Inside **Philanthropy**

The State of American Philanthropy

Giving for Violence Prevention

ABOUT INSIDE PHILANTHROPY

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ABOUT THE STATE OF AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY

The State of American Philanthropy is a series of background papers on important topics and trends in U.S. philanthropy. The papers draw on past research and reporting by IP writers, as well as new interviews, grantmaking data, and other sources. Learn more at insidephilanthropy.com/state-of-american-philanthropy.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence prevention is a perennially underfunded sector of philanthropy, with subtopics straddling criminal justice reform, gender justice, mental health (see separate SAP briefs on those topics) and more. This paper analyzes recent trends, changes, successes and challenges within the myriad areas of violence prevention philanthropy, including:

- Gun violence prevention
- Urban and youth violence
- Interpersonal violence (encompassing sexual violence, gender-based violence, domestic violence and child abuse)
- Programs for at-risk people and youth such as restorative justice, offender rehabilitation and services for survivors.

Who's Giving and Who's Getting

- Community foundations have historically provided the lion's share of private funding in the violence prevention space, with local funders establishing their own programs or supplementing those run by county and city governments. Prominent examples include the Chicago Community Trust and the New York Women's Foundation, but a large number of small community foundations across the U.S. work in this space.

- Legacy foundations, long-established funds and LLCs piloted by living donors are increasingly involved with violence prevention programs, particularly within criminal justice reform portfolios, and with increased funding devoted to areas like police violence and accountability after the 2020 racial justice protests.

- Collaborative funds have emerged as successful vehicles to attract big dollars to topic areas like gun and sexual violence prevention that struggle to attract funding.

- Major areas of funding include programs for at-risk youth, restorative justice, alternatives to incarceration and services for the criminalized, domestic violence shelters, services for survivors, healing justice, legal advocacy and services for women, families, LGBTQI people and immigrants, and leadership development.

The Big Issues and Funding Trends

- Funders increasingly support violence prevention through community development, youth programs and anti-poverty measures rather than the traditional criminal justice system. This represents a shift in philosophy from prioritizing after-the-fact punishment and victim services to prioritizing upstream

prevention. This transition has created renewed debates about how to leverage public-private partnerships; how to work with constituent organizers and community-based organizations; whether to partner with law enforcement; and how to create effective "narrative change" programs targeting socialization, gender norms and cultural attitudes as a core violence prevention method.

- Key funder strategies include supporting data and research initiatives, legal strategies to create long-term change, direct services for survivors, working within specific communities using community violence intervention (CVI) techniques, establishing and growing coalitions to resource underfunded movements, and advocacy efforts highlighting the need for data and research, particularly within gun violence and interpersonal violence prevention.

- Approaching violence prevention with a public health toolkit is becoming popular and successful, particularly in the gun violence prevention space (though straddling all areas of violence prevention). With these new public health strategies, philanthropic funders increasingly focus grant dollars on research, launching pilot programs, supporting programs that address root causes like trauma and poverty, and advocacy campaigns that encourage the uptake of this approach among public health and governmental entities.

- With increases in violent crime throughout the U.S. in 2020 and 2021, violence prevention funders feel a renewed sense of urgency, both in terms of scaling up successful programs, and defending upstream prevention and community-based strategies against a conservative backlash that doubles down on punitive approaches that would bolster the already bloated and failing system of mass incarceration.

Equity in the Sector

- Equity analysis is central to violence prevention philanthropy. Minority and vulnerable communities are more likely to be affected by violence—as perpetrators, survivors or both perpetrator and survivor. Increasingly, funders are more aware of intersectionality and the complex circumstances that create violence.

- Larger funders have recently stepped up their efforts to fund BIPOC-led, LGBTQI-led and constituent-led organizations, as well as to empower these organizations with multi-year, general operating support grants. There is a major new focus on survivor-led justice, ranging from healing programs for survivors to centering and implementing survivor solutions to the problem of violence.

- There remains a troubling lack of funding for mental health and substance abuse programs, as well as programs focused on Latinx, Native American and immigrant populations affected by violence.

- Racial equity funder collaboratives, including the Black Girl Freedom Fund and the NYC Fund for Women and Girls of Color, are becoming important sources of support for violence prevention organizations.

Violence prevention funders and their grantees face deep challenges, but also have novel opportunities. On the one hand, recent social movements have brought attention to violence prevention causes. These notably include the #MeToo movement, the racial justice uprisings in 2020, and the youth movement that emerged after the deadly Parkland High School shooting in 2018. Despite these infusions of energy, gun violence and interpersonal violence prevention remain some of the most significantly underfunded areas in philanthropy, as well as in the public sector. Funders, nonprofits and activists alike have increasingly shifted their attention to subverting the long-standing cultural, institutional, legal and political realities that stand in the way of lasting change.

Introduction

Violence prevention giving is an innovative, evolving area of philanthropy that stands at the intersections of criminal justice reform, gender equality, safety and community development. Some of the newer violence prevention methods are novel and emergent, including cognitive behavioral interventions and hospital-based violence prevention. In the areas of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual violence, funders are increasingly combining older methods—like providing counseling and temporary housing to survivors—with newer methods to end the cycle of abuse via cultural change, healing and community engagement.

Not coincidentally, violence prevention also stands at the intersection of three recent social movements that seek transformative change and accountability. In 2017, this was the #MeToo movement, which demanded long overdue attention to the plague of gender-based sexual violence. In 2018, a student-led movement organized the March For Our Lives to protest gun violence. In 2020, arguably the largest and most widespread protests in modern U.S. history erupted in unified resistance to state-sanctioned violence and police brutality.

What unites these movements of outrage is the yearning for a less violent society; one that is freed from the manifestations of a U.S. culture that has been built upon a racist, colonialist, and patriarchal past and present. Compared with many other wealthy nations around the world, people within the U.S. experience remarkably high levels of violence. The gun homicide rate in the United States, for example, is 25 times higher than the combined average for all other wealthy nations.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for Black men ages 15 to 34. A 2018 analysis of the 193 member countries of the U.N. ranked the U.S. the 10th worst country for women, largely due to the prevalence of sexual, interpersonal and gun violence in the U.S.

Despite these jarring realities, violence prevention has not been a priority for the vast majority of U.S. funders. The subtopics of gun violence prevention and interpersonal violence prevention, in particular, are alarmingly underfunded compared to the scope of these problems.

At Inside Philanthropy, our writers have sometimes struggled to convey the extent of the under-resourcing of these issues. A 2016 article about philanthropic funding for intimate partner violence noted that "despite the scope and consequences, funders are still surprisingly scarce." On the same topic, a 2021 article characterized funding as "miniscule" and noted that a Candid grant search for domestic violence organizations turned up 74 organizations, whereas a search for animal welfare programs turned up 18,000 organizations. Meanwhile, in a 2021 article, Inside Philanthropy writer Philip Rojc lamented that "for all the carnage —over 43,000 gun violence deaths in the supposed lockdown year of 2020—philanthropy's footprint in the gun violence prevention space is far from deep."

This brief will explore grant data, recent news and research, past coverage of violence prevention at Inside Philanthropy, and interviews with key funders in order to provide an assessment of the current trajectory, challenges and themes within violence prevention philanthropy. This is an under-resourced area of philanthropy that has struggled for decades to attract the funding that it needs. Regarding gun violence, this is partly due to a

political deadlock and the influence of the National Rifle Association (NRA). In the areas of gender-based and sexual violence, the perennial funding shortfalls are associated with the larger failure to properly fund gender equity and justice work.

For the purposes of this brief, "violence prevention" includes the funding areas of interpersonal violence (including domestic violence, gender-based violence and child abuse), sexual violence and sexual harassment, crime prevention, gun violence prevention, and the programming areas that serve as alternatives to the traditional criminal justice system for violent offenders or people at risk of violence, including restorative justice, healing justice, programs for at-risk youth, rehabilitation of offenders and alternatives to incarceration. Taken together, these programs represent an ongoing experiment in strategies for reducing violence apart from the punitive U.S. legal system, which has relied on mass incarceration as the primary means of dealing with violent offenders.

The subtopics listed above are not typically found within the same funding portfolios at major U.S. philanthropies. Gun violence prevention, for example, is typically housed within a criminal justice reform program; interpersonal violence prevention work might be found within a gender justice or equity portfolio. This Violence Prevention brief was inspired by our recent State of American Philanthropy report on Criminal Justice Reform, found here. While researching this report, we identified several "orphan causes" that are widely recognized as vital, yet don't have a clearly delineated program area within the larger philanthropic landscape. These issues — like gun violence prevention, domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention and childhood sexual abuse prevention—are all types of violence prevention, so we decided to dig deeper and weave together the disparate threads with this Violence Prevention brief.

The Candid grant data in this report excludes the overlapping issues of human rights, civil rights, demilitarization efforts, and human trafficking, in part because many U.S.-based funders focus on the international context for these issues, and in part because other State of American Philanthropy papers cover these issues. While these are excluded from the data, they will be included in our conversation and analysis. LGBTQ+ and BIPOC-led civil rights organizations and funders, in particular, are involved in violence prevention even though they're not primarily considered violence prevention organizations. Nonprofits and funders such as the Fund for Trans Generations, Latino Justice, the Horizons Foundation and Solutions Not Punishment all explicitly devote part of their programming or funding to violence prevention work.

There are many overlaps between the subtopics of violence prevention philanthropy. A number of gun violence prevention organizations, for example, highlight the relevance of domestic violence in their work; conversely, funders of interpersonal violence prevention might also fund efforts to curb gun violence. Meanwhile, the recent proliferation of healing and restorative justice organizations approach the problem of violence with an intersectional, inclusive lens that aims to disrupt the cycles of violence and trauma both between individuals and within communities. What generally unites the different types of violence prevention organizations and funders is a growing awareness of intersectionality paired with a desire to address the root causes.

Aleyamma Mathew, the executive director of the Collective Future Fund (CFF), spoke in a recent interview with IP's Martha Ramirez about why violence prevention is often overlooked by institutional funders. CFF formed in 2018 as an outgrowth of the #MeToo movement to fund grassroots organizations working on interpersonal violence prevention. While CFF amassed support from a number of mainstream funders, including Ford Foundation and Melinda French Gates' Pivotal Ventures, it is one of the only existing funds focused specifically on gender-based violence in the United States.

