



Prevention Institute Policy Priorities

Prevention Institute (PI) advocates for local, state, and federal policies and systems changes that bolster health, safety, and wellbeing across communities, with equity at the heart of all our efforts. Our policy priorities reflect opportunities to prioritize investments that support public health and prevention by:

- Maintaining, strengthening, and building upon essential prevention and equity gains;
- Resisting and defending against current and emerging threats to community wellbeing;
- Cultivating new champions for prevention and equity at all levels of government;
- Mobilizing public health and equity advocates; and
- Advancing innovations and accelerating policy progress to support thriving, equitable communities.

Policy Priorities for Health

Prevention Institute's health initiatives focus on:

- **Healthy Equitable Communities:** Advancing community transformation and healthy equitable development without displacement.
- **Healthy States and Regions:** Supporting health, safety, and wellbeing state wide or across regions.
- **Health Systems Transformation:** Ensuring that health systems and healthcare organizations address the community determinants of health, safety, well-being, and equity.

Prevention Institute champions health policy efforts to:

- **Preserve and grow the Prevention and Public Health Fund** and increase its emphasis over time on new investments that prioritize innovation in prevention and public health.
- **Sustain and increase federal investments in community-level prevention initiatives** that enhance health, safety, wellbeing, and health equity.
- **Leverage the next wave of health system transformation** to increase emphasis on community-level prevention and expand the narrative from *healthcare* to health, safety and wellbeing.



Prevention Institute supports and applauds health policy efforts to:

- Raise the spending caps for non-defense discretionary spending through a new budget agreement.
- Increase funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the 22X22 campaign to grow the CDC's budget by 22% by 2022.
- Prevent, prepare for, and mitigate against health and equity related impacts of climate change and other environmental threats.
- Promote maternal and child health outcomes, including addressing maternal morbidity and mortality, and infant mortality.

Policy Priorities for Safety

Prevention Institute's safety initiatives focus on:

- **Advancing upstream public health approaches** to change the underlying conditions that contribute to multiple forms of violence—in homes, schools, and neighborhoods—to prevent violence and offer a viable alternative to criminal justice and remediation approaches.
- **Engaging multiple sectors and coalitions to prevent violence** through shifting norms, reducing risk factors, and promoting resilience factors.

Prevention Institute champions safety policy efforts to:

- **Increase resources and capacity building for public health departments and communities** to implement and participate in comprehensive community efforts to address and prevent multiple forms of violence (e.g. school, community, intimate partner, sexual assault, and child abuse and exploitation).
- **Advance a [comprehensive public health platform](#) to prevent gun violence**—including through mass shootings, domestic violence, suicide, community violence, and violence involving law enforcement—that includes reducing imminent risk of lethality, addresses risk and resilience factors, builds prevention infrastructure, and supports continuous learning and innovation.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds safety policy efforts to:

- Protect healthy child and family development and prevent multiple forms of violence, including child maltreatment, domestic violence, sexual violence, and suicide.



- Reform the criminal justice system away from punishment and towards an emphasis on public health approaches that address the underlying contributors to violence.
- Align federal research dollars with community safety priorities and public health strategies to prevent violence.

Policy Priorities for Wellbeing

Prevention Institute's wellbeing initiatives focus on:

- **Promoting mental health and preventing substance misuse through community prevention solutions**—like fostering social connections, improving the built environment, and increasing access to economic opportunity—and fostering resilience.
- **Addressing and preventing community trauma** through naming injustice, healing, resilience, and community solutions for racial, gender and generational equity.

Prevention Institute champions wellbeing policy efforts to:

- **Emphasize community-level primary prevention strategies** in the national response to diseases of despair, including opioid and other substance misuse and suicide.
- **Grow and support federal efforts and investments** that strengthen protective factors in communities to promote mental health and wellbeing.
- **Advance strategies that promote healing and build resilience** to prevent and counterbalance community despair and structural violence.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds wellbeing policy efforts to:

- Achieve mental health parity and greater access to quality, affordable mental health services through healthcare, schools, and other community settings.
- Develop a robust, resourced mental health and wellbeing workforce.
- Prioritize trauma informed care and the prevention of adverse childhood experiences.



Policy Priorities for Equity

Prevention Institute's equity initiatives focus on:

- **Addressing the impact of structural drivers of health inequity**—like racism, income inequality, and power differentials—to change the community conditions tied to those inequities.
- **Advocating for health equity in the built and natural environments**—including transportation; a healthy, equitable land-use system; equitable parks and open space policies and practices; and safe, clean and reliable water—that increase opportunities for health, safety, and wellbeing in communities of color and communities with low household incomes and addressing challenges such as displacement and gentrification.

Note: Prevention Institute embeds core equity considerations and outcomes across all our policy work while also pursuing specific equity-focused policy opportunities.

Prevention Institute champions equity policy efforts to:

- **Preserve and restore funding for the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program (REACH)** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Protect the health, safety, wellbeing and dignity of immigrant families living in the US** by opposing efforts to curtail access to vital health, safety, and wellbeing promoting programs and services.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds equity policy efforts to:

- Protect against efforts to dismantle the safety net by maintaining full access to food and nutrition assistance, housing support, access to quality reproductive health services, and other vital social supports.
- Implement equity-focused paid family leave and paid sick time policies that do not exacerbate economic inequities.
- Prevent discrimination and the perpetuation of systemic harms along racial/ethnic lines; socioeconomic status; physical or mental ability; sexual orientation; and gender and gender identity.
- Implement an equitable and inclusive 2020 Census that fully captures and reflects the diversity of those living in the United States.