

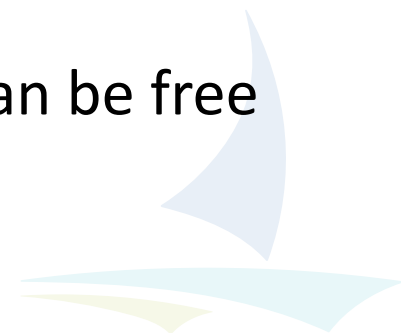
Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention

Josh Peterson

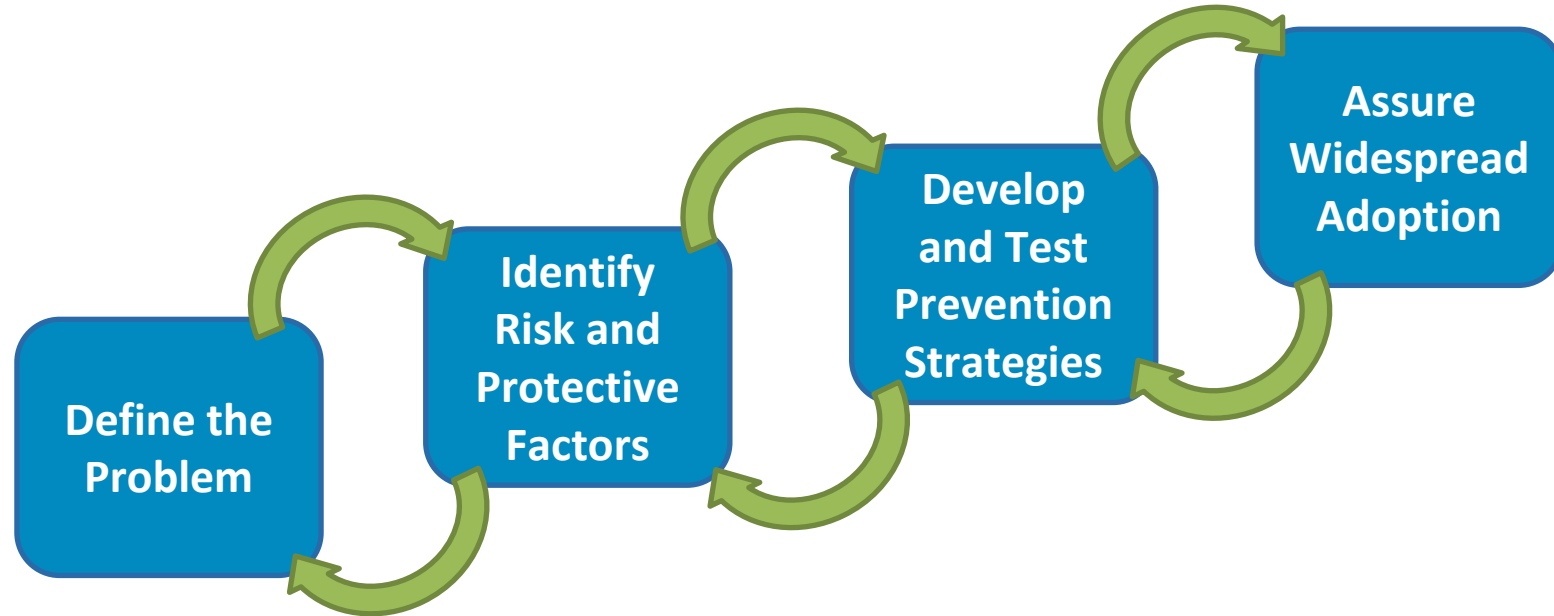
Manager, Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention

The Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)

- Created in 2018 through an amendment to the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, but has roots as far back as 2006.
- Created to provide strategic direction and coordination for efforts to reduce the risk of violence on an enterprise-wide basis through a variety of linked strategies.
- In 2020, the OVP budget was approximately \$3 million. That included funding for 5 full-time staff, contracts with community-based agencies, and program implementation and technical assistance costs.
- We use a public health approach to help ensure that everyone can be free from violence.



