# San Antonio/Bexar County **Violence Prevention Strategic Plan** 2024-2028 Published January 25, 2024

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For more information about this strategic plan, contact the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District.

Email: ViolencePrevention@sanantonio.gov

Phone: 210-207-8780

## **Background**

The City of San Antonio, University of Texas at San Antonio, and faith and community leaders partnered to develop a unified *San Antonio/Bexar County Violence Prevention Strategic Plan* which defines strategies to prevent and intervene in violence in our community. Community partners were recruited to examine the community's needs and identify strategies. The *Violence Prevention Strategic Plan* for 2024-2028 aligns with other community and government organizations' efforts to reduce violent crime.

Using a public health approach to prevent violence and work collaboratively with community partners, this multisectoral strategic plan will combine resources and amplify them to increase positive outcomes in San Antonio and Bexar County. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is leading a team of project coordinators to organize the planning and monitoring process.

The coordinating organizations include:

- San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
- San Antonio Police Department
- St. John Baptist Church in San Antonio
- University of Texas at San Antonio, College of Health, Community, and Policy

## **Community Assessment**

Project coordinators reviewed community assessment data related to violent crime, injuries, and death along with community member and workforce input on major causes and solutions for violence. The most common concerns around violence and community resources across all information sources centered on the following areas:

- Child abuse
- Intimate partner violence
- Gun violence
- Sexual violence and assault
- Violence among youth
- Fragmented system of resources for victims of violence
- Root causes of violence related to social, economic, and health inequities

## **Priority Areas**

Based on the results of the community assessment, the Violence Prevention Strategic Plan focuses on four topic areas involving multiple population groups and incorporates strategies to improve equity and system coordination

## **Violence Among Youth**

- Prevent violence among youth (youthon-youth violence, bullying, and cyberbullying)
- Create safe spaces and supportive networks for youth

### **Sexual Violence**

- Prevent sexual violence against youth and adults
- Improve access to services and supports for victims/survivors
- Reduce repeated commission of violence

## **Gun Violence**

- Prevent gun violence involving adults and youth
- Improve access to services and supports for victims/survivors
- Reduce repeated commission of violence

## **Domestic Violence**

- Prevent intimate partner violence and child abuse/neglect
- Improve access to services and supports for victims/survivors
- Reduce repeated commission of violence

## **Development Process and Timeline**

January-April 2023	<ul> <li>Collected community member input</li> <li>Assessed community violence data and related evidence-based strategies</li> <li>Recruited partners to participate in planning process</li> </ul>
July-August 2023	Cooperatively developed strategic plan to include objectives, strategies, and measurement indicators
September 2023	Collected community member and partner feedback on draft plan
November 2023	Released preliminary strategic plan report

# Implementation and Monitoring

The San Antonio
Metropolitan Health District
and lead community partner
organizations will collaborate
with partners to build support
for implementation of the
strategies and monitor the
outcomes.

## **Violence Among Youth**

Defined as violence among children and adolescents.

## Scope of Priority Area

- Prevent violence among youth (youth-on-youth violence, bullying, and cyberbullying)
- Create safe spaces and supportive networks for youth

## **Long-Term Indicators**

- Reduce rate of firearms as cause of death for youth
- Reduce rate of suicide as cause of death for youth
- Reduce percentage of youth who report being bullied

Strategies for Violence Among Youth	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
	Community Infrastructure, Assessment, and E	Data Sharing
Create a centralized infrastructure to support violence prevention in the region	Enhance role of Metro Health to serve as centralized Office of Violence Prevention for the San Antonio/Bexar County area	<ul> <li>Centralize location of data (through all jurisdictions across Bexar County region)</li> <li>Develop outcome measurements/tools</li> <li>Pursue federal, state, non-profit, and corporate grant opportunities for community violence intervention efforts</li> </ul>

