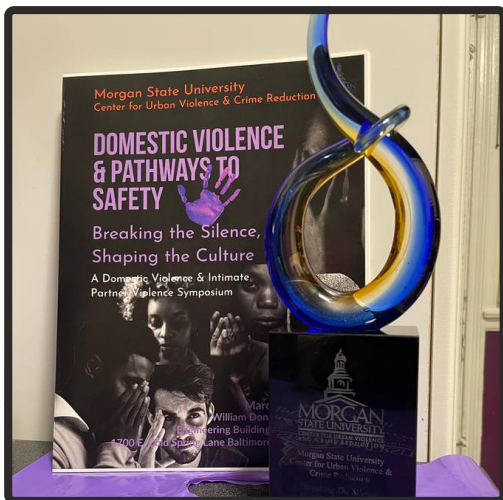




BIENNIAL REPORT

July 2024-August 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Center for Violence Prevention's Biennial Report. Can you believe that as of May the Center for Violence Prevention has been established for three years? Time flies when you are doing good work! It has been an honor to work with so many of you on this journey. In this report, I am excited to share with you the progress we have made in the past two years and our plans for the next two.

In addition to building upon our community-led model, which continues to empower local voices and foster collaboration, the Center has become a convener building on our three-pillar model of community, research, and education. We hosted, co-hosted, or presented at gatherings that ran from classrooms to Baltimore City Hall to Annapolis and the United Nations. The Center pursued funding actively across these two years in a difficult environment for government grants, and has been able to continue doing impactful work alongside national recognition for me as its director.

A few highlights of my activities on behalf of the Center include: participating in the 2025 Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities conference as part of a keynote convened by Mayor Brandon Scott alongside University of Baltimore President and former Mayor Kurt Schmoke, on public safety and the role of anchor institutions; engaging in a special Harvard University Radcliffe planning seminar on the trafficking of women and girls; delivering a presentation on the intersection of youth violence and human trafficking in Largo, MD in partnership with The Links, Inc. and the Governor's Office, and speaking with WMAR about mass shootings in Baltimore. I was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on the Trafficking of Children in the United States, which held its first meeting in January 2025. In November 2025, I participated in a High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Trafficking in Persons, as well as UN events marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. I was also honored to be listed as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2025.

Despite the current challenges to the research funding landscape, we have been able to listen to the community and move forward with critical research and education programming in support of the wider violence prevention ecosystem in Baltimore and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the Center for Violence Prevention, click [HERE](#). Together, we are creating a safer and more just future for all.

Sincerely,
Nadine M. Finigan-Carr, PhD
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

The Center for Violence Prevention brings together the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and the University of Maryland Schools of Medicine, Social Work, and Law to prevent and respond to violence in Baltimore and across Maryland. Our mission is to build resilient and equitable communities through the prevention of all forms of violence and trauma, and our approach rests on three pillars: establishing a community of practice that works collaboratively to reduce violence, training professionals and future leaders across disciplines, and expanding the evidence base for violence prevention.

In the Fall of 2025, we made a significant structural change to our operations by integrating our Prevention of Adolescent Risks Initiative (PARI) team into the Center. What had been a separate initiative co-located at the School of Social Work is now a single, unified team. That consolidation is still underway on the public-facing side, with PARI's web content being migrated into the Center's site over the remainder of 2026.



Nadine M. Finigan-Carr, PhD, MS
Executive Director



Amelia Rubenstein, MSW, LCSW-C
Director of Programs and Operations



Neil Mallon, MSW, LCSW-C
Lead Research Project Coordinator



Tharyn Giovanni, MSW, LCSW-C
Graduate Research Assistant

OUR MISSION

To build resilient and equitable communities for all through the prevention and intervention of all forms of violence and trauma. The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Center for Violence Prevention seeks to intervene, reduce, and respond to violence in Baltimore, bringing together the expertise of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center and the University of Maryland Schools of Medicine, Social Work, and Law.

