



Prevention Institute's 2020 Federal Policy Priorities

We advocate for policies and structural changes that bolster health, safety, and wellbeing through thriving, equitable communities. We hold racial justice and health equity at the heart of all our efforts and recognize that *how* we show up as advocates, partners, and allies for frontline communities and organizers, is as important as *what* we advocate for. Our priorities support individuals and communities by emphasizing:

- **Belonging and connectedness**, including honoring community voices;
- Interpersonal, emotional, and community **Safety**;
- **Dignity**, living in a climate of mutual respect and regard across race/ethnicity, culture, class, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, and ability;
- **Trust**, the ability to rely on the wider community;
- **Hope and aspiration** that makes progress possible; and
- **Control of destiny and self-determination**, the ability to take action and lead change.

Policy Priorities for Racial Justice and Health Equity

Prevention Institute embeds equity considerations and outcomes across all of our policy work as we also pursue specific policy opportunities to advance racial justice and health equity.

Prevention Institute champions efforts to:

- **End racialized segregation from opportunity through** policies and investments that close the chasms that keep Black communities from being able to reliably access resources and opportunities to thrive and achieve optimal health.
- **Protect the health, safety, wellbeing and dignity of immigrant families** through humane immigration policies and by opposing efforts to restrict/eliminate access to essential public health programs and social supports.
- **Oppose changes that limit access and eligibility to vital programs that address health, safety, and wellbeing**, including WIC, SNAP, school meals, early education, housing and utility assistance, transportation access, comprehensive reproductive health services, and healthcare access.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds efforts to:

- **Pass paid sick leave and family leave policies that cover ALL workers** and do not further exacerbate economic inequality and health inequities.
- **Implement an equitable and inclusive 2020 Census** that fully captures and reflects the diversity of those living in the United States.

Policy Priorities for Health

Prevention Institute champions efforts to:

- Increase funding across federal agencies for public health and prevention programs that advance racial justice and health equity.
- Protect and grow the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program (REACH) and increase the number of community-based organizations that receive direct funding.
- Advance a portfolio of policies that build a system of prevention that advance racial justice and health equity in response to public health emergencies and pandemics including structural racism and COVID-19.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds to:

- Prevent, prepare for, and mitigate against the health, equity, and social justice related impacts of climate change and other environmental threats and increase resources to frontline communities of color.
- Promote positive maternal and child health outcomes with an emphasis on eliminating the disproportionately high rates of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality for Black mothers and babies.

Policy Priorities for Safety

Prevention Institute champions 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).
- Reimagine community safety using safety in Black communities as the barometer for change by holding systems accountable for producing racist, violent, and oppressive outcomes and investing in systems, policies, and practices that truly ensure community safety and wellbeing for those who have suffered.
- Advance a [comprehensive public health platform](#) to prevent all forms of gun violence—including mass shootings, intimate partner 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 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 racialized punishment and disproportionate rates of incarceration 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 champions efforts to:

- **Emphasize community-level primary prevention strategies** to complement an ongoing focus on treatment as part of the national response to diseases of despair—including opioids and other substance misuse, and suicide.
- **Grow and support federal efforts and investments** that strengthen protective factors—including a living wage, safe and affordable housing, fully resourced schools, and quality transportation, among others—in communities to promote mental health, wellbeing, and resilience.
- **Advance strategies that promote healing and build resilience** to counterbalance community-level trauma and despair as a result of systemic and structural harms along racial/ethnic lines, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, and gender.
- **Support federal investments that highlight and amplify the strengths, assets and hopefulness of young leaders**, particularly in communities of color

Prevention Institute supports and applauds 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 which includes peers and people in recovery.
- Prioritize trauma informed care and the prevention of adverse childhood and community experiences.