According to Mathew, the lack of an intersectional approach in philanthropy often relegates gender and violence to a category within larger funding efforts for racial and criminal justice, which in turn means that organizations focusing primarily on safety get little to no funding. "Our mandate at CFF is not only to fund movements that are working to end gender-based violence, but it's also to raise the visibility of the ways that violence is used as a strategic tool within larger patriarchal and white supremacist systems," Mathew said. "I think we both want to problematize these legacies of violence and see how they show up institutionally and culturally, but we also want to really lift up these legacies of work—movement-building work—toward equity, by centering violence."

The Lay of the Land

Who's Giving

Funding for violence prevention has slowly but steadily increased in recent years. In past decades, violence prevention efforts were largely spearheaded by community foundations serving specific cities or states, with a handful of national foundations with criminal justice or gender equity portfolios provided funding, as well. In the area of domestic violence, foundations associated with corporations, such as the Mary Kay, Avon and All State foundations, have also been involved.

But in general, community foundations have provided the majority of private support, often as a supplement to governmental funding. This is true for both interpersonal violence (including domestic, gender-based and sexual violence) and street violence (including urban violence and the rehabilitation of violent offenders).

10 Institutional Funders to Know: Violence Prevention[1]

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
NoVo Foundation
Howard G. Buffett Foundation
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
The California Endowment
Blue Shield of California Foundation
Chicago Community Trust
Arnold Ventures
Ford Foundation
Annie E. Casey Foundation

Source: Candid

In recent years, large private foundations and living donor LLCs—often national in scope—have become more involved, particularly regarding gun violence, alternatives to incarceration, police violence, rehabilitation of offenders, restorative justice and survivor-led justice initiatives. There have been more collaborative funding efforts and public-private partnerships, as well as funding from celebrity donors. Corporations have historically avoided violence prevention, particularly anything related to gun violence and violent crime.

Candid data indicates that between 2014 and 2018, the three violence prevention funders giving the most were the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, NoVo Foundation and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. Other large givers include the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (a nonprofit with revenues from government and foundations functioning as a grantmaking intermediary to organizations throughout the state); Chicago Community Trust, which funds a wide and growing array of violence prevention strategies; and The California Endowment, a private, state-focused foundation that takes a holistic approach to public health and safety.

This brief covers grant data via 990s available through Candid from 2014 to 2018 and therefore does not capture the surge in anti-violence funding associated with the 2020 racial justice uprisings. Criminal justice portfolios at major national funders have substantially increased.

Not all criminal justice reform work is violence prevention work, but a significant portion is, especially within the programming areas of community violence intervention, rehabilitation of offenders, alternatives to incarceration, and programs to end the cycle of violence by supporting

healing and trauma-informed initiatives. We can therefore expect that the recent cash infusions into criminal justice and racial justice portfolios will result in a sizable increase in grant opportunities available for nonprofits engaged in this type of violence prevention work.

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) has become the largest justice reform funder in the nation; in 2021, it announced a five-year, $350 million commitment to justice reform. Other major national foundations or LLCs that recently turbocharged their criminal justice giving include Arnold Ventures, Open Philanthropy, Emerson Collective, Open Society Foundations and Ford Foundation. We will look at their work more deeply in the private foundations and major donors sections of this report.

Collaborative funds, giving circles and funds housed at women's foundations are another source of funding for violence prevention. Examples include the Hope and Heal Fund in California; the Fund for the Me Too Movement and Allies at the New York Women's Foundation; the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities in Chicago; the Fund for a Safer Future (national); the Collective Future Fund (national); and the Just Beginnings Collaborative (national). The vital role of women's foundations will be explored in depth in the community foundations section of this report.

In recent years, some notable corporate givers have stepped up to the plate. Following the rapid growth of the #MeToo movement, corporations like Uber and CBS provided funding to sexual violence prevention organizations. In the area of gun violence—which has historically been anathema for corporations—there was some movement (albeit relatively small) in 2018, following the deadly shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida. And in the areas of restorative justice and incarceration alternatives, corporate funders like Microsoft, Google and Sony have all entered the scene. Notably, Microsoft is the only corporate partner among 13 private philanthropic funders in the Biden administration's new anti-violence collaborative, which was announced in June 2021.

Individual and celebrity donors contributed to anti-violence work in 2017 during the height of the #MeToo movement, and again in 2020, when police violence and incarceration alternatives were in the spotlight. In 2020, the philanthropist MacKenzie Scott granted large sums to organizations focused on violence prevention.

Inside Philanthropy
August 2020 Survey

"The #MeToo movement has brought about a lot of interest in women's issues and domestic violence. There is a greater dialogue being had and an interest in learning about domestic violence. Also, the conversation around toxic masculinity and how it relates to male victims of domestic violence will continue to grow interest in our field."

—Fundraiser, Reading, Pennsylvania

In total, Candid data from 2014 to 2018 captures approximately $3.6 billion in crime and violence prevention-related funding. This number encapsulates the combined categories of abuse prevention (including all forms of interpersonal violence), crime prevention (which includes gun control), and funding for prison alternatives and rehabilitation of offenders. According to Candid, total funding for all philanthropic sectors, 2014 to 2018, was $366 billion. Crime and violence prevention-related funding thus comprises about 1% of total philanthropic funding in the U.S.

The insufficiency of the $3.6 billion grantmaking figure is underscored by the fact that this data takes into account all types of violence prevention work, including sexual violence, community-based prison alternatives, violent crime prevention and neighborhood anti-violence programs. This report will deeply explore how violence prevention and anti-violence philanthropy, while anemically underfunded, is currently in a phase of growth and innovation, with an intense new focus on creating safe communities, research and data collection, restorative justice, healing from trauma and survivor-focused initiatives.

Who's Getting

There are many ways to track which types of organizations are attracting funding. Candid's data tagging identifies crime and violence prevention-related funding according to a number of umbrella categories and subcategories, which provides a helpful starting point. One of these umbrella categories is abuse prevention, which includes the subcategories of child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. The total 2014–2018 funding amount for abuse prevention was approximately $1.7 billion, with $630 million allocated to child abuse and $424 million to domestic violence.

Interestingly, the separate category of domestic violence shelters, which Candid categorizes as a supportive housing service, saw more than double the funding as the domestic violence category— at over $1 billion between 2014 and 2018, funding for violence shelters thus comprises almost one-third of total philanthropic funding for all categories related to crime and violence prevention between 2014 and 2018. This tracks with philanthropy's historical focus on providing services to victims rather than advocacy, prevention and addressing root causes of violence. As we will explore in subsequent sections of this brief, this is beginning to change, while services for survivors continue to be important.

Another major Candid category is crime prevention, which includes funding for gun safety and community violence prevention, at-risk youth programs, public-private collaborations with police agencies, narcotics and cybercrime. (Despite the tough-on-crime connotations of narcotics, this largely refers to public-private partnerships to establish mental health and substance abuse programs for at-risk youth or the formerly incarcerated.) Total funding levels for crime prevention, 2014–2018, was just over $1 billion.

Notably, total funding for the gun control subcategory within crime prevention was around $127 million, almost half of which came in 2018 on the heels of the Parkland shooting. Other related categories include rehabilitation for offenders ($117 million), prison alternatives ($237 million), and sexual assault victim services ($319 milion).

10 Violence Prevention Recipients to Watch[1]

Council for a Stronger America
Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund
Project Harmony
Children's Institute, Inc.
Tides Center
Sojourner Family Peace Center
Polaris Project
Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc.
New Venture Fund
Chicago CRED

Source: Candid

In the years since 2018, the categories of crime prevention, rehabilitation and prison alternatives in particular have seen funding surges as part of philanthropy's racial justice renaissance. In the Perspectives on Equity section of this brief, we will explore this growth and the extent to which it also benefits organizations working primarily on sexual and gender-based violence.

In practice, of course, there is often significant overlap between the different funding categories, particularly because violence prevention organizations have increasingly adopted an intersectional and holistic approach. Many prison alternative programs, for example, are housed within restorative justice organizations that also provide services for survivors of violent crime. Indeed, the traditional division of philanthropic funding into categories that refer to the crime survivor ("victim services") and the crime perpetrator ("prison alternatives") does not effectively reflect the reality on the ground, where restorative justice and healing justice organizations often work with both survivor and perpetrator (often, individuals themselves are both survivors and perpetrators).

Funder Spotlight

THE JUST TRUST

Formed as an independent organization with an initial $350 million investment from CZI, the Just Trust is spending five years focusing exclusively on criminal justice advocacy. Taking a state-based approach, the trust supports efforts that are shrinking the footprint of the criminal justice system; advocating for alternatives to historical approaches to crime and violence; building a more humane justice system; and working on proactive solutions centered on safety and crime prevention.

An example of this is the Alliance for Safety and Justice, which defines itself as "a multi-state organization that aims to replace over-incarceration with more effective public safety solutions rooted in crime prevention, community health, rehabilitation and support for crime victims." Its core programming areas straddle the traditional divide between violence prevention (focused on would-be perpetrators of violence) and survivor services and advocacy. The alliance's Time Done initiative advocates for the removal of legal and employment barriers for the formerly incarcerated, while its flagship Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice program advocates for survivor-centered public safety solutions that prioritize prevention and recovery rather than incarceration.

Between 2014 and 2018, the Council for a Strong America—a bipartisan nonprofit composed of "police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and violence survivors protecting public safety by promoting solutions that steer kids away from crime"—was the biggest grantee within violence prevention, receiving about $43 million from an assortment of foundations. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has been the largest supporter of the Council, providing nearly $15 million between 2014 and 2018.

The Council for a Strong America's philosophy is to "fight crime, invest in children," and much of its programming involves advocating for childcare, early childhood education, nutrition and youth sports programs. This is emblematic of how the definition of violence prevention has widened to embrace community development and early interventions. RWJF, by its own description, is "America's largest philanthropy dedicated solely to health," and its large-dollar support for an organization like the council shows how funders

increasingly support projects aimed at the intersections of justice, public safety, crime prevention and health. Other funders of the council include an assortment of left-leaning foundations involved in justice reform or gender equity, including the Gates Foundation, Kellogg, Annie E. Casey, the Pritzker Family Foundation and the Heising-Simons Foundation.

