

Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention

Sasha Cotton, Director

The Public Health Approach — “Textbook’ Definition

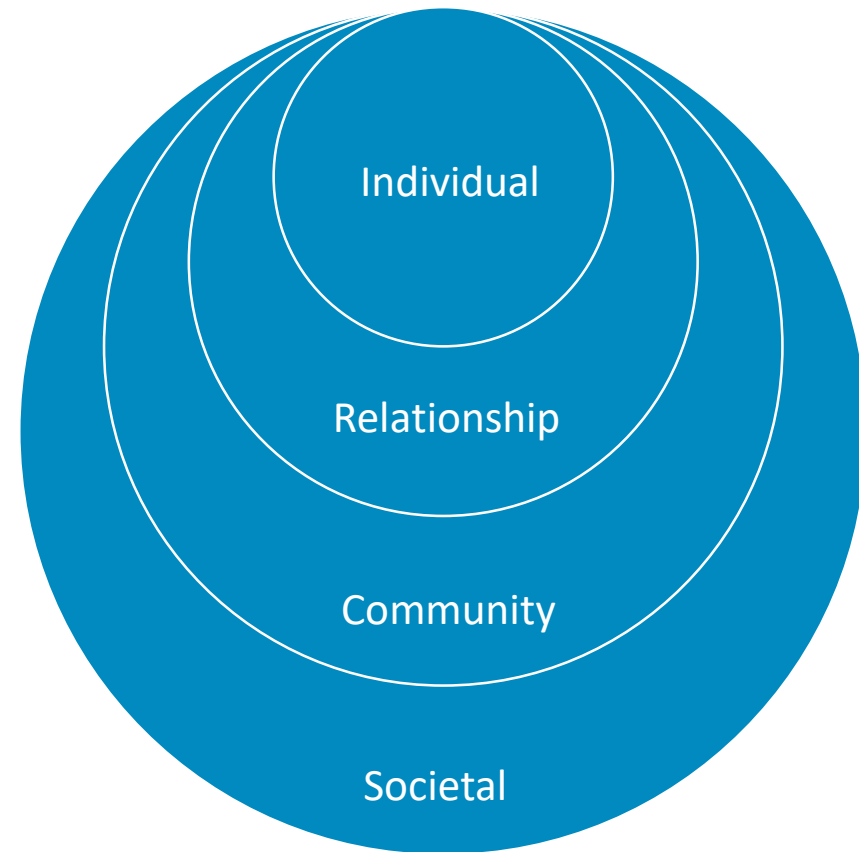


The public health approach to violence prevention is systematic and scientific, typically incorporating these four steps.



Public Health Approach — Many Factors

- Social conditions matter
- Violence is not just the individual actions of “bad” people
- The social-ecological model considers the interplay between all factors that put people at risk for or protect people from experiencing or perpetuating violence



Source: CDC



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



The Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)

- We use a public health approach to help ensure that everyone can be free from violence.
- Created in 2018 through an amendment to the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances
- 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
- Launched in 2019



How did we get here?

2006: Resolution declaring youth violence a public health issue

2013: The Blueprint is updated and Minneapolis joins the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

2016-2017: Expansion into tertiary prevention with launch of hospital-based intervention and Group Violence Intervention

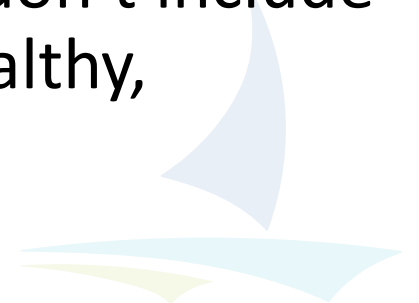
2008: The City's first comprehensive violence prevention strategic plan—the Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence—is released

2016: Expansion into multiple forms of violence with CDC grant for intersections between teen dating violence and youth violence

2018: Office of Violence Prevention created in City Code of Ordinances

We are guided by a number of core beliefs.

- Violence is not inevitable. The same as with other health conditions, we can prevent and treat violence, and we can heal from it.
- Violence has roots in social, economic, political and cultural conditions.
- 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.