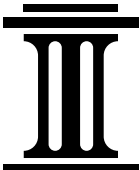
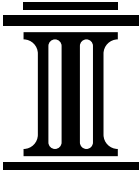
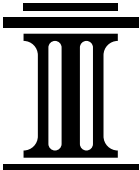
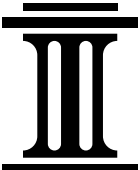
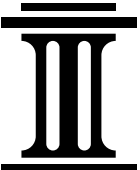
OUR VISION

To bridge the activities across UMB and in the community in an interdisciplinary, collaborative fashion, to conduct community-based participatory research, provide creative and impactful education, and inform and advocate for policies that strengthen our communities to prevent violence and trauma. All individuals must thrive in a safe and equitable environment, and this is achieved by preventing all forms of violence.

HOW WE HELP

Expanding on the Baltimore City Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan and/or initiatives from violence intervention partners, the Center for Violence Prevention contributes to the violence intervention and prevention ecosystem in Baltimore and beyond using a community-led approach.

Aligned with UMB's Strategic Plan, the three pillars of the Center's strategic plan are designed to produce long-term positive outcomes improving community safety, block by block. The Center's upstream approach to violence prevention recognizes that effective violence interruption strategies are crucial to improving prevention outcomes:

-  **1** Expand the evidence base for violence prevention strategies
-   **2** Train professionals and future leaders on violence prevention in an interdisciplinary fashion
-    **3** Establish a community of practice that works collaboratively to reduce violence

COMMUNITY - OUTREACH & EVENTS

Academic Anchor Institution Coalition-Building

After meeting with directors and leaders in violence prevention and public safety from several of the academic anchor institutions in our state, Dr. Finigan-Carr kept hearing the same refrain – we need to work together more. To that end, representatives from centers and units at Coppin State University, Johns Hopkins Schools of Public Health and Nursing, Morgan State University, University of Baltimore, and University of Maryland, College Park (PROGRESS Initiative) were invited to participate in coalition-building meetings. The first was convened by the Center for Violence Prevention in February 2026. The initial goal for these convenings was to identify and document existing university-led and community-partnered public safety and violence prevention initiatives across Baltimore; and assess strengths and gaps that exist in coordination, resources, or outcomes between our institutions. We are currently in the process of defining clear next steps, including roles, timelines, and metrics, for ongoing partnership efforts.



Partnerships with City Agencies

Baltimore City Health Department

For the past two years, we have worked collaboratively with BCHD. This includes providing a session on *Battling While Birthing* to staff in the Office of Maternal Health and working with Aisha Burgess, Director of the Office of Youth and Trauma Services on programming and grant submissions. In February 2026, we were awarded funding from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for our Youth Violence Prevention Resilient, Innovative, Safe & Empowered (RISE) Project. This six-month technical assistance activity was designed to help support our community in building an inclusive coalition aimed at preventing youth community violence. This approach integrated stakeholder and power analysis with action-oriented mapping to

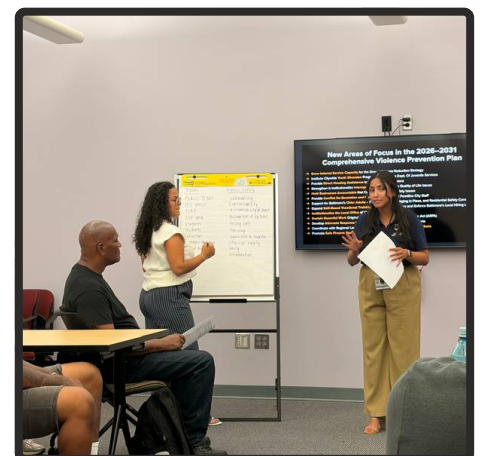
COMMUNITY - OUTREACH & EVENTS

ensure that coalition-building efforts were both comprehensive and equitable. Across multiple virtual sessions with NACCHO, Aisha Burgess, youth, partners from community-based organizations and city agencies, we worked on our strategy. This culminated with an in-person working session on July 18, 2026 with roughly twenty participants, including ten young people from Baltimore City. In addition to our work with the RISE project, Dr. Finigan-Carr has met with the new Health Commissioner and her team to discuss future opportunities.



Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (MONSE)

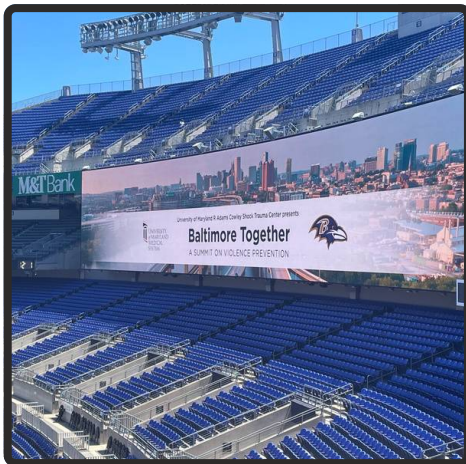
Our partnership with MONSE deepened considerably. We co-developed domestic-violence-focused workshops on the undergraduate campuses of Morgan State University and Coppin State University, and those conversations grew into a broader exploration of research-practice partnership around women's re-entry services. In July 2026, the Center hosted a public listening session on behalf of MONSE as part of the engagement process for Baltimore's second Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan, the five-year roadmap guiding the city's approach from 2026 through 2031.



COMMUNITY - OUTREACH & EVENTS

Collaborations with UMB, UMCP & UMMS

Convenings on gun violence: With funding from the Ravens Foundation secured through Shock Trauma, the Center was an integral part of the first gathering of UMB and University of Maryland Medical System faculty and staff working across violence prevention in October 2025. This meeting built on the work we did in our first year to document the work in violence prevention and public safety across our campuses. It also served as the beginning of planning for a larger symposium with community, governmental, and nonprofit partners in June 2026, Baltimore Together: A Summit on Violence Prevention. The event convened leaders from violence prevention, public safety, healthcare, government, and community organizations to showcase Baltimore's progress in reducing violent crime and explore strategies for sustaining collaboration and advancing community safety. Dr. Finigan-Carr moderated a panel on University and Healthcare Systems Approaches, highlighting how academic and healthcare institutions are driving innovation in secondary and tertiary violence prevention through research, clinical interventions, and evidence-based practices.



In January 2026, CVP partnered with the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center to host a screening of the award-winning documentary **Death by Numbers**. The film chronicles the journey of Samantha Fuentes, a survivor of the Parkland high school shooting, as she navigates the lasting impacts of trauma through poetry and journaling while preparing to confront her shooter in court. Following the screening, Dr. Finigan-Carr moderated a discussion with Ms. Fuentes and the film's director, Kim Snyder. The event brought together faculty, staff, and students from UMB and UMMS, along with community members and violence interrupters who support survivors of gun violence. The conversation underscored the importance of trauma-informed healing for victims of violence and highlighted the critical need to support those who serve in caregiving and violence prevention roles.

COMMUNITY - OUTREACH & EVENTS

Death by Numbers Film Screening and Panel Discussion



Building Regional Collaboration in Anti-Trafficking Work

Neil Mallon has been supporting regional collaboration in anti-trafficking work as the Chair of The Regional Interdisciplinary Collaborative (RIC) to Disrupt Human Trafficking. The RIC is an ever-growing regional network of stakeholders from the Mid-Atlantic and National Capital region involved in anti-trafficking work and survivor empowerment. Members include victim service providers, survivor leaders, advocacy and policy organizations, community-based groups, education and academia, government, first responders and law enforcement entities (federal, state, and local). The goals of The RIC are to Facilitate Connections and Information-Sharing through regular forums for members to exchange resources and best practices, Build Regional Capacity through Educational Resources by providing training and educational opportunities and to Reduce Barriers for Supporting Survivors across State Boundaries by providing timely referrals and connections to vetted organizations in the region. In April 2025, The RIC held its Fifth Annual Regional Human Trafficking Summit at the Sheraton Hotel in Towson, MD. The Center served as a co-sponsor of the event and Mr. Mallon represented us in his opening remarks.