The second-largest recipient on Candid's list is the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, which received $42 million from 2014 to 2018. The fund is the "education, research, and education arm" of Everytown for Gun Safety, which is, by far, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the U.S. The support fund's largest 2014–2018 supporter was Bloomberg Philanthropies, which provided $10 million. Everytown was created in 2013 when Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America joined forces, and the majority of funding for Everytown and its initiatives has come from billionaire businessperson and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, though its support base has expanded over the years.

The Everytown Support Fund received a considerable uptick in support in 2018 following the high school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Everytown's prominence and ability to attract funding, however, is not representative of the gun violence prevention issue in general, which receives comparatively little from philanthropic funders. This isn't from a lack of interest, intent or passion for the subject, but because of the political gridlock and the daunting influence of the NRA. As we will explore in the opportunities and challenges section, a still-small but growing base of philanthropic supporters are beginning to approach the epidemic of gun violence as a public health and safety crisis, focusing more on prevention, community safety and cultural change, all while creating renewed legal strategies that focus more on state and county rather than federal law.

Other nonprofits receiving large shares of funder dollars from 2014–2018 included Project Harmony (a child abuse prevention nonprofit in Nebraska), the Children's Institute (supporting healing for families exposed to violence in Los Angeles), Tides Center, the Sojourner Family Peace Center (domestic violence prevention and intervention in Wisconsin), the Polaris Project (working to end sex trafficking in the U.S.), the Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc. (combating domestic violence in Oklahoma), the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Bureau (funded largely by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation), and Chicago CRED (a newer violence prevention organization seeded and largely funded by the Emerson Collective).

Initiative Spotlight
EVERYTOWN LAW

An initiative of Everytown for Gun Safety, Everytown Law is "the largest team of litigators in the country dedicated to advancing gun safety in the courts and through the civil and criminal justice systems." Its team works with private citizens and governments providing free legal representation and guidance on gun safety and gun safety laws across the country.

As this sampling of recipients indicates, much work in the violence prevention space is locally focused. This is especially true for domestic, interpersonal, familial and sexual violence, where larger national initiatives and collaborations are few—and where philanthropic support is often a supplement to government contracts and grants.

In recent years, however, national campaigns and advocacy efforts related to violence prevention have begun to emerge. These newer collaboratives are often funded by restorative justice, prison alternatives, or survivor-led justice programs at criminal justice reform funders, many of them with a deeply intersectional focus embedded with grassroots organizing and advocacy. There are also new streams of funding for research and advocacy efforts vis-a-vis crime and violence prevention.

Restorative justice organizations in particular are receiving increased attention from funders. Many of these organizations are newer and smaller, but they're growing. Impact Justice, a leading restorative justice nonprofit, defines restorative justice as "addressing harm through dialogue." These programs implement a restorative, rather than punitive, approach to solving the problem of violence. This includes pre-arrest diversion, which refers to preventing arrest by providing mental health services, trauma counseling, and a panoply of services for at-risk youth such as education and job-training programs. Other types of restorative justice programming include help for substance abuse, dialogues between victim and perpetrator, and opportunities to accept accountability for the harm caused. Research organizations like the Brennan Center for Justice and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice increasingly prioritize research into the efficacy of these types of safety efforts.

These programs are particularly prevalent within juvenile justice ("meeting survivor needs without reliance on youth criminalization," as Impact Justice puts it) and centering survivor-identified needs in intimate partner violence and sexual harm. Taken together, these restorative justice pilot programs are essentially test balloons for a complete reimagining of the justice system.

Organizations involved in this work include Common Justice, the Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice, Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, the Transformational Prison Project, the Black Youth Project 100's (BYP100) She Safe, We Safe campaign, Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), Contra Costa Family Justice Center and the National Black Women's Justice Institute.

The Big Issues and Debates

Violence prevention philanthropy is shifting and expanding as a larger societal discussion has taken root about public safety and the desired balance between law enforcement approaches and community health, safety and development approaches. Thanks in large part to grassroots organizing and movement-building associated with the Movement for Black Lives, more funders—even centrist and right-of-center funders—are now questioning whether mass incarceration is the best solution for violent crime. The "tough on crime" era of the 1980s and 1990s centered on law enforcement and legal system reforms as the go-to strategies for addressing violence. But now, grantors and nonprofits alike are adopting a holistic life-cycle approach that focuses on the creation of safe, healthy and economically vibrant communities.

In other words, the lenses through which violence prevention is viewed have changed, particularly among progressive funders and organizations. Major funders are finally heeding the long-standing calls of grassroots organizations to prioritize community-based solutions to local problems—and as a result, constituents, crime survivors, crime perpetrators and community-based organizations now play a larger role in violence prevention philanthropy and its funding priorities. The

solutions to violence put forth by a Black crime survivor in an urban neighborhood might look different than the solutions proposed by a white, Ivy League-educated attorney serving as executive director for a criminal justice reform nonprofit.

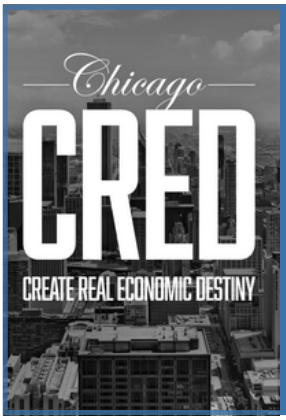
"I have noticed that lately, there is an increased emphasis on community-driven strategy development," says Jennifer Keeling, director of strategic partnerships at Chicago CRED, an anti-gun violence organization started in 2016. CRED was one of the six founding funders of the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities, a violence prevention funding collaborative that has disbursed $95 million since 2016. In her role at CRED, Keeling oversees the partnership's philanthropic collaborations, which now number 50 foundations and funders.

"Many years ago, it was more the case that you would have researchers and public sector leaders, and some nonprofit leaders, coming together to develop a strategy and figure out a plan and implement it," Keeling continues. "This doesn't get to the root of what people are experiencing, and starting from their perspective and building from there. People know what their neighborhoods need. It's our job in philanthropy to listen and work with the community in a true engagement process. And I have seen philanthropy taking that to heart."

Along with these changing priorities are new debates and growing pains, as funders and nonprofits question their past priorities and launch pilot projects to test the viability of new strategies and tactics. Some of the big issues now attracting funder attention include:

Disrupting the Cycles of Trauma and Violence. The philosophy of prevention rather than punishment undercuts so many of today's newer violence prevention programs. Lucia Corral Peña, senior program officer for domestic and family violence at the Blue Shield of California Foundation, spoke with Inside Philanthropy about her foundation's expanded focus from supporting survivors after they experience abuse to include ending the cycles of abuse and violence.

"Our systems are oriented around crisis interventions," says Peña. "And in the domestic violence field, that means law enforcement engagement or the domestic violence shelter system." Peña says that in earlier years, Blue Shield was more involved with funding and engaging with these crisis intervention models. And while they continue to fund the core safety net of the shelter system, beginning in 2018, Blue Shield overhauled its giving priorities to prioritize multi-generational violence prevention and cultural change. Its domestic violence program is now called Break the Cycle of Domestic Violence.



"There are a lot of areas where we can work alongside police officers or police commanders where there is a realization that there are different roles we can play—having an outreach worker come will have a different outcome than cars coming in with lights and sirens. So that kind of working together happens in Chicago, but it's not something that is institutionalized within CPD [Chicago Police Department], or at the level of CPD fundamentally changing how it does community policing. And that's ultimately where we need to get to."

—Jennifer Keeling, director of strategic partnerships, Chicago CRED

"When a child is a witness to domestic violence or a victim of physical or sexual violence, that is a huge risk factor for future perpetration and victimization," Peña says. "It sounds obvious, but the field [philanthropy] wasn't looking at that perspective, and was largely focused on victimization. But there is so much fuel propelling this cycle of abuse," Peña says. "So you need to be focused on also addressing trauma and healing."

Addressing multigenerational trauma is becoming an important strategy for all types of violence prevention organizations and funders, and is a major part of restorative justice and healing justice programming. That said, emergency services for victims continue to be a priority, and organizations like Blue Shield are experimenting with the correct balance of prevention and victim services with their grantmaking.

The Role of Law Enforcement. Funders and nonprofits are grappling with how, and whether, to partner with law enforcement as part of their violence prevention work. Police violence and brutality is now a more prominent part of the conversation, and over-policing is widely understood as part of the problem of violence in the U.S. Many funders support programs to prevent police violence and increase accountability for police violence while also partnering—sometimes extensively—with police departments on other safety initiatives. It's a tenuous balance, and debates around #Defundthepolice and #Abolishthepolice are ongoing and pertinent.

There are, in fact, many active and successful collaborations between violence prevention funders, violence prevention nonprofits and law enforcement. For many years, these collaborations were the default. Arnold Ventures and the MacArthur Foundation are two of the larger funders that collaborate extensively with law enforcement. Their programs include working with law enforcement to connect homeless people to services; training law enforcement to assist in outreach with mental health professionals; and partnering with law enforcement on data collection and analysis on issues ranging from parole policy to predicting which individuals in a community are most likely to commit a violent crime.

Inside **Philanthropy**
August 2020 Survey

"Policing, specifically looking at alternatives to arrests and alternative ways to fund local police departments, has become an area of intense interest since the murder of George Floyd."

—Foundation Professional, New York, New York

According to Jennifer Keeling at Chicago CRED, collaborations between police and community-based nonprofits working on violence reduction do happen, but are spotty at best. "There are a lot of areas where we can work alongside police officers or police commanders," Keeling says, "where there is a realization that there are different roles we can play – having an outreach worker come will have a different outcome than cars coming in with lights and sirens. So that kind of working together happens in Chicago, but it's not something that is institutionalized within CPD [Chicago Police Department], or at the level of CPD fundamentally changing how it does community policing. And that's ultimately where we need to get to."

Widening Approaches to Gun Violence Prevention. In the past several years, gun violence prevention funders have pivoted, and are now funding a wider array of strategies in their efforts to address the massive problem of gun violence. In past decades, gun violence programs focused on

legal and policy changes. While these remain central to the strategy, a new public health orientation is attracting funding to research and community violence intervention strategies (CVI), which this brief explores further in the following section.