Strategies for Violence Among Youth	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Assess the community's current needs and resources	<ul> <li>Identify target demographics to impact and how to find/reach them (e.g., kids who were already involved in violence [justice-involved youth, students in alternative schools or suspended], youth aging out of foster care, and other kids before they have experienced/been involved in violence), as well as the youth sports, events, organizations, etc.</li> <li>Research roots of issues locally (e.g., bullying, truancy, physical violence in school)</li> <li>Understand local gaps and needs to address these issues considering impact of COVID pandemic</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Conduct efficacy evaluation of strategic plan interventions regularly</li> <li>Review outcomes for congruency with original goals</li> <li>Propose continued improvements to programs, policies, and future planning</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Identify which effective strategies for intervention and prevention should be applied to the region</li> <li>Create a map or inventory of community engagement programs already in practice across all jurisdictions inside Bexar County (store on website that serves as community hub)</li> </ul>	
Create public-facing data dashboards		Implement/increase data sharing and agreements; continuous data collection/sharing     Share outcomes with the community

Strategies for Violence Among Youth	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
	Direct Services, Resources, and Commu	nication
Implement ongoing comprehensive communication campaign	Implement continuous communications campaign with multiple branches: 1) generate community support for youth, 2) promote non-violent culture among youth, and 3) build connections between youth and community	
Engage youth in partnerships and solutions	Create or redirect a large-scale youth ambassador program that works across multiple organization hosts and sectors	
	Create network of teens and young adults with lived experience who are available to organizations and schools to talk to and mentor youth	
	Implement or enhance youth engagement programs through law enforcement organizations	
Expand and enhance services provided to youth	<ul> <li>Host showcase events to demonstrate the programs and services available for youth, including youth engagement</li> <li>Implement community-based violence intervention and prevention programs and services appropriate for the region (e.g., Cure Violence, Safe Streets)</li> </ul>	Expand and enhance existing youth internships and employment programs to increase capacity for enrollment and reach more youth who experience inequities

Strategies for Violence Among Youth	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
	Organizational, System, and Policy Ch	ange
Deliver training and technical assistance for community-serving organizations	Provide technical assistance to community violence intervention and prevention programs and organizations	
Increase partnerships across sectors	Identify sectors of the community that can serve as points of engagement and recruit them to lead those efforts	
Invest in programs and resources that help prevent violence among youth	<ul> <li>Invest in effective youth-supporting community organizations that provide mentoring services and evidence-based programs (e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters)</li> <li>Invest in effective parenting programs that increase resilience in youth (e.g., Raising Highly Capable Kids)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase investments in Early Head Start programs</li> <li>Implement or expand school-based programs that strengthen youth skills (e.g., Life Skills Training, Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies)</li> <li>Implement and expand school-based or community-based mental health care for youth (e.g., cognitive behavioral intervention for trauma in schools, functional family therapy, multisystemic therapy)</li> </ul>

## By December 2025:

- A. Increase participation/engagement in community events as a whole and among population groups that experience higher rates of violence
- B. Complete community network mapping/assessment
- C. Create central information source on youth supports, events, organizations, tools for parents/kids/peers/schools/organizations
- D. Inventory youth programs
- E. Increase access to school district data on discipline, threat assessments, bullying reports
- F. Increase parent/guardian perceptions of safety in school
- G. Increase parent/guardian involvement
- H. Assess community investment and grants/funding in youth supports/prevention/intervention
- I. Increase organized community engagement events involving multisector partnerships

- J. Decrease in truancy in schools
- K. Increase use of gun safety practices (locks/safes, surrender programs)
- L. Increase youth engagement in school and non-school activities
- M. Increase youth summer employment rate
- N. Decrease youth recidivism rate (crime rate)
- O. Increase in mentoring, peer, after-school, in-school programs
- P. Measure youth progress in programs (e.g., pre/post assessment, attitude, skill assessment)
- Q. Utilize measures from school climate surveys to inform interventions and measure progress

## **Gun Violence**

Defined as neighborhood-based gun violence and mass shootings in schools.

