnerships that have been key in advancing efforts.



In the post-meeting evaluation surveys, attendees from each region shared that the meetings provided a much-needed opportunity to network, share resources, and form connections to coordinate future efforts. One survey participant noted, "I have been trying to meet community partners for two years and today they were finally in the same room." As reflected in the survey, the meetings helped to establish a shared understanding of what is needed to develop a cohesive regional violence prevention ecosystem.





ACTIVITY

JUNE

Online Resource Hub

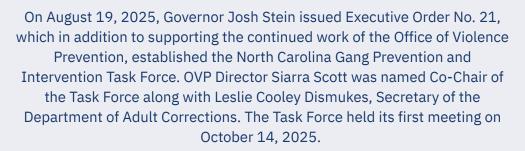
The Resource Hub was created to be a centralize platform designed to equip professionals and organizations across North Carolina with tools, strategies, and data needed to effectively address community violence. Visitors can explore a range of violence prevention data tools, including the Community Violence Profiles, and access data dashboards developed by partner agencies. The Resource Hub also features a library of on-demand educational videos, offering virtual presentations led by subject matter experts. These sessions cover topics such as the public health approach to violence prevention, innovative models for street outreach, and youth violence prevention. As a living resource, the Resource Hub will continue to be a space for NC OVP's violence prevention resources to ensure professionals can easily access high quality materials to enhance and scale their impact.



AUGUST

North Carolina Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force

NC OVP participated in a workgroup convened by the Governor's Crime Commission to provide updates on gang presence and impact in the state as well as recommendations on tangible ways to address this. A report was developed by this group and submitted to the state legislature in March.





SEPTEMBER

OVP Webinar: Laying the Groundwork: Why Evaluation Matters and Laying the Groundwork for It

In collaboration with the Southern Injury Prevention Institute, NC OVP held a data utilization focused webinar. The webinar drew 104 registrants, with over 60% attending live. Participants across North Carolina agencies and non-profits engaged in violence prevention were introduced to logic models as a framework for identifying key metrics for durable evaluation and overall program efficacy.



OCTOBER

2025 NC Violence Prevention Conference

The second annual NC Violence Prevention Conference was held on October 27th and 28th in Raleigh. The conference convened practitioners, first responders, and leaders working across sectors for two days of networking and learning. The theme Investing in Prevention, Transforming Community Safety, called on communities, organizations, and leaders to prioritize prevention-focused solutions that build long-term safety and resilience.

226 people attended the conference, representing 27 different counties across North Carolina. Through a variety of networking opportunities, panel discussions, workshops, and breakout sessions, participants had the chance to forge partnerships and explore strategies to create safer communities in NC. The conference sessions explored a range of topics, including strategies to reduce youth violence, methods to receive buy in and support for violence prevention work, the role of law enforcement within CVI work, and more. One networking breakout session brought attendees in each respective region together, building off the efforts of the regional meetings held during the summer. During this session, attendees networked and discussed strategies for advancing violence prevention efforts within their regions.



Survey respondents overwhelmingly identified networking as the most valuable element of the conference, with multiple reporting that they established connections that continued beyond the event. Through both informal and formal networking opportunities, attendees could exchange ideas, knowledge, and resources to support and amplify violence prevention efforts.









ACTIVITY

CORE FUNCTION

OCTOBER

Data Evaluation Consultations

During the 2025 OVP Violence Prevention Conference held on October 26th and 27th, NC OVP collaborated with the Southern Injury Prevention Institute (SIPI) to provide data collection and program evaluation technical assistance to ten North Carolina violence prevention organizations to strengthen their organizational capacity and program performance. Participants came to these consultations with a varying array of needs and left these conversations with outlined draft evaluation plans, a clear understanding of how to further develop the plan, and tangible resources to support these next steps, as well as one additional free follow up meeting with the SIPI consultants.







ONGOING

Technical Assistance

One of the primary ways NC OVP supports violence prevention professionals is through tailored technical assistance (TA). These consultations connect professionals to relevant resources, subject matter experts, evidence-informed prevention strategies, and data, while also offering strategic guidance to strengthen their capacity to address community violence. Because each request varies, NC OVP develops tailored TA plans based on the specific needs of the professional and their organization. In 2025, the office received many TA requests related to data analysis, community violence intervention best practices, and the development of local OVPs. For example, NC OVP has compiled city- and county-level data to help local programs advocate for targeted violence prevention efforts; provided strategic guidance and expert connections to support the development of local OVPs; and consulted with partner agencies on the creation of RFPs for CVI organizations to support the appropriate distribution of available funding. NC OVP remains committed to being a trusted resource for violence prevention professionals, helping to build program capacity and strengthen the statewide workforce.





ONGOING

Student Learning Opportunities

Over the past year, NC OVP has provided a number of experiential learning opportunities for over 12 undergraduate and graduate students. During these experiences, students were introduced to violence prevention concepts and models and had opportunities to complete projects and participate in events to apply these new skillsets and knowledge.



