

# MKE Elevate Issue Brief: SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Safety and violence prevention includes the following: Crime and neighborhood safety, Reckless driving and motor vehicle crashes, Interpersonal and intimate partner violence, and Accidental injuries.



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## Scope and scale of problem

Gun Violence especially in the pandemic time has been a concern and continues to be a serious problem to this day. In fact, the City of Milwaukee is ranked **14th highest murder rates city** in the United States at 20.0 per 100,000. Violence is connected to a variety of other health issues, including: Racism & Health Equity, Built Environment, Economic Security, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Substance Misuse and Mental health.

### Crime and neighborhood safety

In 2021, there were **13 homicides by non-firearm, 180 by firearm, and 861 nonfatal shootings in Milwaukee.**<sup>1</sup> Homicides by firearm doubled and nonfatal shootings nearly doubled from 2019 to 2020 and increased slightly from 2020 to 2021.

### Reckless driving and motor vehicle crashes

In 2021, there were **52 motor vehicle fatalities, 270 motor vehicle serious injuries, 10 bicyclist serious injuries, 1 bicyclist fatality, 72 pedestrian serious injuries, and 17 pedestrian fatalities** in Milwaukee.<sup>2</sup> Trends have slightly increased and decreased over the past few years, with no clear trend up or down.

### Interpersonal and intimate partner violence

From January 1 – August 10, 2022, there were **57 domestic violence related nonfatal shootings**, including 33 Black/African American men and 20 Black/African American women.<sup>3</sup>

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## Equity Impact

### Who is affected?

- **86.2%** of gun violence victims in City of Milwaukee are black individuals.
- **81.7%** of gun violence victims in City of Milwaukee are male individuals.
- **46.7%** of all victims involved between the ages of 18-29 years of age.

### Is there a disparity?

Yes, there are two disparities shown in regards to gun violence victims in the City of Milwaukee - Race/Ethnicity and Gender. The most common victims of gun violence in the City of Milwaukee are **Black/African American Males between the ages of 18-29 years old.**

### How do social conditions, access to resources, and risk/protective factors impact issue?

Most gun violence victims are also victims of segregation that is seen in the City of Milwaukee due to a history of redlining. Successful interventions have elements of federal-local law enforcement collaboration, community involvement, and targeted intervention tactics.

Not until it became a known public fact that the City of Milwaukee is experiencing its worst pandemic in regards to gun violence did resources become more readily available. OVP and other community partners are now funded properly but are still under staffed to combat this disease that has been getting worse every year.

## Community buy in

In the **Priority Issues Survey**, safety and violence prevention was the top category overall and by participants of zip codes: **53218, 53222, 53212, 53226, 53227** and **53228**.

It was the second most important issue identified by participants of zip codes: **53225, 53216, 53206, 53210, 53208, 532333, 53215, 53221** and **53154**.

In the **\$100 mock activity**, safety and violence prevention was ranked **3 out of 10**, with **12%** of mock budget allocated for it.

### Are any community groups working on this issue?

OVP has several community partners that work to prevent violence in Milwaukee. We have organizations with focus areas such as; youth, family & community violence prevention.

Organizations also focus on cultural aspects of violence prevention & healing. Also, organizations that focus on policy & legislation.

### Are there clear implementation partners?

Yes, we currently have clear implementation partners for our current projects and as we move into our Promise Zone Initiative we will utilize a RFP process to identify the implementation partners.

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## Ability to make change in next 5 years

### Evidence-based PSE strategies include:

Placed-based strategies through the **Collective Impact Model**. OVP has utilized the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) along with other national evidence-based models, which are included in OVP's 10-year plan, Blueprint for Peace.

### Partners already working on issue include:

The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) is currently addressing neighborhood safety and interpersonal/intimate partner violence.

Various groups are addressing reckless driving and motor vehicle crashes.

### Could more be done if MKE Elevate takes on issue?

The work aligns, however, OVP is capable of implementing and monitoring the strategies.

### Is there political will to address issue?

The allocation of the City & State ARPA funding shows significant political will.

## Resources available

### Is there staffing to support an action team?

The Office of Violence Prevention has a team of four currently staff positions with several additional vacancies, the MHD data team has an epidemiologist supporting OVP, and Health Strategy Director is currently supporting reckless driving efforts.

### Is there funding available currently or possibly in the future?

ARPA funding is available, however it will expire within the next few years.

### Implementation partners who can support goals and strategies:

- Office of Violence Prevention
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership
- WestCare
- ASHA Project
- Milwaukee Muslim Women's Association
- UMOs Latina Resource Center
- Hmong American Women's Association
- Gerald L Ignace Indian Health Center
- HIR Wellness
- United Garden Homes
- UNCOM
- Running Rebels
- Promise Keepers – Community-Based Outreach Teams
- MPD
- Safe and Sound
- Milwaukee Christian Center
- Triple P
- CMR Ignite
- Render
- Preserve Families
- Guest House
- Northwest Side CDC

## Sources:

- <sup>1</sup> Milwaukee Police Department data
- <sup>2</sup> Health Compass (Family Health Survey)
- <sup>3</sup> Milwaukee Police Department data



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