"For too long, the gun violence crisis in America has been viewed primarily through a criminal justice lens," says David Brotherton, the fund advisor for gun violence prevention at Kendeda Fund. "From policymakers to law enforcement to the philanthropic community, society has wrongly viewed the problem as one of laws and enforcement and criminalization. That thinking is wholly insufficient and largely misguided, in my view. Fortunately, though, the tide is turning, and funders, to their credit, are seeing gun violence as the public health crisis that it actually is."

Funder Collaborative Spotlight

Fund for a Safer Future

Fund for a Safer Future is a national network of funders supporting "common-sense policy reform in targeted regions across the country." Established in 2011, the collaborative is currently comprised of 26 foundations and individual donors and has awarded over $15 million in grants to organizations working to reduce gun violence in the United States.

When gun violence—which includes accidents and suicides—is viewed as a public health crisis rather than primarily as a criminal matter, the need for research and prevention becomes clear. "Much in the same way we address an outbreak of a virus or infectious disease, so, too, can we address the root causes of gun violence at the source," Brotherton says. In addition to leading the GVP program at Kendeda, Brotherton is the vice chair at Fund for a Safer Future (FSF), a funder collaborative that launched in 2011 with five funders. Today, FSF has over 30 funders and has given $110 million in aligned grantmaking. FSF expects to hire its first full-time director in 2022. Its growth is evidence of the expansion and renewed energy in the field.

Much of the new energy is targeted toward research and data gathering, which was previously stagnant thanks to a 1996 federal budget amendment championed by the NRA, known as the Dickey Amendment, that barred the CDC from using funds to "advocate or promote gun control." According to Brotherton, this was "widely interpreted as prohibiting the funding of research into gun violence. That policy had a chilling effect on the GVP movement, resulting in a dearth of meaningful research across the field, which only further constrained our collective capacity to understand, or address, the problem of gun violence."

In 2018, Congress clarified that the amendment does not prohibit federal funding of research into the causes of gun violence. The public health orientation is now becoming paramount for gun violence prevention, and this clarification of the Dickey Amendment is emboldening funders to resource the field. After years of neglect, there is much work to be done.

"We believe that having more and better research may help develop political consensus. Agreeing on facts about gun policies is a good first step, and if we had more information about what is credibly known, we may make more progress," says Asheley Van Ness, director of criminal justice at Arnold Ventures, which launched the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research in 2018 with $20 million in seed funding. "America's gun

violence crisis merits a robust policy response—one driven by a sense of urgency, and just as importantly, backed by evidence and data that shows interventions are effective and sustainable."

Van Ness says that one of the key data gaps, which Arnold Ventures has partnered with the Joyce Foundation to address, is the basic gun data infrastructure—fundamental data on gun possession, distribution, ownership, acquisition and storage. "Much of the problem with firearms data infrastructure can be fixed with changes in how agencies manage data and how they prioritize data collection and release," Van Ness says. The goal is to pair improved data infrastructure with new research into gun violence to create baseline knowledge for a public health response to the gun violence epidemic.

Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships. Finding the best ways to leverage public-private partnerships is a central issue for violence prevention funders. On the one hand, public funding for violence prevention is vital for many violence prevention nonprofits. In the areas of domestic and sexual violence, for example, it's common for organizations to receive most of their funding through public grants and supplemental funding through the private sector. But on the other hand, government funding tends to prioritize methods that the philanthropic sector is moving away from, such as overreliance on the domestic violence shelter system as a panacea for the problem of domestic violence, or forcing survivors of violence into a bureaucracy that doesn't address their true needs.

For those working on violence prevention in the private sector, a looming question is whether the public sector—via policies, local budgets and governmental organizations—will finally begin to embrace community-based preventative strategies on a larger scale, rather than continue to direct the vast bulk of funding to the system of mass incarceration. The Biden administration's recent funding commitment to community-based violence intervention methods is an indication that greater public uptake is on the horizon, as this brief will explore further.

Program Spotlight

SAFELY HOME

Safely Home is a nationwide campaign of Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) that works collaboratively with communities to increase local capacity for at risk youth (ages 0-25) to remain living safely with their families. The campaign also aims to reduce and prevent unnecessary out-of-home placements and offers resources to help young people and their families improve their overall intellectual, physical and social well-being. Safely Home is supported by organizations such as the National Juvenile Justice Network and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

Nicole Pittman, executive director at the Just Beginnings Collaborative, says that government funding—as well as most nonprofit work—in the area of interpersonal violence is focused on what happens after violence has occurred, rather than working to prevent violence. "I used to be involved in the policy work," Pittman says, "and everything we do with interpersonal violence is after the fact. We come in once the harm has happened. We have almost thrown up our hands and said, 'it is inevitable.' But we have to look at the conditions before harm happens—the power structures, the relationships."

Pittman says that the government's punitive solutions to violence are also incredibly wasteful. Citing her years of experience in California working on child sexual abuse issues, Pittman says, "we will spend upwards of $200 million [annually] on the registration of people who have committed sex offenses, things like electronic monitoring, and $46,000 on prevention. So if we are talking about how to end harm, we can't do it if we continue with this government model."

An option for violence prevention funders and nonprofits is to steer government funders, entities and budgets in the direction of prevention-oriented strategies. One example of success with this endeavor can be found with Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), an organization working with at-risk youth on a range of violence prevention strategies, including community-based violence interruption models, alternatives to youth incarceration and restorative justice programs. YAP partners with governments at every level, from federal to municipal, and with law enforcement and governmental agencies, including probation offices and departments of children and family services.

Research Spotlight

DUKE CENTER FOR FIREARMS LAW

Established in 2019, the Duke Center for Firearms Law works on advancing the field of non-partisan scholarship on firearms law and serving as a reliable scholarly resource for key stakeholders such as judges, policymakers, and citizens. The center "is devoted to the development and dissemination of reliable and balanced scholarship on issues surrounding firearms, gun rights and regulation, and the Second Amendment."

According to Carla Powell, chief of advancement and development at YAP, communities across the country are investing in violence interruption programs—so much so, in fact, that cities now approach YAP with interest in their model. Powell says that on the heels of the racial justice protests in 2020, government funders are interested in alternative strategies, and communities are developing task forces for violence interruption.

"There is a conversation now about public safety, and government funders are coming to the table and saying they want to be a part of the solution," says Powell. She adds that as more data emerges showing the effectiveness of violence prevention and interruption pilot programs, government partnership opportunities are increasing.

Funder Trends & Strategies

Funders across the U.S. are implementing violence prevention strategies and philosophies, including legal and policy changes, data collection and research, healing programs, community health and development, community-based intervention strategies for at-risk youth, alternatives to incarceration, rehabilitation, counseling, education and job training services for people at risk of committing or being victimized by violence, restorative justice, services and advocacy for survivors of violence, changing the cultural narratives about violence, and increasingly, focusing on voting and local politics as a way to head off legislative, judicial and policy stalemates.

The field is also in a place of self-reflection and growth. As the larger racial justice movement is focusing philanthropic giving on justice reform issues, violence prevention funders are assessing past failures and launching research and pilot projects to test the best pathways forward.

"One of the most important funder trends we are seeing now is understanding how to resource the anti-violence field," says Brook Kelly-Green, senior director of gender and reproductive equity at Schusterman Family Philanthropies. "This is an evolving area that needs investment, and there is currently a void in the funder space that new and existing funders are working collaboratively to fill."

The COVID crisis and the simultaneously occurring uptick in violent crime, particularly gun violence, interpersonal violence—and, worryingly, political violence—has further prompted funders to reassess their strategies and double down on newer, community-based approaches, as well as the urgent need for funding research that shows these approaches to be successful.

Community Violence Intervention strategies (CVIs). Newer programs to combat gun violence focus on community-level interventions that attempt to reach the young people most likely to commit or be victimized by violent acts. There are multiple types of programming in this vein, and research is increasingly backing up their efficacy.

Faith in Action's Live Free campaign has become a prominent advocate for these violence prevention strategies. The Live Free website helpfully breaks down three common types of CVIs: Group violence intervention (GVI), an approach implemented in collaboration with law enforcement that targets the small number of individuals who are most likely to commit violent crime; the cure violence method, which is built around "violence interrupters" working within communities; and hospital-based violence prevention, which trains hospital workers to work with young people hospitalized with gun injuries.

Other types of CVIs include focused deterrence, street outreach and cognitive behavioral therapy. In a broader sense, CVIs are a type of community-based intervention (CBI), a term commonly used to refer to the laundry list of broader community health and development initiatives that target as-risk people and help break the cycles of violence plaguing many communities. These might include mental health, substance abuse, housing, nutrition and education services for at-risk youth.

According to Tim Daly, the program director for gun violence prevention and justice reform at the Joyce Foundation, the growth of CVIs is the most obvious trend in recent years within gun violence prevention philanthropy. "Funders have been joining this effort significantly in recent years: Some funding the local CVI strategies themselves; others funding the development of the research base on these efforts; still others supporting policy and advocacy efforts to increase public dollars dedicated to these strategies; and finally, some investment to elevate the practice of CVI."

In the interview for this brief, Daly was careful to delineate that while philanthropy plays an important role in bolstering research and CVI programs, it is public funding and local budgetary changes that will take violence prevention methods to scale. "CVI efforts require a policy response: Philanthropic dollars alone will never come close to scaling these programs to all of the communities that require them," Daly says. He also points out that an effective policy response is dependent on quality research, which, until recently, has been devastatingly lacking in the area of gun violence prevention. "If and when the funding meets the research need, we will absolutely learn a lot more about the policy and programmatic changes needed to reduce gun violence in this country."

Newer organizations have emerged to connect the growing body of gun violence prevention research with advocacy efforts to enact policy changes based on the research. These include the California Partnership for Safe Communities, the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and the Duke Center for Firearms Law.

To date, the highest profile public effort to support emerging violence prevention strategies is the CVI collaborative, an unprecedented public-private partnership that was announced by the Biden administration in June 2021. The administration will work with a collaboration of 13 philanthropies and one corporation (Microsoft) to support "evidence-based community violence intervention" investments in 15 cities across the U.S. The named philanthropies are a who's who of violence prevention funders, including Joyce, the Annie E. Casey and Ford foundations.

