



Violence is a Public Health Issue

This slide template: Power-Building Partnerships for Community Violence Prevention was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$393,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government.



What is Public Health?

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities.

This work is achieved by:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Researching disease and injury prevention
- Detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations.



What is Violence?

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power—threatened or actual—against oneself, another person or against a group or community—that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.



What is Violence?

- Includes harm to oneself
- Is more than physical injuries that we can see
- Includes emotional/psychological scars that can last a lifetime
- Can also impact our general health
- Is common in homes, schools, workplaces and communities



What is Community Violence?

Community violence happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home.

Examples: Assaults or fights among groups and shootings in public places, such as schools and on the streets.



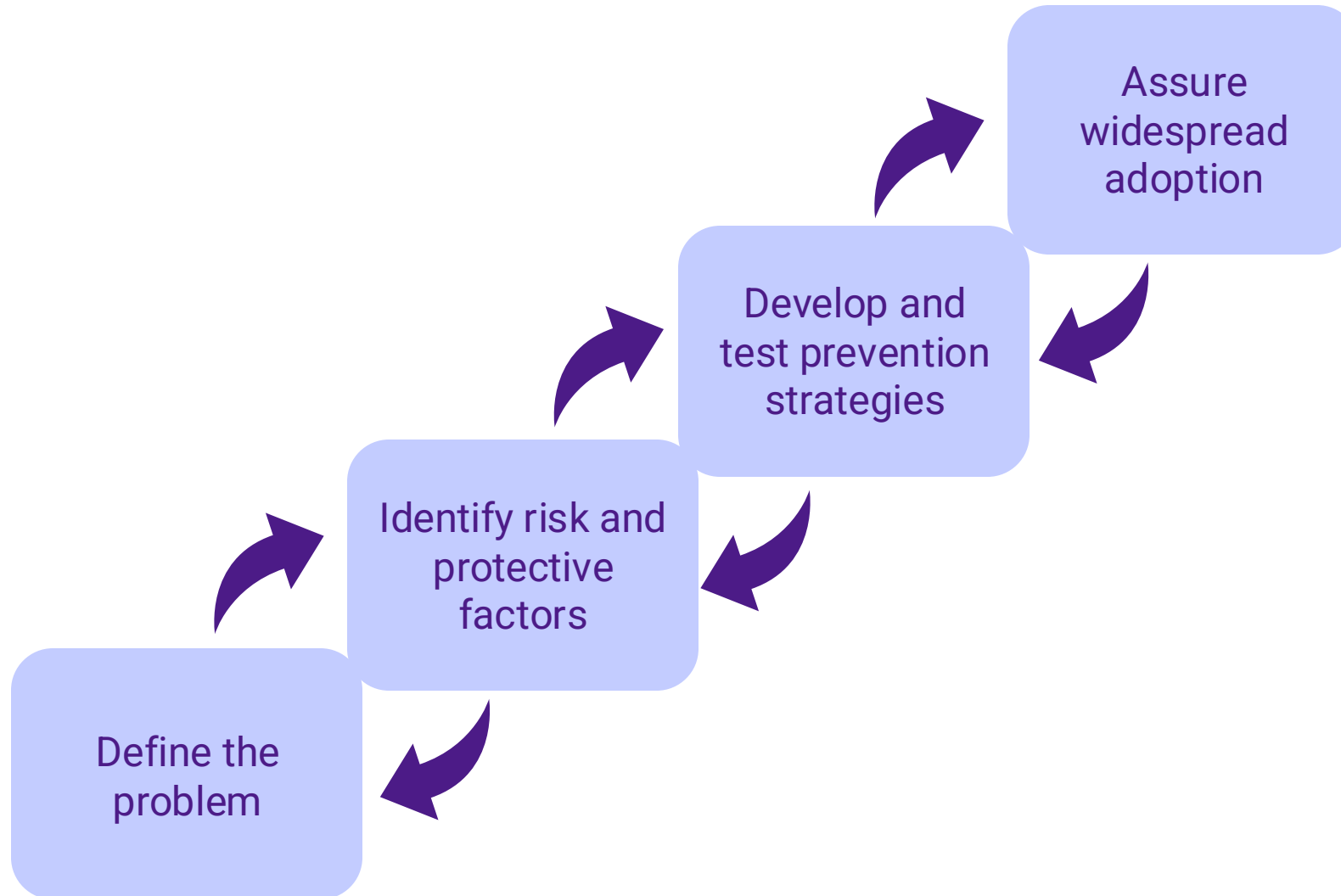
About Violence Prevention

Violence prevention requires an understanding of the factors that influence violence at an individual, relational, community and social level.

