Keeping Kids Safe: Healthcare's Role in Addressing Community Violence

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ACS Trauma
Verified Trauma Center

BEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
RANKED IN 4 SPECIALTIES
2025-2026

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

About Le Bonheur Children's

- *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Children's Hospital" for 15 straight years
- 311 beds – Memphis and Jackson, Tenn.
- Region's only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center – American College of Surgeons
- Outpatient Centers in Jackson, Tenn., Tupelo, Miss. and Jonesboro, Ark.
- Pediatric teaching hospital for The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
- Magnet-designated for nursing excellence
- Clinical partner with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Robust community health programs throughout the region



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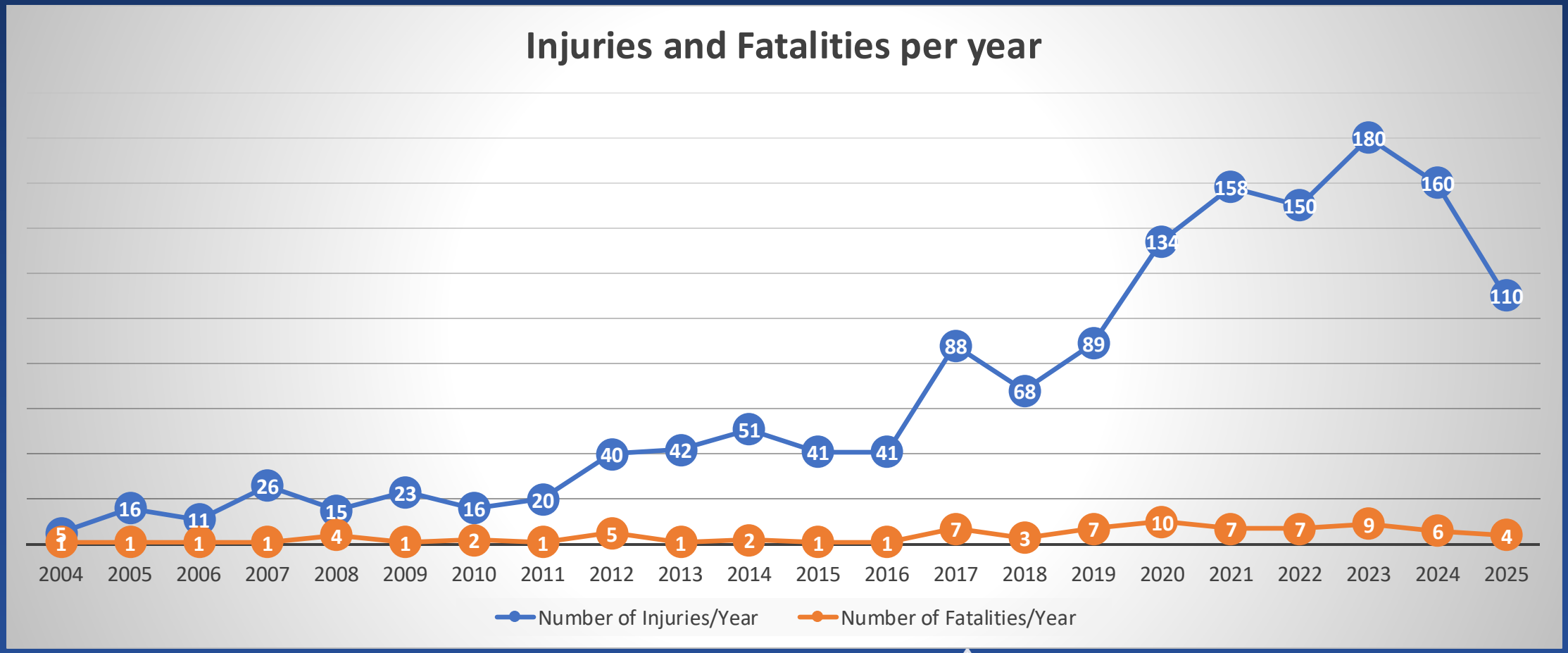
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Why is this important?

