

A Future Free from Firearm Violence: Where Communities Lead the Way

Our approach prioritizes access, innovation, and community-driven solutions, with those most impacted by firearm violence at the heart of our efforts. By working across the public health ecosystem—from individuals and communities to health systems—we create transformative change and develop sustainable solutions to prevent firearm violence. The Center operates in five key areas—Inclusive Grantmaking, Community Building, Advancing Knowledge, Data for Action, and Clinical Innovation—to drive systemic change and lasting impact.



Inclusive Grantmaking *Redefining Grantmaking to Empower Communities*

The Center's approach to grantmaking is groundbreaking, prioritizing community-driven research that addresses social drivers of health. We are putting power into the hands of communities to lead interventions and scale solutions to firearm violence and suicide that are both relevant and sustainable. The Center has awarded nearly \$7 million to researchers and organizations from impacted communities, marking a critical shift that is helping reshape the future of the field.

Current Grantee Highlights:

- Evaluating lethal-means reduction in rural Alaska Native health systems.
- Assessing the effectiveness of social networking models to reduce gun violence by engaging individuals who have previously committed harm. Investigating the mental health needs of the CVI workforce.
- Comparing health and social outcomes for HVIP enrollees versus non-enrollees.
- Studying the impact of firearm violence on women and their families.
- Engaging Latine immigrant communities in leading primary prevention efforts for firearm suicide.

Spring 2024 Funding: Demonstrating the Impact of Inclusive Grantmaking

More than half of the 260 applications came from community-based organizations (CBOs)

80% of funded projects are led or implemented by CBOs

100% of funded projects' target populations are disproportionately affected by firearm violence

90% of funded projects use community participatory research methods or meaningfully engage those most impacted by violence

70% of funded projects' teams are led by people of color

100% of funded community gun violence prevention projects include at least one team member with lived experience of gun violence



Community Building *Amplifying Impact through Collaboration*

Through strategic partnerships, the Center brings together stakeholders to drive change and broaden the impact of our efforts, including:

- Collaborating with partners such as the Ad Council to amplify critical programs and research in firearm violence prevention.
- Elevating community voices by establishing the Kaiser Permanente clinician and patient advisory councils to improve the clinical care experience for patients with firearm injuries.
- Strengthening violence prevention efforts by bringing together practitioners and researchers to develop best practices and a compendium of risk assessment tools that identify individuals at the highest risk of violence.



Advancing Knowledge

Equipping Professionals with the Knowledge and Skills to Drive Change

By offering resources, building research capacity, and advocating for the integration of firearm violence prevention into medical training, the Center empowers and equips professionals with the tools and knowledge to drive change in the field. This includes:

- Providing 1:1 technical assistance through the research liaison program to support grantees' capacity and navigate research challenges.
- Launching a webinar series with frontline workers and former CDC leaders to build capacity for academic and community researchers.
- Producing original knowledge on critical topics, such as the funding landscape, ethics of randomized controlled trials, and best practices for data sharing between hospitals and communities.
- Identifying gaps in medical training and creating novel educational materials to address these needs.



Data For Action

Improving Access to Firearm Injury Data

The lack of accessible and actionable firearm injury data has hindered progress in firearm injury prevention. To address this, the Center is developing systems that enhance data access and support high-impact research, including:

- Establishing a protocol to provide cross-regional Kaiser Permanente data to external scientists for firearm harm prevention research.
- Creating a system-wide dashboard to track firearm injury trends and identify prevention opportunities within healthcare settings.
- Evaluating the potential to serve as a centralized firearm data repository, collecting information from public agencies to advance research and inform solutions.



Clinical Innovation

Advancing Healthcare Interventions for Firearm Violence & Suicide

The Center is committed to scaling and improving healthcare interventions to reduce firearm violence and suicide, focusing on evidence-based strategies and innovations in healthcare settings, including:

- Expanding evidence-based safe storage practices across Kaiser Permanente markets.
- Identifying and promoting clinical interventions that improve care for patients with firearm injuries, including hospital-based and -linked violence prevention programs addressing social drivers of health.
- Creating a roadmap for other health systems to audit current practices, improve clinical care, and implement scalable interventions for patients at risk of firearm violence or suicide.
- Exploring the use of the Kaiser Permanente Social Hub, in partnership with Community Health Workers and credible messengers, to address root causes of interpersonal violence and suicide.

From the Center's Grantees

"No one else is investing in community to solve violence. The Center is partnering with us to be successful, and we have never experienced that genuine support before."

"This funding dramatically accelerated my simulation modeling research by allowing me to hire expert modelers and engineers to adapt and update the only existing agent-based model of community violence..."

"By supporting a junior scholar of color, the award has advanced equity in the firearm research community, where there is limited racial/ethnic diversity among the best-resourced researchers."