

29th National Black Nurses' Day on Capitol Hill
Theme: Addressing the Epidemic of Violence: NBNA'S Call to Action
Addressing the Epidemic of Gun Violence

The National Black Nurses Association supports comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence and its devastating effect on communities of color. NBNA calls on the 115th Congress to address gun violence as a leading public health epidemic that negatively impacts the health and well-being of all communities. Moreover, gun violence disproportionately impacts the physical, mental and social well-being of the Black community.

Background:

Multifaceted and comprehensive measures are sorely needed to reverse the following outcomes:

- In 2015, gun violence was projected to surpass motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of deaths for Americans under age 25 (Kelly report).
- Each year 100,000 Americans fall victim to gun violence resulting in approximately 30,000 deaths and 10,000 injuries (Kelly report).
- While gun violence affects all communities in the United States, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on young adults, males, and racial ethnic minorities (American Public Health Association, APHA).
- Among those 10-29, homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Whites, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics and the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Blacks (APHA).

Recommendations to Legislators:

According to the APHA's recommendations on gun violence, NBNA joins with them in encouraging the adoption of the following recommendations by Congress:

- Create a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to effectively address the epidemic of gun violence.
- Work diligently to enact legislation requiring criminal background checks for all firearm purchases, including all firearms sold at guns shows and on the internet.
- Appropriate adequate and unrestricted funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other scientific agencies to research the causes of gun violence and develop prevention measures.
- Facilitate expanding the collection and analysis of data related to gun violence and other violent deaths by increasing the funding for CDC's National Violence Death Reporting System.

References

American Public Health Association (APHA) Gun Violence Prevention Facts
http://apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/gun_violence_prevention.ashx

Gun Violence in America Report

https://robinkelly.house.gov/sites/robinkelly.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/KellyReport_1.pdf

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2017 Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act

NBNA request increasing funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs contained in Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. NBNA recommends expanding federal appropriations to support professional nursing education, nursing practice and research at all levels.

Background:

The Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act), enacted in 1964, was created in response to a shortage of health care providers.

- Title VIII programs focus on training advanced practice nurses, increasing the number of minority and disadvantaged students enrolled in nursing programs, and enhancing nurse retention through career development and improved patient care systems.
- Title VIII programs provide the largest source of federal funding specifically for nursing education and support all levels of nursing education from entry level through graduate studies.
- Support for Title VIII programs is essential to ensure that the demand for nursing care is met and consumers receive efficient and effective health care services.
- In addition to requesting funding to support nursing education, NBNA request funding to support nursing research.

Recommendations to Legislators:

- Expand federal appropriations that will support professional nursing education and address the need for a highly educated nursing workforce.
- For Fiscal Year 2018, NBNA along with members of the Nursing Community, a forum of 62 national nursing organizations, respectfully request "\$244 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and \$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), in FY 2018" (2).

References

Testimony of the Nursing Community for HRSA Support

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2016). Health Resources and Services Administration Fiscal Year 2017 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations. Retrieved from: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/budget/budgetjustification2017.pdf>.

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Nursing Community's FY 2017 Testimony to House LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee

Nursing Community's FY 2017 Testimony to Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee

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"Behavioral Health and the Epidemic of Substance Abuse"

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) supports the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) strategic initiatives which focus on behavioral health problems such as substance abuse or misuse, alcohol and drug addiction, serious psychological distress, and suicide as well as mental and substance use disorders. SAMHSA believes it is vital to collect, report and analyze data at both state and federal levels to ensure the nation's behavioral health system is providing the highest quality and most effective treatment consistent with applying the social determinants of health. NBNA calls on the 115th Congress to support the integration of behavioral health with population health management when addressing gun violence as a leading public health epidemic.