## Scope of Priority Area

- Prevent gun violence involving adults and youth
- Improve access to services and supports for victims/survivors
- Reduce repeated commission of violence

## **Long-Term Indicators**

- Reduce rate of shootings
- · Reduce rate of homicide
- Increase resident perception of community safety
- Increase resident perception of social cohesion

Strategies for Gun Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)	
	Community Infrastructure, Assessment, and Data Sharing		
Create a centralized infrastructure to support violence prevention in the region	<ul> <li>Enhance role of Metro Health to serve as centralized Office of Violence Prevention for the San Antonio/Bexar County area</li> <li>Create road maps to resources and navigation</li> </ul>	Build community networks, implement data sharing across partners, and identify funding opportunities	

Strategies for	Recommended Tactics,	Recommended Tactics,
Gun Violence	Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Assess community needs and evaluate practice and outcomes	<ul> <li>Create dashboard of gun violence statistics and community indicators</li> <li>Identify hot spot areas that should receive the most attention</li> <li>Review participation in youth summer programs</li> <li>Identify participation barriers within communities with current resources</li> <li>Evaluate the impact of the open carry law on gun violence rates in Bexar County</li> <li>Evaluate prosecution outcomes from 2024 to identify opportunities for system improvement</li> <li>Develop a workplan to address opportunities to improve criminal justice system</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Examine community-based one-stop safe help centers in existing spaces at locations throughout the community (District Attorney satellite, help for parents, dispute resolution, multidisciplinary teams)</li> <li>Publish more extensive data from incidents on school campuses</li> <li>Evaluate progress of juvenile offenders within specialty court programs</li> <li>Evaluate progress made around criminal justice system improvements for prosecution of gun related offenses and report out to the community</li> </ul>

Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
<ul> <li>Increase capacity for law enforcement community policing programs to proactively meet with neighborhood associations or community groups to improve relationships and address gun safety</li> <li>Provide grants to local colleges to conduct research into gun violence prevention</li> <li>Create anonymous tip lines for schools and promote them to parents, students, general public</li> <li>Identify funding to secure or harden schools with less funding</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Institute live electronic monitoring of school campuses</li> <li>Implement controlled access for school campuses (badges with access by section)</li> </ul>
Direct Services, Resources, and Commun	nication
<ul> <li>Implement broad community education initiative and communications campaign on gun storage and violence-free conflict resolution</li> <li>Implement communications campaign on protecting firearms from theft and responsible gun ownership</li> <li>Increase public awareness regarding</li> </ul>	
	Increase capacity for law enforcement community policing programs to proactively meet with neighborhood associations or community groups to improve relationships and address gun safety  Provide grants to local colleges to conduct research into gun violence prevention  Create anonymous tip lines for schools and promote them to parents, students, general public  Identify funding to secure or harden schools with less funding  Direct Services, Resources, and Community education initiative and communications campaign on gun storage and violence-free conflict resolution  Implement communications campaign on protecting firearms from theft and responsible gun ownership

Strategies for Gun Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Implement or enhance programs that enhance protective factors or reduce the	Implement or expand gun lock/safe distribution programs and educate community on responsible gun ownership	Implement or expand supports for parents (at-risk kids, kids having trouble in school, kids using/possessing weapons)
impact of risk factors	<ul> <li>Implement hospital-based violence intervention programs</li> <li>Continue and expand school-based</li> </ul>	Enroll more high-risk kids into existing youth programs (summer, after-school, job training, employment)
	training in Stop the Bleed curriculum	Enroll more high-risk kids enrolled in existing free education programs (e.g., Alamo Community Colleges, Project Quest)
		Enroll more high-need and high-risk adults into existing job programs (develop the supports needed to help bridge people to these programs and be successful in the programs)
		Implement after-hours behavioral counseling for students and parents/caregivers
Build connection between community members and local agencies/ organizations		Implement or expand community programs that build trust between law enforcement and the community