The CVI collaborative is a major part of the Biden administration's larger, "whole of government" strategy to combat gun violence and promote public safety, which was also announced in June 2021. Notably, the administration's toolbox aligns with several other strategies that philanthropic funders have lately been prioritizing, which include data-driven methods to target law enforcement resources to the individuals most likely to commit violent crimes; expanding services (including employment and recreational activities) for at-risk youth; and expanding reentry support systems for the formerly incarcerated.

Nonprofits advocating for or implementing forms of CVI include the National Network for Safe Communities (funded in part by Google's Justice Reform Initiative), the California Partnership for Safe Communities, Cure Violence (funded in part by MacArthur and RWJF), the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs, and the Giffords Law Center.

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"[Funders are neglecting] *reentry from incarceration and opportunities for people who have never been incarcerated but have a criminal record. Much of the emphasis has recently been on stemming the "front end" of incarceration, which is great, but we still have to help the 70 million+ people at the "back end" who already have a criminal history or we will lose generations to poverty and illness."*

—Fundraiser, New York, New York

Direct Services for Survivors. A large proportion of funding for interpersonal violence prevention goes to direct services, including domestic violence shelters, law enforcement programs for survivors, and counseling and mental health services. The philanthropic sector funds only a fraction of these services; domestic violence shelters and halfway houses are funded largely by government grants.

According to Peña at the Blue Shield Foundation, the preponderance of government funding for survivor services leaves domestic violence shelters vulnerable to funding cuts and line-item vetoes. Looking at California as an example, domestic violence shelters receive funding from the federal government via the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, which is then distributed to state agencies or directly to survivor service programs.

After the 2008 financial recession, survivor services were cut in California and other states across the country. Peña says that at the time, organizers in the field worked toward building the

private sector's ability to fill government shortfalls. "We realized the field is vulnerable to public funding," Peña says. "It really prompted the field to organize itself... we wanted more collaboration, leadership and diversification of funding."

More recently, an additional concern is that government-funded programs don't participate much in newer violence prevention strategies, focusing instead on services to survivors and criminalization of perpetrators (who are often themselves survivors of violence). There are growing advocacy efforts to encourage public partners to recognize that resources are needed for prevention. "So the idea is to craft or create solutions that don't allow for things to get to a crisis point where law enforcement or shelters are your two options," Peña says. "How do we get to people sooner?"

Issue Spotlight: Gun Violence Research

According to the CDC, around 109 deaths per day are caused by firearms and 2020 marked one of the deadliest years for gun violence in decades. In response to the growing number of people injured and killed due to gun violence, and for the first time in 20 years, the CDC and the NIH appropriated $25 million in funding for gun violence research. There is also a growing list of private funders supporting gun violence prevention work, including Arnold Ventures, the Joyce Foundation, the Kendeda Fund, and the David Bohnett Foundation.

Data and Research. One of the historic challenges of anti-violence programming is that lack of data makes it difficult to determine what the problems are and how, precisely, to fix them. This is famously true in the area of gun violence prevention, where a 1996 federal gag order essentially barred the CDC from researching gun violence (this was overturned in 2018). The research gap is equally impactful for sexual and gender-based violence, where little is known from a data standpoint.

After decades of stagnation, funding for gun violence research is finally materializing. In 2018, for example, Arnold Ventures committed $20 million in seed funding for the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research. In a 2019 interview with Inside Philanthropy, Jeremy Travis, executive vice president for criminal justice at Arnold Ventures, said the Parkland shooting was an impetus for the decision to step up funding in that area. Other funders supporting gun violence research include Kendeda Fund, Chicago Community Trust and the Heising-Simons Foundation.

In the realms of sexual and domestic violence, an interesting (though underfunded) slate of new research explores connections between interpersonal violence and lifecycle factors such as poverty, housing and access to economic opportunities. The Blue Shield of California Foundation, for example, supports evidence-driven initiatives to prevent domestic violence through paid family leave policies and earned income tax credits. The Allstate Foundation, which has supported anti-domestic-violence work since 2005, funds research into financial abuse and the importance of financial security for women.

Survivor-Led Organizing and Healing. Whether we're talking about survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, or programs that rehabilitate the perpetrators of violence, nonprofit organizations are implementing programs that center the ideas and needs of survivors. More often than not, this results in efforts aimed at healing

and addressing trauma for both survivors and perpetrators (often referred to as "those who cause harm"), which is in stark contrast to the traditional punitive approaches of the criminal justice and legal systems.

That said, many survivor-led initiatives continue to seek punishment, accountability or restitution as a form of healing and justice. This includes efforts to address the rape kit backlog and legal changes that increase conviction rates for perpetrators of domestic violence. Examples of the many organizations active in the survivor-led organizing and healing space include RAINN, the Joyful Heart Foundation, Black Women's Blueprint, A Long Walk Home and The Ahimsa Collective.

Legal Strategies. Despite a growing appreciation for non-legalistic pathways in the pursuit of violence prevention, legal and policy changes remain vitally important. Organizations like March for Our Lives, the Giffords Center, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and Sandy Hook Promise work tirelessly to target specific laws and policies. Examples include the extreme risk or "red flag" laws to disarm would-be shooters; laws that prevent individuals with domestic violence convictions from obtaining firearms; background check laws; and closing gun show and online sales loopholes. There are also broader efforts to reduce the lobbying power of the NRA, to end the filibuster in the U.S. Senate, and to develop second amendment scholarship and litigation strategies to defend evidence-based gun policies against extreme gun rights policies.

Tim Daly at the Joyce Foundation says that while "the political landscape has not made it easy to chart a path of meaningful federal policy reform, philanthropy has found other paths to help drive reform and change—often at the state and local levels." As an example, Daly cites recent success with local efforts to implement risk prevention strategies designed to keep guns away from those most likely to misuse them, as well as new types of court orders allowing law enforcement and families to keep guns out of the hands of people at most risk of violence.

Funder Spotlight

blue of california foundation

According to the Blue Shield of California, 58% of Californians have been impacted by domestic violence. The foundation's Break the Cycle of Domestic Violence program aims to break multigenerational cycles of violence by supporting efforts addressing its root causes. Recent grantees include ValorUS, which received funding for its work combating sexual violence; and Homeboy Industries, which received a grant for its restorative justice and domestic violence prevention programs.

In the areas of gender-based and sexual violence, legal goals include lobbying Congress to increase funding for survivor services via changes to the Victims of Crime Act; ending the rape kit backlog; creating programs and policies for more effective law enforcement responses to domestic violence; changing consent laws; changing the statutes of limitation; and creating family-friendly labor policies. Organizations involved in these arenas include the National Women's Law Center, Raliance, RAINN, the Joyful Heart Foundation and the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Narrative Change and Reimagining Public Safety. Programs and research aimed at changing culture and narratives surrounding violence are

emerging as major funder strategies. Within restorative justice organizations, this entails rethinking "justice reform" as an issue of community safety rather than criminalization. For organizations working on interpersonal violence, there are growing efforts to understand and dismantle the pervasive culture of toxic masculinity. In the gun violence space, there are efforts to recast gun violence as a public health problem rather than focusing so much on the legal system or the narrative that gun violence is primarily about bad people doing bad things.

Funders are beginning to recognize the importance of backing research that informs cultural change work surrounding toxic masculinity and prescribed gender roles. For example, the Culture Change Fund, which started up in 2019 as a project of the California Gender Justice Funders Network, launched with $10 million in seed funding from The California Endowment, the Women's Foundation of California, Blue Shield of California Foundation and others. One of the projects backed by this new collaborative is Story at Scale, shares the stories of people who experience gender-based violence and discrimination. Story at Scale also released a report that explores past research about gender stereotypes and connects these stereotypes to violence and negative attitudes toward people of particular racial and gender identities.

"Funders need to embrace the reality that violence exists on a continuum, and it is deeply rooted in issues of race, economic inequality, community health, education, class, gender and more. We cannot and should not think of suicide, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths, as one problem, and homicide as something completely different."

—David Brotherton, advisor, Gun Violence Prevention, Kendeda Fund

One organization attracting funder attention is A Call to Men, which develops training and education programs to combat the toxic patriarchy and its violent effects. The New York Women's Foundation is a major funder. In a 2017 interview with Inside Philanthropy, the New York Women's Foundation president, Ana Oliveira, said that U.S. culture focuses on penalizing individual men for violence, all while the root causes of this violence remain in place. "The culture at large has condoned these individual behaviors," Oliveira said. "Not only condoned, but enabled... We wanted to extinguish that behavior, and that meant funding not only the transformation of women, but also the transformation of men."

In the area of gun violence, an example of culture change work is the Hope and Heal Fund's collaboration with Berkeley Media Studios to change the narrative around gun violence to focus less on mass shootings and more on the everyday gun violence—including domestic violence, suicide and community violence—that affects communities. Research produced by this partnership found that media coverage of gun violence is focused on mass shootings and largely ignores domestic violence and suicide deaths, which in turn creates a reductionist cultural narrative of gun violence as extreme cases involving evil actors, rather than as a complex, community-level problem that can be solved with community-based solutions.

"Funders need to embrace the reality that violence exists on a continuum, and it is deeply rooted in issues of race, economic inequality, community health, education, class, gender and more," says

Brotherton at the Kendeda Fund. "We cannot and should not think of suicide, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths, as one problem, and homicide as something completely different."

Perspectives on Equity

Equity issues are inextricable from violence prevention work, where racial equity, gender equity, LGBTQ+ equity, economic equity—and the intersections thereof—are paramount. Violence, in many ways, is about manifestations of power dynamics, and populations that are vulnerable or under-resourced are more likely to suffer from violence in their lives and communities.

Many of the well-known statistics fall along the binary gender divide: 1 in 6 women has been the victim of a rape or an attempted rape in their lifetime, as compared to 1 in 33 men, according to the CDC. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in 7 women are severely injured by intimate partners in their lifetime, and 55% of female murder victims are killed by their current or former intimate partner. Outside the realm of interpersonal violence, the majority of murders and violent crimes—sometimes called "youth violence"—are committed by young men, and young men are the victims.

