

Strategic Plan Progress Report

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health's Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT) addresses gun violence as a public health crisis through coordinated prevention, intervention, policy and data strategies across Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

The strategic plan was developed to execute 2022-2027 goals, enabling the Department to design, test and implement successful pilot programs. As pilot programs mature, the GVIT will develop new strategic goals to shift the program from short-term initiatives to fully institutionalized, data-driven and community-integrated operations.

The primary goal is to reduce gun-related homicides and suicides countywide through evidence-based, collaborative interventions.

Key Strategic Priorities 2022-2027

1

Program Institutionalization and Expansion

Expand the Violence Interruption Program (VIP)

The GVIT launched the VIP in Eastport and completed an assessment to guide the opportunity for expansion into the northern area of the county. The team also established staffing and standardized protocols and began work on a new VIP site in the West County area.

Formalize Victim Support

The GVIT partnered with the Roca victim-support pilot program for the northern area of the county and integrated trauma-informed response practices.

2

Data-Driven Action and Policy Advancement

Refined Data Collection

GVIT formalized a new data dashboard and a data-use agreement with police partners to acquire detailed incident locations and categorizations, enabling more precise, geographically targeted interventions.

Proactive Policy Engagement

The GVIT has actively tracked and provided formal testimony on relevant state and federal gun-related legislation, such as safe storage, ghost guns and domestic violence prohibitions. We will also finalize and disseminate key educational policy briefs to inform public debate.

Key Strategic Priorities 2022-2027

3

Community and Public Health Integration

Maximize Safe Storage Access

Gun lock distributions have been sustained and increased. This effort has expanded by piloting the distribution of lock boxes through Department of Health home visits in households with children, and partnering with the library to host distribution pop-up sites.

Address Social Determinants

In Annapolis, VIP services have effectively linked high-risk individuals with essential resources such as housing, employment and education to foster long-term stability. This approach ensures that efforts to reduce violence are fully integrated with public health equity objectives.

This plan has positioned the GVIT to move beyond monitoring and reporting, empowering the team to become an active, integrated force for violence prevention in Anne Arundel County.



Cure Violence Annapolis Team
January 2025



Safe Storage Distribution
June 2025



Goal



Objective



Key Initiative

Goal #1

Coordination

Lead gun violence interventions in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

Objective 1.1

Sustain and Expand Collaboration

Formally integrated new academic and community partners into the Data, Educational and Policy, and Environment workgroups.

Objective 1.2

New Communications Phase

Launched a targeted communication phase focusing on high-risk communities and the specific resources offered by the Violence Interruption Program.

Goal #2

Gun Laws

Monitor and advance evidence-based gun laws.

Objective 2.1

Formal Policy Support/Testimony

Tracked and provided formal testimony on all relevant state and federal gun legislation, including safe storage and domestic violence prohibitions.

Objective 2.2

Complete Policy Education

Developed policy briefs (ERPOs, Gun-Free Zones, etc.) for all public and stakeholders view.

Goal #3

Education and Public Awareness

Prevent gun violence through education and increased public awareness.

Objective 3.1

Enhance Credible Messenger Impact

Developed a formal evaluation plan to assess the impact of gun shop pamphlet distribution and enhance partnerships with gun owners and veterans.



Goal



Objective



Key Initiative

Goal #3
Education and
Public Awareness
(continued)

Objective 3.2
Enhance Credible
Messenger Impact

Developed suicide
prevention resources,
toolkits and gun lock
rack card.

Goal #4
Data Utilization
and Refinement

Collect and report
data on gun-related
incidents, injuries
and deaths.

Objective 4.1
Formalize Data Access

Completed and
implemented the
new data-use
agreement with
police partners to
acquire detailed
incident locations
and categorizations.

Objective 4.2
Maximize Public
Dashboard Utility

Implemented a
new, user-friendly
data dashboard
with monthly
updates such as
homicides, suicides
and ERPO tracking.

Goal #5
Disrupt Cycles
of Violence

Disrupt cycles of
community
violence through
engagement with
community
members.

Objective 5.1
Expand Safe
Storage Access

Expanded gun lock
distribution through
internal/external
partnerships. Piloted
lock box distribution
and distributed locks
during internal home
visits, focusing on
homes with children.

Objective 5.2
Strategic VIP
Expansion

Launched the new
Violence Interruption
Program (VIP) site in
Eastport, Annapolis,
following the Cure
Violence Global
assessment.



Goal



Objective



Key Initiative

Goal #5

Disrupt Cycles of Violence (continued)

Objective 5.2

Strategic VIP Expansion

Completed a Cure Violence Global Assessment in the Northern area of the county to expand VIP efforts.

Objective 5.3

Environment Improvements

Implemented a community revitalization project in North County grounded in evidence-based Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

Goal #6

Victim Support Response

Coordinate a response process to support victims of gun violence.

Objective 6.1

Institutionalize Victim Support

Partnered with the Roca victim support pilot program with the goal to explore implementing a comprehensive victim support program into the GVIT response protocol.

Objective 6.2

Embed Trauma-Informed Care

Mandated trauma-informed care training for all new GVIT staff and health ambassador partners, and actively integrated these principles into the existing response protocols used by our external partners, including VIP staff.

Progress



Summary of Key Accomplishments

2022

- Launched a public awareness campaign and resource toolkits.
- Completed a Cure Violence Global assessment identifying Annapolis as a priority area for a VIP.

2022-June 2025

- Distributed over 8,900 gun locks and 79,000 safety brochures to 31 gun shops.
- Monitored over 84 firearm-related bills.

2023

- Launched the free gun lock program with the Public Library.
- Jaelynn's Law was enacted, expanding avenues to safe storage.

2024

- Launched the VIP in the Eastport neighborhood of Annapolis.
- The Gun Safety Act restricted carrying in specific locations.
- Completed a Cure Violence Global assessment in the Northern area of the county to explore opportunities to expand VIP efforts.



Impact

- ✓ 8,900+ Gun locks distributed in the county.
- ✓ 1,006 Gun lock boxes distributed via a safe storage grant.
- ✓ 79,000+ Brochures distributed to gun shops.
- ✓ Public dashboard tracking homicides, suicides and ERPO filings was upgraded and launched in September 2024.



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Improving Health Together

