

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECT

Can We Make Communities Safer Without Relying On Police?

Yes! In November 2020, the John Jay Research & Evaluation Center published [Reducing Violence Without Police: A Review of Research Evidence](#), describing policies, programs, and research that show violence in communities can be reduced without policing, rather by investing in communities and community-serving organizations. Violence in the community should be addressed with community-level interventions that focus on the health and safety of whole populations and not only high-risk individuals.

Below are seven strategies identified as key areas for non-policing interventions and policies:



(1)
improve
the physical
environment



(2)
strengthen
anti-violence
social norms
and peer
relationships



(3)
**engage
and
support
youth**



(4)
reduce
substance
abuse



(5)
mitigate
financial
stress



(6)
reduce the
harmful effects
of the justice
process



(7)
confront
the gun
problem

Positively engaging youth through state, local law, and policy related to school systems, ensuring safe environments where youth frequent and opportunities to develop emotional, social, and cognitive skills. Creating economic opportunities and early professional development for youth. These are some structured, and effective interventions that can reach beyond the individual and contribute to youth well-being and in turn to community safety.

Below are interventions to reduce and prevent community violence by **engaging and supporting youth**:

- 1) Improve school quality and work with children and youth to develop positive social skills and emotional intelligence.
- 2) Provide early interventions with children, youth, and parents to improve self-control, social skills, and decision-making.
- 3) Provide summer work experience for high-risk youth.
- 4) Place civilian lookouts along walking routes to schools.
- 5) Raise the minimum age for school dropout.
- 6) Offer access to full-day schools.

- 7) Restrict nighttime driving by age (Graduated Driver Licensing).
- 8) Enforce requirements for minimum years of education.

EXAMPLES

- 1) [Youth Empowerment Project](#)
- 2) [New Orleans Youth Alliance](#)
- 3) [BreakOUT!](#)
- 4) [Center for Restorative Approaches](#)
- 5) [Cops Off Campus Coalition](#)
- 6) [Kids In Need of Defense](#)