ACTIVITY

ONGOING

Violence Prevention Workgroups

The Office of Violence Prevention has agency representation on several North Carolina violence prevention workgroups. The Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) Collaborative is a formal partnership consisting of new and existing programs from across the state. While each HVIP serves varying communities, members share the same goal – to reduce harm from violence and provide resources. The HVIP Collaborative is a shared space for learning, community building and advocacy in community violence intervention work. This partnership creates a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices and expand the N.C. violence prevention network. OVP actively participates in the bimonthly meetings to continue our relationship with NC HVIPs and determine if there are ways that we can support their work (connect them to SMEs, finding funding opportunities,





The North Carolina Violence Prevention Coordinating Team (NC VPCT) brings together multidisciplinary partners who work in different violence prevention sectors and related fields. The team utilizes a collaborative approach to increase communication and collective impact on violence prevention in NC through the development of tangible and aligned actions. OVP is currently the only organization representing community violence prevention in this group. The primary focus of the group is to find ways to build partnerships across violence prevention agencies and focus areas and amplify the existing violence prevention work that is happening across the state.

etc.).

ONGOING

NC OVP Listserv

Since 2024, the NC OVP listserv has grown substantially. As of the latest count, membership has increased by over 200% since it launched in 2024, reaching a total of 871 participants. The listserv now includes representation from 71 counties across North Carolina, with professionals from local and state health departments, law enforcement, academic and research institutions, nonprofits, health care, and other government agencies. This resource has become a valuable internal tool for targeted outreach, enabling NC OVP to share activities like region-specific meetings or sector-specific professional development opportunities. Additionally, due to its broad and expanding reach, state and national partners increasingly request OVP to disseminate their materials and engagement opportunities through the listsery, recognizing its ability connect professionals and organizations addressing community violence to valuable resources and tools.





APPENDICES

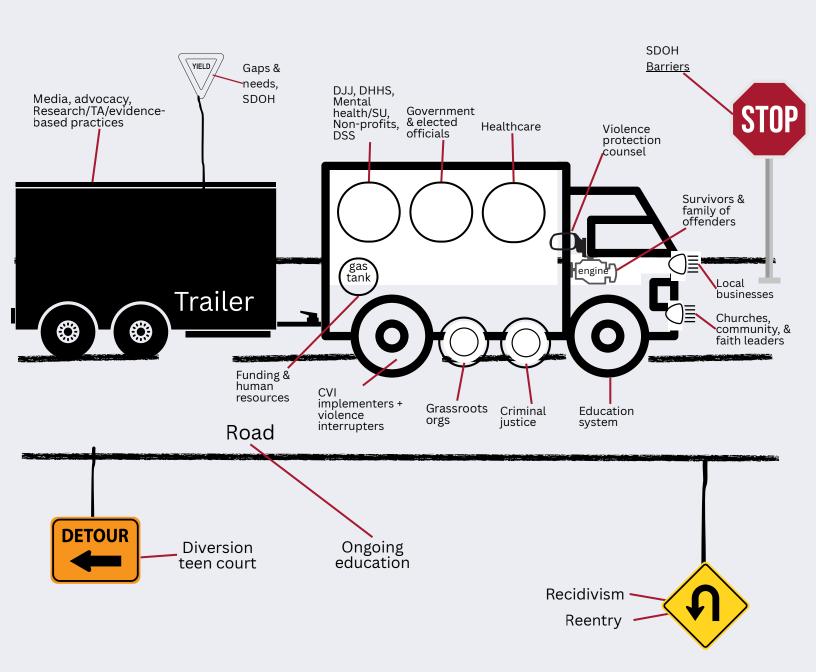
Additional links:

- 1. Executive Order No. 21: Advancing Safety in North Carolina Through the Office of Violence Prevention and the Gang Prevention And Intervention Task Force
- 2. NC DPS Gang Prevention and Intervention

 Task Force Home Page
- 3. OVP County Violence Profiles
- 4. OVP Resource Hub
- 5. <u>Vance County Data to Action Workshop</u>
 News Article

Edgecombe, Nash, Martin Counties

The Road to Violence Prevention: On the Big Truck



Two goals:

- 1. Rebuild School Justice Partnership (SJP)
- 2. Establish Violence Reduction Counsel

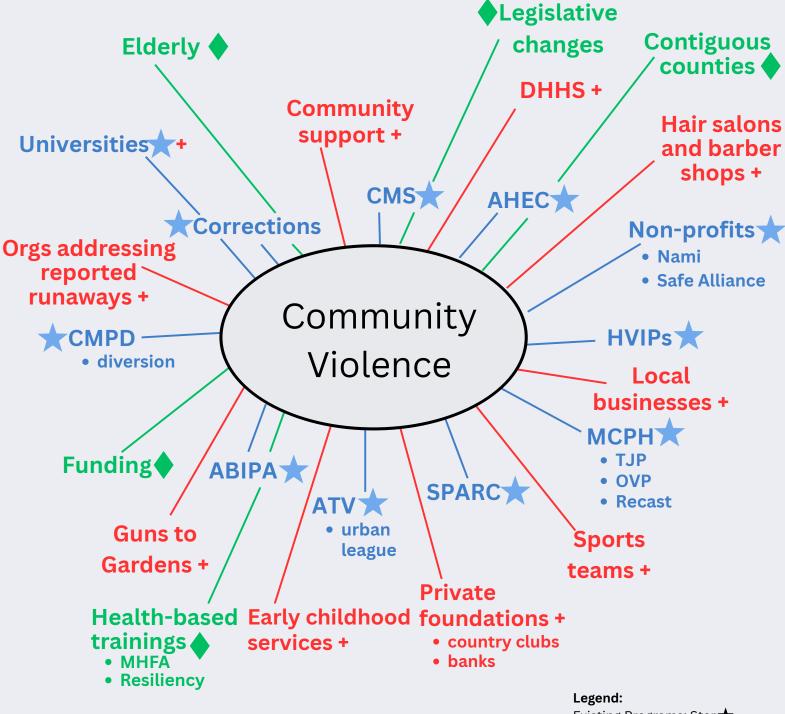
Challenges:

- 1. Local city/government alignment
- 2. Working in silos
- 3. No regional approach

Guilford & Forsyth County



Mecklenburg Team 2



Existing Programs: Star ★
Opportunities for
collab/partnership: Plus sign +
Gaps & Needs: Diamond ◆

2025 North Carolina Violence Prevention Conference



The NC Office of Violence Prevention hosted the second annual NC Violence Prevention Conference on October 27-28, 2025, in Raleigh. The conference brought together practitioners, first responders, and leaders working across sectors for two days filled with networking and learning. The theme, *Investing in Prevention, Transforming Community Safety*, called on communities, organizations, and leaders to prioritize prevention-focused solutions that build long-term safety and resilience.

Over 220 individuals attended the conference, bringing a range of perspectives and insights that energized the space. Through a variety of networking opportunities, workshops, and breakout sessions, participants had the opportunity to forge partnerships and explore strategies to create safer communities throughout the state.

View
Recordings of
Conference
Presentations
Here!

Conference Highlights



Latisha McNeil, Greensboro's first director of community safety, delivered a keynote presentation that explored the essential components of a violence prevention ecosystem.

"Each speaker brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and practical insight that made the sessions truly impactful. I left feeling informed, inspired, and better equipped to continue the work of violence prevention in my community."

- Conference Survey Respondent

"

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"The connections made in the [sessions] really helped. It helped connect with people within your city that you weren't working with and other cities that could possibly help you."

- Conference Survey Respondent





Attendees networked and collaborated to discuss strategies for advancing violence prevention efforts within their regions.



CVI professionals working across North Carolina stand with keynote speaker, Amber Goodwin.

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"The dramatic reductions in gun violence did not happen six months ago. They did not happen three months ago. It happened when there started to be actual funding investments into our communities. It happened when places like here started to have an office of violence prevention. It happened when there was collaboration."

- Keynote Speaker, Amber Goodwin

"

"The array of exhibitors was impressive and provided great resources for community engagement and violence prevention."

- Conference Survey Respondent



Twelve organizations showcased their work at the conference, giving attendees the chance to connect with violence prevention resources available around North Carolina.



Desiree Lakey, Program Coordinator at NC OVP, led a panel discussion about the intersection of law enforcement within violence prevention.



Split up by prevention level, attendees explored how their roles connect to primary, secondary, or tertiary prevention and developed group pitches highlighting shared priorities across roles.

Strengthening Violence Prevention With Expert Evaluation

To help make evaluation more accessible, NC OVP partnered with the Southern Injury Prevention Institute (SIPI) to provide free, one-on-one consultations with experienced program evaluators during this year's conference. Through these tailored sessions, attendees had the opportunity to begin the initial steps of developing an evaluation plan, receive expert feedback on their existing evaluation plan, or get support on analyzing evaluation data.

46

"This is one of the most beneficial conferences that we come to because although we try to respond with a public health lens, this is not something that we were trained in. The Office of Violence Prevention is really giving us those best practices that we need to know about."

- Conference Attendee

"

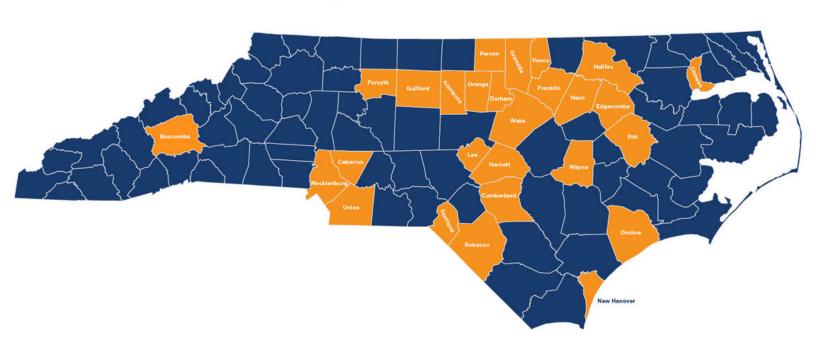
Thank you to the Conference Sponsors!



FUND FOR A SAFER FUTURE

We thank our sponsors for their investment in building safer, more resilient communities in NC. Their support helped to create a more enriching conference.