The Public Health Approach — The “Textbook” Definition



The public health approach to violence prevention is systematic and scientific, typically incorporating these four steps.



Other Definitions — Violence is Preventable

- Violence is not inevitable.
- Like other communicable diseases, we can protect against, prevent, and treat violence.



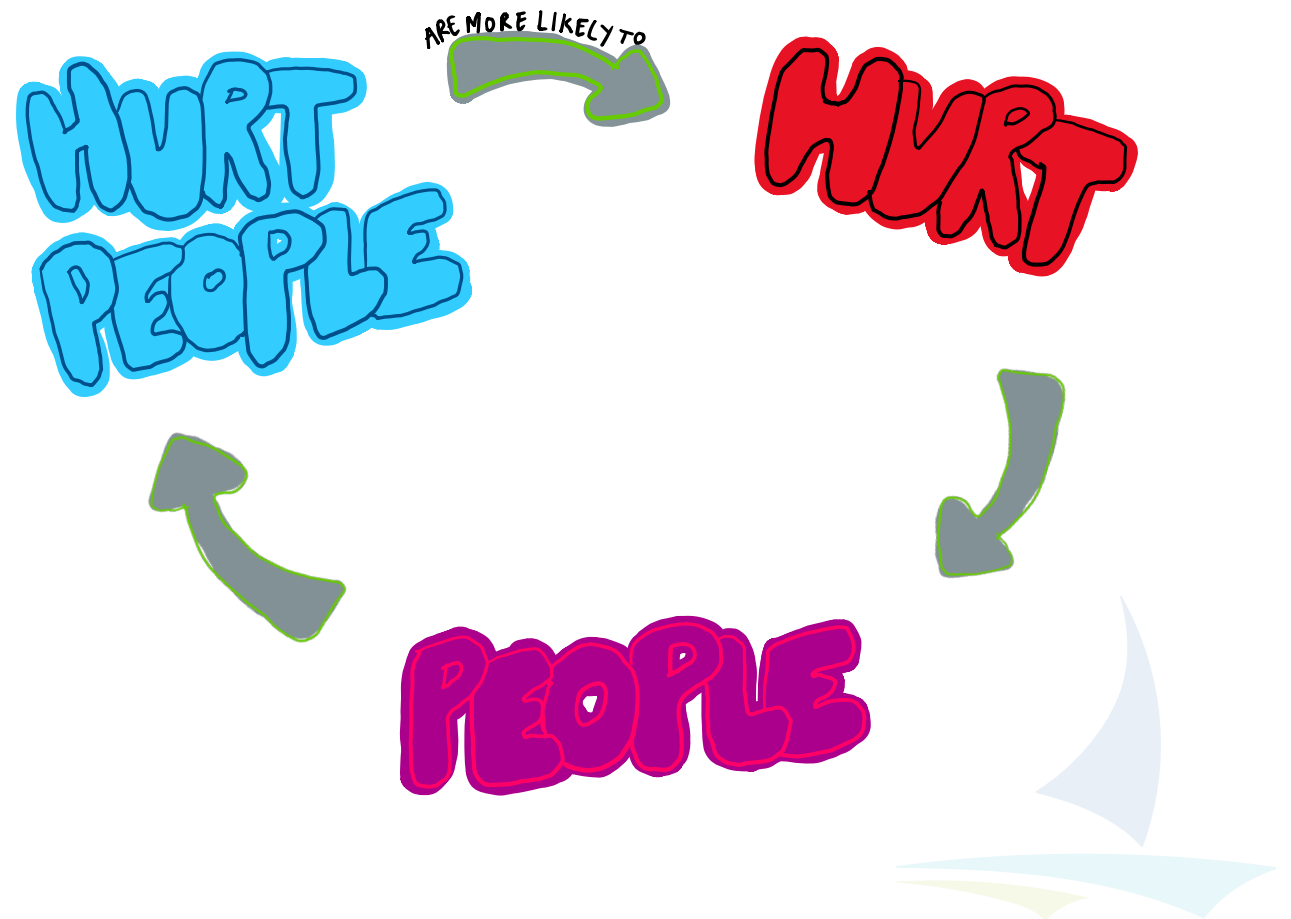
Other Definitions — Equity and Collaboration

- Violence takes an unequal toll on communities of color and on specific neighborhoods in Minneapolis. This work must be done through an equity lens.
- Everyone has a role to play in creating communities that don't include violence. It takes us all to make our communities safe, healthy, hopeful, and thriving.



