

## Human Service Justice Coordinating Committee

1. At its November 12, 2019 meeting, The Toronto Board of Health adopted the Community Violence in Toronto – A Public Health Approach report that will be considered by Toronto City Council on November 26, 2019 -

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL11.1>

- This report examines the extent of community violence, the impact on the broader community and identifies effective evidence-informed interventions to prevent incidents of violence and mitigate negative events.
- Evidence shows that community violence often occurs among young people, particularly black men, and is a health equity issue that disproportionately affects communities facing socioeconomic disadvantage. Two recent studies that examined Toronto homicide rates from 2004 to 2014 among Black residents and Somali-Canadian youth, respectively, found that community violence in Toronto is racialized; it disproportionately affects young Black males, in particular young Somali-Canadians
- Community violence has physical and mental health impacts on the victim, perpetrator, family, friends, neighbours and the entire city. Many intersecting social and economic factors contribute to this complex issue of growing public health concern
- The report outlines what a "Public Health Approach" to addressing community Violence
- There is growing evidence that the experience of trauma, and early trauma as a result of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), is an important pathway. Material deprivation, exposure to violence in the home, and repeated exposure to community violence are considered ACEs. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) negatively impact brain development and are associated with many poor health and mental health outcomes across the lifespan
- This project's findings will also inform the City's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB) led by the Social Development, Finance and Administration division (SDFA).

2. At its October 3 meeting, Toronto City Council adopted the Investing in Anti-Violence Programs report <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX8.26>

TO WARDS Peace is a wraparound model that combines credible community members with lived experience of involvement in violence with integrated City, health and community staff teams aimed at violence prevention and interruption. This model leverages the lived experience of affected communities to develop and implement effective community engagement approaches, innovative communication tools, social media strategies and targeted investment geared at violence prevention and interruption