

Supporting Health Agencies After Mass Violence Events

ASTHO's Catalyst Center for Firearm Injury Prevention pulled together the following resources to support health officials and their teams as communities process firearm violence tragedies. In the aftermath of violence, ASTHO recommends applying a trauma-responsive lens to support your staff and communities. Additionally, ASTHO is available to support all health officials in considering and applying best practices for crisis communications, specifically related to violence.

Resources for Community Members/Caregivers

- [Community support resource for those impacted by gun violence - Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#) (2 min read, general resource is for community members)
 - Recognize common emotional and physical symptoms of having a trauma response to community violence and provide tips/sentence starters to support and link to national crisis supports.
- [Coping after Mass Violence](#) - National Child Traumatic Stress Network (6 min read, general resource for community members, similar to the resource above and includes additional information highlighting intersectional identities)
- [Talking to Children about the Shooting](#) - National Child Traumatic Stress Network (4 min read, tips for parents, educators, and caregivers)
- [Talking to Teens When Violence Happens](#) - Center for Resilience and Well-being in Schools (5 min read, tips for parents, educators, and caregivers)
- [What to say to kids when the news is scary - Life Kit: Parenting Podcast](#) (22 min **listen** with tips for parents, educators, and caregivers)
- Helping young children [feel safe](#) and [cope with grief](#) - Sesame Street (1-2 min **videos** for parents, educators, and caregivers)

Other languages

- [Multilingual Trauma Resources - Child Mind Institute](#) (20 min read, available in 15 languages, age-appropriate messaging tips for parents, educators, and caregivers to talk with children/teens)

Key Resources for Responding to Mass Violence or Firearm Violence

- [Recommendations for Reporting On Mass Shootings](#) (7 min read for PIOs, media professionals, and journalists)
- [Talking About "Firearm Injury" and "Gun Violence": Words Matter - American Journal of Public Health](#) (25 min read for professionals reporting or discussing violence with the community in a non-stigmatizing way)
- [Mass shootings dominate reporting on gun violence. Here's what we need to talk about instead - Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#) (7 min read for PIOs, media professionals, and journalists)

Strategic Risk and Crisis Communications Trainings and Resources

- [Applied Principles of Strategic Risk and Crisis Communications](#)
- [ASTHO's Crisis Communications Guide](#)
- [Four Things Public Health Leaders Can Do to Improve Crisis Communications](#)

Often, horrific events lead to decision-maker interest in effective violence prevention strategies. The ASTHO Catalyst Center for Firearm Injury Prevention team has compiled information and research on multiple forms of firearm violence and evidence-based public health approaches that can prevent firearm violence in the future.

ASTHO Resources/Positions

- [Catalyst Center for Firearm Injury Prevention](#). This includes an overview of the services ASTHO provides, a new [Roadmap to Prevent Firearm Injury and Violence](#), and related resources.
- [ASTHO Preventing Firearm Misuse, Injury, and Death Policy Statement](#)
- [Men and Firearms: Proven Public Health Interventions to Curb Violence Blog \(June 29, 2022\)](#)
- [A Public Health Approach to Reducing and Preventing Firearm Violence Blog \(April 3, 2023\)](#)

Resources on the Public Health Approach and Effective Strategies for Firearm Violence Prevention

- [Preventing Mass Attacks, Saving Lives - Rand](#)
- [Policy Research Review Summary - Rand](#)
- [Curbing Gun Violence Article – JAMA Network](#) (from 2013 but still relevant)
- [A Public Health Approach to Firearm Violence Prevention – Chapter 15 from Gun Violence Prevention: Public Health Approach](#)
- [Violence and Homicide - Chapter 4 from Gun Violence Prevention: A Public Health Approach](#)