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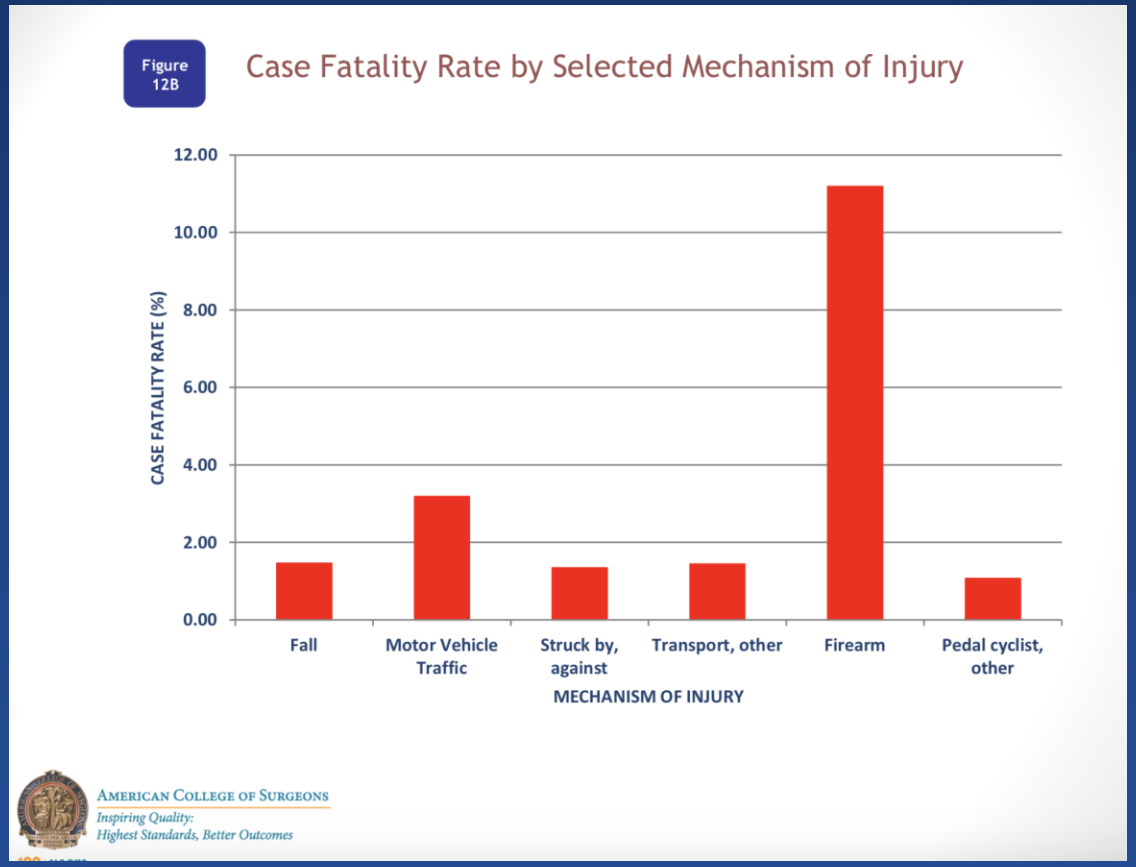
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Penetrating Injuries

- Penetrating injuries account for ~10% of admission to pediatric trauma center
  - 7% from gunshot wounds
- Case fatality rate is nearly five times higher than any other mechanism of injury