Strategies for Gun Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
	Organizational, System, and Policy Ch	ange
Deliver training and technical assistance for community-serving organizations	<ul> <li>Host gun violence summit that gathers all community partners</li> <li>Train parnters in Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategies</li> <li>Train community organizations in available resources and how to support people in navigating them</li> </ul>	Expand training for educators, administration, school employees in mental health awareness and trauma-informed practices
Increase partnerships across sectors	<ul> <li>Position faith organizations as part of community-based outreach and support systems, including use of their space in the community to expand the reach of services</li> <li>Develop public-private partnerships that prevent gun violence</li> <li>Improve communication between local law enforcement and schools</li> <li>Establish and share school plans for shooting incident responses with area law enforcement agencies</li> <li>Conduct joint exercises schools and school district police departments</li> <li>Engage community organization in mentoring (parent-teacher organizations, Communities in Schools, service or charitable groups)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Implement education initiative for 5th-12th grade on consequences of crime and gun violence</li> <li>Expand gun safety/safe storage information distribution through schools</li> <li>Conduct security assessments of schools in partnership with local law enforcement and school police departments</li> <li>Develop district-wide policies for school campus assessments and trainings related to gun violence</li> </ul>

Strategies for Gun Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)	
Invest in programs and resources that help prevent gun violence	Examine current level of investments for violence prevention in government, health care, and community organizations	Create protective environments by modifying the physical environment through business improvement districts	
	Identify strategies to prevent crime through environmental design	Strengthen economic supports by increasing individual and household	
	Advocate for funding for school-based safety initiatives (e.g., Stop the Bleed training, physical security, mental health supports, crisis intervention case management and supports)	financial security (e.g., expand tax credits)	
Change or enhance criminal justice processes	Educate lawmakers on barriers to prosecution related to gun violence	Require completion of high school or GED as a condition of diversion or supervision	
	Establish a workgroup of community partners to create prosecution standards for repeat offenders	Identify and structure a specialty court focused on juvenile offenders possessing a weapon and showing signs of aggression	
	Investigate options for gun surrenders or temporary hold		

## By December 2025:

# A. Increase people participating in diversion and specialty court programs B. Increase distribution of gun safes/locks C. Increase guns surrendered under voluntary programs

- D. Reduce number of stolen firearms
- E. Reduce accidental shootings among children

- F. Increase public perception of skills in de-escalation and conflict resolution
- G. Increase public reporting of use of gun safes/locks
- H. Increase youth summer employment rate
- I. Increase number enrolled in youth programs
- J. Reduce suicides related to firearms

## **Sexual Violence**

Defined as sexual assault against adults and youth of all ages.

## Scope of Priority Area

- Prevent sexual violence against youth and adults
- Improve access to services and supports for victims/survivors
- Reduce repeated commission of violence

## **Long-Term Indicators**

- Reduce rate of sexual violence among adults
- Reduce rate of sexual violence among youth
- Increase resident perception of community safety

Strategies for Sexual Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)  Community Infrastructure, Assessment, and D	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028) Pata Sharing	
Assess community's current resources and needs	<ul> <li>Create a network map and identify existing coalitions that could support sexual violence prevention (faith-based networks, mental health and substance use treatment fields, youth-serving networks, etc.)</li> <li>Gather information from underserved communities on how systems and programs could better meet their needs, including feedback from survivors</li> <li>Engage community partners and coalitions to identify gaps and barriers in current systems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Evaluate progress toward creating safe and protective environments within our own organizations</li> <li>Reassess outcomes and prosecution rates for sexual assault cases to determine impact of any policy changes</li> </ul>	

Strategies for Sexual Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)		
Research, identify, and implement interventions that focus on root causes and primary prevention	<ul> <li>Review existing studies on health equity issues related to sexual violence</li> <li>Research best practices for sexual violence prevention at the organizational level, with an understanding that different settings may require different strategies</li> </ul>	Implement strategies to address health inequities related to sexual violence		
	Direct Services, Resources, and Commun	nication		
Educate youth and adults through schools and affiliated programs	Deliver education to adults and students through institutions of higher education and student organizations	Deliver education to youth through K-12 schools and after school programs		
Educate community members	Deliver education to community members through neighborhood and homeowner's associations, community centers, and locally owned businesses			
Implement ongoing comprehensive communication campaign	Implement comprehensive and continuous communication campaign focused on eliminating stigma related to sexual assault, raising awareness of resources, and increase reporting of assault			

