

How Will We Know if Our Program is Working?



CVIPI
Community Based Violence Intervention
and Prevention Initiative

OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

NIJ National Institute
of Justice
STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

Office for Victims of Crime
OVC



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

How Will We Know if Our Program is Working?

Phillip Graham

RTI International

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University of Chicago

Andrew Papachristos

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Nancy La Vigne, Moderator

Director, National Institute of Justice



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Setting the Stage

Nancy La Vigne, Ph.D.

Director, National Institute of Justice



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Need for purposeful, meaningful measurement

- Informs the development, implementation, and evaluation of CVI initiatives
- Yields benefits through engagement of community members in inclusive research processes
- Supports the evolution and sustainability of CVI initiatives
- Helps communicate effectively and persuasively



What is research evidence?

- Can be quantitative (numbers) or qualitative (descriptions)
- Ranges from randomized controlled trials to narratives of lived experience
- ***The best evidence combines the two***
- Evaluation findings are one type of research evidence



Why is evaluation important?

- Measures program implementation
- Quantifies successful program impacts
- Makes the case for more resources to improve, sustain and expand



Components of Evaluation Process

- Baseline data collection
- Ongoing performance measurement
- Impact evaluation
- Communication of findings



Baseline data collection

Where are the needs? Who is the population?

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- Helps inform program development
- Identifies needs → Guides development of tailored programs
- Provides point of comparison from which to measure impact



Measure as you go – and share early & often!

- **Logic models:**
 - Help identify what to implement and what to measure
 - Keeps focus on shared vision for action
- **Performance metrics assess:**
 - Implementation fidelity
 - Shorter- and longer-term outcomes
- **Feedback loop:**
 - Called “Action Research”
 - Research partners share findings w/ program stakeholders
 - Enables refinements along the way



Partnering with researchers

- The best research partners:
 - Embrace inclusive research principles
 - Support action research
 - Approach work with racial equity lens
 - Are humble and open to community perspectives
- The best programmatic partners:
 - Make program staff, participants, and data available
 - Are open to both positive and constructive feedback
 - Are curious and inquisitive
- Requires trust building on both sides



Communicating your findings

- Target your message to your audience:
 - Programmatic partners: emphasize implementation fidelity
 - Community residents and stakeholders: hold “data walks”
 - Funders and public officials: feature empirical data
- For all audiences:
 - Harness the power of numbers & narratives
 - Perceptions matter as much as hard numbers
 - Don’t shy away from areas in need of improvement



How Will We Know If Our Program Is Working?

Kim Smith

Director of Programs

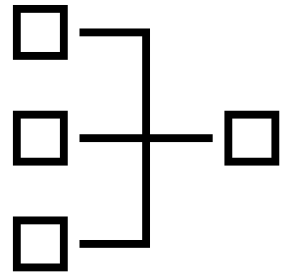
University of Chicago Crime Lab



CVIPI

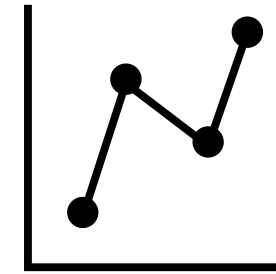
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Process evaluation

Is the program being implemented as intended?