RESEARCH

Racialized Media Framing of Gun Violence

The Center's most visible community-led research is a white paper written with Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, “Racialized Media Frames in Depiction of Gun Violence in Maryland,” published in April 2026. It examines how local Maryland media framed gun violence and gun policy from 2020 through 2024, and how racialized framing and anti-Blackness run through that coverage. The work was supported by a University of Maryland, College Park Community Submission Seed Grant from the Prevent Gun Violence: Research Empowerment Strategies and Solutions (PROGRESS) Initiative. In June 2026, the Center and Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle co-hosted “Gun Violence in the Media: A Community Panel,” a public conversation drawing on this white paper, moderated by Dr. Jo Richardson, Co-Director of the PROGRESS initiative.



Human Trafficking Research and Monitoring

Anti-trafficking remains the Center's founding expertise and, through the integration of PARI, its deepest bench of ongoing work.

Statewide human trafficking monitoring: In partnership with the Maryland Social Services Administration, the Center helps track and analyze cases of child sex and labor trafficking reported to the 24 local Departments of Social Services across the state. Our July 2026 report to state partners covered screened-in child sex trafficking reports from 2013 through 2025 and documented 2024 as having the largest single-year count and the largest single-year increase since tracking started. As we are careful to note with our partners, a rise in reports reflects identification and reporting behavior and should not be read directly as a rise in trafficking itself. This surveillance work sits alongside the Center's peer-reviewed research on how to identify victims earlier: a 2024 article in *Child Welfare* set out the characteristics of child trafficking victims in the child welfare system and an innovative approach for screening youth at risk.

RESEARCH

Developing a Statewide Response to Labor Trafficking: Neil Mallon has played a leading role in supporting Maryland's efforts to develop a collaborative and coordinated response to labor trafficking. As Co-Chair of the Labor Trafficking Committee of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, Mr. Mallon facilitates regular meetings with committee members to identify strategic opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and enhance awareness and identification of labor trafficking victims across the state.

Mr. Mallon has also led multiple research initiatives focused on labor trafficking and contributed to the development of training programs and curriculum that have been adopted as mandatory training for Maryland's child welfare workforce. In addition, he was invited to deliver a labor trafficking training session for Maryland's Regional Navigator Program during its inaugural retreat, helping to build the capacity of professionals serving vulnerable populations.

Maryland Violent Death Reporting System

The Center in collaboration with colleagues at the UMB Schools of Social Work and Medicine worked in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health's Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) to identify and develop promising practices and products. These were designed to increase local health department and other community stakeholder use of violent death circumstance data provided by MVDRS to inform interventions to decrease homicide and suicide, to reduce disparities in violent death, and to improve health equity in Maryland. The **overall project goal** is to produce stakeholder-facing materials to increase local health and other key community stakeholder data usage to inform interventions to reduce interpersonal violence associated with homicide, to reduce suicide, minimize disparities in violent death, improve health equity in Maryland, and to guide resource development and allocation. A series of fact sheets and one-pagers have been developed which will be available on the MVDRS website in early September 2026.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance

The Center provided training and technical assistance to Maryland's Regional Navigator Programs as part of an Improving Outcomes grant through the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime which ended in October 2025. A central product of that work is the Maryland Statewide Strategic Plan to Address Human Trafficking, published in 2025 with the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, which now guides the state's coordinated response.

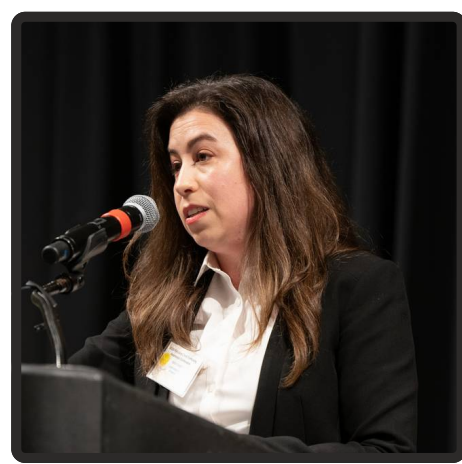
Recently, the Center was awarded a Phase 2 Innovation Challenge Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in recognition of the impact of our training and technical assistance model which focused on individualized and tailored supports to meet the diverse needs of the regional navigator programs and populations served across the state. The national competition identifies innovative and impactful approaches to preventing human trafficking and improving human trafficking-related health outcomes for women and girls across the United States. Kudos to PI Amelia Rubenstein as this funding will allow the Center to continue to provide assistance to the Regional Navigator Network.

