

# Evaluating a Public Health Approach to Violence in the City of Baltimore's Violence Prevention Plan

August Alderman, Florida A&M University

## Introduction

### Abstract

The Baltimore City Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP), is a violence reduction strategy aimed at reducing the number of violent crimes and offenses in the city of Baltimore. The CVPP is a 5-year plan aimed at violence reduction through three pillars: (1) Public Health Approach to Violence, (2) Community Engagement and Interagency Coordination, and (3) Evaluation and Accountability. Pillar one, a Public Health Approach to Violence, will be evaluated for this review. Pillar one has five steps to achieving a Public Health Approach to Violence: (a) Gun Violence Prevention, (b) Victim Services, (c) Youth Justice, (d) Community Healing and Trauma-Informed Practice, and (e) Re-Entry.

### Aims of the Research

- Evaluate the potential effectiveness of the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan
- Review the Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan for cultural relevance

### Research Questions

Is the Public Health Approach to Violence the most effective model for preventing violence in the City of Baltimore?

Does the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan utilize culturally-based approaches to address violence within the community?

How are mental health resources utilized in the Baltimore violence prevention plan?

## Literature

### History of Baltimore City

- Established in 1729, Baltimore became the only city in the state of Maryland (Baltimore City, 2022)
- By 1820 Baltimore City had the largest African Americans population in the nation (Baltimore City, 2022)
- In 1999 Baltimore was named the most dangerous city in America (Baltimore City, 2022)
- 5<sup>th</sup> most dangerous city in the United States in 2022 (Bloom, 2022)
- Over 300 homicides per year since 2015 (Baltimore Sun, 2022)

### Community Violence

- Violence is the intentional act of using physical force on another person which results in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation (World Health Organization, 2020).
- Community Violence (CV) is violence outside of the home with someone you may or may not know (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).
- CV impacts mental and physical health conditions including depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress, and chronic diseases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).

### A Public Health Approach to Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Approach is a four-step model:

- 1) Define the problem
- 2) Identify risk and protective factors
- 3) Develop and test prevention strategies
- 4) Ensure widespread adoption of effective programs

The Public Health Approach model views violence as a public health concern (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).

## Discussion

- The CVPP did not have any culturally-based approaches to address violence.
- Mental health resources were not outlined in plan.
- Intervention based on previously utilized models

### Limitations

- Program roll out July 2021
- Limited literature on programs utilized in the CVPP and program outcomes
- CVPP effectiveness evaluated every two years for duration of program
- No data available for outcome analysis

### Key References

1999, I. (n.d.). *Drug addiction: Baltimore's biggest problem then and now*. Narconon New Life Retreat. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.narcononnewliferearet.org/state-drug-information/maryland-drug-abuse/drug-addiction-baltimores-biggest-problem-then-and-now.html>

Baltimore Hotels: Kimpton Hotel Monaco Baltimore. Baltimore Hotels | Kimpton Hotel Monaco Baltimore. (n.d.). Retrieved November 19, 2022, from <https://www.monaco-baltimore.com/>

Baltimore, MD crime rates. NeighborhoodScout. (n.d.). Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/md/baltimore/crime>

Bloom, L. B. (2022, October 12). *Crime in america: Study reveals the 10 most unsafe cities (it's not where you think)*. Forbes. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/laurabegleybloom/2022/02/23/crime-in-america-study-reveals-the-10-most-dangerous-cities-its-not-where-you-think/?sh=424d17c07710>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, January 18). *The Public Health Approach to violence prevention* [violence prevention/injury Center] CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved November 21, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/publichealthapproach.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, June 8). *Community violence prevention* [violence prevention/injury Center] CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/communityviolence/index.html>

City of Baltimore. (n.d.). Retrieved November 21, 2022, from [https://www.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/5\\_History.pdf](https://www.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/5_History.pdf)