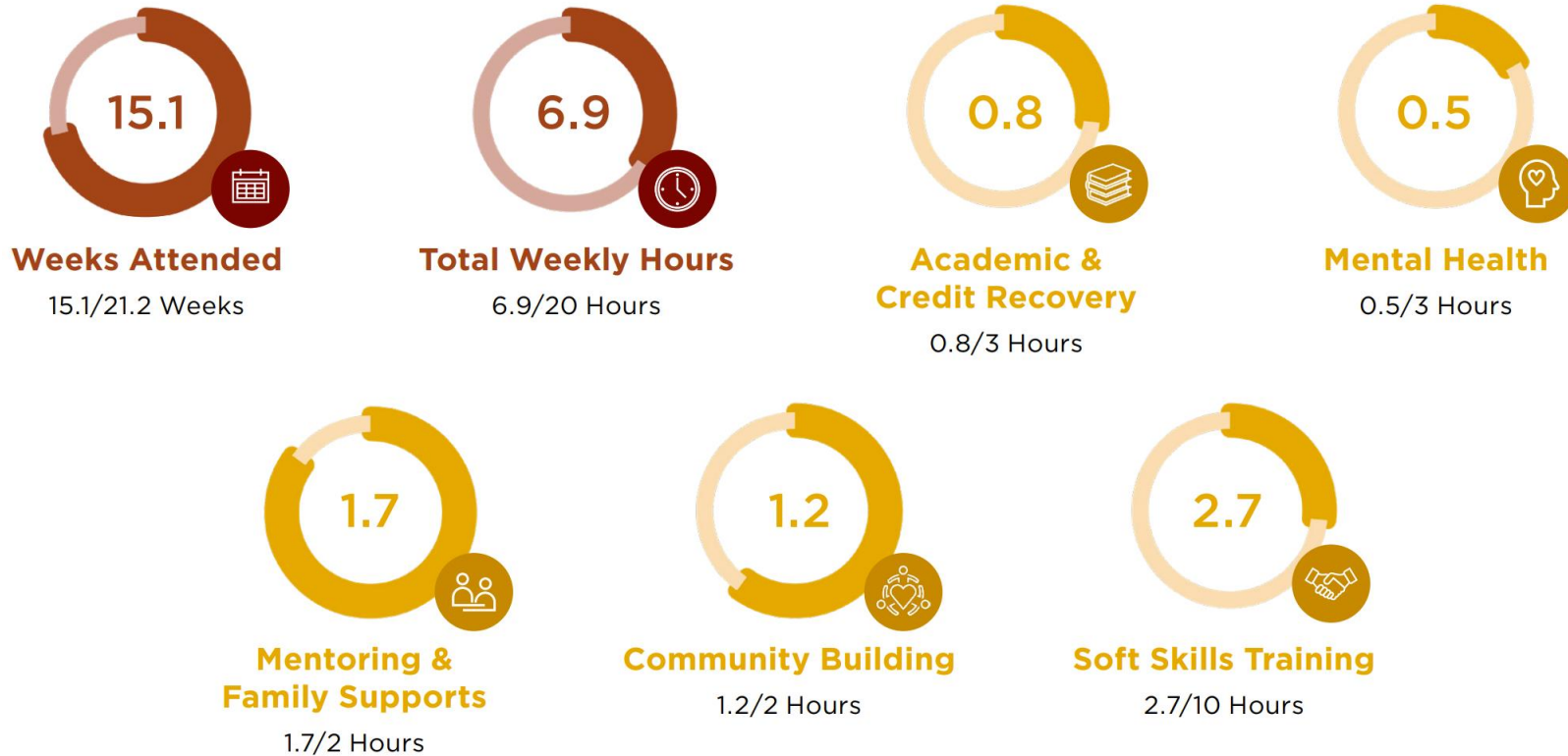
Impact evaluation

Is the program effective at achieving its goals?



Process Evaluation Case Study

How do youth experience an innovative, violence prevention program in Chicago?



Thank you

Kim Smith, UChicago Crime Lab

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Visit <https://crimelab.uchicago.edu/> for more resources.



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What is the Work?

Andrew V. Papachristos, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University

Director, **CORNERS**: Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science



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“Does it Work?”

“Does it Work?”

“What is the Work?”



CORNERS \ CVI Partnerships



The North Lawndale Collaborative

Taking Violence Prevention to Scale in One Neighborhood of Chicago



Corners

**CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD
ENGAGED RESEARCH & SCIENCE**



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Communities Partnering

4 Peace

2018-2023
Five Year Research &
Evaluation Report

PNAS

RESEARCH ARTICLE | SOCIAL SCIENCES

Evaluating the impact of a street outreach intervention on participant involvement in gun violence

Marisa C. Ross^{a,b} , Erin M. Ochoa^{a,c} , and Andrew V. Papachristos^{a,b,c,1} 



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Lessons Learned

Lesson 1. Finds the **right people**



Violence Risk by Population Group

In 2016

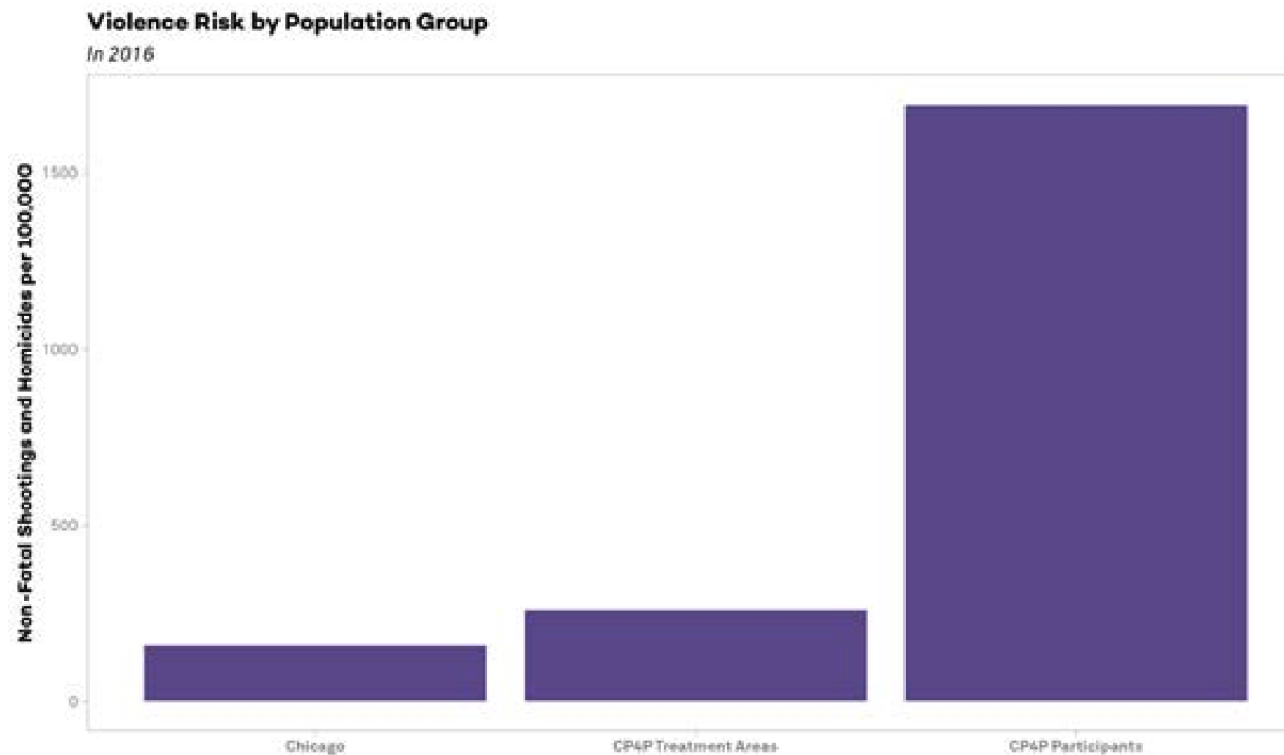


Figure 7. A bar chart for estimating violence risk by different populations, where risk is calculated as the total non-fatal shootings and homicides in the geographic boundaries of the population group, per 100,000 individuals.