Strategies for Sexual Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)	
	Organizational, System, and Policy Ch	ange	
Deliver training and technical assistance for community-serving organizations and large employers	<ul> <li>Facilitate cross-training between organizations and sectors, shifting the focus from risk reduction to preventing perpetration</li> <li>Improve training for law enforcement officers on responding to reports of sexual assault (taking their time and using active listening skills)</li> <li>Obtain commitment from all institutions involved in prevention efforts to assess their internal policies and practices and identify areas for improvement</li> <li>Work with K-12 schools and colleges to make prevention education a standard part of their student orientations and curriculum, including information on substance-facilitated sexual assault</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Develop a policy review process and identify a network of organizations that can provide training and technical assistance</li> <li>Establish sexual violence prevention and response training as a component of professional development across a wide range of industries</li> <li>Increase training resources for survivorserving professionals and organizations on working effectively with survivors from underserved and/or marginalized communities</li> </ul>	

Strategies for Sexual Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)		Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)		
Change or enhance criminal justice processes	Analyze data on sexual assault cases that are closed or not prosecuted to support the need for policy change, with special attention to the issue of missing witness cases	•	<ul> <li>Based on analysis of sexual assault cases, implement changes that would make the prosecution process more trauma- informed, increasing the likelihood that survivors will follow through</li> </ul>		
		•	Work within systems and with decision- makers to develop concrete solutions		
		•	Leverage technology to make court proceedings more trauma-informed, including the ability for survivors to testify without coming face-to-face with their perpetrators		
Advocate for policy and law changes		•	Move forward with advocating for and/or implementing systemic changes to support sexual violence prevention		
		•	Create a list of recommendations for local and state law, policy, and funding priorities		

## By December 2025:

- A. Increase in utilization of services for people who experience sexual violence
- B. Increase public awareness of resources and services
- C. Increase in variety of organizations joining formal networks on sexual violence prevention
- D. Create network map of organizations and services that support people who experience sexual violence
- E. Increase in organizations implementing sexual violence prevention strategies and practices (e.g., youth-serving organizations)
- F. Increase in schools and youth organizations implementing healthy/safe relationship education (evidence-based, multi session)

- G. Change in public perception regarding attitudes and norms around sexual violence
- H. Decrease disparities/inequities related to sexual violence in the demographic groups most impacted (e.g., race/ethnicity, LGBTQIA+ identity, residence/immigration status)

## **Domestic Violence**

Defined as intimate partner violence and child abuse/neglect.

## Scope of Priority Area

- Prevent intimate partner violence and child abuse/neglect
- Improve access to services and supports for victims/survivors
- Reduce repeated commission of violence

## **Long-Term Indicators**

- Reduce rate of intimate partner homicides
- Reduce rate of child fatalities related to abuse and neglect
- Reduce rate of assault

Strategies for	Recommended Tactics,	Recommended Tactics,		
Domestic Violence	Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Years 3-5 (2026-2028)		
	Community Infrastructure, Assessment, and Data Sharing			
Assess community's current resources and needs	<ul> <li>Assess current resources for mental health/wellness for survivors and service providers</li> <li>Assess the needs of advocates to perform the work effectively</li> </ul>	Create protective environments by taking an inventory of training and protocols that already exist and building on existing infrastructure and adding where there are gaps in policy		

Strategies for Domestic Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Improve data acquisition, sharing, and utilization	Provide high-fidelity and timely feedback on program performance to community partners	Collect data that are proactive in addition to reactive data
	Create consistency in the way we shield confidential data but utilize and share it in the best ways possible	
	Create access to comprehensive, consistent data, to include data gathered from practitioners, clients, and other community partners (especially those with lived experience) with common measures on the local level	
	Improve identification, management, and utilization of data	
Create public-facing data dashboards	Automate a data crosswalk so agencies can remain accountable to measures their funders or agencies require but also streamline the conveyance of data between existing systems	
Identify risk and protective factors specific to our community	Identify families at high risk for domestic violence and child abuse/neglect	
Community	Investigate why Bexar County fares worse on some issues, determine the factors	

