

Office of Justice Programs

# VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ROADMAP

*U.S. Department of Justice  
Resources for Safer Communities*

VCRR | FACT SHEET



In recent years, many cities, towns, and counties across the country have experienced substantial increases in community gun violence. While some localities have made progress in reducing violence, pressing concerns remain for residents, community and business leaders, law enforcement officials, public health providers, and more.

In response to these concerns, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched the Violent Crime Reduction Roadmap (the Roadmap) as a one-stop-shop to assist local jurisdictions in developing, implementing, and evaluating the right set of strategies to prevent, intervene in, and respond to acts of community gun violence.

Organized around 10 essential actions to reduce community gun violence identified in [Saving Lives: Ten Essential Actions Cities Can Take to Reduce Violence Now](#) from the Council on Criminal Justice's [Violent Crime Working Group](#), the Roadmap outlines how DOJ resources can support jurisdictions in reducing violence.

## Action 1

### SET A CLEAR GOAL: COMMIT TO SAVING LIVES BY STOPPING VIOLENCE

Leaders should set ambitious but attainable targets, measured in concrete terms of reduced homicides and non-fatal shootings.

## Action 2

### IDENTIFY THE KEY PEOPLE AND PLACES DRIVING THE VIOLENCE

Jurisdictions should perform analyses to identify the people and places driving violence.



## Action 3

### CREATE A CITYWIDE PLAN FOR ENGAGING KEY PEOPLE AND PLACES

Stakeholders should develop practical and actionable plans outlining commitments, focusing resources, and solidifying partnerships.

## Action 4

### ENGAGE KEY PEOPLE WITH EMPATHY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Leaders should engage key high-risk individuals and groups with a balanced set of potential rewards and punishments.

## Action 5

### ADDRESS KEY LOCATIONS USING PLACE-BASED POLICING AND INVESTMENT

Problem-oriented, community-based policing, along with non-enforcement strategies and targeted investments should be targeted at micro-locations with high concentrations of violent crime.

## Action 6

### PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLENCE REDUCTION EFFORTS AT THE TOP

Localities should have teams dedicated to reducing violence with direct access and responsibility to leadership.

## Action 7

### EMPHASIZE HEALING WITH TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES

Victims and survivors of violence need support through trauma-informed services, which should also be available to first responders and community violence intervention and prevention staff.

## Action 8

### INVEST IN ANTI-VIOLENCE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Localities should build capacity in the professionals who respond to violence – community violence intervention professionals and law enforcement officers – by investing in a strong, healthy workforce.

## Action 9

### SET ASIDE FUNDING FOR NEW STAKEHOLDERS AND STRATEGIES

To complement investments in established, evidence-based strategies, leaders should experiment with and evaluate innovative strategies to reduce violence in their jurisdictions.

## Action 10

### COMMIT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT BASED ON DATA, EVIDENCE, AND PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Leaders should engage with research partners and multi-sector stakeholders to analyze performance and implement any needed course corrections to maximize impact.