

OVERVIEW

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.

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.

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.

TARGET POPULATION

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. For example, firearm and assaultive violence disproportionately affects communities of color and are concentrated in certain neighborhoods. Specifically, nearly 90% of all victims are Black/African American, with youth Black/African American rates being between 95%-100%.

The MHCP violence initiative seeks to support victims of violence who present in health care settings having experienced 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 Milwaukee County (414LIFE)
- Populations that are at highest risk for violence recidivism

GOALS

Collectively, MHCP members are working on four goal areas related to violence prevention and intervention:

- 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.

“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

OUTCOMES

MHCP highlights and program outcomes across all four areas of violence prevention and intervention goal areas:

- 414LIFE Hospital Based Response referral expansion to Ascension St. Joe’s (2023)
- SCIF supported evaluation of Project Ujima referral expansion (2023)
- Development and launch of Forensic Nurse Examiner Network to strengthen forensic nursing services across the community to address domestics and sexual violence through implementation, expansion, education, and policy objectives (2022)
- SCIF supported launch of Forensic Nursing Shared Hospital Advocate (2023)
- Collaborative hosting of Strangulation Training for cross-sector education and awareness building (Forensic Nurse Examiner Network, Sojourner Family Peace Center, MCW CIC—2023)
- CARDIFF data utilization by local public health collaboratives to inform community violence prevention (Milwaukee and West Allis public health departments)
- High-level program outcomes:
 - Project Ujima: 366 individuals supported, 358 mental health referrals in 2022
 - 414LIFE: 268 individuals supported in 2022, 1300+ referrals since program inception in 2019

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- Aurora Health Care
- Ascension Wisconsin
- Children’s Wisconsin
- Froedtert Health
- Medical College of Wisconsin Comprehensive Injury Center (CIC)
- Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services
- City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)

Primary Programs:

Project Ujima (Children’s Wisconsin)

Project Ujima aims to break the cycle of community violence by supporting youth and families on their journey of healing and recovery. It is a collaborative, multidisciplinary program that serves children and families in Milwaukee County who are victims of violence, seeking care through Children’s Emergency Room for gunshot wounds, stabbings, and/or physical assaults. The program also serves families of homicide victims and those experiencing domestic/family violence.

414LIFE (MCW CIC and City of Milwaukee OVP)

The 414LIFE Program hospital component provides medical support for 414LIFE, combining public health, Trauma Center, Emergency Department (ED), and community efforts. Core outcomes include preventing reinjury, recidivism, and future community violence as well as supporting and providing physical and emotional recovery and healing.