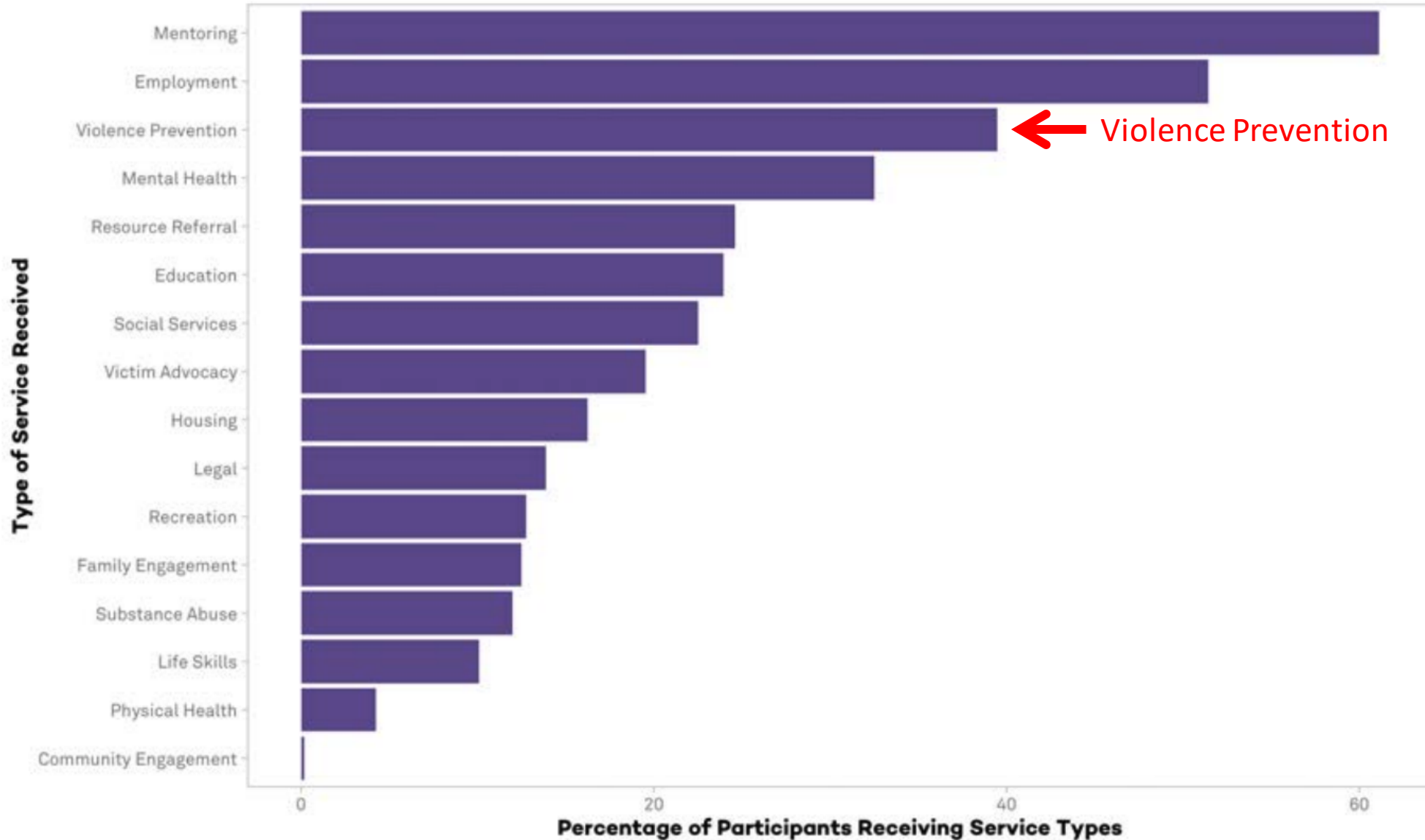
Lessons Learned

Lesson 1. Finds the **right people**

Lesson 2. Is much much more than violence prevention



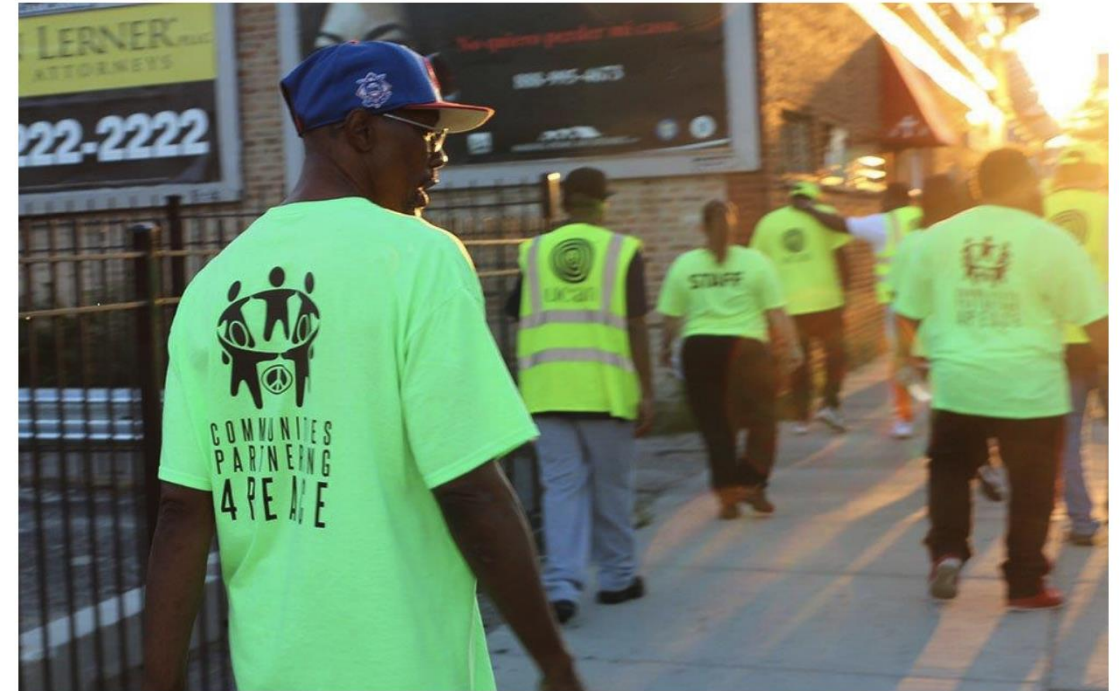
Types of Services CP4P Participants Received





Managing Multiple Pandemics: How Street Outreach Workers Are Addressing Gun Violence and COVID-19

Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative, Institute for Policy Research,
Northwestern University



**Communities Partnering for Peace (CP4P)
Street Outreach: The Moments that Matter**

Lessons Learned

Lesson 1. Finds the **right people**

Lesson 2. Is much much more than violence prevention

Lesson 3. A field in need of support



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN®

JUNE 9, 2023 | 5 MIN READ

Community Violence Outreach Workers Are More Likely to Experience Gun Violence Than Police Are

