

June 2020

Collaboratory for Health Justice

## About the newsletter

Policing is a public health issue. As such, this first ever newsletter of the Collaboratory for Health Justice is focused on the strong and growing call for Chicago and the nation to defund the police. This issue provides definitions, framing, and a brief status update on local government's funding of police and prisons. Please join us in our call to action.

## The American Public Health Association's 10 Call to Action Items on Police Violence



Add injury and death by legal intervention to governments' and health departments' lists of reportable conditions. The CDC should release surveillance data on these conditions in a timely manner.



Fund the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Justice to research the health consequences of police violence and the disproportionate burden on POCs.



Fund the National Institutes of Health to study ways to become less reliant on law enforcement and more oriented in social determinants of health.



Decriminalize survival work and activities related to marginalization (ie, sex work, drug possession, sleeping in public spaces)



Review policies and practices that disproportionately impact specific populations.



Reverse the militarization of law enforcement



Eliminate legislative provisions and codes of silence that hinder investigations and accountability



Make public all investigational documents and recordings of excessive use of force

8 steps focus on accountability, transparency, and reducing encounters.  
2 steps focus on fundamentally breaking down police systems.



Divest from law enforcement to community-based solutions focused on violence prevention and restorative justice



Urge governments to reinvest in basic human needs (i.e., education and health promotion) using funds divested from law enforcement

Defunding is the process of reducing resources available to law enforcement. Defunding makes it possible to divest, which is to rethink the redistribution of resources.

## What would it mean to defund the police?

Defunding the police is not an approach that is against community safety. Rather, it urges cities, counties, states, and the federal government to stop investing in law enforcement as the solution to safety concerns.

As is, police systems do not provide safety for everyone. Instead, they are rooted in systemic racism and disproportionately harm Black and Brown communities. Still, disproportionate state funds go to law enforcement to build larger workforces, "modernize" policing with technology, and train police to respond to community crises like drug overdoses, interpersonal violence, and mental health crises.

The call to defund and divest from the police urges for funds to be reallocated to resources that meet people's basic needs, improve education, and focus on community-based solutions. Community solutions like restorative justice mechanisms can actually enhance safety and healing while strengthening resilient communities.

Defunding the police looks like fewer police in communities, no police in schools, and defunding prisons. It is not the same as abolition, the complete dismantling of police, although abolition can be the ultimate goal.

## Local status update: defunding police

### City of Chicago

\$1.78 billion to CPD

\$33 million to police public schools

The Chicago Police Department made up 18% of the 2020 FY budget.

Compare that to:

Creating Affordable Housing 1.69%

Mental and Behavioral Health 0.35%

Maternal and Child Health 0.23%

Public Libraries 0.85%

Food Protection 0.07%

Epidemiology 0.05%

Mayor Lightfoot is NOT considering defunding CPD or ending its contract with public schools.

City of Chicago. (2020). 2020 Budget Overview. Chicago: Office of the Mayor. Retrieved from: [https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/obm/supp\\_info/2020\\_0Budget/2020BudgetOverview.pdf](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/obm/supp_info/2020_0Budget/2020BudgetOverview.pdf)

### Cook County



The \$598.9 million dollar budget for the Sheriff's Office was a \$13.5 million increase from 2019.

Funding increased 3 years in a row.



### What gained funding?

Administration and Human Resources  
Information technology ("modern policing")  
Police departments

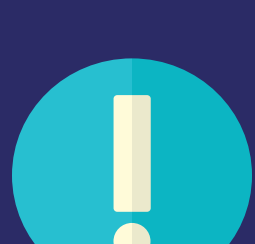


### What lost funding?

Spending on investigations of misconduct and corruption

The Sheriff's Office operates the Cook County Department of Corrections which has a 336.3 million dollar budget.

Cook County Board of Commissioners. (2020). Adopted 2020 Budget. Cook County: Board of Commissioners' Office. Retrieved from: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/sites/default/files/service/volume-1-web-adopted-2020.pdf>



Sign the letter to Mayor Lightfoot demanding she defund the police  
Demand alderpeople support the Civilian Police Accountability Council



