

# Addressing the roots: Preventing multiple forms of violence through shared underlying factors

Multiple forms of violence are shaped by structural factors, such as racism and sexism, resulting in inequitable community conditions, and inequities in rates of violence. Practitioners are pushing back on structural factors and preventing violence by pursuing strategies to improve community conditions. This topic explores how communities are addressing underlying factors through collaborative efforts, while promoting community resilience and healing.

## RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Recording](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [Text Chat](#)
- [Community Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles](#)
- [Connecting the Dots: Overview of Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence](#)
- [Coaches Corner](#)
- [Technical Package for Prevention on Youth Violence](#)
- [Defending Childhood Initiative: Multnomah County](#)
- [Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience Report](#)
- [Gender-Based Violence against Women: Migration](#)
- [Stories about Land and Identity by Oregon Artists of Color](#)
- [From a Cycle of Violence to a Culture of Safety](#)

## PRACTITIONERS AND ADVOCATES FEATURED:

### **Erin Fairchild,**

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

[Multnomah County Youth and Family Services Division](#)

Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Coordination Office

### **Vanessa Micale**

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR,

Multnomah County Health  
Department

[Striving to Reduce Youth  
Violence Everywhere;](#)

EPS: Equity, Planning,  
Strategy

### **Andrew Campbell**

HEALTH EDUCATOR

Multnomah County Health  
Department, Youth Sexual  
Health Equity Program

### **Andrea Flores Shelton**

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND HEALTH  
EQUITY MANAGER

[County of Santa Clara Public  
Health Department](#)

COORDINATOR

East San Jose  
PEACE Partnership

## KEY FINDINGS:

- A. Many advocates and practitioners recognize racism as a structural driver of many forms of violence, and apply a racial justice and equity lens in their prevention strategies.** Drivers like structural racism and socio-economic inequity play out at the community level to deeply impact community conditions, such as lack of economic opportunities and low neighborhood cohesion. While all communities experience violence, it takes an inequitable toll on groups with less structural power, such as people of color. Multnomah County names racism as a form of violence in their work and integrates actions to promote racial justice as part of their efforts to support healing from violence. In Santa Clara, the public health department staff members participate in the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity](#) (GARE) initiative, which emphasizes the role of government in both creating racial inequity and promoting racial equity through policy and practice change.



*Santa Clara County Health Department leads racial equity trainings for staff. [Image of two individuals smiling and standing in front of a projection that says "Advancing Racial Equity in Northern California: 2016 Commencement Exercises."]  
Source: Santa Clara County Health Department*

### TIP:

To build shared understanding of racial justice practices, organize a coordination team that includes residents and people working on different programs and strategies, and offer trainings.

**B. Addressing underlying factors and preventing multiple forms of violence requires cross-cutting and mutually supportive strategies that are inclusive and meet community needs.** To address violence affecting youth and teen dating violence, Multnomah County is focusing on shared resilience factors, such as cultivating neighborhood support and positive relationships between youth and adults. They are also addressing the physical/built environment – an approach summarized as “place-making as peacemaking” – through community-led [Crime Prevention Through Environment Design](#) projects to improve lighting, maintain parks and recreational spaces, and more. Multnomah County is also implementing the initiative in non-traditional sports settings like churches and community teams. The county is also expanding and adapting [Coaching Boys Into Men](#) to be more inclusive of Spanish speakers and women and people who identify as LGBTQ. In Santa Clara County, violence prevention efforts in East San Jose include a portfolio of interventions and prioritized strategies that are mutually reinforcing and impactful. One example is changing the narrative and narrator of violence, race, and health equity by influencing how community and leaders talk about violence. Another strategy is the East San Jose PEACE Partnership working alongside [promotor@s](#) to shift family resource centers from a focus on literacy alone to a broader social justice agenda, including with a focus on preventing intimate partner violence and gun violence.

**C. Collaborative structures that balance power dynamics and support inclusion in community decision-making lift up community voice so that those most affected by multiple forms of violence are at the center.** Through a collaborative governance structure, the East San Jose PEACE Partnership brings residents and traditional decision-makers together on a leadership team. The team has 30 members including residents and community/empowerment organizations; health and healthcare partners, justice, education, and parks and recreation providers. During the formation of the group, participating organizations prioritized representatives who reside in the neighborhood to serve on the Leadership Team. The initiative also operates through a distributive leadership model so that there are “teams of teams” doing the work and sharing ownership.

Multnomah County uses a community health worker and educator model, hiring individuals with lived experience to organize with the community and serve on a Violence Prevention Coordination Team alongside city and county departments. The coordinating body oversees violence prevention work across forms of violence and aligns the goals of a variety of grants, such as Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE), Youth Sexual Health Equity Program, and Defending Childhood Initiative. The team conducts regular cross-team trainings, and will be tasked with generating policy recommendations.

**TIP:**

Foster a culture of care that acknowledges workers’ lived experiences and creates inclusive spaces for individuals to process their own reactions to the work they are doing and populations with whom they engage.



*Multnomah County hires health educators and community health workers with lived experience of exposure to multiple forms of violence. Here are some of the community health workers and the youth they serve in Multnomah County. [Image of 10 individuals, all wearing rainbow tie-dye shirts that say STRIVE.] Source: Multnomah County*

**D. Creating a sustainable funding mechanism is essential for long-term prevention of multiple forms of violence.** Balancing funder and community needs while focusing on the long-term commitment that is needed for violence prevention can be challenging. One challenge is to create enduring platforms that last beyond funding cycles, where the community can set priorities and direction. To support a sustainable plan, the East San Jose PEACE Partnership has created a Wellness Fund that is managed by a foundation to pool funding from a variety of sources. The leadership team will oversee the fund and prioritize how the money is used for violence prevention strategies.