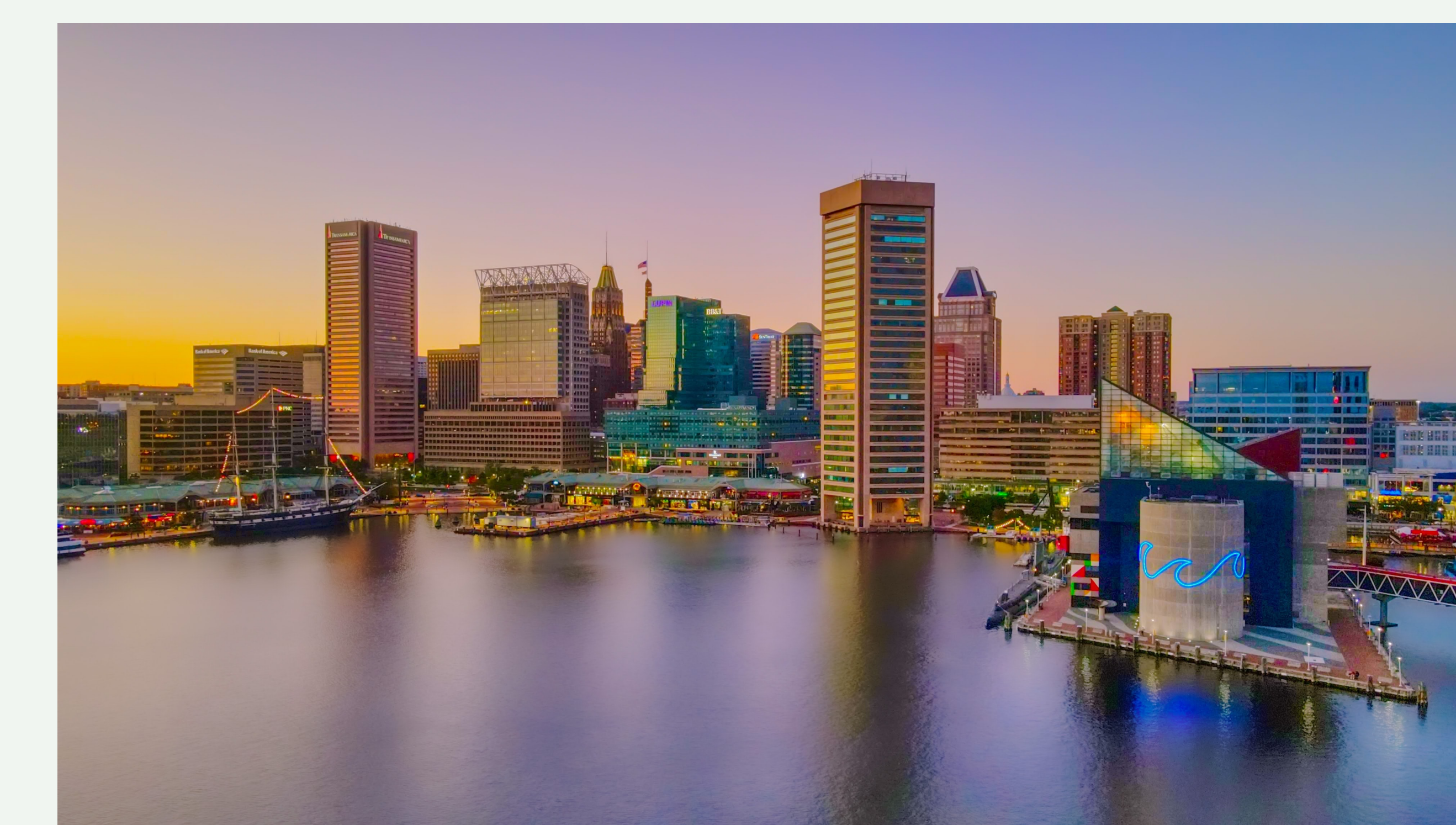
Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Baltimore*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Baltimore>

Sun, B. (n.d.). *Baltimore City homicides*. The Baltimore Sun. Retrieved November 21, 2022, from <https://homicides.news.baltimoresun.com/?range=2022>

World Health Organization. (2022, November 19). *Home*. World Health Organization. Retrieved November 19, 2022, from <https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf>

### Acknowledgement

*The research reported here was supported by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, through Grant R305B170017 to Florida State University. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of the Institute or the U.S. Department of Education.*



**PURPOSE**  
PARTNERS UNITED FOR RESEARCH PATHWAYS  
ORIENTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN EDUCATION