Supporting the health and safety of community violence street workers is urgent and imperative

BY ANDREW V. PAPACHRISTOS, DAVID M. HUREAU & JALON ARTHUR



VIEWS Survey of nearly all ORW in Chicago

- 32% witnessed someone shot at on duty
- 25% witnessed someone killed on duty
- 2% have been shot (and hit) on duty
- 94% of ORW have symptoms of STS
- 50% have 9 or 17 symptoms of STS

Lessons Learned

Lesson 1. Finds the **right people**

Lesson 2. Is much much more than violence prevention

Lesson 3. A field in need of support

Lesson 4. Has an impact on gun violence



Neighborhood Impact

- **11 of 13** (84%) experienced **lower event rates** relative to their comparison groups.
- **30% of CP4P** areas (3 out of 13) experienced a statistically significant decline
- **None** of the areas experienced a significant increase relative to their comparison group



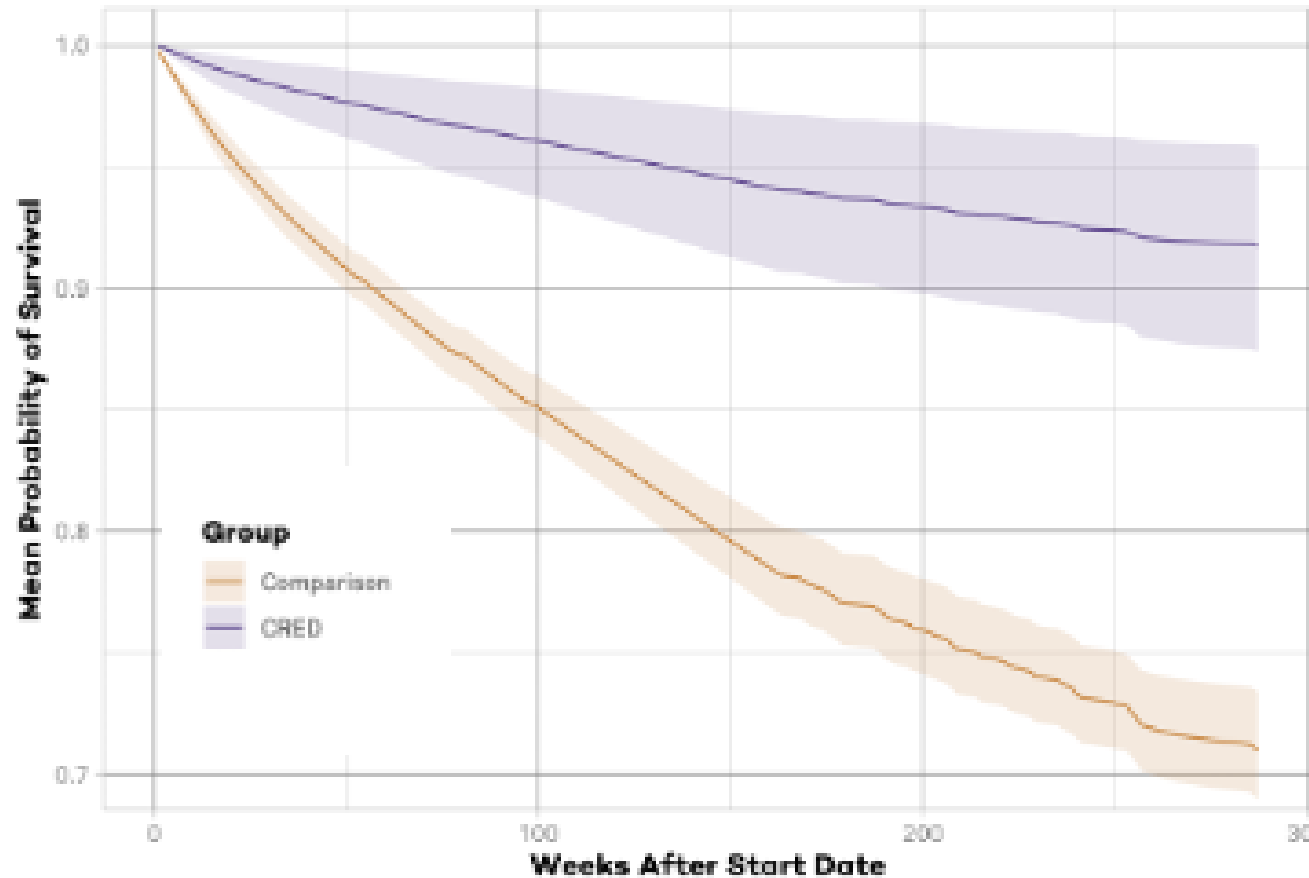
Between 2017 and 2021 . . .

