

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **National Mass Violence Center developing preparedness plans with communities**

### **Ongoing national outreach through DOJ grant**

**CHARLESTON, S.C. (Sept. 16, 2024)** – In recognition of [National Preparedness Month](#), the National Mass Violence Center announces it is working with more than a dozen communities to develop mass violence preparedness plans that are both victim-centered and trauma-informed.

The NMVC is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and is based in the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center in the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. NMVC experts and partners have assisted communities nationwide in mass violence responses since 2017.

The new NMVC Preparedness Division was created as a part of a nearly \$9 million cooperative agreement renewal [announced in 2023](#).

“While no one wants to think that a mass violence incident will occur in their community, in reality, MVIs can occur anywhere and at any time,” said NMVC associate director Angela Moreland, Ph.D. Moreland, director of the NMVC Preparedness Division. “Unfortunately, all communities are at risk for mass violence and must consider the possibility of these tragedies striking close to home.”

Many local and state governments have extensive plans in place to manage emergencies such as natural disasters and health outbreaks. NMVC experts encourage government leaders also to develop plans specifically related to mass violence response, recovery and resilience that include the voices of victims, survivors and family members.

“Even if you feel that your community is prepared to handle disaster, it is crucial to consider the unique components of mass violence and the services that will be needed. Incorporate these into your plans early,” Moreland said. “The goal is to alleviate as much chaos as possible for your team in responding to a mass violence incident by ensuring leaders and victim services professionals are working together – and following a clear plan – after a tragedy happens.”

Since its inception just 10 months ago, the NMVC Preparedness Division has been actively assisting and consulting with states, medical centers, school systems, universities, cities, counties, federal

agencies and Tribal nations. The division is working with communities throughout the U.S. to identify gaps in services and specific needs, providing on-site and virtual support to develop plans and augment collaborative response processes. In addition, the team helps to create robust lists of partners and allies, including emergency management, law enforcement, medical facilities, schools, faith-based organizations and victim services. Division experts have been invited to present at many diverse national conferences to discuss how a holistic approach is crucial to a community's safety and long-term healing.

The NMVC recommends that [16 best practices](#) always be incorporated into mass violence response plans, including protocols for incident command, victim identification, crisis communications, volunteer management, emergency funding and donation management and first responder support.

It is essential that planning and response plans always include local and state victims service professionals, according to NMVC associate academic program director Elizabeth Cronin. Cronin is a former New York state prosecutor and director of the New York State Office of Victim Services, whose previous experience includes responding to several MVIs, including one at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.

“Developing a victim-centered plan can help ensure that members of the impacted community have access to dependable physical and behavioral/mental health services in the short- and long-term aftermath of an MVI,” Cronin said. “Victim assistance programs and service providers should collaborate with emergency managers to integrate robust victim services into planning for a more comprehensive response, identifying and prioritizing the needs of victims and survivors.”

The NMVC Improving Community Preparedness Training and Technical Assistance (ICP TTA) program provides no-cost, evidence-based resources to prepare for MVIs. It offers:

1. Individualized training and technical assistance.
2. Supplemental resources.
3. Collaborative protocols.
4. Presentations and workshops.
5. Personal dedication of more than 40 partner organizations and MVI subject matter experts

In addition to the NMVC activities related to community preparedness, the NMVC offers extensive resources for individuals, communities and professionals that are affected by mass violence, including tip sheets; resource guides curated for communities that have experienced an MVI; a quarterly, virtual National Town Hall series; best practices guides; the Mass Violence Podcast; community and victim surveys, findings and reports; and the Transcend-NMVC app to help MVI survivors cope with the impact and trauma. These resources can all be found on the NMVC website: [www.nmvvrc.org](http://www.nmvvrc.org).

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#### **About NMVC**

Mass violence is a major problem in America that has killed and injured thousands and has a devastating impact on countless communities and our nation. The NMVC was established in October 2017 at the Medical University of South Carolina through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. In 2023, OVC awarded nearly \$9 million to NMVC to continue its nationwide mission of the improving community preparedness and the

country's capacity to serve victims and communities recovering from mass violence through research, planning, training, technology and collaboration.

### **About MUSC**

Founded in 1824 in Charleston, MUSC is the state's only comprehensive academic health system, with a mission to preserve and optimize human life in South Carolina through education, research and patient care. Each year, MUSC educates over 3,100 students in six colleges and trains 950+ residents and fellows across its health system. MUSC leads the state in federal and National Institutes of Health and research funding. For information on our academic programs, visit [muscd.edu](https://muscd.edu).

As the health care system of the Medical University of South Carolina, MUSC Health is dedicated to delivering the highest-quality and safest patient care while educating and training generations of outstanding health care providers and leaders to serve the people of South Carolina and beyond. In 2024, for the 10th consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report named MUSC Health University Medical Center in Charleston the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina. To learn more about clinical patient services, visit [muschealth.org](https://muschealth.org).

MUSC has a total enterprise annual operating budget of \$7.1 billion. The 31,000 MUSC members include world-class faculty, physicians, specialty providers, scientists, contract employees, affiliates and care team members who deliver groundbreaking education, research, and patient care.