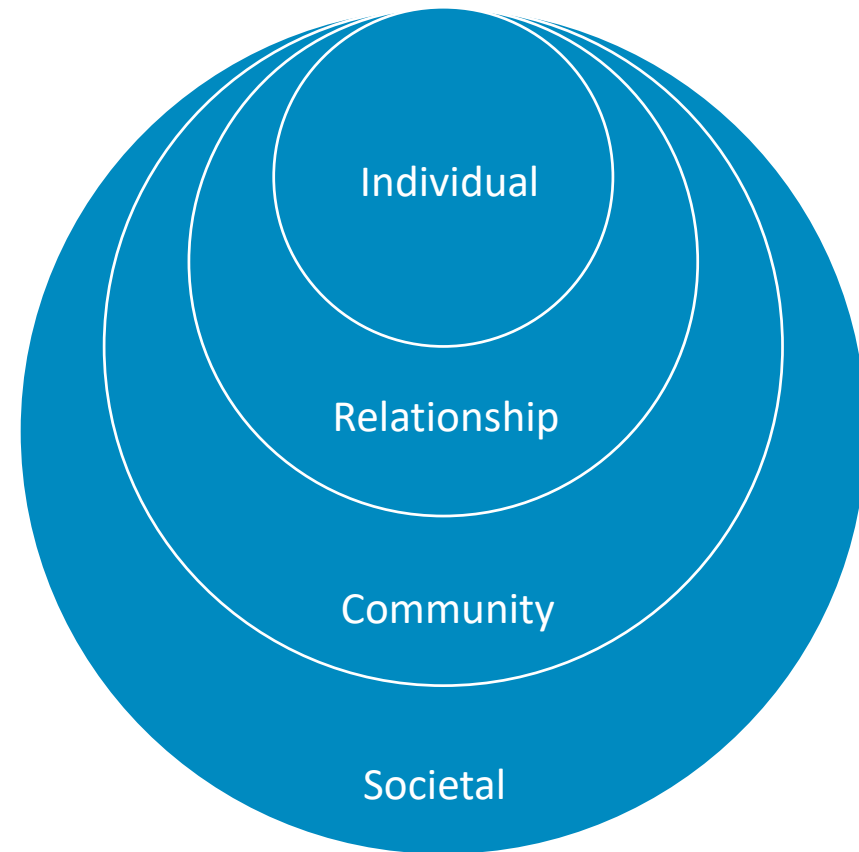
Other Definitions — Many factors

- Violence can be cyclical.
- As part of violence prevention work, it's critical to think about how we can support individuals on a path toward healing and away from re-experiencing or perpetuating violence they've experienced.



Other Definitions — Many Factors

- Social conditions matter.
- Violence is not just individual actions of “bad” people.
- To understand violence and violence prevention, it’s critical to consider the interplay between all factors that may put someone at risk for or protect someone from experiencing or perpetuating violence.
- Violence is multifaceted, so the solutions must be too.
- Violence prevention has to happen upstream and downstream and along a continuum.



Source: CDC

Understanding Solutions — Upstream and Downstream



Image source: YVPRC

Understanding Solutions — Prevention Continuum

Up Front

In The Thick

Aftermath



Approaches that take place

BEFORE

violence has occurred to lay groundwork that can prevent violence from emerging

Early intervention, often at the first sign of risk or as a response to an immediate to the threat of violence

Responses

AFTER

violence has occurred to deal with the lasting consequences and promote healing and restoration



We work to break the cycle of violence in partnership with hospitals.

