

Recognizing Violence as a Public Health Crisis
Revised Statement on the Orlando Shootings

Our hearts go out to the victims, families, and loved ones touched by the mass shooting at Orlando's Pulse nightclub early Sunday morning, in which 49 people were murdered and 53 wounded. Once again, we note with sadness, anger, and frustration that this is now one of the deadliest shootings in American history, and the most devastating since 32 people were killed at Virginia Tech in 2007. These incidents are happening all too frequently—on average, a shooting has occurred every day in the United States in 2016.

NACCHO, as an organization representing local public health across the country, stands in solidarity with the Orlando community and communities everywhere in demanding action to prevent not only gun violence, but support for a population in the full expression of its identity and culture.

The events in Orlando last Sunday reflect a broader, ongoing public health crisis requiring organized collective action by the public health community beyond programs and services. Such violence, beyond its immediate destruction of life, has long-lasting effects—permanent physical and psychological stress every day—a slow violence that leads to inequitable health outcomes across all diseases, illnesses, and death.

Ensuring the safety of *all* communities and working to reduce the severe stresses many experience must be a priority for local public health practitioners. As always, NACCHO remains committed to providing resources, training, and guidance to their local health department members to help in their response to this ongoing public health crisis. These include Suspicious Activity Training, Active Shooter and Explosive Device, and Risk Communications. You will find resources on NACCHO's Preparedness blog [here](#), and updated resources from Department of Human Services can be found [here](#).



Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc
President



LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH
Executive Director