Other demographics are at increased risk of violence. According to RAINN, Native American women are at substantially higher risk of sexual violence than any other racial group. Black women are more likely to be murdered than any other demographic group, and are more likely than white women to be victimized by intimate partner violence. LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be victimized by multiple forms of violence, and Black trans people—standing at the intersection of multiple histories of discrimination and marginalization—are among the most likely demographic to experience violence. Differences in age and income are also key predictors; young people are more likely to both commit and be victims of violence, as are people living in poverty.

There are many ways to slice the data, but what's clear is that marginalization and lack of access to economic, health and educational resources creates circumstances where violence is more likely to take root, thrive and repeat from one generation to the next. After decades of failure to solve the problem through criminalization and incarceration, people working in violence prevention are increasingly centering the ideas and solutions of the people most impacted, and working within communities, rather than the legal systems, to create solutions.

"Our main response to rape and sexual violence is putting men behind bars to be raped," says Nicole Pittman at the Just Beginnings Collaborative. "You can't end violence with violence. We believe we have to go back to the community to resolve these issues. We're also trying to get away from looking at Black and brown communities as 'more likely to,' meaning, 'more likely to be incarcerated, more likely to die of heart disease,' and moving to, instead, 'more likely to be closer to the problems and closer to the solutions.' Imagine following the lead of a people to solve an issue... it is such a different journey when their survival depends on it."

Many of the newer restorative justice and healing justice programs focus on survivor-led and BIPOC-led solutions. Organizations like Survivors' Agenda, #metoo.International, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, and Black Women's Blueprint are centering the solutions and leadership of BIPOC survivors of violence. These

tend to focus holistically on community health and safety, and less on punitive measures.

Breaking down the historical narratives around violence and the emphasis on punishing a villainous perpetrator has become core to many constituent-led initiatives. The Collective Future Fund (CFF), for example, is a newer grantmaking collaborative with origins in the #MeToo movement. Its initial mandate to prevent sexual violence quickly evolved into an intersectional philosophy. CFF gives grants to organizations—such as the Fund for Trans Generations or Justice for Migrant Women—that are not "violence prevention" organizations per se, but indeed work to make these communities safer. "We recognize the interwoven nature of the issues that impact safety and liberation work, and do not separate grantee partners into programmatic areas or reductive silos," CFF states on its website.

According to Pittman, there is an incorrect and culturally corrosive assumption that if perpetrators of violence or abuse are punished, the problem is solved. This allows people to overlook the violent cultures and histories embedded in communities and institutions.

"There's such a tendency to think about bad actors and the binary of victim and perpetrator," says Seth Stewart, director of strategic partnerships at the Just Beginnings Collaborative. "The MeToo movement became connected to the entertainment industry and particular figures... so it becomes constrained to a specific set of circumstances, and not an issue that we all have to reckon with. But this is deeper and more multifaceted than these particular people or that particular situation."

According to Stewart, violence prevention programs and organizations struggle to attract funding in part because funders fail to adapt an intersectional mindset and recognize that specific forms of violence and abuse are connected to larger community conditions. When funders recognize these connections, violence prevention organizations tend to benefit.

Indeed, violence prevention programs and organizations have recently benefited from the newer pooled funds targeting racial equity issues. Examples of these funds include Grantmakers for Girls of Color and its Black Girl Freedom Fund, the Collaborative for Gender and Reproductive Equity, California Funders of Boys and Men of Color, and the Black Freedom Fund. These funds, with their broad racial equity mandates, have become an interesting route for violence prevention funding.

The Blue Shield of California Foundation, for example, granted $3 million to the Black Freedom Fund to develop domestic violence prevention programs. The initial round of grants from the fund focused on organizations —including the F.I.N.D. Design, Healing the Black Body, and The Hive Community Circle—that practice forms of trauma-informed healing, healing justice and alternatives to the juvenile justice system.

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"We need to find the balance between understanding racial justice and intersectionality while also working for the common good. This will require a lot of hard, introspective work that I fear many philanthropies are not poised for which will, in the long-term, negatively affect the impact of grantmaking."

—Foundation professional, New York, New York

A Closer Look at Funder Types

Private Foundations

The largest private foundations in violence prevention include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ford Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Arnold Ventures—previously known as the Laura and John Arnold Foundation—is a major justice reform and gun violence prevention grantor that became an LLC in 2019, along with changing its name.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation granted about $155 million to violence prevention efforts in 2014–2018 via its Safety and Justice Challenge, which works within local legal systems to implement programs that reduce mass incarceration. Many of these grants fall within the justice reform umbrella rather than violence prevention more specifically—but a significant portion of these grants are for local entities (whether the sheriff's office, a parole board or a local university) to implement alternatives to incarceration, such as mental health services, that seek to reduce violence via prevention. Some of the Macarthur grants also target state violence via police reform. Additionally, MacArthur funds gun violence prevention in Chicago, where it is headquartered.

Ford Foundation granted about $31 million to violence prevention between 2014–2018 through its Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice grants program. Ford supports organizations, such as Dignity and Power Now, Common Justice, and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, which implement restorative justice programs. Notably, Ford is one of the only foundations that houses its gender justice and criminal justice reform work within the same larger umbrella. The "gender" portion targets gender-based violence internationally. Within the U.S., Ford's gender grants support reproductive justice and immigrants' rights and justice. While there is overlap there with violence prevention, it is not the core focus.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a long-standing child welfare funder that funds a variety of violence prevention efforts via its juvenile justice, child welfare, community change, and equity and inclusion programming areas. The Public Welfare Foundation, like Casey, is another long-standing funder of violence prevention efforts focused on youth.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is not typically thought of as an anti-violence funder, but it funds an interesting assortment of nonprofits working on violence prevention from different standpoints. The foundation's three stated funding priorities of thriving children, working families, and equitable communities fit with the philanthropic sector's larger desire to focus more on the root causes of violence by funding communities. Violence prevention organizations recently supported by Kellogg include Futures Without Violence and the Center for Children's Law and Policy.

A handful of foundations have become reliable gun violence prevention funders. These include the Joyce Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the California Wellness Foundation, the David Bohnett Foundation, the Lefkofsky Family Foundation and the Langeloth Foundation.

Until recently, NoVo Foundation was the largest violence prevention funder, with a focus on

violence against women and girls wordwide and in the U.S. In May 2020, an email and subsequent blog post from Peter Buffett indicated, in vague terms, NoVo's intent to shift focus and ramp down funding to current recipients. As of this writing in January 2022, NoVo's future trajectory isn't much clearer.

"We wouldn't want to be in that situation again, where we're relying on just one funder," Nicole Pittman, executive director at the Just Beginnings Collaborative (JBC), said in an interview for this brief. JBS was launched in 2015 as a NoVo Foundation project to end child sexual abuse. Today, JBS defines itself as an activist fund "led by and meant for survivors developing strategies to end child sexual abuse that simultaneously address community and state violence." Following a round of grants to 10 organizations and eight fellows in 2020, JBS has placed its grantmaking on hold as it reevaluates its strategy.

The real problem with NoVo's pullout, Pittman says, wasn't so much NoVo's decision itself, but the larger failure within philanthropy to diversify its approaches to violence prevention and to attract more funders to the issues. "And that's a big reason for the new pooled funds," Pittman says.

Corporate Funders

For many years, only a few corporate foundations have been among the reliable funders of domestic violence and interpersonal violence prevention and survivor services. In the other violence prevention categories of community violence, alternatives to incarceration and gun violence prevention, corporate funders have historically shied away. This has changed in recent years as a wide swathe of racial justice issues has attracted corporate giving.

Since 2005, The Allstate Foundation has funded programs to break the cycle of domestic violence and financial abuse by helping survivors take control of their finances. To date, the foundation has raised over $85 million. The Mary Kay Ash Foundation (formerly known as the Marky Kay Foundation) has likewise been a major domestic violence prevention funder since 2000, when this became one of the foundation's two focus areas (the other is cancer research). Every year, the foundation grants $3 million to domestic violence shelters across the country. The Avon Foundation has been an active funder of both domestic and sexual violence (collectively known as intimate partner violence) since 2004. In 2013, Avon granted $38 million to U.S. organizations fighting domestic violence, and its website currently places its total funding for gender-based violence both domestically and internationally at $80 million. Other corporations that have donated to interpersonal violence causes include Uber, JPMorgan Chase and Purina.

Funder Spotlight

Mary Kay Ash FOUNDATION

The Mary Kay Ash Foundation's Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence program has awarded more than $58 million in grants supporting 3,300 organizations since 2000. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation awarded emergency grants to 54 shelters around the country. Though human trafficking is not a stated program for the foundation, it has supported Polaris, an organization fighting sex and labor trafficking worldwide.

The Blue Shield of California Foundation has focused on ending the cycle of domestic violence since its founding in 2010, and it grants millions each year to this cause. Blue Shield has become a leader in the area of interpersonal violence prevention as it embraces a whole-health, public health, and community change approach. It is also working to build collaborations and partnerships to leverage more funding for this under-resourced area of philanthropy, working with other California funders including the Sierra Health Foundation and the California Wellness Foundation.

On the heels of the #MeToo movement in 2017 and 2018, some new corporate funders came to the table in the area of sexual violence—although corporate support in this area is still quite miniscule. In 2019, CBS and the Conrad Hilton Foundation signed on as contributors to the Collaborative Fund for Women's Safety and Dignity, today known as the Collective Future Fund. CBS also supports the Fund for the Me Too Movement and Allies. In 2016, the NFL provided $10 million in seed funding to RALIANCE, a nonprofit dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation.

Corporate support for gun violence prevention has been spotty at best, although a handful of corporate contributors including Google, the Motorola Solutions Foundations and Levi Strauss and Company have donated to the cause. As mentioned in the Who's Giving section, Microsoft is the only corporate partner among 13 private philanthropic funders in the Biden administration's new anti-violence collaborative, which was announced in June 2021. This makes some sense; Microsoft's Justice Reform Initiative includes a focus on police accountability and prison diversion programs. In 2020, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella unveiled a five-year, $50 million sustained commitment to justice reform, which includes a focus on public safety initiatives and funding for the National Network for Safe Communities.