- The Next Step program connects victims of violent injury to resources and support in partnership with HCMC, North Memorial, and Abbott Northwestern hospitals.
- Next Step staff provide immediate bedside support for participants and their families.
- Staff also provide long-term community-based follow up for participants who want further support with changing their lives and stopping the cycle of violence.



Image credit: Minnesota Public Radio

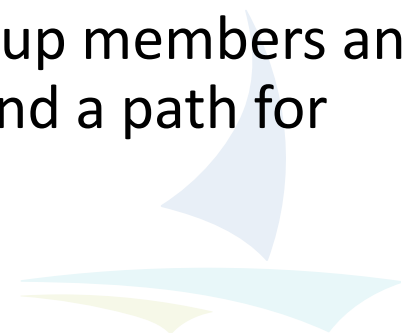
Next Step has a positive impact on the cycle of violence.

- Next Step has served over 400 participants since launching in July 2016.
- During the program's first year, only 3% of participants returned to HCMC with a same or similar injury (n=101).



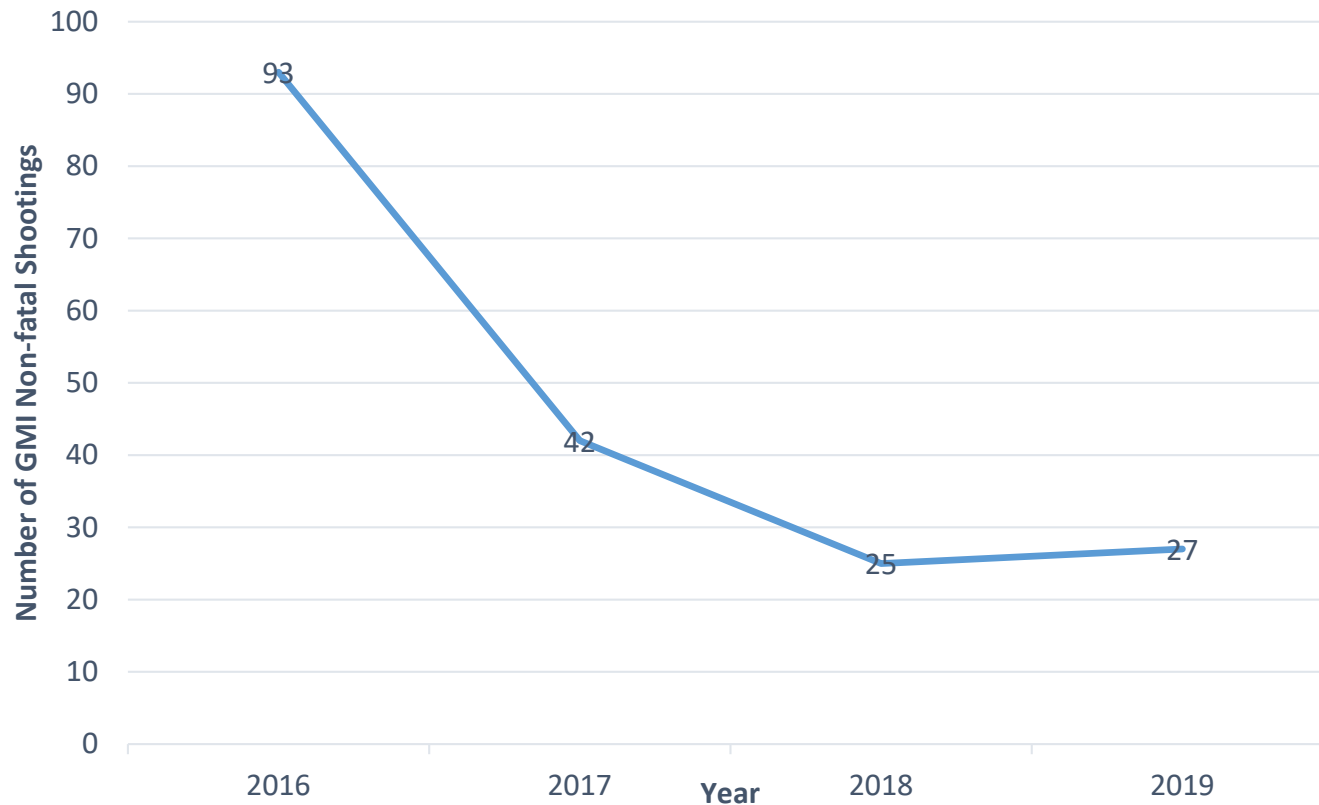
We work to address the actions of gangs/groups most responsible for driving serious violence in the City through Project LIFE.