Strategies for Domestic Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Research, identify, and implement interventions that focus on root causes and primary prevention	Research and identify primary prevention efforts and models can be funded, implemented, applied to domestic violence and child abuse/neglect	
	Develop new or modified interventions, programs, etc. that are explicitly and formally focused on root causes are connected across community issues, including milestones, feedback loops, and metrics	
	Direct Services, Resources, and Commun	nication
Implement ongoing comprehensive communication campaign and harness social media	<ul> <li>Implement a continuous communications campaign</li> <li>Address the impact of social media on domestic violence</li> </ul>	
	Identify and recruit community members to be social media influencers	
	Build awareness of forms of abuse and community resources	
	Help adults and youth feel comfortable reporting abuse	
	Shift the social norm regarding tolerance for abuse	
	Engage people with lived experience to develop and disseminate communications	

Strategies for Domestic Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)	
Expand and enhance services provided to people affected by intimate partner violence and child abuse/neglect	<ul> <li>Implement culturally relevant and effective methods to support immigrants</li> <li>Provide support at multiple stages for those who abuse or have abused</li> <li>Influence cultural and generational perception and attitudes regarding gender, power, and abuse</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Build formal system to refer people across organizations and services</li> <li>Provide additional personnel resources and assistance for compassion fatigue for prosecution and court advocate teams</li> </ul>	
	Organizational, System, and Policy Ch	ange	
Incorporate education on healthy relationships early in life	<ul> <li>Educate parents, coaches, and educators on intimate partner violence, signs of abuse at home, and healthy relationships</li> <li>Implement or expand social-emotional learning programs about healthy relationships for children who are exposed to violence</li> </ul>	Implement methods for incorporating education on healthy relationships in schools	
Increase partnerships with business community to address domestic violence	Expand the work done at County/City level and partnering with local chambers of commerce, signage for businesses that seek permits from the County/City, incorporating social media		

Strategies for Domestic Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Deliver training and technical assistance for community-serving organizations and large employers	<ul> <li>Provide training, support, mentoring, and networking for organizations and community partners that provide safe spaces for people who experience domestic violence</li> <li>Train and provide technical assistance to increase the number of service organizations and major employers certified as trauma-informed</li> <li>Increase awareness and training about domestic violence and child abuse/neglect for organizations supporting families</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Raise awareness and connect organizations to technical assistance to meet community-wide goal of trauma-informed service providers</li> <li>Identify which organizations have inclusive policies and provide opportunities for training and compassionate care training</li> </ul>
Invest in programs and resources that help prevent domestic violence	<ul> <li>Expand access to programs that promote healthy child development (e.g., Nurse Family Partnership)</li> <li>Expand access to programs that promote positive parenting techniques (e.g., Triple P)</li> </ul>	Expand access to preschool enrichment programs with family engagement (e.g., Early Head Start)
Invest in resources that support long-term needs of people impacted by domestic violence	Expand access to mental health services for people impacted by domestic violence	Provide affordable transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence

Strategies for Domestic Violence	Recommended Tactics, Years 1-2 (2024-2025)	Recommended Tactics, Years 3-5 (2026-2028)
Change criminal justice processes to provide more support for people affected by domestic violence	Improve resources to prevent re- traumatization during survivors' journey through the criminal justice and support system	Implement and expand court programs focused on intervening in abuse and healing survivors and people who commit abuse
	<ul> <li>Train all courts/court staff, law enforcement, and District Attorney's Office in trauma-informed practice</li> <li>Expand compliance officer personnel to increase infrastructure for compliance-related issues and protocols for civil courts</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Create a policy through the District         Attorney's Office asking judges to order         firearm surrender for all protective order         hearings to increase consistency of firearm         prohibition orders among civil judges</li> <li>Require more information about</li> </ul>
	Provide training for officers serving protective orders and receiving surrendered firearms on the dangers of firearms in domestic cases, in addition to second amendment "friendly" approach to firearm confiscation and/or surrender	perpetrators' firearms (e.g., make, model, quantity, location) in affidavit when assisting victims with filing a protective order  Increase communication with federal prosecutors to pursue and facilitate the
	Develop a public document detailing current efforts and programming aimed at prohibiting firearms from people who commit domestic violence in Bexar County/San Antonio	pursuit of violations of federal domestic violence gun laws (pending outcome of federal court case)
	Provide training for judges (both criminal and civil) on the increased risk for lethality when firearms are easily accessible in domestic violence cases to inform judicial discretion related to ordering firearm surrender	