NCVPC Brings Us Together



Violence Prevention Update

NCDPS Office of Violence Prevention Newsletter | March 2025

Upcoming Events

April 8 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Raleigh **National Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony** The U.S. Attorneys' offices for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts and the Victim Services Interagency Council host an event focused on connecting, healing and honoring victims of crime.

Register by April 1



April 23 | 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Webinar

The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

Belinda-Rose Young, PhD, MSPH
Managing Director, Training and Education,
UNC Injury Prevention Research Center;
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health
Behavior, UNC Gillings School of Global Public
Health

Register

Jun. 16-17 | Los Angeles GIFFORDS Center 2025 Community Violence Intervention Conference

Register

Sept. 9-11 | Atlanta Safe States Alliance Annual Injury and Violence Prevention Conference

Register

Nov. 19-21 | Tempe, Ariz. National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms

Register

The Power of Partnership

Mecklenburg County Violence Prevention Data Collaborative

Mecklenburg County developed the Violence Prevention Data Collaborative in 2020 to facilitate cross-sector partnership through data sharing, reporting and evaluation. One key initiative is the development of the Community Violence Data Dashboard.

The interactive dashboard provides Mecklenburg County data including emergency visits, homicides and youth violence. The data visualizations make it easier to interpret and use data for program planning and research. Practitioners can use the resource to measure, identify and track trends of community violence in Mecklenburg County.

The Violence Prevention Data Collaborative is currently working on several other projects including a report on the financial and social impact of gun violence in Mecklenburg County and an evaluation of alternatives to violence programs.

Key partners include the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department; City of Charlotte Innovation and Technology Department; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department; and Johnson C. Smith University.

For more information on the collaborative, please contact <u>Latoya Pousa</u>.

Our newsletter will regularly highlight the amazing work happening throughout the state. Please fill out <u>this form</u> to recommend a program or partnership.

Resources for Action

Data:

- <u>Check out existing state data resources</u> including dashboards, fact sheets and other products using state health and crime data.
- Join the new OVP Data Workgroup, which offers data professionals working in the field of violence prevention an opportunity to discuss common challenges, share best practices and connect with data resources.

Education:

- Read the OVP Community Violence Strategic Plan, a three-year plan developed and released by the N.C. Office of Violence Prevention.
- Watch the Introduction to Community Violence video to learn more about taking a public health approach to community violence prevention.
- Read the 2024 Community Violence Intervention Action Plan, titled "Mapping Transformation for the Field."

Funding:

• Apply by April 30 for Byrne SCIP and CVIPI funding from the Governor's Crime Commission.

A Note on Federal Funding

Many federal grants are being reevaluated to ensure alignment with the current administration's goals. Here are a few tips to keep in mind.

- 1. If you were in the process of applying for a grant, continue putting your application together. Grants may return after the reevaluation phase with prompt due dates.
- 2. Grant titles may be edited or renamed. Regularly review <u>reposted</u> <u>grants</u> to ensure you do not miss funding opportunities.
- 3. Research philanthropic organizations and other private funders with

missions that align with your work. The N.C. Community Foundation serves as a statewide network of foundations and <u>posts funding</u> <u>opportunities</u>.

Job Opportunities

We're Hiring

Our office is reviewing applications for a violence prevention program coordinator. This role is a great fit for someone with experience in CVI who also has strong communication and organizational skills. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on March 19.

Apply by March 19

Subscribe to Our Newsletter



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<u>Unsubscribe</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u>

Violence Prevention Update

NCDPS Office of Violence Prevention Newsletter | June 2025



At A Glance

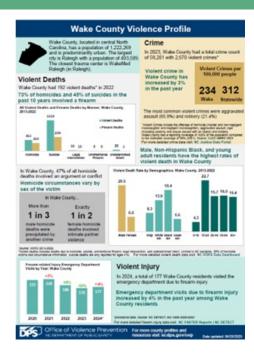
Welcome to NC OVP's Violence Prevention Newsletter. Our team will use this newsletter to share updates and announcements that keep the NC violence prevention ecosystem connected and informed. In this issue, you will find:

- New Data Resources Access the new County Violence Profiles to support violence prevention strategies in your area.
- **Partnership Spotlight** Learn how a local collaborative is uniting violence intervention practitioners.
- **OVP Webinar** Catch up on key takeaways from our webinar, "The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention."
- **Upcoming OVP Events** Save the date and join us to connect, collaborate and push the movement forward.

Questions? Contact our team at ovp@ncdps.gov



Resources For Action



NEW! County Violence Profiles

NC OVP is excited to release county violence profiles for all 100 N.C. counties. Profiles display community violence trends, combining health and criminal justice data in an easy-to-read factsheet that will aid in planning and implementation of local prevention efforts.

Explore County Profiles

Data:

• <u>Join the OVP Data Workgroup.</u> This statewide group of data specialists meets bi-monthly to discuss common challenges, share best practices and connect with data resources.