**383 Shooting events were
prevented**

**About SEVEN Shootings and Homicides a
Month**

Individual Impact for CRED Alumni

Program Alumni: Arrests for Violent Crimes
Geographically-Constrained and Balanced Control Sample



Months After Start Date	% less likely to have arrest for violent crime than comparison group
12	7.80
24	11.30
36	15.30
48	17.85
60	20.16

The Promise and Pain of Community-Level Evaluations

Phillip W. Graham & Stefany Ramos

RTI International

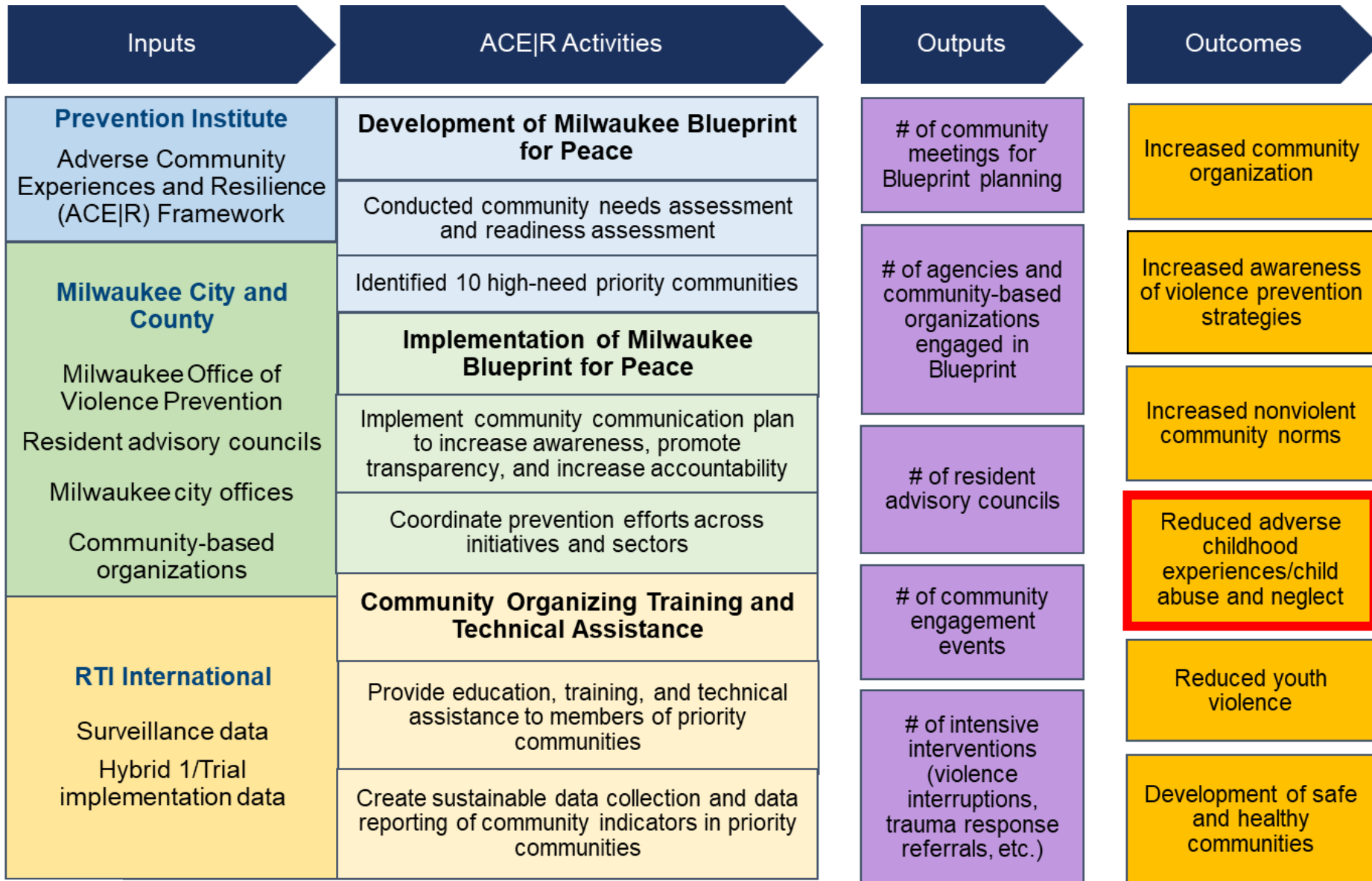


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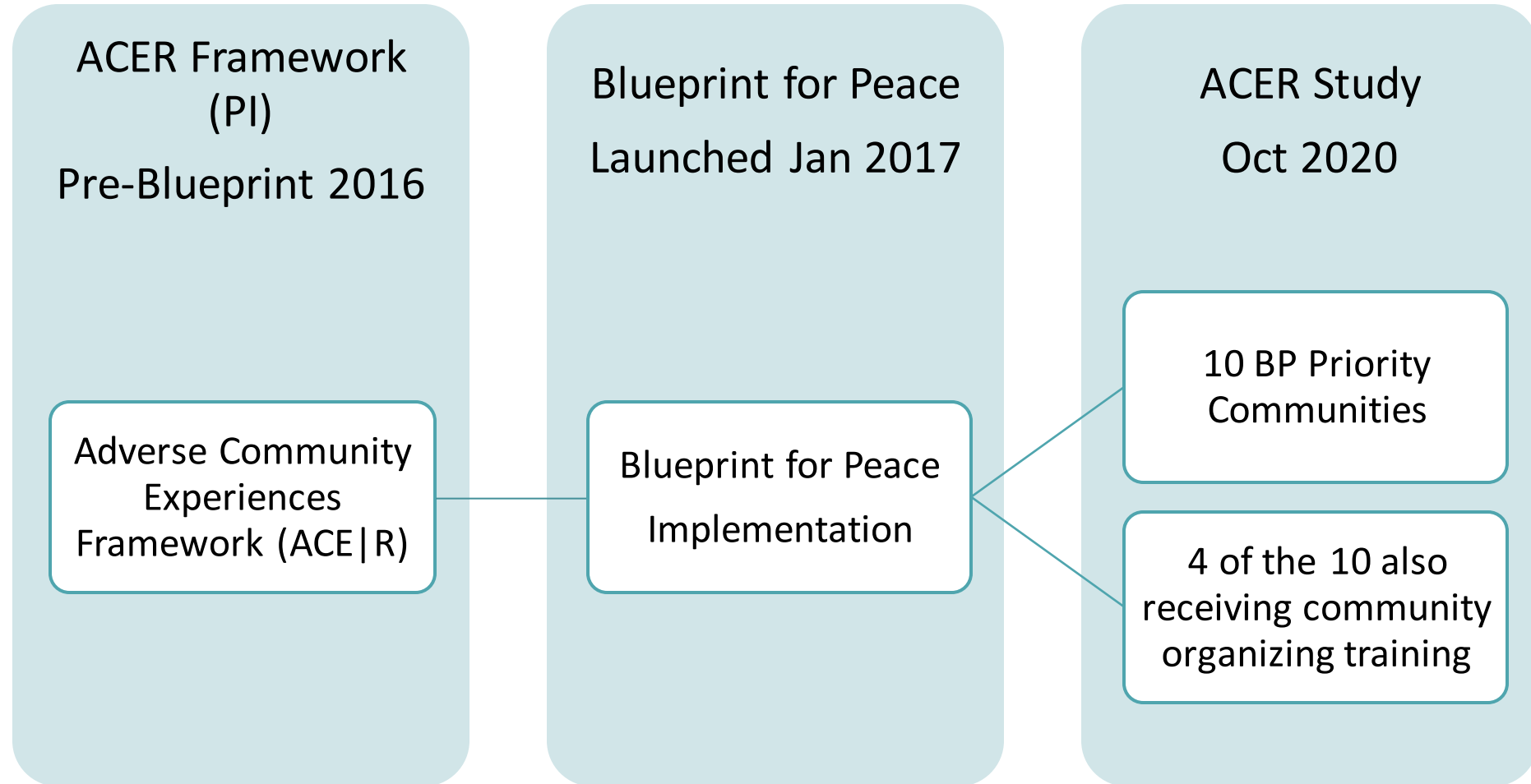
Blueprint for Peace Development

- 12-month process
- 6 steering committee meetings
- Focus groups
- Key stakeholder interviews
- Launch event
- Survivors Forum
- SAFE MKE Forum
- Ceasefire Sabbath
- Youth survey
- Community survey
- Community brainstorming
- Southside Safety Summit