## By December 2025:

- A. City/County agencies have policies in place to support personnel affected by domestic violence
- B. Increase multisector collaboration, policies, and procedures between school systems and support services for children
- C. Increase public awareness of domestic violence/child abuse issues
- D. Increase engagement with youth to prevent domestic violence/child abuse
- E. Improve data collection, acquisition, and utilization
- F. Improve identification of repeated child abuse to allow for intervention in homes of high need
- G. Increase number of service organizations with policies and training for non-judgmental and culturally responsive approaches to domestic violence
- H. Increase number of service organizations certified as trauma-informed

- Reduce risk factors linked to domestic violence and child abuse/neglect (i.e., cultural norms that support violence; witnessing violence)
- J. Increase protective factors linked to domestic violence and child abuse/neglect (i.e., coordination of resources and services among community organizations; community connectedness)
- K. Increase capacity of system to support community members' needs to prevent risk for domestic violence and child abuse/neglect
- Increase public perception of access to community and social services
- M. Expand and strengthen safe firearm surrender protocols for people who commit domestic violence
- N. Reduce repeat offenses by people previously convicted of intimate partner violence
- O. Reduce repeat offenses by people previously investigated or charged with child abuse/neglect

# **Long-Term Indicators and Data Sources**

Indicator	Definition and Data Source	Local Baseline	Comparison
Reduce rate of firearms as cause of death for youth	Deaths of people under age 18 involving firearms  Source: To be established during first year of strategic plan implementation	To be determined	Statewide rate to be determined
Reduce rate of suicide as cause of death for youth	Deaths of people under age 18 due to suicide  Source: To be established during first year of strategic plan implementation	To be determined	Statewide rate to be determined
Reduce percentage of youth who report being bullied	K-12 students who report being bullied Source: School district data	To be determined	Statewide average to be determined
Reduce rate of shootings	<ul> <li>Composite of deadly conduct involving firearms:</li> <li>Deadly Conduct - Firearm</li> <li>Discharge Firearm in Municipality</li> <li>Discharge Firearm</li> <li>Accidental Shooting</li> <li>Disorderly Conduct Discharge Public Place/Display Firearm</li> <li>Sources: Bexar County Sheriff's Office and San Antonio Police Department</li> </ul>	2,663 incidents, 180.8 per 100,000 (San Antonio jurisdiction, 2022)	Statewide rate to be determined
Reduce rate of assault	Assaults that are not sexual in nature involving victims of all ages  Sources: Bexar County Sheriff's Office and San Antonio Police Department	7,972 incidents, 541.2 per 100,000 (San Antonio jurisdiction, 2022)	Statewide rate to be determined

Indicator	Definition and Data Source	Local Baseline	Comparison
Reduce rate of sexual violence among adults	Composite of sexual assault related offenses involving adult victims:  Sexual Assault (all forms) Attempted Sexual Assault (all forms) Sexual Coercion Prohibited Sexual Conduct Solicitation – Sexual Assault Sources: Bexar County Sheriff's Office, San Antonio Police Department, and Texas Department of Public Safety	1,213 incidents, 109.2 per 100,000 (San Antonio jurisdiction, 2022)	16,517 incidents, 73.1 per 100,000 (Texas, 2022)
Reduce sexual violence among youth	Composite of sexual assault related offenses involving victims under age 18:  Sexual Assault (all forms) Solicitation of a Minor Sale/Purchase of a Child Sexual Performance by a Child Indecency with a Child Improper Relationship with a Child All related forms of attempted sexual offenses with a child Sources: Bexar County Sheriff's Office, San Antonio Police Department, and Texas Department of Public Safety	1,781 incidents, 491.5 per 100,000 (San Antonio jurisdiction, 2022)	4,463 incidents, 59.9 per 100,000 (Texas, 2022)
Reduce rate of homicide	Composite of Murder and Capital Murder for all victim ages Sources: Bexar County Sheriff's Office, San Antonio Police Department, and Texas Department of Public Safety	165 deaths, 11.2 per 100,000 (San Antonio jurisdiction, 2022)	2,017 deaths, 6.72 per 100,000 (Texas, 2022)

