

DIVEST & INVEST

FROM POLICING IN COMMUNITY HEALTH



Police officers killed **1,091 people** in the U.S. in 2016, amounting to **54,754 years of life lost**.¹

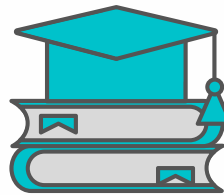
In Michigan, police killed at least **122 people between 2013-2019**.²



Residents have poorer health in neighborhoods where police use force **disproportionately** against Black and Latinx residents, including **higher blood pressure and higher diabetes rates**.⁵

INVEST IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

- Develop free, accessible public transit and safe, affordable housing options.
- Finance community-based food banks, grocery cooperatives, gardens, and farms.
- Allocate more funding towards healthcare, including non-coercive drug and alcohol treatment programming.



Police presence and security measures are concentrated in schools attended by students of color and low-income students, and more often deny students **educational and social growth opportunities**.⁶

INVEST IN EDUCATION

- Remove police from schools.
- Invest in teachers, counselors, and childcare.
- Ensure that taxes fund schools equitably.
- End school zero-tolerance disciplinary policies.



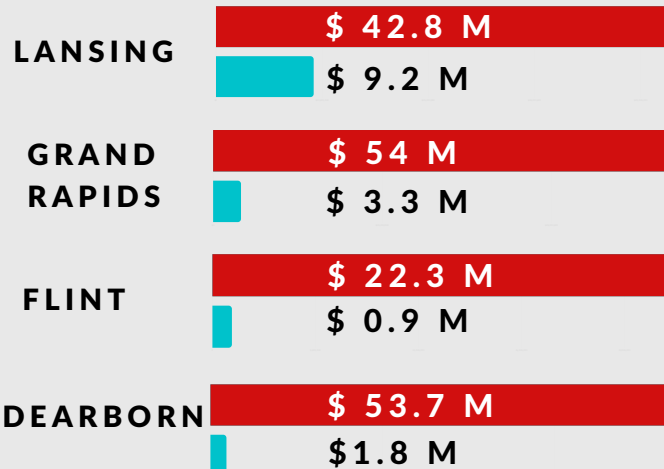
22% of people shot and killed by police since 2015 had a known mental illness.⁷ **Aggressive policing, like stop-and-frisk, is associated with poorer psychological health**.⁸

INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Build neighborhood-based trauma centers.
- Create skills-based education around bystander intervention, consent, & healthy relationships.
- Invest in peer support networks and resources for immigrants & asylum-seekers.
- Support councils that oversee return of land to Indigenous groups.

CITY EXPENDITURES: POLICE DEPARTMENTS VS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FY 2019)³

Community Development (Cyan) City Police (Red)



Divesting from policing, rather than funding police reform efforts, will allow communities to invest in **preventive, equitable approaches** to health, safety, and well-being.⁴

References:

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2. Mapping Police Violence. Available at: www.mappingpoliceviolence.org.
3. Data taken from each city's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from Fiscal Year 2019. Dollar amounts represent actual expenditures.
4. Critical Resistance. Reformist reforms vs. abolitionist steps in policing. 2020.
5. Sewell AA. The illness associations of police violence: differential relationships by ethnoracial composition. 2017. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/soef.12361>.
6. Kupchik A, Ward G. Race, poverty, and exclusionary school security: empirical analysis of US elementary, middle, and high schools. Youth Viol. Juvenile Justice. 2014;12:332-354

7. Sewell AA, Jefferson KA, Lee H. Living under surveillance: Gender, psychological distress, and stop-question-and-frisk policing in New York City. Social science medicine. 2016 Jun 1;159:1-3.
8. Police Shootings Database. Washington Post. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

Acknowledgements:

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- American Public Health Association. Policy Statement: Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue. 2018. Available at: <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2019/01/29/law-enforcement-violence>
- Liberate! Don't Incarcerate. www.liberatedontincarcerate.org