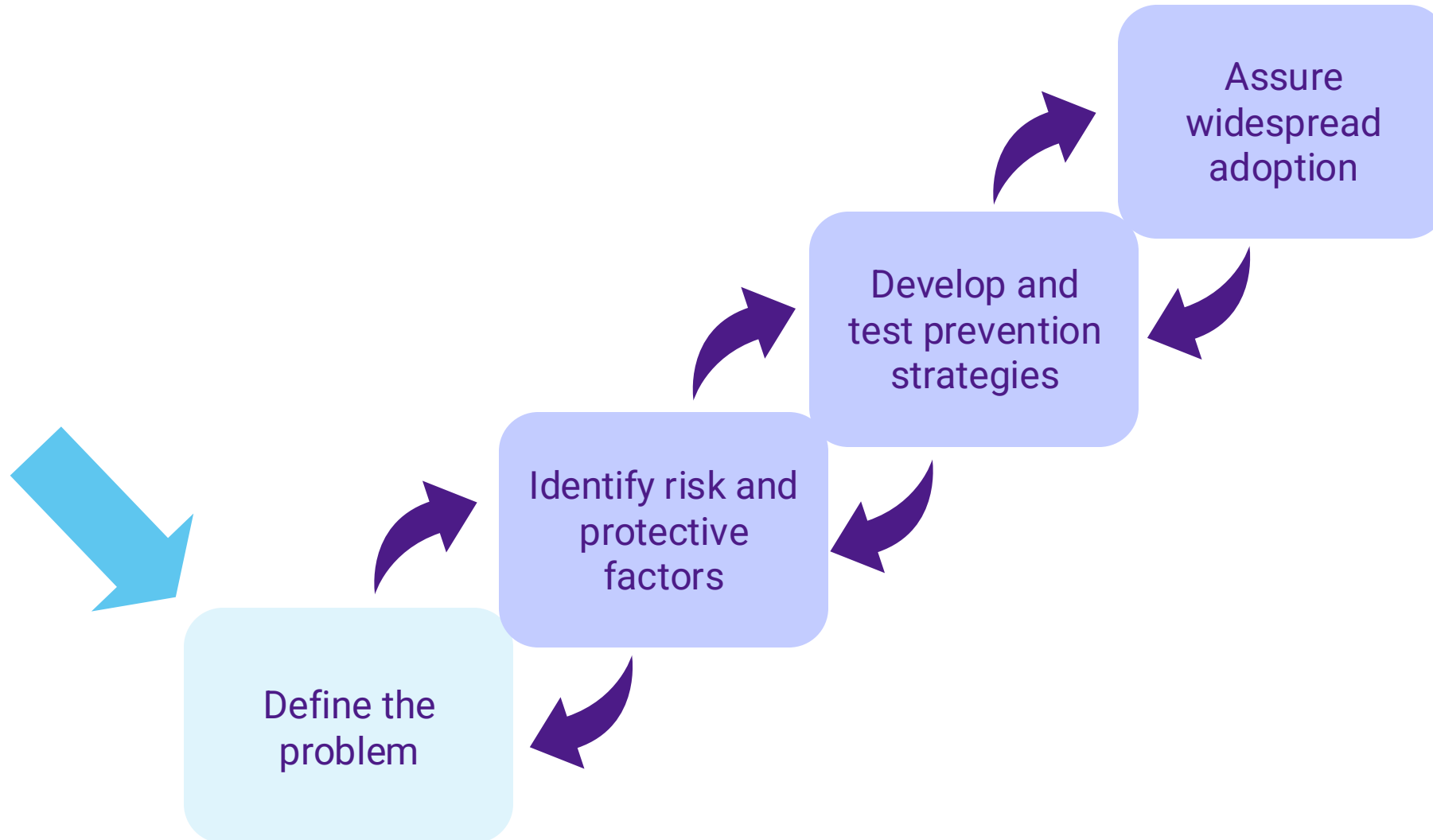
Preventing violence requires many actions across all levels of the social-ecological model.