Indicator	Definition and Data Source	Local Baseline	Comparison
Reduce rate of intimate partner homicides	All forms of murder involving an intimate partner Sources: Bexar County Sheriff's Office, San Antonio Police Department, Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence, and Texas Council on Family Violence	24 deaths, 1.2 per 100,000 (Bexar County and San Antonio jurisdictions, 2022)	216 deaths, 0.7 per 100,000 (Texas, 2022)
Reduce rate of child fatalities related to abuse and neglect	Deaths of people under age 18 determined to be cause by abuse or neglect  Source: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Child Maltreatment Fatalities and Near Fatalities Annual Report	19 deaths, 0.9 per 100,000 (Bexar County area, 2022)	182 deaths 0.6 per 100,000 (Texas, 2022)
Increase resident perception of community safety	Perception of community safety as reported through surveys Source: Community assessment to be implemented during first year	To be assessed	Compare to previous local assessment
Increase resident perception of social cohesion	Perception of social cohesion as reported through surveys Source: Community assessment to be implemented during first year	To be assessed	Compare to previous local assessment

Population data used to calculate rates (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2022):

Jurisdiction	Total Population	Adults (age 18 and older)	Youth (under age 18)
City of San Antonio	1,472,909	1,110,574	362,335
San Antonio and Bexar County area combined	2,059,530	1,552,886	506,644
State of Texas	30,029,572	22,582,238	7,447,334

## **Logic Model**

Priorities & Strategies

**Process Measures** 

**Short-Term Outcomes / Intermediate Outcomes** 

**Long-Term Outcomes** 

Violence among youth

Gun violence

Sexual violence

Domestic violence

Data sharing between partners and with public

Inventory of relevant services and programs available in the community

Network map of community organizations and partnerships

Infrastructure established to implement and monitor strategies

Identification of specific needs for different demographics and areas of the community Increase public awareness of services and key violence prevention messages

Organizational changes (trauma-informed practice, etc.)

Increase community engagement with service organizations/government

Increase community utilization of services

Strategy-specific outcomes

Local law and/or policy changes

Improve local service delivery and partnership network

Enhance state legislation and policy

Reduce rates of:
homicide, assault,
shootings, sexual assault,
child abuse/neglect,
youth suicide,
bullying among youth

Increase resident perception of community safety

Increase resident perception of social cohesion

## **Acknowledgements**

## **Coordinating Team Members**

Deputy Chief Chris Benavides, San Antonio Police Department Erica Haller-Stevenson, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Dr. Kellie Lynch, University of Texas at San Antonio Tracy Tate, St. John Baptist Church

## Planning Group Participant Organizations

45th Civil District Court, Bexar County

150th Civil District Court, Bexar County

Alamo Colleges District

Bexar County Department of Public Health

Bexar County District Attorney's Office

Bexar County Economic & Community

Development

Bexar County Family Justice Center

Bexar County Guardianship Program

**Bexar County Pre-Trial Services** 

Bexar County Sheriff's Office

Big Mama's Safe House

**Building Brighter Communities** 

Center for Health Care Services

ChildSafe

City of San Antonio, Attorney's Office

City of San Antonio, Mayor's Office

City of San Antonio, Metropolitan Health

District

Communities in Schools

Community of Churches for Social Action

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security

Agency

Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Domestic Violence Prevention via Faith

Community Collaborative

Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Harper's Chapel Ministries

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in

America

Monster Moms, Inc.

The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative

Pride Center

Rape Crisis Center

Rise Recovery

San Antonio Independent School District,

Office of the Superintendent

San Antonio Police Department

Sane Society Collaborative

St. John Baptist Church

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

University Health

University of Texas at San Antonio,

College of Health, Community, and

Policy

Youth for Christ