



# VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE

After years of decline in violence in Milwaukee County, trends reversed in 2019, and incidents of violence have steadily increased since. In 2021, there were 194 homicides, 872 non-fatal shootings, over 43,000 assaultive offenses, and more than 1,000 identified victims of domestic violence.

Since 2016, the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) triannual Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) has elevated violence as a significant issue in Milwaukee County. Findings from the most recent 2021 CHNA show 35% of all respondents and more than 50% of African American and Hispanic respondents named violence as a top health issue.

Violence, in all its forms, does not discriminate. It affects people of all ages, races, genders, and socio-economic groups - inflicting schools, workplaces, recreational, and neighborhood settings. However, it does not impact all groups equally. Firearm and assaultive violence disproportionately affects communities of color and is concentrated in certain neighborhoods. Specifically, over 80% of victims are Black/African American in Milwaukee.

Health care providers can play an important role in identifying, treating, and preventing violence for patients and their families. MHCP provider members have come together with the City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention, Milwaukee County, the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Comprehensive Injury Center, and other sectors to support the advancement of the Milwaukee Blueprint for Peace.

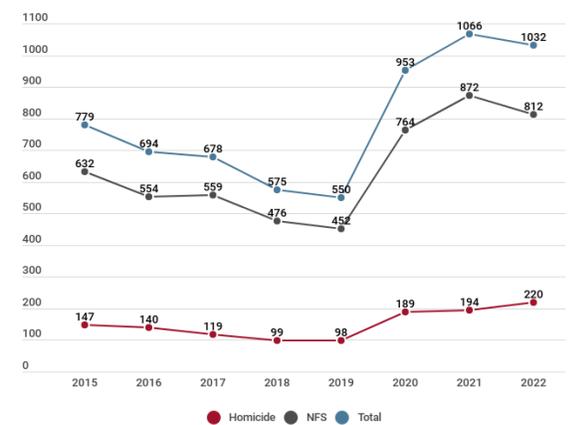
Collectively, MHCP members are working on four activities that address Blueprint for Peace goals:

- Improve and expand **hospital-based violence intervention services** to support patient victims and reduce retaliation and recidivism
- Enhance **forensic nursing assessment and supportive services** to improve treatment, advocacy, recovery, and prevent subsequent interpersonal violence incidents
- Report **patient violence incidence data via the CARDIFF model** to improve surveillance and inform community intervention strategies
- Share learning and advance collective strategies to **address and reduce violence in health care workplace settings** to protect patients and associates.

## MILWAUKEE BLUEPRINT FOR PEACE

The **Milwaukee Blueprint for Peace** was established in 2016 and provides a cross-sector road map for addressing all forms of interpersonal and structural violence across the community including firearms, homicides, domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

## HOMICIDE AND NON-FATAL SHOOTING (NFS) VICTIM FREQUENCY BY YEAR—MILWAUKEE COUNTY, 2015-2022



Violence Response Public Health and Safety Team (VR-PHAST) 2021 Incident Report, Medical College of Wisconsin, Institute for Health and Equity.

**Data Source:** Milwaukee Police Department, Nonfatal Shooting and Homicide data, accessed 2/3/2022.

\*2022 data are projections based on mid-year data and past trends

*“Violence prevention and intervention work is expanding in health care organizations to address this serious and escalating public health issue. By working together, we have increased our understanding of the issue and can respond on a broader scale to support victims and slow the spread.”*

Reggie Moore, Director of Violence Prevention Policy and Engagement, MCW Comprehensive Injury Center

# MHCP VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE FOCUS AREAS

## CARDIFF Model for Violence Prevention

CARDIFF is a comprehensive data collection and linking model that brings together information from several sectors to describe the burden of assaultive violence in a community. It is predicated on the evidence that not all assaults are reported to police. The model collates, links, and maps information on assaults occurring in Milwaukee and presents linked information to a community consortium to inform place-based, community-focused violence prevention activities. The MHCP has convened member health system leaders to expand data collection and sharing across all Milwaukee hospital systems and has provided CARDIFF trainings to clinicians and staff.

## Interpersonal Violence Prevention

Through collaboration with the Forensic Nurse Examiner Network (FNEN) and the Healthcare Collaborative Against Sex Trafficking (HCAST), the MHCP is working to support the expansion of interpersonal violence services across health systems and Federally Qualified Health Centers. The FNEN is comprised of health care leaders that are working to track and report interpersonal violence data, expand access to forensic nursing services in health care settings, improve the standard of practice, and inform and influence policy, regulations and payment—with a focus on health equity. HCAST is a multisector collaborative convened by MCW and informed by women impacted by sex trafficking. HCAST works to address social determinants of health and advocate for patients.

## TARGET POPULATIONS

The MHCP violence initiative seeks to support victims of violence that present in health care settings across numerous types of violence, including:

- Victims and families of firearm violence (homicides and non-fatal shootings)
- Victims and families of assaultive violence (intentional interpersonal violence such as stabbings, domestic and intimate partner violence, physical assault, and strangulation)
- Children and youth under age 18 in Milwaukee County (Project Ujima)
- Residents age 15-35 in City of Milwaukee (414LIFE)
- Populations that are at highest risk for violence recidivism

### Funding

*Funding for the components of the hospital-based violence intervention programs and the CARDIFF data collaboration are supported by the MHCP Shared Community Investment Fund.*

## Health Care Workplace Violence Prevention Learning Collaborative

The MHCP brings together health system and health center leaders to exchange information about effective and promising workplace violence prevention practices and intervention strategies. Launched in 2019, the group has convened regularly to inform and influence workplace safety policies, reduce the potential for violence in all health care settings, and contribute to overall violence prevention and reduction in the community.

## Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs

MHCP members are working to improve the coordination and expansion of existing hospital/health care-based violence intervention services. This includes, **414LIFE** for youth and adults in the City of Milwaukee (Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin Comprehensive Injury Center) and **Project Ujima** for children and families with victims under age 18 in Milwaukee County (Children's Wisconsin). Both programs are informed by the national work of the Hospital Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) and are designed to break the cycle of violent injury by intervening in the hospital setting and working to address social needs. MHCP members plan to expand both the hospital-based 414 Life and Project Ujima programs to additional hospitals in 2022, and to other health care settings in the future.



## 414LIFE OUTCOMES

**800** total referrals since 2019

**223** referrals in project year three (2021) alone

## PROJECT UJIMA OUTCOMES

**499** total referrals for children and families in 2021, which is approximately **2,750** individuals.

## HEALTH EQUITY

Low-income and people of color are disproportionately affected by individual, community, and structural violence in Milwaukee. Although it varies across violence types, the majority of victims are Black/African American men and women under the age of 35. The work across violence programs seeks to address health equity and reduce health disparities.