

Violence Prevention

Violence is a leading cause of premature death. In 2017, Vermont was home to 70 firearm-related deaths - a rate of 11.7 deaths per 100,000 total population.¹ Eighty-eight percent of those were suicides; 9 percent of firearm deaths were homicides.² Last year, there were 127 murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults per 100,000 population in Vermont.³

In Vermont, 1,182 children were victims of abuse or neglect.⁴

The **Vermont Public Health Association** (VtPHA) recognizes that gun-related death and disability has a profound and lasting deleterious effect on the physical and emotional health of individuals, families, and communities. VtPHA believes in a public health approach (including education, public policies, and regulation) that effectively reduces the risk of individual and community exposure to gun-related violence.⁵

Violence prevention, particularly gun violence, is the public health crisis of our lifetime. Urge policymakers to provide research funding⁶ on par with the nation's gun violence epidemic, and call on lawmakers⁷ to pass commonsense measures that reduce the risk of gun deaths and injuries. Advocate for community-driven solutions to violence prevention that identify and target the root of violence.

While much more study is needed, research already shows that commonsense gun safety laws can make a difference. More traditional public health interventions, like home-visiting models, community-led models, and the Innovative Cure Violence model, can make a difference, too.

A public health approach to violence prevention fosters healthy gender norms and relationships, bolsters trauma-informed services and addresses racism. Exposure to violence is a key predictor of future violence, so we must work to dismantle it at the root and employ an upstream approach recognizing violence as preventable and not inevitable.

The COVID-19 outbreak has added significant stressors to our communities who are dealing with loss of businesses and incomes and the need for stay at home quarantine. These stressors can cause tensions or actual violence in our homes and communities. For assistance, the public can visit these Vermont sites:

The Vermont Department of Mental Health:
<https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/Corona-MH>
The Vermont Network:
<https://vtnetwork.org/covid-19-resources/>

¹ CDC

² Vermont Department of Health

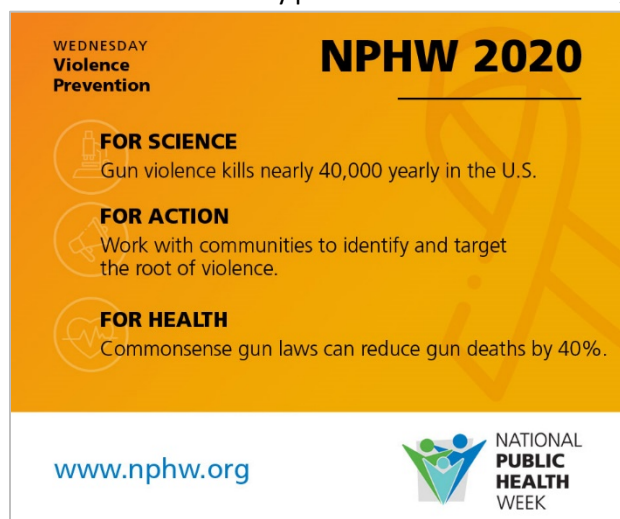
³ America's Health Rankings

⁴ Vermont Department for Children & Families

⁵ Vermont Public Health Association

⁶ The Nation's Health

⁷ APHA advocacy



WEDNESDAY
**Violence
Prevention**


NPHW 2020

FOR SCIENCE
Gun violence kills nearly 40,000 yearly in the U.S.

FOR ACTION
Work with communities to identify and target the root of violence.

FOR HEALTH
Commonsense gun laws can reduce gun deaths by 40%.

www.nphw.org



NATIONAL
PUBLIC
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