Like Microsoft, a few other corporations are contributing to violence prevention nonprofits as part of larger justice reform initiatives. Google has given tens of millions to justice reform organizations since 2017, and it expanded its commitments in 2020—though only a small fraction of Google's commitments have gone to violence prevention efforts. In 2020, Warner Music Group announced a $100 million partnership with the Blavatnik Family Foundation to fund social justice groups, including community safety and violence prevention groups.

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"We would love to see more attention and funding for rethinking the purpose of prisons. We believe that how a person is treated while incarcerated has a direct bearing on how that person will reenter his or her community. Too often foundations and other donors don't consider the importance of prison reform."

—Fundraiser, Washington, DC

Since 2017, the NFL has granted more than $160 million to social justice groups via its Inspire Change initiative. Justice reform and police-community relations are two of the initiative's four focus areas, and violence prevention efforts more specifically have received some funding. This includes a 2021 grant to the Communities Partnering for Peace violence prevention program, housed at Metropolitan Family Services in Chicago.

Community Foundations

Community foundations are among most important violence prevention funders, particularly in the areas of interpersonal and sexual violence, and increasingly for gun violence prevention. These geographically and demographically focused foundations have been the core source of philanthropic support for decades, and they have now become the instigators and organizers behind efforts to create new funding collaboratives and networks with national foundations, corporations and individual donors.

Local community foundations are key funders for local domestic violence shelters, programs for at-risk youth, services for survivors of sexual violence, and services for children who are victims of abuse. In most communities, the majority of funding for direct services programming comes from the government, so local foundations are often providing additional support for organizations that rely primarily on government grants. In North Carolina, for example, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence receives 90% of its funding from government contracts, both state and federal, 5% from foundation grants and 5% from individuals. This breakdown is typical of interpersonal violence organizations, although some rely more heavily on foundation grants.

Examples of community and women's foundations active in violence prevention and services for victims include the Ms. Foundation, the Chicago Foundation for Women, the Fairfield County Community Foundation in Connecticut, the New York Women's Foundation, the Women's Foundation of California and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, among many others. These women's foundations are often key funders or organizers behind collaborative funds or advocacy campaigns that are oftentimes the only funding sources for under-resourced issues of interpersonal and sexual violence.

The New York Women's Foundation, for example, was behind the Fund for the Me Too Movement and Allies—which, unfortunately, appears to be one of the only sustained philanthropic funding efforts to result from the giving spree inspired by the #MeToo movement. In Minnesota, the women's foundation launched an eight-year, $8 million campaign to end sex trafficking in the state. In California, the women's foundation helped pass a bill extending public benefits to victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence.

Campaign Spotlight

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota launched its MN Girls Are Not For Sale in 2011. The overarching goal of the eight-year, $8 million program was to end sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of youth in Minnesota. Though the campaign ended in 2019, it resulted in the creation of a $47 million fund complete with a comprehensive state wide plan dedicated to ending sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of all Minnesota youth.

The Philadelphia Foundation, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, and the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina, local foundations across the U.S., are fighting the largely uncontrolled epidemic of interpersonal violence. A 2019 Women's Philanthropy Institute study of women's foundations and women's funds found that grantmaking to so-called "women's issues" like domestic violence and sexual assault can be difficult to track, because funds are often small and housed within larger community foundations.

Community foundations are likewise heavily involved in the areas of gun violence, community violence, restorative justice and police violence, although more recently, larger national collaboratives are stepping in to fund efforts against police violence as well as restorative justice programs. Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the largest community foundation in the U.S., reliably funds justice reform efforts. For gun violence prevention specifically, smaller local community foundations are often largely on their own. In the area of restorative justice, recent years have seen an increasing number of public-private partnerships, where private community foundations that support restorative justice collaborate with local, government-funded agencies to implement programs for youth.

Major Donors

Individual donors have become prominent players within violence prevention philanthropy. Newer LLCs headed by living donors are funding violence prevention programs, often via larger criminal justice reform portfolios. These LLCs, along with mega-gifts from Mackenzie Scott, have become significant, even transformational, sources of funding for a handful of violence prevention organizations.

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, an LLC piloted by Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg and his spouse Priscilla Chan, launched its criminal justice reform program in 2017. In 2021, CZI announced a commitment of $350 million over five years to its Just Trust Fund. It's unclear how these funds will be spent and what proportion will be funneled to violence prevention efforts, such as restorative justice, healing justice, policing reform or gun violence prevention. But it seems that violence prevention will be a focus, given that two of the four focus areas of the Just Trust Fund are "Center Safety and Prevention" and "Further Alternatives to Address Harm."

The philanthropist MacKenzie Scott included a number of violence prevention organizations in her initial round of mega-grants, which were announced in July 2020. Scott divided her giving into a number of categories, and organizations within two of those categories—racial equity and gender equity—are important players in the violence prevention space. These organizations include A Call to Men, Collective Future Fund, Futures Without Violence, GLSEN, National Women's Law Center, Faith in Action and RAINN.

Open Philanthropy, funded by Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz and his wife Cari Tuna, is another LLC that supports violence prevention work via its justice reform program, funding restorative and healing justice organizations such as the Ahimsa Collective and Alliance for Safety and Justice.

Funder Spotlight

COLLECTIVE FUTURE FUND

The Collective Future Fund (CFF) "brings together social justice movements, survivors, and donors to heal, resource, and mobilize to shape a collective future free from all forms of patriarchal violence." CFFs Future is Now grantmaking program recently awarded $1.2 million in grants to 19 grassroots organizations to support their work addressing the root causes of violence. The grants focused on trans-led and BIPOC-led groups including the HEAL Project, Mo HO Justice, and Vida AfroLatina.

Hedge fund billionaires Laura and John Arnold support violence prevention via Arnold Ventures, their LLC. Arnold Ventures seems to focus with more intentionality on violence prevention than other major criminal justice reform funders. Their policing portfolio, which has disbursed $72 million to date, includes five subtopics, all of which are violence prevention strategies: crisis response, gun violence research, police accountability, violence reduction and community safety.

Initiative Spotlight

URBAN JUSTICE CENTER | Sex Workers Project

Athough a reported 45-75 % of sex workers experience violence at work, it is an area of crime and violence prevention philanthropy that remains critically underfunded. The Sex Workers Project is initiative of the Urban Justice Center, provides legal and social services to those who engage in sex work and survivors of human trafficking. It is the only orgnization in the U.S. addressing the needs of both sex workers and survivors of human trafficking.

Instagram co-founder Mike Kreiger and his wife Kaitlyn have focused their giving primarily on criminal justice reform. They are co-founders of the Future Justice Fund, which includes restorative justice and "meeting the needs of crime survivors" among its core priorities. Another major violence prevention funder is the Emerson Collective, the grantmaking vehicle of billionaire philanthropist Laurene Powell Jobs. Emerson is the funder behind Chicago CRED, a gun violence prevention organization that operates programs serving young men at the highest risk of gun violence. CRED also provides grants to partner organizations and is the hub of the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities, which is, at present, the best-resourced effort in the U.S. to prevent gun violence in a major city. CRED's annual budget is about $25 million.

Michael Bloomberg has spent at least $270 million on gun violence prevention efforts (a figure that includes both political and philanthropic contributions). Bloomberg's work in this area began when he was mayor and expanded in later years via Bloomberg Philanthropies and other giving vehicles. Everytown for Gun Safety was seeded by Bloomberg in 2013 and was essentially a conjoining of Mayors Against Illegal Guns (which Bloomberg helped create as New York mayor) and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a grassroots group founded by Shannon Watts, a mom in Indianapolis, the day after the Sandy Hook shooting.

Bloomberg's approach to gun violence has been decidedly political; he funds candidates who support gun control, as well as advocacy efforts targeting specific legislation. Everytown for Gun Safety spent $30 million on the 2018 midterm elections, $60 million on the 2020 election, and Moms Demand Action volunteers have registered hundreds of thousands of voters. In part as a result of these efforts, dozens of representatives who ran on a gun violence prevention platform were elected at the state level in 2018 and 2020, as well as a handful elected at the federal level. In general, violence prevention organizations increasingly see get-out-the-vote efforts and electoral politics as a means to achieve legislative and policy goals that have been hampered by decades-long stalemates.

Donations from celebrities to gun control nonprofits spiked after the Parkland shooting in 2018, and included a $500,000 contribution to March for Our Lives from George and Amal Clooney, as well as donations from Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg and producer Jeffrey Katzenberg. In 2020, the connections between domestic violence and the COVID-19 pandemic drew celebrity donations to domestic violence shelters, including $2.1 million apiece from pop star Rihanna and Twitter and Square CEO Jack Dorsey to support domestic violence victims in Los Angeles.

Associations and Intermediaries

Funding intermediaries, collaborative funds and funding networks are fundamentally important for violence prevention philanthropy, and their influence has grown in the past few years. Collaborative funds are increasingly seen as a potential long-term solution to the persistent funding shortfalls experienced by funders and nonprofits in the violence prevention space.

In the area of gun violence prevention, collaborative and pooled funds include the Fund for a Safer Future (a New Venture Fund project), which has granted $15 million and "leveraged $107 million in aligned grantmaking by its more than 30 members." Members include the Joyce Foundation, Kendeda Fund and Morningstar Foundation. The Hope and Heal Fund (another New Venture Fund project) is a collaboration of California funders that promotes a "public health, racial equity, and community-based approach to preventing gun violence in California." Partners include the California Endowment, the Weingart Foundation and the Lisa and John Pritzker Family Fund, among others. Despite sizable investments from an impressive array of foundations, the Hope and Heal Fund, at the time of the writing of this brief in 2021, has disbursed a modest $1 million since its founding in 2016.

Coalition Spotlight

SURVIVORS' AGENDA

Survivors' Agenda is a collective of organizations that "believe that survivors should be the ones shaping the national conversation on sexual violence." The agenda itself is a community-driven guide focusing on survivor justice and preventing and interrupting sexual violence. Funding for the collective is provided by the Collective Future Fund, Ms. Foundation for Women, and the Levi Strauss Foundation. Community partners include a wide array of organizations such as A Long Walk Home, Sex Workers Organizing Project, PERIOD, Hollaback!. Inc., and many more.

