

ABOUT US

The Black & Brown Collective is a dynamic network of researchers, led by and serving Black and Brown communities. We work diligently to assist communities deeply affected by gun violence through research, collaboration, narrative change, and advocacy. Our aspiration is to facilitate the growth, funding, and execution of research-backed violence prevention initiatives and to shift the narrative around community violence and its solutions. We envision nurturing just, equitable, and healthy communities, free from the menace of violence. The Black & Brown Collective works hand-in-hand with practitioners with lived experience to combine our collective knowledge in policy and practice development. This collaboration fosters a community-driven and accountable approach to violence prevention research, programs, and outcomes.

OUR WORK

The Black & Brown Collective is fueled by a desire to amplify the efficacy of research, programs, and policy that address structural and gun violence in Black and Brown communities. We undertake rigorous, culturally-responsive, responsible, and equitable research and practices to foster healing and save lives. Notwithstanding the disproportionate impact of violence on Black and Brown communities, investment in community-based solutions has been gravely insufficient. The Black & Brown Collective unites Black and Brown violence prevention researchers, practitioners, and advocates to enhance safety and wellness in communities throughout the U.S. Together, we further change by highlighting Black and Brown solutions to gun violence. We shift the narrative by recognizing the humanity of directly impacted Black and Brown families and the crucial work of violence prevention practitioners. Moreover, we contribute to enhancing the violence prevention field by supporting the emerging generation of Black and Brown violence prevention scholars and leaders.

OUR STRATEGIES

- **Embracing Communities:** We believe in inviting Black and Brown communities impacted by gun violence to partake in research actively and ensuring they are the primary beneficiaries of our findings to guide their actionable steps. Our conception of 'community' extends beyond residents and includes stakeholders invested in understanding and preventing violence. We aim to leverage our expertise through select webinars and training open to the public.
- **Informing Policymakers:** Policymakers across all levels must be aware not only of the research results but also of the critical role community engagement plays in devising effective solutions. We advocate for increased support for focused Black and Brown community-based approaches.
- **Reimagining Research and Academia:** We acknowledge that previous research practices may have been detrimental or inadequate for Black and Brown communities. We argue that 'evidence-based' approaches should honestly assess potential or real harms and be inclusive of those most impacted by gun violence. Challenging established norms and advocating for authentic community engagement in research are among our key goals.
- **Guiding Junior Researchers:** We aspire to provide mentorship and collaboration opportunities for early and mid-career Black and Brown researchers engaged in gun violence studies, and to facilitate the creation of pathways for new Black and Brown scholars to help expand the field of gun violence research.
- **Engaging the Media:** We aim to shape narratives by enhancing the communication of causes, consequences, experiences, and potential solutions for gun violence. Through op-eds and collaborations with journalists, we strive to broaden understanding of violence and trauma exposure in the most impacted communities and shift societal perceptions of gun violence resolution.

OUR JOURNEY

Since 2021, the Collective has embarked on an ambitious action plan that has transitioned the group from an informal gathering of Black and Brown gun violence researchers to a formal organization by establishing a clear vision and mission, instituting governance, and attracting funding to implement its first year goals. In December 2022, we began strategizing our fundraising efforts and acknowledged the necessity to broaden our capacity to accomplish our ambitious objectives. As we transitioned into 2023, we formalized our governance structure into an acting board and developed a plan to hire our first executive director. As we move forward, we are closing in on the completion of an equity report, securing funding to ensure the sustainability of the organization, and gearing up for transformative partnerships, staying steadfast in our commitment to address gun violence and affect community change.