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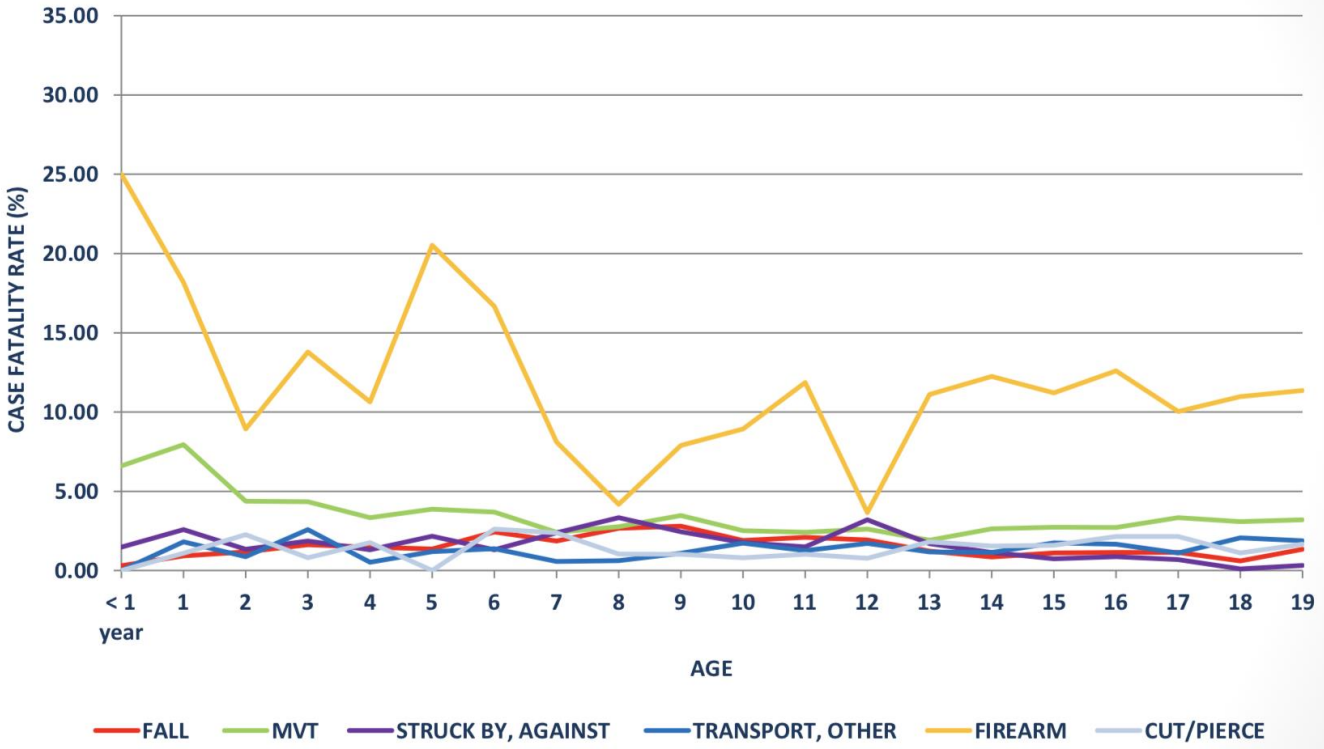
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Figure 14