The Maryland Child Trafficking Conference

On June 5, 2025, CVP and the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force held the ninth annual Maryland Child Trafficking Conference at Towson University. The event brought together 289 professionals, advocates, survivors, community leaders, educators, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and policymakers from across the state to hear from speakers, expert panelists, and interactive workshops that showcased emerging trends, promising practices, and innovative approaches to addressing child trafficking. The keynote presenter was Hollie Nadel and the title of her keynote address was "Building Sustainable Solutions Through Collaboration." The plenary speaker was Nathan Earl and the title for his plenary presentation was "Risks, Trajectories, and Treatment in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Male Youth." The conference also featured eight concurrent breakout sessions (four in the morning and four in the afternoon), with topics ranging from Residential Programming for Youth Victims of Trafficking to Hidden References in Pop Culture and Familial Trafficking. The 2026 conference is a milestone: the tenth annual convening, themed "Ten Years of Voices, Vision, and Impact: Honoring the Past. Designing the Future," scheduled for September 16, 2026 at the SMC Campus Center on the UMB campus. A decade of this gathering marks the Center for Violence Prevention's Prevention of Adolescent Risks Initiative as the durable statewide convener on child trafficking.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2025 Maryland Child Trafficking Conference



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Supporting Mental Health Professionals in Providing Trauma-Informed and Survivor-Centered Clinical Services to Victims of Trafficking

The Center for Violence Prevention has been leading an innovative model that provides peer support and clinical consultation to a statewide network of Maryland mental health professionals serving survivors of human trafficking and individuals at risk of exploitation. The Human Trafficking Clinicians Collaborative (HTCC) is a specialized network of clinicians who have successfully completed a three-part advanced Human Trafficking Training Series. Following completion of the training, clinicians are invited to join the HTCC and participate in bi-monthly collaborative meetings.

The HTCC is facilitated by Neil Mallon and three additional licensed clinicians, each bringing extensive experience in delivering therapeutic and clinical services to survivors of human trafficking. In addition to peer consultation, HTCC meetings feature expert presentations on relevant topics and create opportunities for professional networking, resource sharing, and ongoing learning among members.

Policy and Legislative Advocacy

In January 2025, Dr. Finigan-Carr briefed the Maryland House Health and Government Operations Committee, led by now-Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk, on the Center's work and on where it could support the Legislature. Throughout the 2025 and 2026 Maryland legislative sessions, the Center was called on to provide data and testimony on youth and community violence, including testimony on juvenile justice legislation. We are pleased that our efforts in collaboration with many community partners such as Out For Justice, the Maryland Youth Justice Coalition, and Maryland's Office of the Public Defender resulted in the passing of the Youth Charging Reform Act (SB323/HB409) which limits the number of charges that automatically place youth in the adult prison system. This allows youth to be more likely to receive the services needed to meet their needs and potentially reduces the long-term impact of the carceral system on youth and impacted communities.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Center has also continued to build on relationships with members of Baltimore's City Council. This includes working with Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative Co-Chairs Councilmembers Phylicia Porter and Odette Ramos; and presenting research on Intimate Partner Violence and Youth Violence Prevention at informational hearings convened by Councilmember Porter.



Support The Center

Over the next two years, we look forward to building new partnerships and continuing to advance violence prevention efforts across Baltimore City and beyond. If you are interested in supporting The Center, you can make a financial contribution through the following [link](#). We are also interested in partnering with community organizations and state agencies in applying for federal, state, and local funding opportunities. If you need a partner or subgrantee for project evaluation, technical assistance, training or research components of a grant, we would love to work with you!



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

CENTER FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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