



**INVEST IN
PUBLIC
HEALTH
SOLUTIONS**

October 2024
humanimpact.org/stopcopcities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The construction of police training facilities, or “Cop Cities,” is on the rise in the US, with 69 projects currently planned across 47 states. This report examines the public health impacts of these facilities, and reveals the broader and intersecting harms that militarization and policing pose to the health of all people and our planet. We highlight the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, a controversial 85-acre, \$109.65 million police training construction project in Atlanta, Georgia, known to community organizers as “Cop City,” to illustrate **four key pathways by which the construction of police training facilities harms health:**

- 1. The expansion of policing**
- 2. The destruction of the climate**
- 3. Undermining Indigenous sovereignty**
- 4. State repression of resistance**

Each section describes the associated public health harms, followed by **evidence-based public health solutions to promote health:**

- 1. Invest in health instead of punishment**
- 2. Advocate for green spaces and climate justice**
- 3. Land back for Indigenous reparations**
- 4. Protect community power and civil rights**



We also recommend critical actions for each pathway that federal, state, Tribal, and local governments can take to prevent ongoing and future harms to public health, improve accountability, and support community safety for all.

While this brief focuses on Atlanta’s Cop City and the current social justice movement there, we hope this research will support continued resistance to the construction of police training facilities across the US.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors

Renae A. Badruzzaman, MPH
Christine Mitchell, ScD, MDiv
Elana Muldavin, MPH
Nikhil Rao, PhD(c)
Melina V. Rodriguez, MPH
Jeanette Curtain, MPH
Carolina Becerril, MPH
Candace Cross, MPH(c)

Suggested Citation

Human Impact Partners. "Stop Cop Cities; Invest in Public Health Solutions." Berkeley, CA: October 2024

Contact Information

Renae A. Badruzzaman, Health Instead of Punishment Project Director
Human Impact Partners
renae@humanimpact.org

Key Contributors

This report would not have been possible without the collaboration, initial research, and work from members of the Abolitionist Student Public Health Network. We extend deep gratitude to Rita Valenti, Mark Spencer, and Rehana Lerandeanu for sharing insights about Stop Cop City in Atlanta, and Reverend Chebonh Kernell for your perspective on Indigeneity. Thank you to all those who provided feedback and contributed your thoughts to shaping this report when it was submitted as a late breaker policy statement to the American Public Health Association. Thank you Christy Atangana for your help with the references. Thank you to the Human Impact Partners staff Clara Long, Sophie Simon-Ortiz, Jamie Sarfeh, and Clara Liang for your helpful feedback at various stages of the writing and editing of this report.

Graphic design: Yves Valentin

Copyediting: Clara Liang

The work in this report was made possible by the Wellspring Foundation and The California Wellness Foundation. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Wellspring Foundation and The California Wellness Foundation.

About Human Impact Partners (HIP): HIP transforms the field of public health to center equity and build collective power with social justice movements. Learn more at humanimpact.org.