Case Fatality Rate by Selected Mechanism of Injury by Age



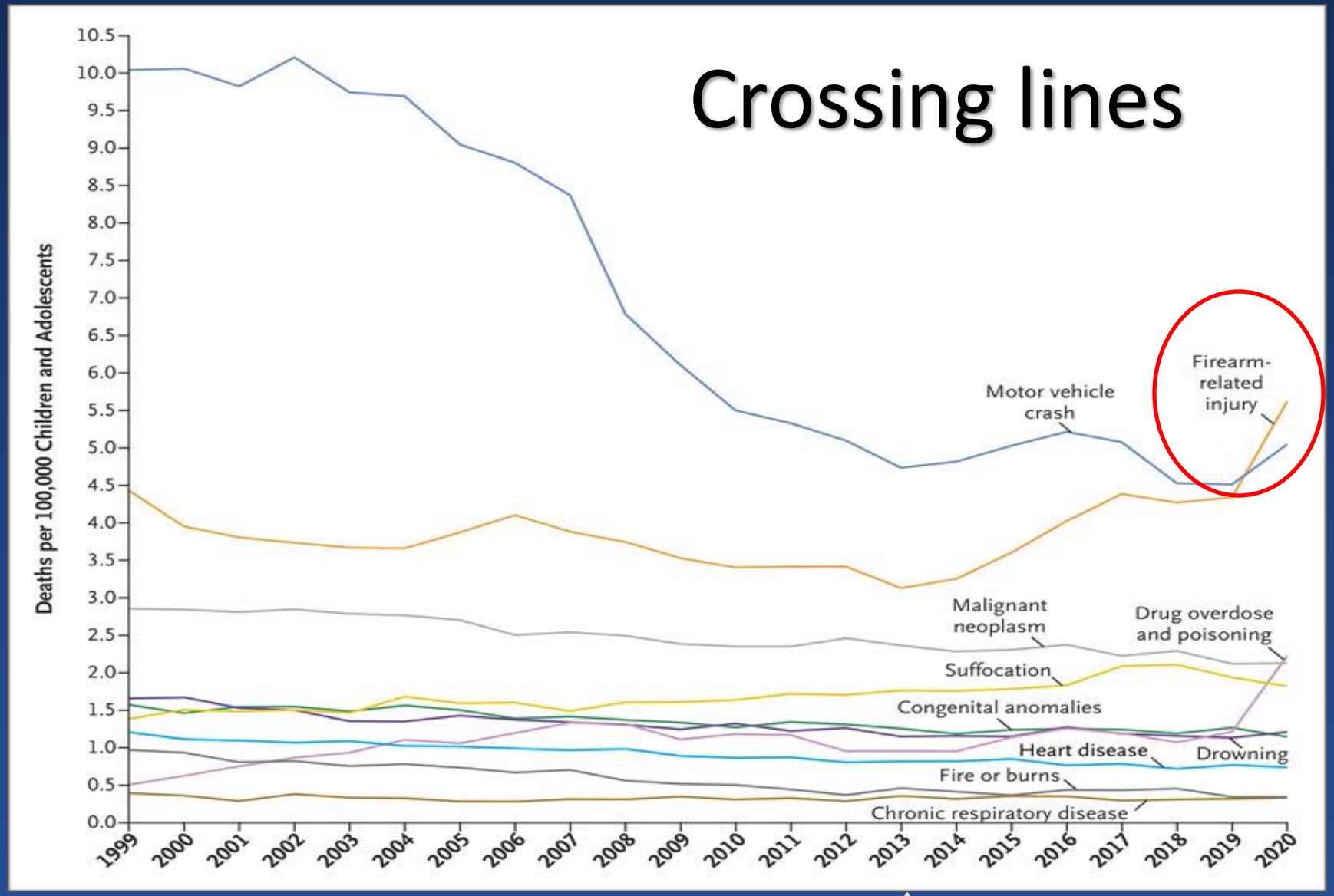
NTDB Pediatric Annual Report 2016

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Crossing lines



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What are we doing?

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ACTION FOR HOPE AND HEALING:
RESPONSES TO COMMUNITY VIOLENCE



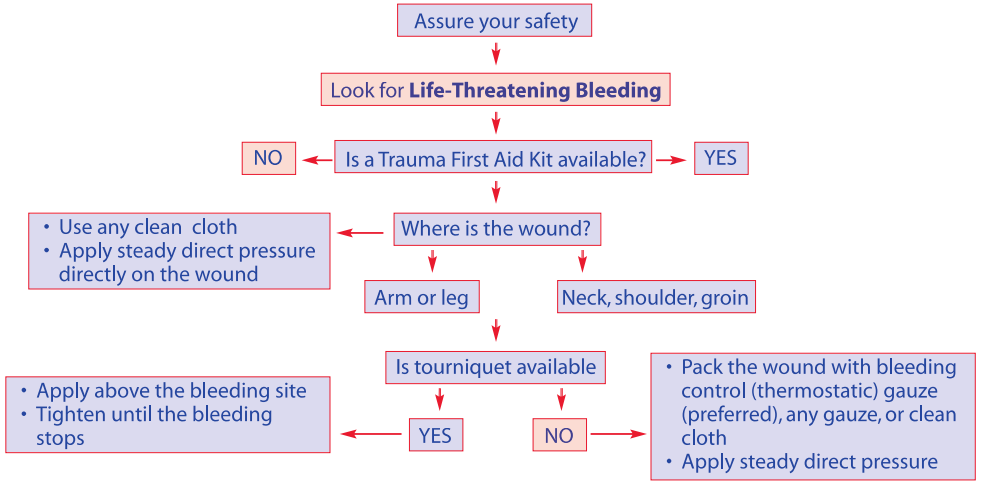
ACE AWARENESS FOUNDATION • BRIDGES • LATINO MEMPHIS • LE BONHEUR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
MEMPHIS AREA WOMEN'S COUNCIL • MEMPHIS SAYS NO MORE • METHODIST LE BONHEUR HEALTHCARE
MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA • NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN • OUT MEMPHIS • REGIONAL ONE HEALTH
SHELBY COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS & RAPE CRISIS CENTER • SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT • TN SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS • THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER • VICTIMS TO VICTORY

Save a Life – Stop the Bleed

What is Stop the Bleed?
Four months after the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, the American College of Surgeons called a meeting of senior leaders in the communities of medicine, law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire-rescue, and the military in Hartford. This group, The Hartford Consensus, was tasked with generating policies that would improve victim survivability at future traumatic events. They reported that "hemorrhage control" was one of the most important factors in saving lives.