- Project LIFE is the local implementation of a national evidence-based practice called Group Violence Intervention (GVI).
- GVI is based on data that suggests that a relatively small number of individuals drive a large share of violence in cities.
- It relies on a partnership between community members, social service providers, and law enforcement acting together to address the actions of gangs/groups most responsible for driving serious violence.
- The approach employs moral engagement and a legitimate and credible offer of support and services for those wishing to make a change, offering group members an “honorable exit” from committing violence and providing resources and a path for those who want to change.

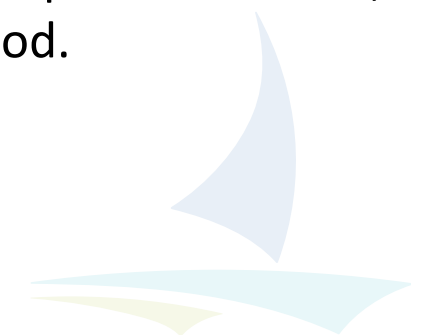


Project LIFE - Results

Group Member-involved Non-Fatal Shooting Incidents May 4 to September 21, 2016-2019



In 2016 (prior to GVI), there were 93 group-member involved non-fatal shootings in Minneapolis between May 4 – September 21. In 2017 (the first year of GVI implementation), the number of group-member involved non-fatal shootings between May 4 – September 21 dropped to 42. In 2018, the number dropped again, to 25 for the same period. In 2019, there were 27 during the period.



We put credible Outreach Workers on the streets to interrupt violence.

- Trusted community members work as outreach workers on neighborhood-specific teams. They detect potentially violent situations and use informal mediation, non-physical conflict resolution, and interruption expertise to de-escalate before they become violent.
- Pilot phase launched in South and North Minneapolis in fall 2020.
- Pilot was intended to be a timely, visible, positive, and peaceful presence in communities in the face of immediate concerns around violence.
- Pilot is also intended to generate information and insight into what longer-term, broader implementation can look like. As part of that, we intend to engage expert technical assistance, community, and partners in designing longer-term monitoring and evaluation strategies.



We work with community to build capacity and a broader network of violence prevention partners.

- The Blueprint Approved Institute supports grassroots community organizations doing violence prevention work
- Build skills and increase organizational capacity
- Funding to put their capacity building into practice, supported with hands-on guidance from OVP and a cohort of peers
- Enhances agencies' services and increases their ability to secure other funds and opportunities.



We support community-driven strategies for violence prevention.

- Through the Violence Prevention Fund, we fund community to implement solutions they develop to violence-related problems they identify. Examples of types of projects include:
 - Community building
 - Community arts projects/neighborhood activation
 - Creation of protective community environments
 - Youth skills training
 - Street outreach
 - Trauma awareness and resilience training
 - Race/restorative justice conversations
 - Community meals
 - Resource referrals
 - More

In 2019, the Office of Violence Prevention invested \$325,000 in 10 agencies. The recipients:

- carried out over 100 events
- engaged over 7,400 people in programming
- served over 5,700 meals
- provided stipends and meaningful skills training to 44 young people
- had 1,600 outreach contacts/connections to resources
- reported over 160 partnerships in action across the City

Questions/More Information

Josh Peterson

Manager, Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention

Josh.Peterson@minneapolismn.gov