New Funding Opportunities:

- **2025 Catherine Barber Research Award** Due June 12
- Walmart's Spark Good Grant Due July 15
- Kaiser Permanente Research Grant Due September 5
- NC Community Foundation Grants Various Due Dates

Webinars:

• Access our April webinar. OVP's first webinar, The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention, is now available on demand.



Partnership Spotlight

Hospital Violence Intervention Program Collaborative

The HVIP Collaborative was created in 2022 as a lunch-and-learn session with Atrium Health-Charlotte and Duke to support their emerging hospital-based intervention programs, or HVIPs.



As more HVIPs began to develop in North Carolina, the lunch-and-learn sessions quickly evolved into a formal partnership that now includes both new and existing programs across the state. While each HVIP serves varying communities, members share the same goal – to reduce harm from violence and provide resources.

The HVIP Collaborative has become a shared space for learning, community building and advocacy in community violence intervention work. This partnership creates a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices and expand the N.C. violence prevention network. A key factor in maintaining this partnership has been consistent, bimonthly meetings that provide opportunities for resource sharing, guest speakers and peer-to-peer support. The established HVIP programs involved in the collaborative include Atrium-Charlotte, Duke, Novant-Wilmington, Atrium-Wake Forest Baptist, Novant-Charlotte and WakeMed. Representatives from emerging programs are also members.

If you would like to learn more about the HVIP Collaborative, please contact Uzuri Holder at uzuri.holder@duke.edu.

Gun Violence Awareness Month

Gun Violence Awareness month and #wearorange day on June 6th give us

June is National **Gun Violence** Awareness Month

an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have been impacted by gun violence. NC OVP would like to highlight organizations hosting events throughout the month. Please email information and photos from your event to ovp@ncdps.gov



Upcoming Events

Adapting to Change - Navigating Today's Violence Prevention Funding LandscapeJune 25 | Webinar | 11:30 a.m.

Organizations can adapt to the shifting federal funding landscape. Learn practical strategies and tips for exploring and applying for alternative funding sources to plan for long-term sustainability.

Register

NC Community Violence Prevention Regional Meetings

Regional gatherings will provide a space for professionals working to address violence in their local communities to network, share best practices and explore tailored solutions, taking into account the unique needs of each region.



Stay tuned for updates in the next few weeks!

Middle Region June 27 | Durham

Register

Western Region July 25 | Charlotte

Eastern Region August 27| Greenville

Coming Soon

Coming Soon

SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for the second annual NC Violence Prevention Conference. Registration opens August 2025. This year we will highlight the amazing work happening in the state and are requesting proposals for presentations.

Submit Proposal by June 30

Community Events

- Celebrating 25 Years of Progress in Firearm Injury Prevention June 18 | Durham | 11 a.m. 1 p.m. Join Durham County Health Department as they commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Durham County Firearm Injury Prevention Partnership. This event honors a quarter-century of dedicated collaboration, community engagement and lifesaving impact in the effort to reduce firearm injuries and promote safety across the county. Health & Human Services Building, 414 E. Main Street
- Victim Compensation Program in the State of N.C. July 22 |
 Webinar | 11 a.m. to noon The training, hosted by the NC
 Department of Justice, will cover the Victim Compensation Program
 and the Rape Victim Assistance Program managed by the NCDPS
 Office of Victim Compensation Services. It will provide program
 overviews including benefits and eligibility criteria and also explain
 the application process for the compensation program. Register
 here
- 2025 RISE Back to School Safety Summit July 28-30 |
 Statesville RISE training, hosted by NC Center for Safer Schools,

focuses on the Resiliency, Information, Support and Empowerment needed when supporting children and adolescents in schools and communities. This training offers a variety of information sessions to participants covering the areas of bullying, suicide, opioid and substance use, critical incidents and other vital information about trauma and victimization among children and adolescents, and how these various dynamics impact school climate and school safety. Statesville Civic Center, 300 South Center Street. Register here

• NC Coalition on Crisis and Alternative Response Summit September 16-17 | Greensboro This two-day summit will bring together speakers and thought leaders from healthcare, research, advocacy and other key fields to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration. The event will serve as a hub for idea-sharing, a platform for exploring non-enforcement alternatives to address social issues and a resource to help municipalities develop and implement equitable community-based programs. Attendees will have opportunities for professional development; participate in data collection and knowledge exchange; and engage in discussions aimed at advancing equitable services for all citizens. Bur-Mil Clubhouse, 5834 Bur-Mil Club Road. Register here

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Violence Prevention Update

NCDPS Office of Violence Prevention Newsletter | Sept 2025



At A Glance

Welcome to NC OVP's Violence Prevention Newsletter! Our team will use this newsletter to share our updates and announcements to keep the NC violence prevention ecosystem connected and informed. In this month's issue, you will find:

NC Violence Prevention Conference – Register for our second annual conference happening October 27th-28th, 2025!

Upcoming Events – Discover additional opportunities to learn, connect, and collaborate to continue pushing the work forward.

Partnership Spotlight – Recap and view photos from the three regional meetings that OVP hosted this summer!

Resources for Action – Review policy and legislative changes happening in the state, including a new executive order for NC OVP and a statewide Gang Prevention and Intervention Taskforce.