Stop the Bleed was launched in October of 2015 by the White House. It is a national awareness campaign and a call to action. Stop the Bleed is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

Basics on what to do to control bleeding



How can I schedule a Stop the Bleed training for my group?
Contact **Sam Sheppard** at 901-287-5114 or sam.sheppard@lebonheur.org to schedule a training with Le Bonheur's Trauma Services team.

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital | STOP THE BLEED | Regional One Health

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Stop the Bleed

- Partner with Memphis Shelby County Schools, Le Bonheur School Health and Regional One to provide STOP THE BLEED education to middle school students.
- Distributed bleeding control kits to every school in Shelby County.
- 16 classes in 2025 with nearly 1,000 educated.







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Ceasefire Gun Safety Program



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Walks Against Community Violence

- Stop the Bleed
- Be Smart Training
- Local data about firearm injuries









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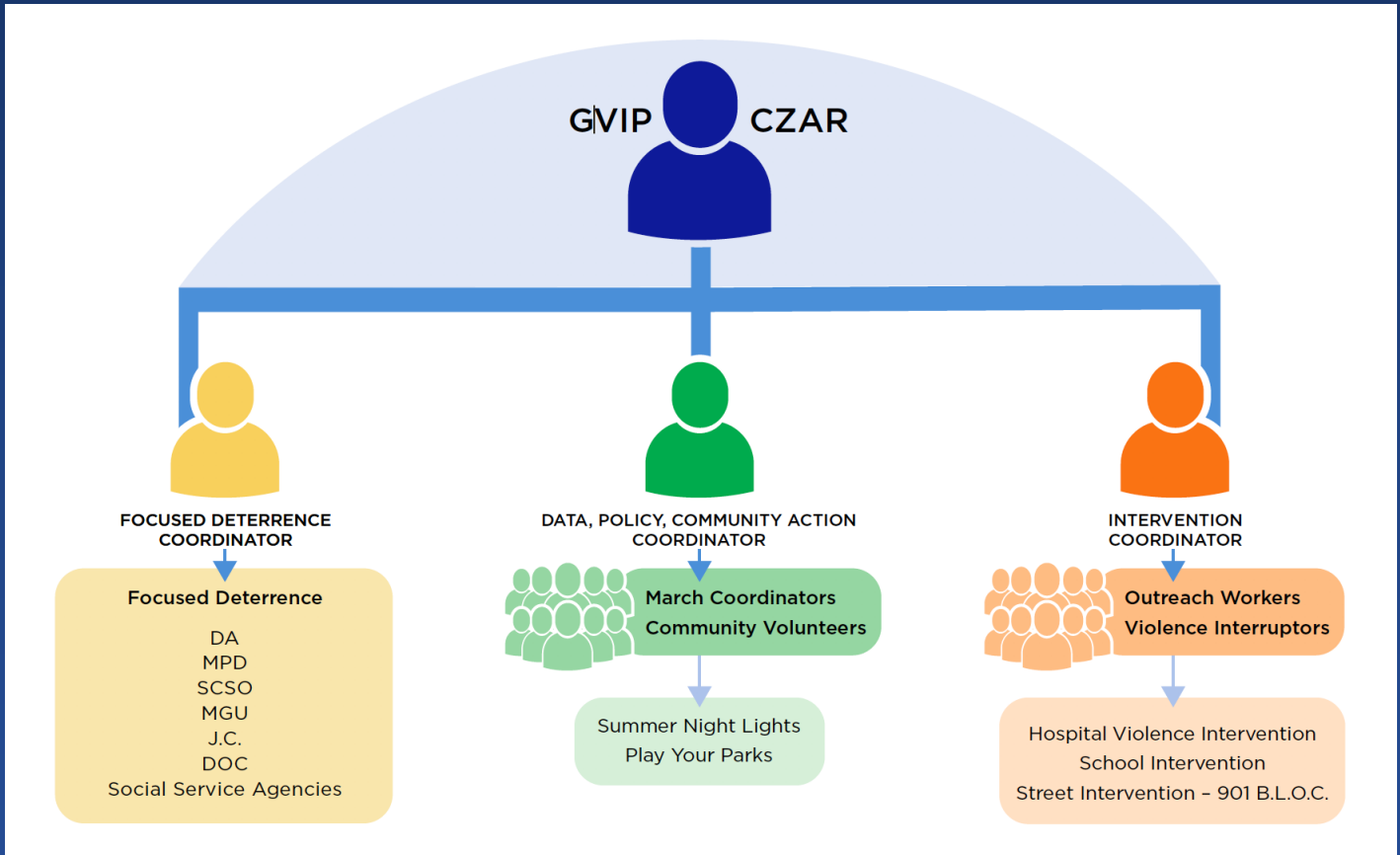
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Memphis GROUP Violence Intervention Program:

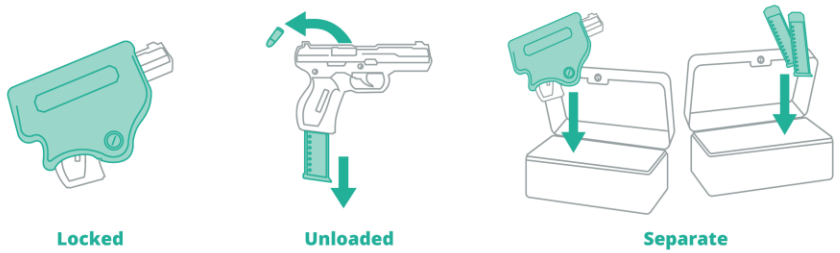
OPERATIONALIZING VIOLENCE REDUCTION IN MEMPHIS



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Be Smart Training

Assume children and teens can find guns. Store firearms locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition.



BE SMART

BeSMARTforKids.org





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Gun Lock Distribution

- We provide gun locks in the Emergency Department, on hospital floors and clinics to support safe firearm storage for families.

- Le Bonheur employees scan a QR code to document safe storage education and distribution.



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Trauma Mental Health Counseling Program

- Partnership with University of Memphis
- Provides screening and counseling for all pediatric trauma patients and their families
- Educates masters and doctoral level counseling students on the Hurt 2 Healing program
  - Developed at Le Bonheur during the first years



The BRAIN Center
Building Resilience across Ages Through Integrative Neuroscience

U of M

hurt-2-healing

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Hurt 2 Healing

- Mental health counselors and interns provide trauma-informed interventions bedside
- Reduce physiological arousal levels, maladaptive behaviors and stress
- Services
  - Acute Stress Screening and Consultation
  - Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction
  - Interpersonal and Social Rhythm Therapy
  - Family Therapy and Parenting Interventions
  - Play and Expressive Arts Therapy
  - Solution-Focused Brief Therapy
  - Grief and Loss Therapy



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Trauma Mental Health Counseling Program

- 4,126 patients and families served
- 5,730 counseling sessions
  - 72% in the hospital
  - 84% new to counseling
- 63 graduate students trained

- Provides evidence-based, neuroscience-informed counseling services both inpatient and at outpatient trauma clinic



Kiersten Hawes, PhD



Eraina Schauss, Ph.D., LPC-MHSP, ACS



DeKayla Thomas
LPC-MHSP



Sydnie Allen,
PhD, LPC-MHSP



Steven Smith
LPC-MHSP

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Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs

- Multidisciplinary programs that combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners
  - Provide safety planning
  - Wraparound services
  - Trauma-informed care to violently injured people
- Bring trauma–informed practices to the patient while in the hospital
  - Increased risk of re-injury and violence perpetration
- Teachable moments

HAVI THE HEALTH ALLIANCE for VIOLENCE INTERVENTION



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Supporting and Healing Individuals from Trauma (SHIFT)

- 364 patients and families enrolled over four years
- Age (Mean) - 12.6 years
- Gender - 68% Male
- Race - 94% African American
- Insurance - 80% Public insurance
- 85% enrolled in school with only 58% attending school regularly
- Injury - 66% GSW, 30% assault, 4% knife stab