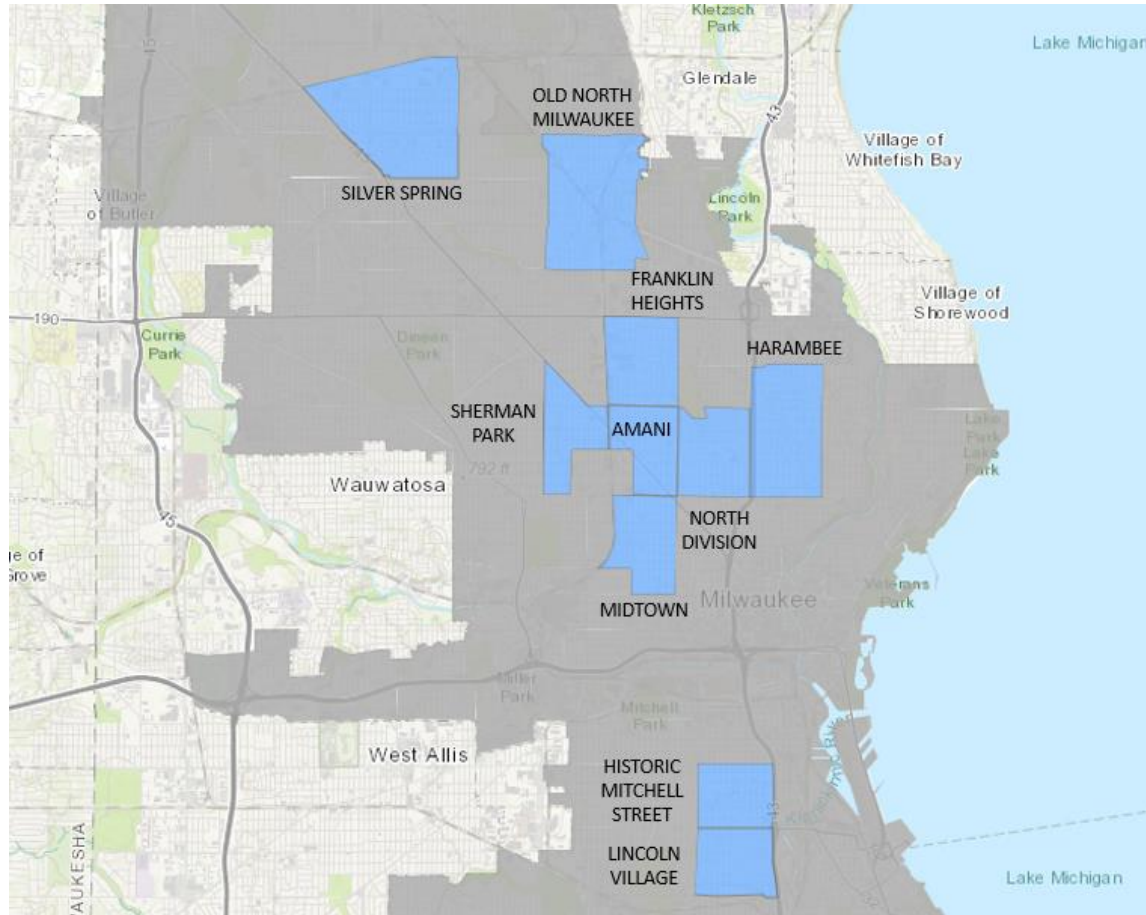




Study Design



10 Priority Neighborhoods



- North Division
- Franklin Heights
- Harambee
- Midtown
- Lincoln Village
- Historic Mitchell Street

4 selected to receive **community organizing training** from PI

- Amani
- Sherman Park
- Old North Milwaukee
- Silver Spring

Research Questions

1. What was the **effect of Blueprint for Peace** in Milwaukee on firearm violence, child abuse and neglect, and youth violence?
2. What was the **effect of community organizing** as an addition to the Blueprint 2020-2023 on community-level child abuse and neglect and youth violence?
3. How do **outer and inner setting factors** shape barriers and facilitators for stakeholders in the implementation of the intervention and the prevention of violence?
4. How can strategies identified by stakeholders to address barriers **arising from the intervention characteristics** be incorporated into future implementation efforts?
5. What strategies facilitate the **process** of implementing the intervention and the prevention of violence?