Program Spotlight – Learn about how one county is leveraging diverse partnerships and collaboration to implement a comprehensive community violence prevention approach.

Questions? Contact our team at ovp@ncdps.gov

Conference Registration Closes Tomorrow!

Mark your calendars for the second annual North Carolina Violence Prevention Conference happening **October 27-28th, 2025 in Raleigh!**



In addition to a plethora of engaging and inspiring conference activities, registered attendees will have the **exclusive opportunity to schedule one-on-one sessions with an evaluation consultant** from the Southern Injury Prevention Institute! Consultations will be held **free of charge** throughout the conference.

The final deadline to register for the conference is Friday, September 19th!

Learn More and Register
Here

Hotel Room Block Available

All registered attendees can reserve a hotel room at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills for a discounted rate of \$131/night. Use the direct booking link to reserve your room or call the hotel directly at (919)-872-2323. Reference the Group Code <u>OVPAC</u> to ensure your reservation is booked at the group rate. The deadline to reserve your discounted hotel room is **10/6/25 or until full**.

Book Hotel Room

There's Still Time to Become a Conference
Sponsor or Exhibitor!
Sponsorship and Exhibitor Requests Close October 3rd!

Become a Conference Sponsor Be a Conference Exhibitor

 together experts, advocates, and community leaders to share strategies and drive meaningful change. Check out our 2025 conference sponsorship packet to learn about sponsorship benefits and the different ways that your organization can get involved to support the conference.

\$150. Exhibitors receive **one full conference registration**, along with the opportunity to connect with a highly engaged audience, increase visibility of your work in a high impact setting, showcase resources, and more. Sign up today!

Be an Exhibitor

Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors!

We are excited to share two of our official sponsors for this year's Violence Prevention Conference: **Fund for a Safer Future** and **Liberty Generation**!

We thank them for their commitment to supporting this event and the investment in creating safer, more resilient communities in North Carolina.







Upcoming Events

NC OVP Webinar: Laying the Groundwork: Why Evaluation Matters and How to Plan for It

September 24th at 11:30am EST

In this session, we will explore why evaluation is essential at every stage of program development and how it can improve outcomes and guide better program planning. Participants will be introduced to an evaluation framework for designing and implementing meaningful evaluations. Whether you are new to evaluation or looking to strengthen your existing approach, this webinar will equip you with the foundational knowledge to effectively plan program evaluations.



In this session, we will explore why evaluation is essential at every stage of program development and how it can improve outcomes and guide better program planning. Participants will be introduced to an evaluation framework for designing and implementing meaningful evaluations.

REGISTER NOW



Register Now

Healing from Trauma After Violence: An Online Support Group for Survivors of Gunshot, Stabbing, and Physical Assault

Meetings are held at the same time on the second Wednesday of each month.

This group is intended for adults 18 years of age or older who live in North Carolina and have experienced violent crime (i.e., gunshot, stabbing and physical assault survivors). The group is open to victims/survivors no matter how recent or how long ago the incident occurred. These confidential, virtual gatherings provide an opportunity for victims/survivors to connect with other victims/survivors and to give and receive support from each other. Facilitators aid the process of mutual support and provide information relevant to processing after a violent crime and navigating the legal process. View the support group's flyer for more information and to register.

View Flyer



Partnership Spotlight

North Carolina Community Violence Prevention Regional Meetings

This summer, NC OVP hosted a series of community violence prevention meetings across the middle, eastern, and western regions of the state. These gatherings brought together violence prevention professionals to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and strengthen regional alignment in the effort to address community violence.



Diagram of a Community Violence Prevention Ecosystem Developed at the West Region Meeting

Participants had the

opportunity to learn about ongoing initiatives in neighboring counties, engage in meaningful networking, and exchange practical strategies and insights. The meetings featured a dynamic mix of presentations, panel discussions, and group activities designed to deepen understanding and spark innovation.

Through facilitated discussions, attendees explored the core components of an effective ecosystem. In small group sessions, they worked collaboratively to identify actionable next steps tailored to building and enhancing efforts within their own counties.

A highlight across all meetings was a hands-on breakout session where participants visually mapped their ideal violence prevention ecosystems. These diagrams serve as powerful tools to:

- Identify gaps in current efforts
- Highlight existing strengths
- Guide future cross-sector collaboration

We encourage communities to use these visual tools to support ongoing dialogue and drive the development of more integrated, effective local strategies to address community violence.

Thank you to all the attendees, presenters, and panelists whose engagement and insights made these meetings such a success!



West Region Meeting



Middle Region Meeting



East Region Meeting



Resources For Action

Executive Order 21: Advancing Safety in North Carolina through the Office of Violence Prevention and the Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force

On August 19th, Governor Josh Stein signed an Executive Order to continue the OVP, reaffirming the Office's role in continuing to reduce violence and its associated harms. The office will continue to highlight initiatives to strengthen firearm safety, expand cross-sector partnerships across the state, and provide training and education to move forward evidence-informed strategies to address and prevent violence.