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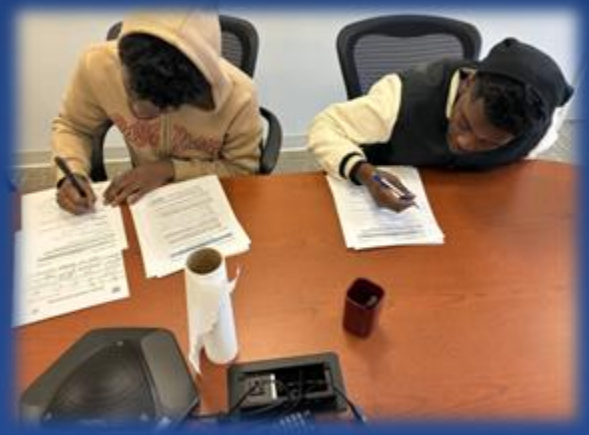
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Services

- Mental Health Counseling – 236
- Mentoring – 183
- Academic Support/school advocacy – 90
- Other common resources
  - Emergency Rent – 85
  - Food/Clothing Assistance - 105
  - Address Home needs - 88
  - Transportation – 96
  - Utility Assistance – 48
  - Court Advocacy



Outcomes



Re-injury 7%



Education 74%



Juvenile Court 10%

Vs 13% for unenrolled

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E-SHIFT

- Expands SHIFT services to at risk youth in juvenile court
- Ceasefire
- 73 enrolled – includes siblings
  - 84% male, 91% public insurance, mean age 16 years
  - 55% enrolled and attending school
  - Services
    - Mental Health Counseling
    - Substance Abuse Counseling
    - Mentoring
    - School Engagement
- 30 have completed the program
  - 81% active engagement in school
  - 70% improved mental health
  - 68% improved parent relationship



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Working for Youth Justice and Safety

Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Tenn.

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Magnet Recognized – American Nurses Credentialing Center

Best Children's Hospitals – U.S. News & World Report – Ranked in 4 Specialties 2025-2026

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Implementing Trauma Informed Care Training - 2023

- American College of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma
- Trained nearly 200 people in two years
- Trauma Informed Care Presentation
- Vignettes
- Lived Experience
- Vicarious trauma













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Conclusions

- Firearm injuries are the leading cause of death in children
- Preventing these injuries should take a public health approach which is data driven and community based
- Safe Storage
- Community Violence Intervention
  - Trauma Informed Care
  - Starts in the hospital
  - Community partnerships
- RELATIONSHIPS …

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MEMPHIS SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

BRAIN Center MEMPHIS

THE URBAN CHILD INSTITUTE

CRIME COMMISSION
SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS. SAFE COMMUNITY.

JUVENILE COURT
SHELBY COUNTY TENN. MEMPHIS

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Shelby County Health Department

UTHSC
CENTER FOR YOUTH ADVOCACY AND WELL-BEING

GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

JOINT OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

BLOCSQUAD MEMPHIS

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Thank you!

- Regan Williams, MD
  - Le Bonheur and UTHSC Pediatric Surgeon
  - Medical Director of Trauma
  - rfwilla@uthsc.edu

- Anissa Revels Cooper, MSN, RN
  - Trauma Program Director
  - Anissa.revels@lebonheur.org

- Sara Burnett
  - Senior Director, Community Relations and Advocacy
  - Sara.burnett@lebonheur.org

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Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Methodist Healthcare Family

The region's only comprehensive children's hospital.

3,300 Associates

311 beds
Memphis & Jackson, Tenn.

750 Medical Staff Members

45 Specialties



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THE LEAPFROG GROUP TOP CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL 2025

Level IV
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
Only Level IV in the region

Level 1
Pediatric Trauma Center
Only Level 1 in the region

Level IV
Accredited Epilepsy Program
National Association of Epilepsy Centers

more than
81,000
patient visits

American College of Surgeons
Level 1 pediatric surgery center

Partnerships

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- University of Memphis
- 500+ Community Partners

12 **Le Bonheur Pediatrics**
Primary Care Clinics

Academic partnership with:
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.



Providing expert care in Memphis, Tenn. with Outpatient Centers in:

- Jonesboro, Ark.
- Jackson, Tenn.
- Tupelo, Miss.