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Context Matters

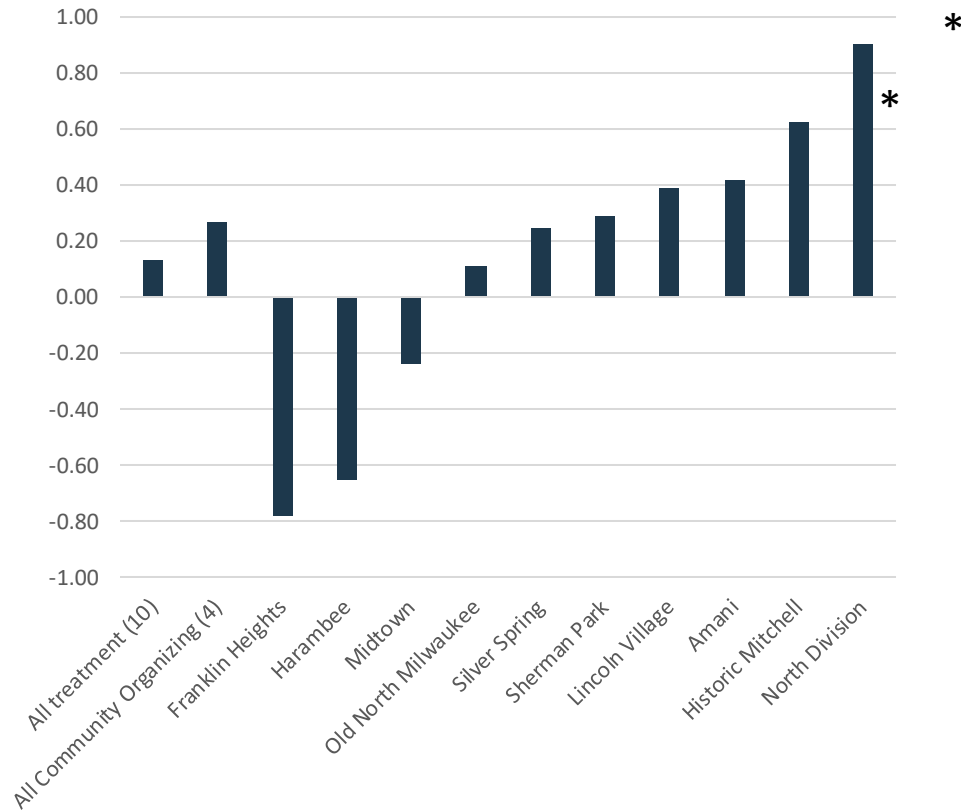


Event Tracker – by neighborhood

Year Month	Franklin Heights	Harambee	Historic Mitchell Street	Lincoln Village	Midtown	North Division	Old North Milwaukee	Sherman Park	Silver Spring
2021 Jan						2			
2021 Apr								1	
2021 Jun			1					1	
2021 Jul						1		1	
2021 Sep								1	
2021 Dec		1							
2022 Mar			1						
2022 Jun									1
2022 Jul			1					2	1
2022 Aug		2						2	
2022 Sep		1		1				1	
2022 Oct								1	
2022 Nov								1	
2022 Dec								1	
2023 Jan							1		
2023 Mar		1						2	
2023 Apr						1		2	
2023 May	1	2				2	1	1	
2023 Jun							1	1	
2023 Jul					1				

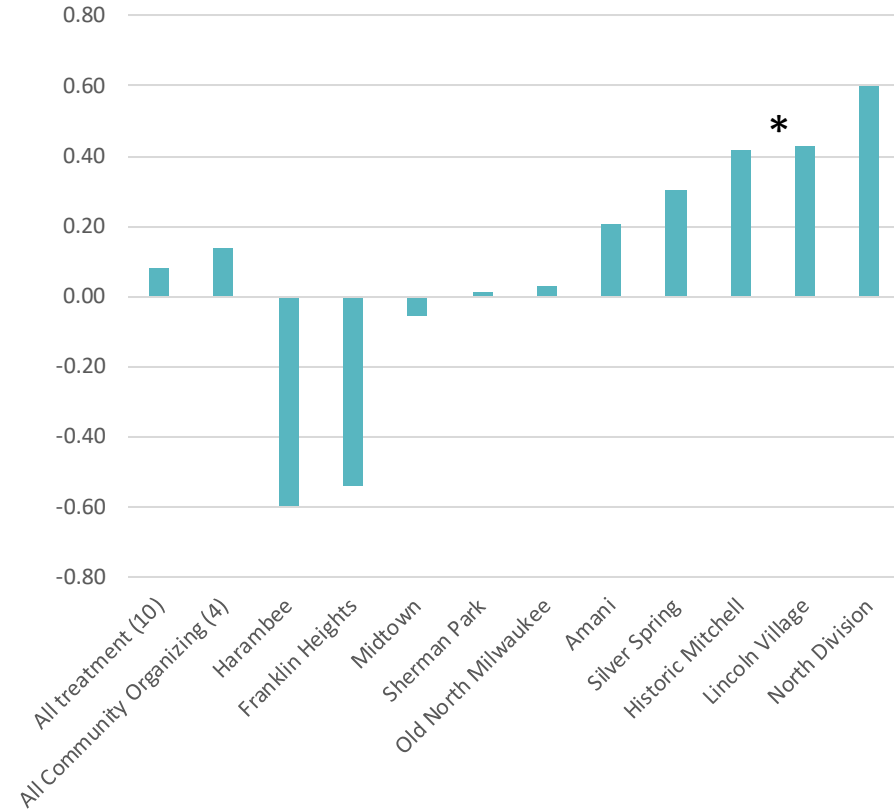
Preliminary analysis: Means before and after Blueprint launch

Change in average monthly firearm incidents before and after Blueprint



* Statistically significant

Change in average monthly non-fatal shootings before and after Blueprint



Preliminary analysis

- If we “remove” the COVID-19 shutdown period (March 2020 – April 2021) from analysis, some outcome means decrease significantly after Blueprint was launched

Example: Total firearm incidents

Average monthly Firearm Incidents

Neighborhood	Before BP	After BP	p
All treatment (10)	2.33	2.47	0.43
All Community Organizing (4)	2.55	2.82	0.34
Amani	2.71	3.13	0.47
Franklin Heights	3.54	2.76	0.16
Harambee	3.75	3.10	0.19
Historic Mitchell	0.96	1.58	0.07
Lincoln Village	0.75	1.14	0.18
Midtown	1.83	1.60	0.53
North Division	2.29	3.19	0.12
Old North Milwaukee	3.58	3.69	0.86
Sherman Park	2.54	2.83	0.58
Silver Spring	1.38	1.63	0.52

Average monthly firearm incidents

Neighborhood	Before BP	After BP with COVID-19 pause	p
All treatment	2.68	2.27	0.01
All community organizing	3.15	2.50	0.01
Amani	3.49	2.73	0.14
Franklin Heights	3.54	2.59	0.05
Harambee	3.62	3.03	0.19
Historic Mitchell	1.24	1.54	0.33
Lincoln Village	0.86	1.15	0.26
Midtown	2.14	1.36	0.02
North Division	2.84	3.05	0.68
Old North Milwaukee	4.46	3.17	0.02
Sherman Park	2.97	2.63	0.46
Silver Spring	1.68	1.49	0.60

Highlighted rows indicate statistical significance $p < 0.10$

Contact Me

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Thank you