Additionally, the <u>Executive Order</u> reestablishes the Community Advisory Board and established a new Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force. This new task force will conduct a multitude of activities, including but not limited to, education, prevention, and intervention efforts focused on youth and justice-involved individuals; support and training for law enforcement; and enhanced coordination among community, local, and state federal partners.

The Task Force chairs are currently doing an open call for membership nominations. Those interested in being on the task force should complete the interest form linked below. Nominations are being accepted now through Sunday, September 21st. Please send any questions to gang taskforce@ncdps.gov.

Gang Task Force Nomination Form

Revised Requirements under the North Carolina Victims Compensation Act

On July 9th, 2025, lawmakers extended the reporting window for individuals to be eligible for the Victim Compensation Program. Victims of violent crime who have reported the incident to law enforcement within 6 months of the crime occurring are now eligible for the program. The previous policy required victims to report the crime within 72 hours of the incident.

To learn more about eligibility requirements for the Victim Compensation Program, click the 'Victim Compensation Program' under Billing FAQ's on the Office of Violence Compensation: Provider Resources Webpage.

Learn more about the legislative change to the Victims Compensation Act on <u>Page 10 of Senate Bill 429</u>, enacted by the General Assembly of North Carolina.



Buncombe County's Community-based Public Health Response to Violence (CPrV[©]) Strategy

In 2022, the Buncombe County Justice Services Department (BCJS) began laying the groundwork for a comprehensive community



violence prevention and intervention approach. Through implementation of the Community-based Public Health Response to Violence (CPrV[©]) strategy, BCJS is working towards building community cohesion and collective efficacy to prevent violence. CHASM, a non-profit directed by CPrV[©] model founder Abdul Hafeedh bin Abdullah, has been providing technical assistance, model

fidelity guidance, coaching, and expertise on how to scale CPRrV[©] infrastructure across the broader Buncombe County.

The strategy integrates key principles of community-based, community-led public health thinking and methodology in partnership with a multitude of sectors. To ensure that community voices and perspectives guide the implementation of programming, the Asheville Buncombe Institute for Parity Achievement is conducting community-based participatory action research and evaluation activities. Additionally, the Center for Participatory Change co-facilitates the Multisectoral Stakeholder Coalition alongside BCJS, where partners are engaged to collaborate on integrated violence prevention strategies. The Coalition brings the community together alongside county and city leadership to discuss community issues to provide real-time solutions to system and interpersonal violence.

Leveraging multiple key partnerships in the county and surrounding region, BCJS employs evidence-based practices that are geared towards training community health workers as violence prevention professionals, supporting youth development, and repurposing the built environment. One key initiative includes the Providing Education and Advocacy through Community Engagement (P.E.A.C.E.) Team. Committed to fostering peace, health, and unity, the P.E.A.C.E. team is a dedicated group of community members trained as Community Health Worker-Violence Prevention Professionals (CHW-VPPs). In partnership with community organizations, the team supports youth and communities in accessing the resources that are needed to live healthy, safe, and thriving lifestyles.

BCJS's approach highlights the powerful impact that community partnerships and collaboration have in strengthening and advancing community violence intervention and prevention practices.

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Violence Prevention Update

NCDPS Office of Violence Prevention Newsletter | November 2025

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At A Glance

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2025 North Carolina Violence Prevention Conference Recap – Look back on highlights from the conference!

Program or Partnership Spotlight – Learn more about the Core Competency Model for Corrections Toolkit, developed in partnership between the NC Department of Adult Corrections and UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center.

Upcoming Events – Discover additional opportunities to learn, connect, and collaborate to continue pushing the work forward.

Resources for Action – Explore the county violence profiles created by NC OVP to learn about local trends in violence outcomes.

Job Opportunities – NC OVP is hiring!

Questions? Contact our team at ovp@ncdps.gov



The NC Office of Violence Prevention hosted the second annual North Carolina Violence Prevention Conference on October 27-28 in Raleigh. The conference brought together practitioners, first responders, and leaders working across sectors for two days filled with networking and learning.

The theme 'Investing in Prevention, Transforming Community Safety,' called on communities, organizations, and leaders to prioritize prevention-focused solutions that build long-term safety and resilience.

Over 220 individuals attended the conference, bringing a range of perspectives and insights that energized the space. Through a variety of networking opportunities, workshops, and breakout sessions, participants had the opportunity to forge partnerships and explore strategies to create safer communities around the state.



Latisha McNeil, Greensboro's first director of community safety, delivered a keynote presentation that explored the essential components of a violence prevention ecosystem.



Attendees networked and collaborated to discuss strategies for advancing violence prevention efforts within their regions.



Twelve organizations showcased their work at the conference, giving attendees the chance to connect with violence prevention resources available around the state.



Desiree Lakey, Program Coordinator at NC OVP, led a panel discussion about the intersection of law enforcement within violence prevention.

Watch recordings of the 2025 conference presentations

Strengthening Violence Prevention Programs through Expert Evaluation Support

Program evaluation planning can often feel overwhelming, expensive, and out of reach. However, intentional evaluation is critical to developing and

sustaining effective violence prevention programming.