## Learn More and Act

### News: Cities and Campuses Committed to Defunding

Minneapolis, MN

New York City, NY

Camden, NJ

Harvard

### Critical Resistance Resources

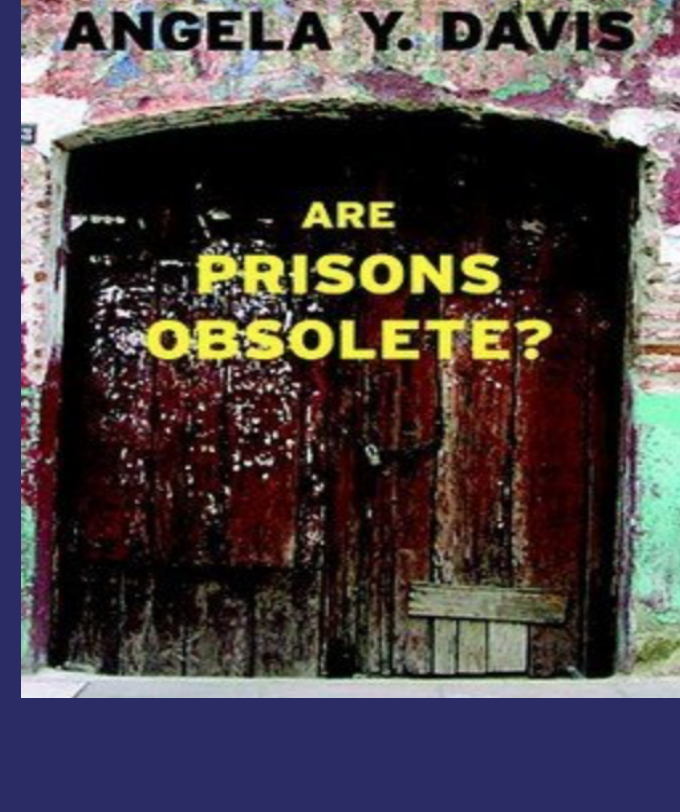
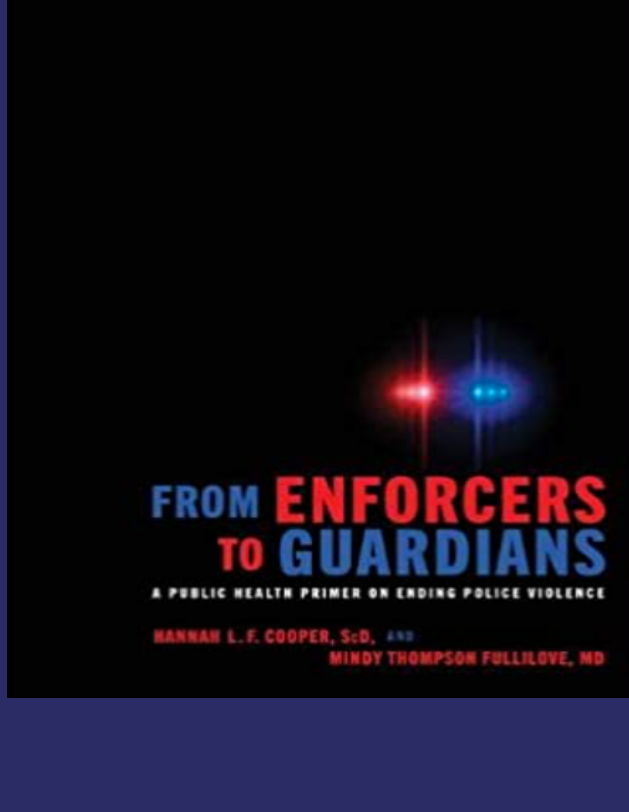
#### Abolish Police Workshop

This workshop can be completed alone or in groups to better understand the history of policing as well as contemporary alternatives to calling police in moments of crisis. It has been used in classrooms and workshops across the nation and is available for free.

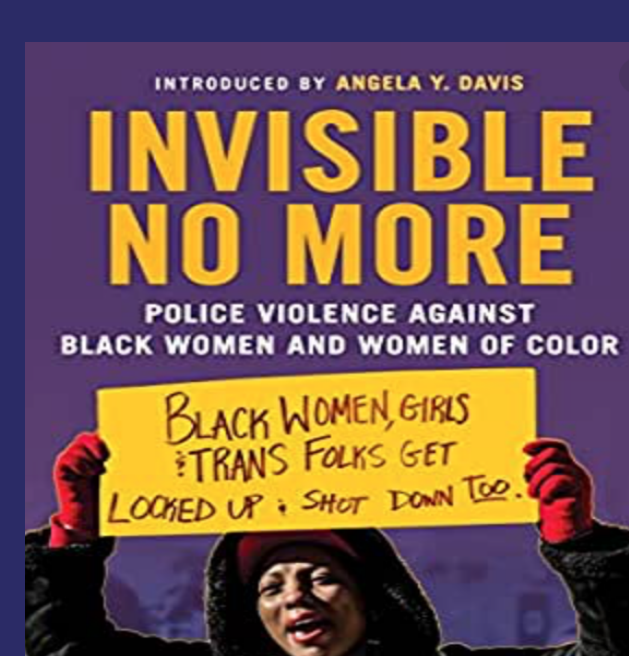
#### Abolish Prisons Toolkit

This comprehensive guide is historical, philosophical, and skill based. Wondering how communities will ensure safety? How should society deal with harms? The toolkit will guide you through these and other questions and explain why prison abolition is in communities' best interests.

### Scholarly Sources



Watch or listen to this recording of distinguished activists and scholars talk about the importance of current protests. Featuring Black Lives Matter co-founder, Alicia Garza; leader in intersectionality theory, Kimberle Crenshaw; and other renown leaders.



McDowell, M. G., & Fernandez, L. A. (2018). Disband, Disempower, and Disarm: Amplifying the Theory and Practice of Police Abolition. *Critical Criminology*, 26(3), 373-391.

### Recent news from SPH

May 30  
CCTS and CHJ worked with Berwyn Mutual Aid and the Latinx Think and Do Tank to host a Cicero townhall to answer testing questions and share info on where to get tested. Watch the recording.

June 2  
Administration and leaders from the School of Public Health released a statement on George Floyd's murder and called on public health for more action. See the letter.

June 2  
CHJ published a short guide on anti-racist praxis to accompany the SPH statement and equip students, faculty, and staff with resources and action items. See the guide.

June 9  
Radical Public Health released a letter in solidarity with Black communities. Students called on Mayor Lightfoot and the UI System for more action.



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