OVP Initiatives

Up Front

In The Thick

Aftermath



- Youth outreach and engagement
- Coaching Boys into Men

- Inspiring Youth (case management/mentorship)
- Juvenile Supervision Center

- Project LIFE (Group Violence Intervention)
- Next Step (Hospital-based Violence Intervention)

The way we do our work


Evidence Based Violence Prevention Programs

- Group Violence Intervention
- Cure Violence/ Interrupters
- Hospital Based Program (Next Step)

Capacity Building Training and Innovation

- Blueprint Approved Institute Fellowship
- Office of Violence Prevention Fund
- Micro-Grants

Community Engagement

- Community Navigators
 - Pop up Parks
 - Youth Violence Prevention Week
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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 and North Memorial.
- 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



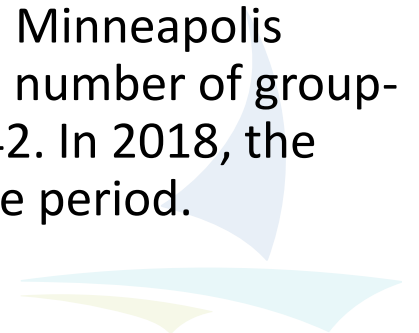
Next Step has a positive impact on the cycle of violence.

- 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).



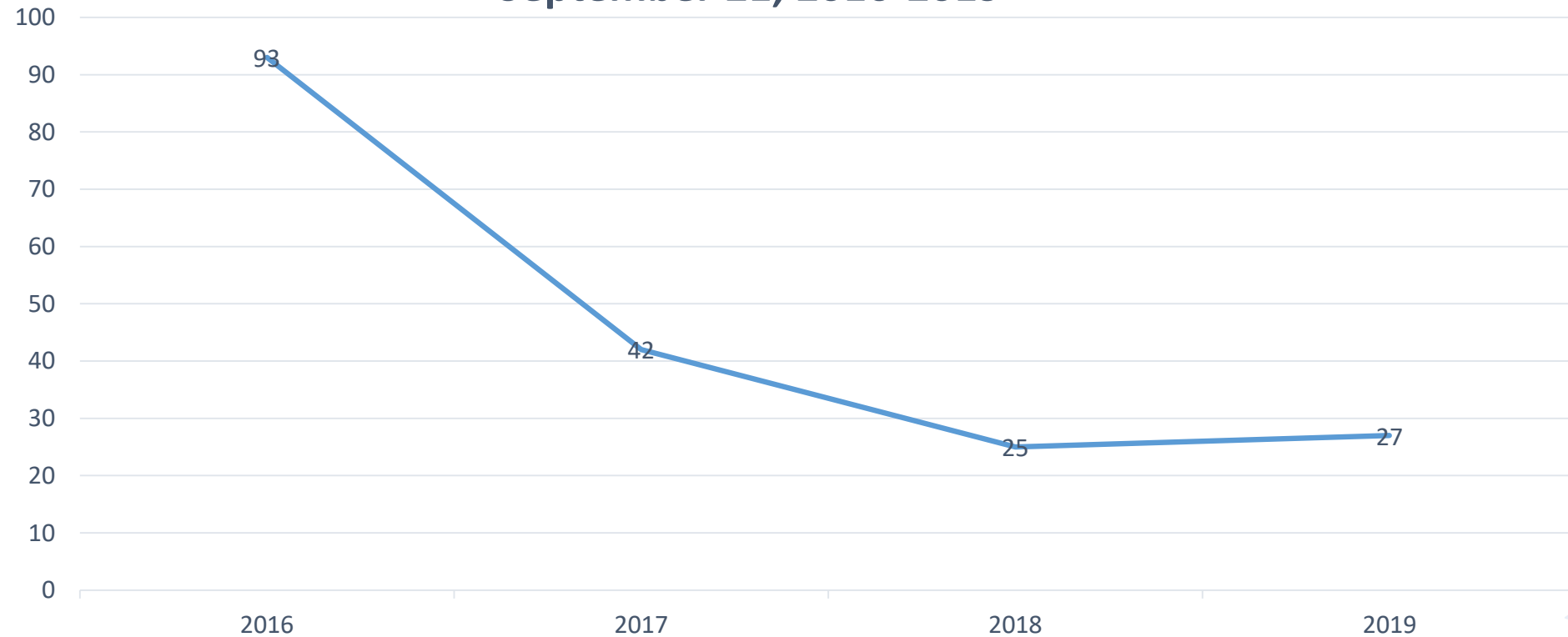
We work to address the actions of gangs/groups most responsible for driving serious violence in the City through Project LIFE.

- 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.
- 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.



Project LIFE - Results

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



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. |



Blueprint Approved Institute Fellowship

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.

- Investments in community-led strategies:
 - Community building
 - Arts/activation
 - Youth skills training
 - Street outreach
 - Trauma awareness and resilience training
 - Race/restorative justice conversations
 - Community meals
 - Resource referrals
 - More

In 2020, 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

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