Key networks and partnerships that support multi-funder collaborations or provide knowledge and infrastructure to organizations involved in gun violence prevention work include: the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention, the National Alliance for Suicide Prevention, the Partnership for Safety and Justice in Oregon, the Black and Brown Gun Violence Consortium and the March For Our Lives. The Community Justice Reform Coalition, a project of Tides, is a key entity that coordinates organizing and communication strategies for gun violence prevention organizations. Similarly, the Justice Collaborative is another Tides project that provides infrastructure and expertise to organizations that support "a safer and more just America."

The Chicago-based Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities, which launched in 2016, is one of the larger funding collaboratives, and today consists of about 50 funders. The fund has disbursed about $95 million to date. Another newer collaborative, the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research, launched in 2018 with a $20 million gift from Arnold Ventures. Since then, other funders including Wells Fargo Bank, Missouri Foundation for Health and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation have joined the collaborative.

According to Asheley Van Ness, director of criminal justice at Arnold Ventures, the collaborative has granted $21 million to 47 research projects to date. Gun violence research has been so anemically funded—and the gaps in knowledge so wide—that policymakers across the country are eagerly awaiting the results from these projects. Van Ness says that results from the first round of projects, funded in 2019, should be available in 2022. This will include findings from a Stanford University study of the risks associated with handguns in the home. "This study aims to produce robust estimates of the 'secondhand' risks and benefits of firearm ownership, which will support more informed decision-making by policymakers and by current and prospective gun owners," says Van Ness.

In the area of interpersonal and sexual violence, funding collaboratives include the Just Beginnings Collaborative, the Family and Interpersonal Resilience and Safety Transformation Fund (FIRST Fund), the Collective Future Fund, the Culture Change Fund, the Sexual Violence Prevention Collaborative of Fairfield County, and the Fund for the Me Too Movement and Allies. Aside from these pooled funds, there are a number of networks and movement-supporting organizations that encourage funding collaboratives and coalitions. These include A Call to Men, the Healing Together Campaign, the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, the National Coalition to End Domestic Violence and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, among others.

As discussed above in the Equity section, a number of racial equity funder collaboratives, such as the Black Girl Freedom Fund and the NYC Fund for Women and Girls of Color, are giving grants to violence prevention organizations.

Just Beginnings Collaborative

"Our main response to rape and sexual violence is putting men behind bars to be raped. You can't end violence with violence. We believe we have to go back to the community to resolve these issues. We're also trying to get away from looking at Black and brown communities as 'more likely to,' meaning, 'more likely to be incarcerated, more likely to die of heart disease,' and moving to, instead, 'more likely to be closer to the problems and closer to the solutions.' Imagine following the lead of a people to solve an issue... it is such a different journey when their survival depends on it."

—Nicole Pittman, executive director, Just Beginnings Collaborative

An Analysis of Opportunities & Challenges

In the research and interviews for this brief, one theme emerged time and again as the central opportunity within the violence prevention field: the shift from a punitive mindset to a prevention mindset. Funders and on-the-ground organizations alike are seeking to address the root causes of violence, disrupt the cycles of intergenerational violence and trauma, and prevent violence by working with community-based organizations and supporting healthy communities. With this shift comes a panoply of challenges, including building prevention and trauma-informed programs from scratch, funding research and pilot programs, and figuring out how to balance prevention with an ongoing need for punitive measures (though some advocate the total abolition of punitive programs) and survivor services.

From a fundraising standpoint, it can be challenging to attract grants for prevention programs because outcomes can't be measured in the format preferred by funders. According to Seth Stewart at the Just Beginnings Collaborative, funders typically want to support programs that are scalable or cross-applicable, but community-centered prevention strategies are more about working within and empowering specific communities.

"This way of working might not be amenable to a grant report or a splashy statement of 'we have helped 20,000 children.' We are not living in the world of statistics or large numbers, because we're looking at how to prevent or interrupt abuse, not instances of harm. It is harder to measure something that does not happen. But that really has to be the mental 180 that the philanthropic spaces need to understand," Stewart says.

This sentiment was echoed by Ted Bunch, co-founder of A Call to Men, in a 2017 Inside Philanthropy article. A Call to Men is one of the few major nonprofits taking on violence by confronting cultural and socialization issues, and Bunch said it can be difficult to make the case for funding when success can't be tracked with the metrics that many funders prefer. "If you run a shelter for domestic violence and you have 20 beds, but 30 women who need your services, you can easily quantify and justify the cost of 10 more beds," Bunch said. "With prevention, it's harder to measure your need and impact."

An adjacent challenge—also voiced by many working in violence prevention—is getting funders to look at violence holistically rather than within particular funding or topical silos. "As we look at prevention, we are trying to take domestic violence out of the silo it's been in," says Peña at the Blue Shield of California Foundation. "If you are a homelessness prevention funder, you will not achieve your mission if domestic violence is invisible to your analysis. You just won't achieve it."

The problem of silos isn't only one for funders; nonprofits and on-the-ground programs silo forms of violence into the binary of interpersonal violence (which includes sexual and domestic violence) versus community violence (street violence, gang violence or youth violence). It's typical for programming – particularly for at-risk youth or survivors – to focus on one or the other, but in reality, the distinctions are less clear. Perpetrators might be abusing someone at home while also involved in street violence, and they themselves might be victims of violence or past victims of child abuse.

"One of the 'ah-ha!' moments we had was about mass shootings, and if you look at the person who perpetrated that shooting, in most cases, you'll find some form of domestic violence," says Peña. She says that gun violence prevention organizations often recognize the connection to domestic violence, but that connection is largely lip service and not integrated into on-the-ground strategies.

Coalition Spotlight

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NCADV

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is dedicated to survivors and holding those who cause harm accountable. NCADV aims to change the conditions that often lead to abuse such as patriarchy, privilege, classism and sexism. Its programs include those related to national public policy changes, reconstructive surgery for survivors, reproductive coercion, and domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. NCADVs Remember My Name project honors and women, children, and men who were killed by their abusers.

"Domestic violence is a public issue," Peña says. "When you have folks who have been involved with domestic violence and it plays out later in gang violence or youth violence... the solution to these issues can't ignore domestic violence."

According to Peña, the converse is also true — strategies typically used to address street violence might be effective for intimate partner violence. Restorative justice is a proven strategy for youth involved in street violence, but hasn't much been explored in other contexts. "So that's why we're testing whether restorative justice principles and practices can be adapted to address [interpersonal] harm, healing and accountability, and limit the systemic interactions — including law enforcement and child welfare programs, the punishment-oriented systems that can impact a family for many years." To this end, Blue Shield is funding a restorative justice pilot program at the Contra Costa Family Justice Center.

Violence prevention organizations are grappling with the extent to which law enforcement and other governmental entities can be partners in adopting prevention-oriented and trauma-centered approaches to violence. There have been a number of local successes to this end, as well as widespread challenges, failures and growing pains.

"Federal funding to address domestic, sexual and interpersonal violence still heavily relies on training, equipping and relying on law enforcement," says Brook Kelly-Green, the senior director of gender and reproductive equity at Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies. "The philanthropic community is starting to embrace alternate funding opportunities like healing circles and addressing the root causes of violence, such as economic inequity, generational trauma and lack of opportunity."

There is an ongoing and still open question as to whether governmental funders and entities will begin to adapt the prevention-oriented approach that is increasingly preferred by the private sector. One promising prevention-oriented lens appreciated by philanthropic and governmental organizations alike is approaching the problem of violence with a public health lens.

In an interview with Inside Philanthropy, Ana Oliveira, the president and CEO of the New York

Women's Foundation, said that the public health approach is key to solving the problem of domestic violence. This approach treats the toxic patriarchy as a formal upstream cultural variable that contributes to the problem of interpersonal violence. "If you look at public health approaches, they have been very effective at dealing with perceived entrenched issues," Oliveira says. "They have changed human behavior in an exceptional manner. They have changed smoking. They have changed seatbelts."

According to Jen Keeling at Chicago CRED, the newer public health orientation is pushing organizations to remove gun violence from its topical silo by connecting the gun violence epidemic with interrelating risk factors – as is the case with preventing a physical disease. "The lens we put on the work is treating gun violence as a public health issue," Keeling says. "We have to take a much more holistic approach than previously. CRED's programming is all about violence prevention, but if they [program participants] need mental health services, we provide that. If they need education, we help them with that. If they need housing assistance, we help with that. So it's really about addressing the needs of a person holistically, so they are in a place where they can pick a different option than selling drugs or picking up a gun."

Keeling adds that these holistic approaches to violence reduction are newer, and that many organizations are building programs from scratch as an alternative to the criminal legal system as the default solution to violence. With that in mind, people in the violence prevention field are concerned that setbacks—such as the increases in violent crime during the COVID pandemic—will discourage the philanthropic sector from continuing to fund these new strategies. In Chicago, the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 were hopeful, with gun violence rates falling at the same time that a number of violence prevention pilot programs got off the ground. But in 2020, with the COVID pandemic, that trajectory reversed.

Keeling says that it's important for the philanthropic sector to continue to fund programs that are promising, yet might not have that immediate impact. "With violence work in particular, we in philanthropy who are involved with rebuilding and reinvesting need to be patient enough to realize that we shouldn't expect things to change in three or five years, where it took 50 to get things to where they are [in the criminal justice system]. We will change strategies and expand along the way, but if violence has not gone down within two years, the solution is not to disinvest."

Violence Prevention Spotlight

A CALL TO MEN

The Next Generation of Manhood

A Call to Men describes its vision as wanting to help "create a world where all men and boys are loving and respectful and all women, girls, and those at the margins of the margins are valued and safe." Since it was founded in 2002, the organization has trained over 1 million people to help address the root problems of sexual assault and gender based violence and discrimination. It has also worked a number of private and government organizations to forward its mission including the U.S. Military, the National Football League, J.P. Morgan, and multiple colleges and universities.

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Carla Powell, chief of advancement and development, Youth Advocate Programs

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[1] Based on available grantmaker data from Candid. Excludes federal funding and funding by higher education institutions

[2] Based on available grant recipient data from Candid. Excludes government organizations.

Feedback?

The State of American Philanthropy is an ongoing project, each SAP brief will be updated periodically to integrate new information, additional data and evolving perspectives. This brief was originally posted to Inside Philanthropy in November 2020. It has not yet been updated. If you have comments or information you'd like to share with us, please email us at managingeditor@insidephilanthropy.org.