The Public Health Approach



The Public Health Approach



The Problem

Violence impacts everyone: It affects individuals, families, communities and society as a whole.

Health consequences of violence:

- Physical injuries
- Mental health disorders
- Chronic health conditions
- Other diseases



The Problem

The burden violence places on our society can be measured by:

- **Mortality:** number of deaths resulting from homicides or suicides
- **Morbidity:** incidence and prevalence of injury and disease resulting from violence
- **Economic:** direct and indirect costs associated with mortality and morbidity



The Problem

Economic costs include healthcare expenses, lost productivity, legal, criminal justice costs and more.

More than \$70 billion dollars annually*

\$64.8 billion
in lost productivity

\$5.6 billion
in medical care from
2.5M nonfatal injuries

*These costs are only part of the picture—other costs exist that are harder to measure.



The Problem

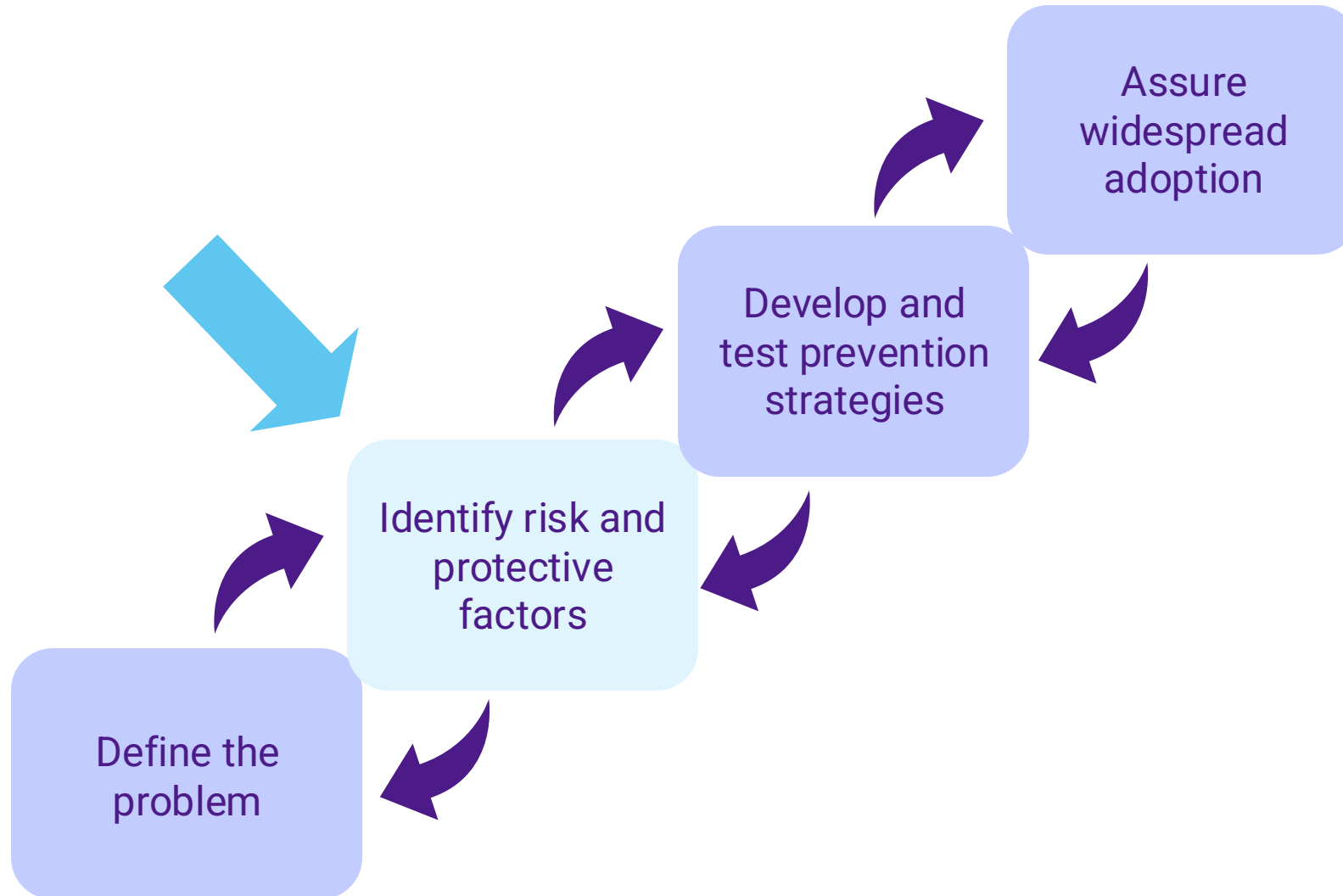


Some questions to consider as you think about violence as a problem in your community:

- How many people are affected by violence?
- Who is experiencing violence?
- When and where does the violence happen?
- How often does violence occur?

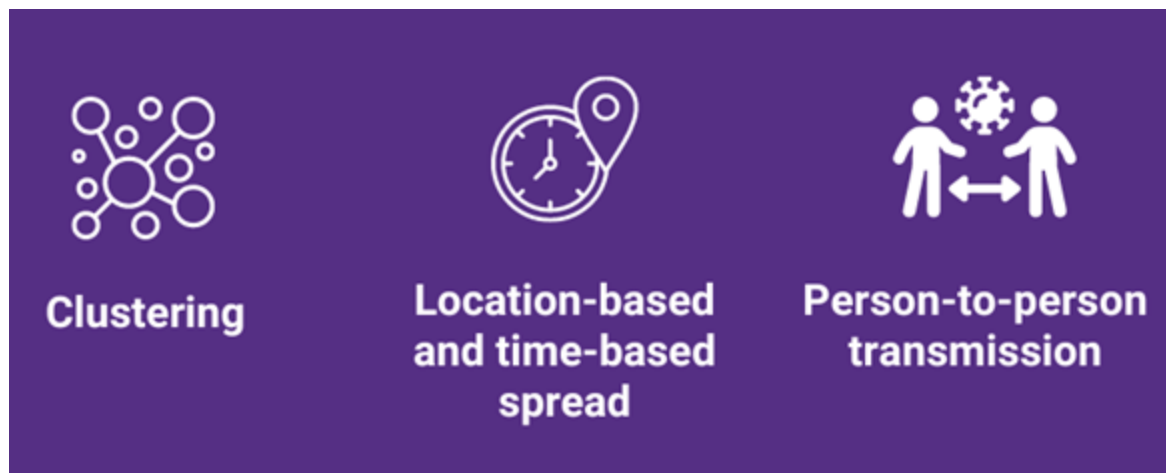


The Public Health Approach



Identify Risk and Protective Factors

Violence spreads like a disease



Identify Risk and Protective Factors

We have data to identify risk factors:

Violent injury is the
#1 cause of death
for children and
adolescents

1 in 5 youth
admitted to the
hospital for violent
injuries died within 5
years

In the United States,
there are
94 violent injuries
for every one
homicide



Identify Risk and Protective Factors

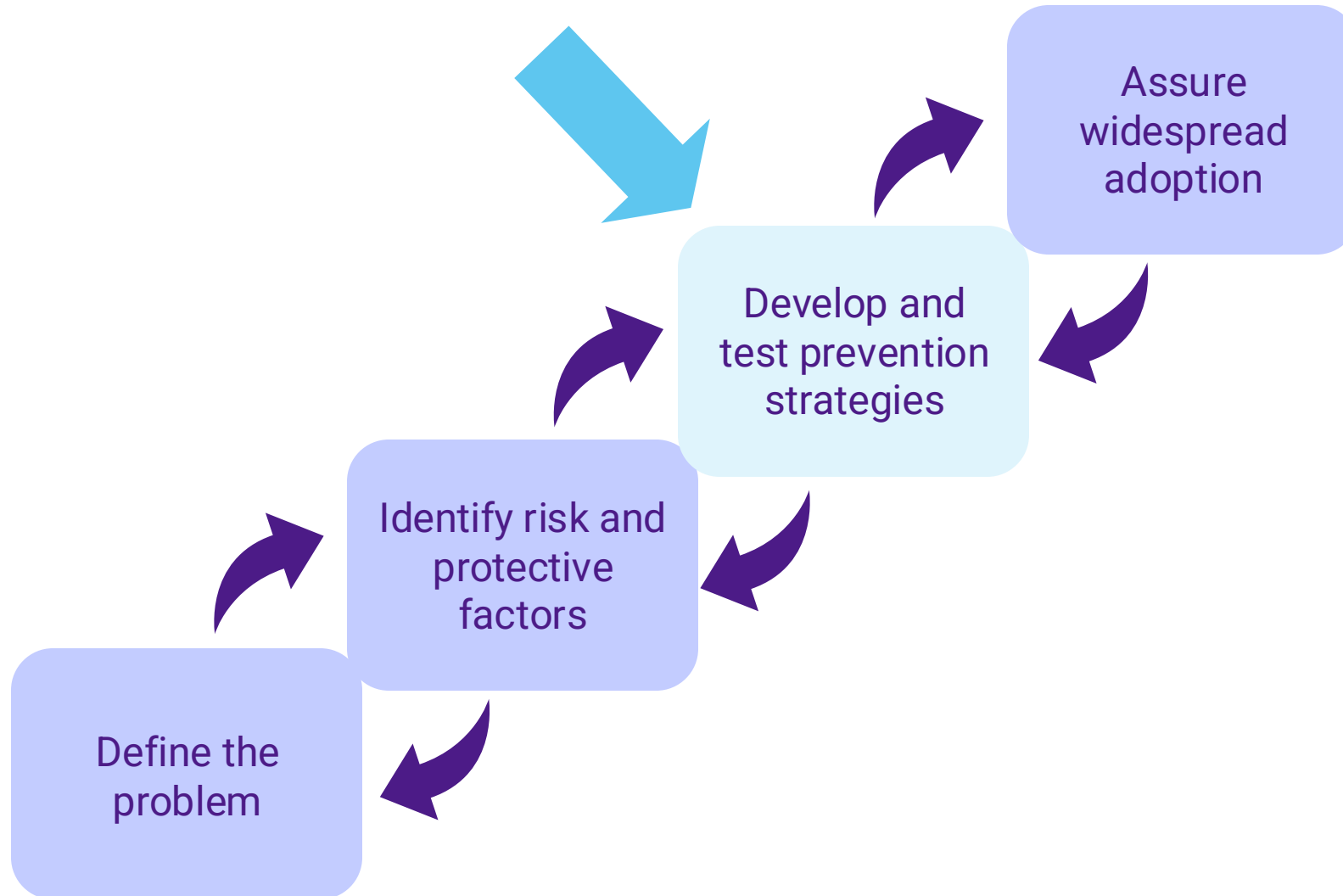


Some questions to consider as you think about violence and the risk factors specific to your community:

- What factors put people at risk for violence?
- What factors protect people from violence?



The Public Health Approach



Develop and Test Prevention Strategies

Prevention Strategies

Promote protective factors, reduce risk factors and strengthen community resilience.

Intervention Strategies

Identify warning signs and intervene early to prevent escalation.

Both strategies are a part of building a Community Violence Prevention Ecosystem.



Develop and Test Prevention Strategies

- Many organizations are working on prevention and intervention efforts to address community violence.
- Uniting these efforts for stronger outcomes is a part of building a Community Violence Prevention Ecosystem.



