

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Violence Prevention Strategic Plan for Riverside University Health System - Public Health

At Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS-PH) our mission is to meaningfully enhance and extend life for all in Riverside County. Data surveillance, collaboration, education and policy are cornerstones for all public health issues, and violence prevention is no exception.

This plan outlines a foundation for RUHS-PH to make violence prevention a priority across our programs and services. It represents our commitment to building the confidence and skills of our workforce to provide violence prevention education, intervention, and support across diverse populations.

We all have a role to play in fostering communities in which people in Riverside County feel safe and thrive; no one agency can do it alone. This plan will help RUHS-PH strengthen existing relationships and build new ones to enhance collaboration across multiple sectors, with the ultimate aim of improving safety and healing in our communities.

## Definition of Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) define violence as, “the intentional use of physical force or power - threatened or actual - against oneself, another person, or against a group or community - that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.”<sup>1</sup>

For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, the definition of violence will include:

- **Child abuse and neglect**
- **Community and gang violence**
- **Domestic and intimate partner violence**
- **Elder abuse and neglect**
- **Firearm violence**
- **Hate crimes**
- **Homicide**
- **Human trafficking**
- **Sexual violence**
- **Suicide**

This plan expands and interweaves current efforts addressing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), overdose, and suicide to form a more comprehensive approach to violence prevention across RUHS-PH branches.

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**Public health is a direct partner in violence prevention working alongside contributors in many sectors, from the criminal justice system to education to healthcare.**

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- California Department of Public Health (2017). Preventing Violence in California  
Volume 1: The Role of Public Health. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Public Health

<sup>1</sup>CDC, VetoViolence Principles of Prevention Guide, [https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop\\_notebook.pdf](https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/pop/assets/pdfs/pop_notebook.pdf)

## SUMMARY OF FOCUS AREAS



### Focus Area 1: Violence as a Public Health Issue

RUHS-PH recognizes violence prevention as a priority for public health work reflected in internal policies, data measures, and dedicated resources. This includes exploring capacity building efforts that integrate violence prevention throughout RUHS-PH programs and services.



### Focus Area 2: Workforce Development & Training

Workforce development and training opportunities will build knowledge, capacity, confidence, and skills of RUHS-PH staff to understand their role in violence prevention education, intervention, and provision of referrals and support. These workforce development and training opportunities will leverage existing RUHS-PH expertise and skills, be tailored to fit various roles of staff, and explore opportunities to support staff who are experiencing vicarious and secondary trauma.



### Focus Area 3: Violence Prevention Awareness & Resources

RUHS-PH staff, as well as youth and adults served by RUHS-PH and community programs will have an increased understanding of the impact of violence on a person's overall mental and physical health, and be aware of violence crisis and community resources, as well as strategies to heal from trauma. As a result of awareness activities, barriers to help-seeking, including public and self-stigma, will be reduced.



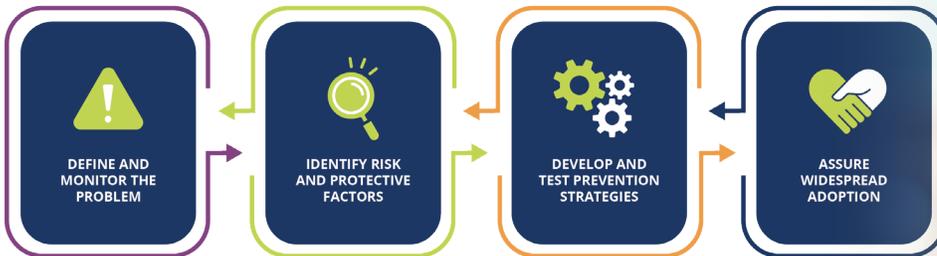
### Focus Area 4: Multi-Sector Partnerships for Violence Prevention

RUHS-PH staff, service providers, staff from other county agencies, and community-based organizations have a shared understanding of violence prevention as a key element in social determinants of health and well-being of Riverside County community members, feel informed about how violence is impacting their communities, and understand the role they can play in working together to serve the needs of the community.

There are opportunities across the lifespan to prevent and stop violence, and mitigate its impacts on individuals, families and communities through increasing protective factors and reducing risk. Effective comprehensive strategies address a broad range of social, health, and economic conditions, reducing immediate risk, and mitigating the short- and long-term impacts of violence when it occurs.

The public health approach to violence prevention includes strategies to address the root causes of violence as well as ways to address the impacts of violence on individuals, families, and communities. Addressing the complex causes of violence requires coordinating activities across multiple systems and sectors and engaging with communities most impacted. Public health uses data to understand the prevalence of violence, when and where it occurs and who is the most vulnerable, and to identify data-driven approaches to reduce risk factors and enhance those factors that protect individuals and communities from violence and promote healing when it does occur.<sup>2</sup>

## The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention



<sup>2</sup>Source: CDC website, Public Health Approach, <https://www.cdc.gov/violence-prevention/about/about-the-public-health-approach-to-violence-prevention.html>

This plan was developed with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and overseen by the RUHS-PH Injury Prevention Services Branch.

To download the full Violence Prevention Strategic Plan, visit:

[www.ruhealth.org](http://www.ruhealth.org)

