

The Violence Prevention Project Research Center SF 412

The [Violence Prevention Project Research Center](#) (“The Violence Project”) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center dedicated to reducing gun violence in society and using data and research. Founded by psychologist Dr. Jillian Peterson and sociologist Dr. James Densley, the nonprofit grew out of a [three-year study](#) funded by the National Institute of Justice. The Violence Project built a comprehensive database of the life histories of mass shooters and conducted interviews with perpetrators, victims’ families, survivors, and first responders nationwide, which became the foundation for the book, [The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic](#), winner of the 2022 Minnesota Book Award.

The Violence Project has grown into a global phenomenon. We have given hundreds of public talks and media interviews and published dozens of essays in leading outlets like the [New York Times](#) and Washington Post. The mass shooter database, now in its sixth iteration, is freely available to the public and it has been downloaded thousands of times, becoming a go-to resource for researchers, journalists, practitioners, and policymakers worldwide. Our mailing listserv reaches around 50,000 people.

Located in St. Paul, The Violence Project conducts high-quality, high-impact, research for public consumption. We specialize in mixed-methods and interdisciplinary work with a much broader focus than the BCA Minnesota Justice Information Services, The Office of Justice Programs, or existing “compliance” agencies that support adherence to and implementation of federal and state statutes but do not have research capacity. We work with stakeholders across a wide range of sectors—K-12 education, higher education, law enforcement, retail, medicine, and public health.

There is universal concern about gun violence and overwhelming demand for our work. This funding will address critical infrastructure and staffing needs allowing The Violence Project to develop into a sustainable, regional gun violence research and policy center that can provide a centralized hub for data analysis and evidence-based policy development and a much-needed resource for Minnesotans.

The center would conduct rigorous research on the causes and consequences of gun violence and the effectiveness of different prevention and intervention strategies. The center would also work closely with community organizations and advocacy groups to ensure that its research and policy recommendations are informed by the experiences and needs of those most affected by gun violence. In addition, the center would provide training and technical assistance to local governments and communities on evidence-based approaches to reducing gun violence.