Background:

- The overwhelming majority of people with mental illnesses do not engage in violence towards others. However, individuals whose mental illnesses place them at risk for violence face tremendous barriers to mental health treatment.¹
- Mental conditions such as conduct disorders (aggressive behaviors such...bullying, initiating physical fights, etc.) and antisocial personality disorders (lie, steal, not show guilt or remorse, often angry, etc.) are linked with an increased risk for violence.¹
- Substance abuse, a form of mental disorder, is a risk factor for violence in the general population and among persons with serious mental illnesses.¹
- Suicide is associated with 61% of all firearm fatalities in the United States.³
- An overwhelming majority (90%) of persons who commit suicide have symptoms of mental disorders.¹

Recommendation for Legislators:

- NBNA requests the integration of behavioral health with population health management as part of a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to reduce firearm related violence.
- NBNA supports current recommendations from the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Care beginning with screening of all patients for health issues and include assessments and treatment for behavioral health and substance use conditions.²
- NBNA requests funding and support for the integration of a patient-centered care team providing evidence-based treatments for behavioral health and substance use conditions.

References

1. American Psychological Association (2013). Gun violence: Prediction, prevention and policy. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pubs/info/reports/gun-violence-report.pdf>
2. NCBH. (2011). Integrated care models / SAMHSA-HRSA. Retrieved December 29, 2016, from <http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/integrated-care-models>
3. Swanson, J. W., McGinty, E. E., Fazel, S., & Mays, V. M. (n.d.). Mental illness and reduction of gun violence and suicide: Bringing epidemiologic research to policy. , 25(5), . Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4211925/>

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"Behavioral Health and the Epidemic of Substance Abuse"

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<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/what-healthcare-providers-can-do-prevent-violence/2014-12-19>

The Economic Impact of Illicit Drug Use on American Society (2011). Washington D.C: U.S. Department of Justice.

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/hospital-aims-reduce-gun-violence-treating-it-drug-abuse/2015-08-14>

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/resource/quick-start-guide-to-behavioral-health-integration>

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?linkname=pubmed_pubmed&from_uid=26422450

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26683125>

Kaiser Family Foundation Integrating Physical and Behavioral Health

<https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/8553-integrating-physical-and-behavioral-health-care-promising-medicaid-models.pdf>

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The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA or ACA). One of the main purposes of the law is to ensure that all Americans have access to quality health care. The National Black Nurses Association supports the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and calls on the 115th Congress to continue efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to quality health care, preventive services, and consumer protections.

Background:

- ACA increases access to health care in part by expanding Medicaid eligibility and extending Medicaid to nearly all nonelderly adults who have a household income from one to four times the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Medicaid expansion is the extension of Medicaid eligibility to nonelderly individuals with annual incomes below 133 percent of the federal poverty level (\$15,800 for an individual or \$32,319 for a family of four (4) in 2016) who are under 65 years of age (CDC, 2016)
- Between 2013 and 2015 the uninsured rate for Blacks decreased from 17% to 12%. Despite these gains, Blacks remain more likely to be disproportionately impacted by coverage gaps in states opting not to expand Medicaid.
- As of November 2016, thirty-two (32) states and DC, have adopted the expansion while 19 states have not adopted the expansion. A large proportion of uninsured Black adults reside in southern regions where most states have not adopted the expansion (AL, GA, FL, ID, KS, ME, MO, MS, NC, NE, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY). (Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, 2016, Families USA., 2016)

Recommendations to Legislators:

- NBNA strongly urges the 115th Congress to retain and build upon the ACA and that no action should be undertaken to repeal and replace the ACA. NBNA urges Congress to consider the benefits of the ACA to all Americans; namely provisions that prohibit denial of coverage due to preexisting conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease, eliminate cost sharing for most preventive services and ensures health care coverage for adult children married or unmarried up to age 26.
- NBNA requests that Congress support Medicaid expansion in all states.
- NBNA requests that Congress work to ensure adequate funding to facilitate widespread implementation of the ACA and related provisions devoted to expanding access to health care, strengthening consumer protections and solidifying investments for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Medicaid Opportunities.
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/PreventionThroughHealthCare/HealthDepartments/Medicaid.htm>.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Center for Information & Insurance Oversight. Retrieved December 31, 2016, from
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References for the ACA and Public Health

States and Public Health

<https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/advocacy-for-public-health/public-health-action-phact-campaign/state-fact-sheets>

Affordable Care Act Prevention Provisions

https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/topics/aca/aca_overview_aug2012.ashx

Prevention and Public Health Fund

https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/160127_pphf.ashx