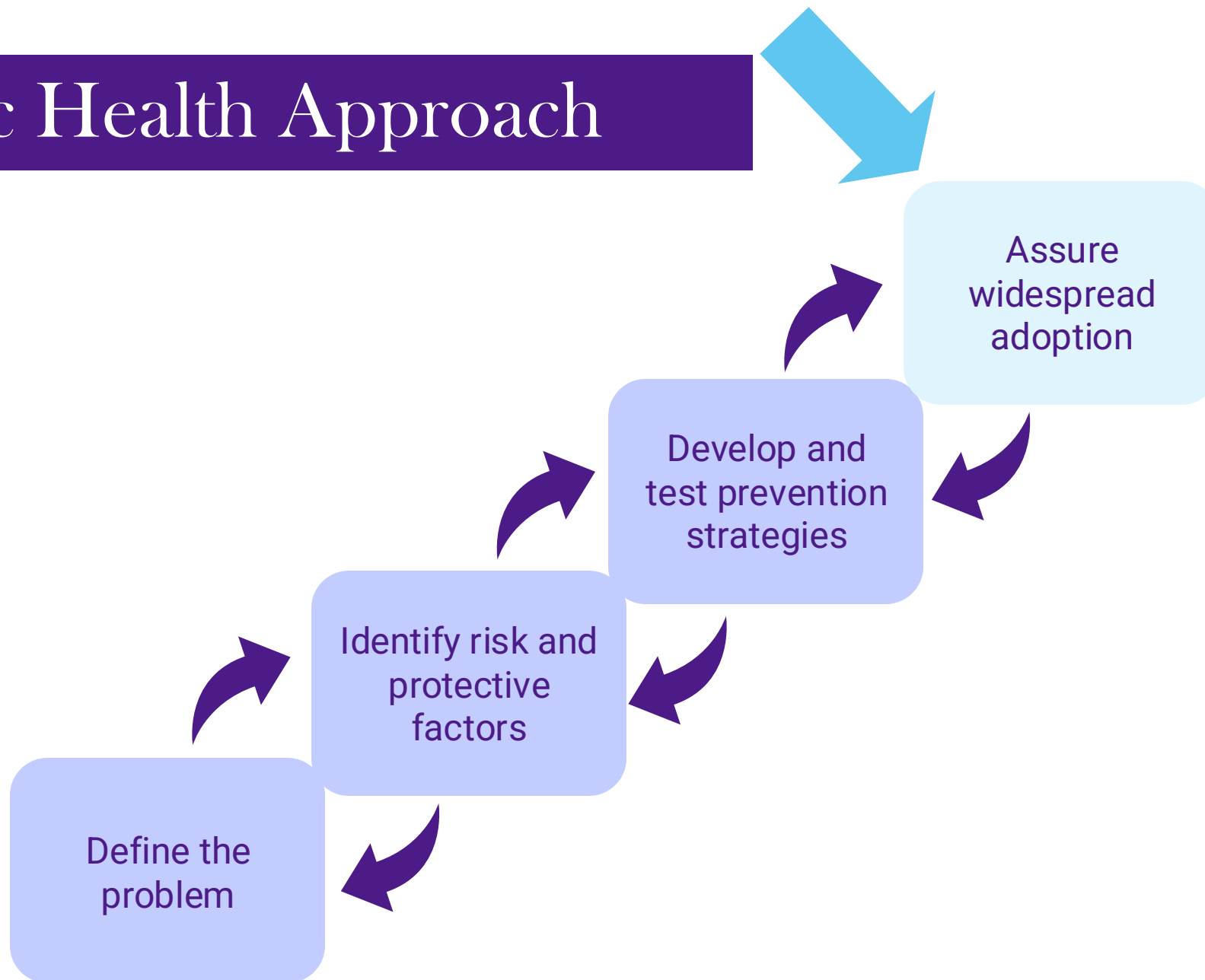
Develop and Test Prevention Strategies

Consider the following as you develop and test prevention and intervention strategies in your community:

- Use the information from Step 1 and 2 to focus efforts.
- Identify effective prevention and intervention strategies, policies and programs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies, policies and programs.



The Public Health Approach



Assure Widespread Adoption of Effective Strategies

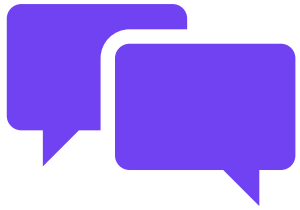
Participate
in local violence
prevention
programs and
initiatives.

Support
policies to fund
violence
prevention.

Help build
a violence
prevention
ecosystem in your
community.



Assure Widespread Adoption of Effective Strategies



Share these key messages about violence prevention and the public health approach with your family, friends and community:

Violence
spreads like a
disease

There is an
at-risk
population

Violence
can be
interrupted

Violence
can be
prevented



TIP: Download the sample social media posts here to get started:
<https://bit.ly/3KQqNvw>



Conclusion

Violence affects us all, but by understanding it as a public health issue, we can work together to interrupt and prevent it.