To help make evaluation more accessible, NC OVP partnered with the Southern Injury Prevention Institute (SIPI) to provide free, one-on-one consultations with experienced program evaluators during this year's Violence Prevention conference. Through these tailored sessions, attendees had the opportunity to begin the initial steps of developing an evaluation plan, receive expert feedback on their existing evaluation plan, or get support on analyzing evaluation data.

This partnership furthers our commitment to the public health approach by providing violence prevention organizations access to data-driven tools and strategies to enhance and sustain their work. We extend our sincere thanks to SIPI for their partnership and for sharing their expertise with our conference attendees.

Learn more about SIPI

Thank you to the sponsors of the 2025 NC Violence Prevention Conference!





We thank our sponsors for their investment in building safer, more resilient communities in North Carolina. Their support helped to create a more enriching and valuable conference.



Partnership Spotlight

The CCM-C Toolkit for Self-Directed Violence Prevention in Carceral Settings, Developed in Partnership Between the NC Department of Adult Corrections and UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center

The Core Competency Model for Corrections (CCM-C) Self-Directed Violence Prevention Training Toolkit was recently developed by the NC Department of Adult Corrections (NC DAC) and UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center (VPC). This statewide corrections-academic partnership grew from a shared commitment to support prevention of suicide and

self-injury, collectively referred to as self-directed violence (SDV), among incarcerated adults in NC prisons.

Incarcerated adults are among those at highest risk for SDV, yet historically, few prevention tools have been specifically designed for this population. Correctional BHCs are often tasked with preventing SDV, a demanding role that can have negative impacts on their overall well-being, underscoring the need to strengthen the well-being correctional behavioral health clinicians (BHC).

The CCM-C Toolkit is a free resource that provides training in evidence-based clinical care and clinician self-management for SDV prevention in carceral systems. It is designed for correctional system leadership and BHCs that support incarcerated adults.

CCM-C includes an array of resources, such as:

- Training Slidedecks
- SDV Risk Assessment and Management Training Participant Manual
- Self-Injury Assessment Protocol for Corrections Rating Sheet and User Guide
- Implementation Guide

The Toolkit can be used in clinical practice, supervision, degree training programs, and a variety of other settings.

View the CCM-C Toolkit

The toolkit is the result of more than six-years of work, beginning with the NC DAC Suicide Prevention Workgroup and culminating in a two-year pilot trial of the CCM-C training programs. A two-year grant secured from the NC Department of Health and Human Services supported NC DAC and UNC Charlotte VPC in jointly preparing, delivering, evaluating, and refining the CCM-C program. The process was a 50-50 effort: NC DAC served as the corrections subject-matter expert and led implementation of the training, while UNC Charlotte VPC created self-directed violence prevention content and led evaluation. In the future, NC DAC aims to partner with additional carceral systems to increase implementation and evaluation in other correctional and forensic settings.

Results of the <u>training evaluation trial can be found here</u>.

Share about your program or partnership with us!

NC OVP wants to share the incredible work you all are doing across the state. Are you excited about a new or existing violence prevention program in your area? Does your organization have a partnership that is helping better serve the needs of your community? We want to hear from you!



Upcoming Events

Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education and The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) Webinar: Navigating IRBs in Firearm Violence Research: What You Need to Know

Date: December 10, 2025, 1:00 PM (EST)

Doing research that engages or interacts directly with people ("human subjects research") involves working with an institutional review board (IRB). IRBs help to support responsible clinical and behavioral research by protecting the rights and welfare of participants. During this session, join experts to learn about when and why an IRB is needed; IRB processes, requirements, and timelines; how IRBs can facilitate or hinder equity in research, and unique considerations for working with an IRB when doing firearm injury research and community-based work.

Learn more and register

North Carolina Victim's Assistance Network's (NCVAN) 9th Annual Candlelight Vigil

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6pm

Location: NCVAN Crime Victim Memorial Garden, 106 E. Lane St., Raleigh, NC 27601

The NC Victim's Assistance Network (NCVAN) will be hosting a candlelight vigil ceremony in remembrance of the lives taken by violence in NC. This annual event is held during the National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month (November 20 – December 20). Click here for more information

Click for more information



Resources For Action

Data: Review Your County Violence Profile!

In early 2025, NC OVP released one-page county violence profiles for all 100 counties in NC. Health and criminal justice data are combined in the profiles to display county violence trends in an easy-to-read fact sheet.

Explore County
Profiles

Funding Opportunities:

- <u>National Grassroots Organizing Program</u>, Ben & Jerry's Foundation Rolling Deadline
- <u>Causal Research on Community Safety and the Criminal Justice</u>
 <u>System, Arnold Ventures</u> Rolling Deadline
- NC DPS Governor's Crime Commission is accepting applications from December 1 to January 31 for the following federal grant programs:
 - State Crisis Intervention Response Grant
 - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants
 - Residential Substance Abuse & Treatment Grants



Job Opportunities

NC OVP is Hiring!

The NC Office of Violence Prevention is hiring an epidemiologist for a 10-month position. Interested applicants can submit their resume and request additional information by emailing ovp@ncdps.gov.

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