
Aim4PEACE

Violence Prevention Program





Evaluation Brief Report 2018-2020

This participatory evaluation report was developed by the Center for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas, through a community academic partnership with the Kansas City, MO Health Department, Aim4Peace Violence Prevention Program. The findings of this report are the views of the author and do not necessarily represent that of the Health Department.

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Aim4Peace Evaluation Report Summary, 2018-2020

The Aim4Peace (A4P) Violence Prevention Program, adapted from the evidence-based Cure Violence program, uses a public health approach to prevent and reduce killings. The main components of the A4P program are to detect, interrupt, and mobilize the community to prevent and reduce violence. This report examines the efforts of Aim4Peace from 2018 to 2020. Since 2008, Aim4Peace has been implemented in focused priority areas of Kansas City, Missouri within the East Patrol Division, which has historically experienced disproportionately higher levels of violence. During this report period, A4P focused supports in the 330 Sector of the East Patrol.

Detect and Interrupt

Identifying and mediating conflicts between community members and groups is a core component of the A4P approach. Personal altercations were the primary reason for conflict in 66% of the 446 mediations supported by A4P from 2018 to 2020. The primary risk factors associated with the conflicts, included: acting hyped up (72%), history of violence (59%), or presence of weapons at the mediations (59%) or conflict. For 38% of the conflicts, community members notified A4P to request mediation, which may indicate for some residents the importance of A4P in facilitating peace. During this report period, A4P had to adapt their approach to deliver services within the context of COVID, but program staff continued to remain present in the community. Towards the end of 2020, shifts in funding for the program resulted in reductions to A4P staffing and supports, which resulted in discontinuing direct shooting responses and mediations in the community in 2021.

Identify and Support High-Risk Individuals

Aim4Peace provides supports to individuals with risks for violence and in settings where violence may occur, including in the neighborhoods, schools, and hospitals. A4P staff often have community credibility with high-risk individuals, which is important for developing rapport to support positive behavior change with those served.

Hospital Outreach

Aim4Peace supports a hospital-violence intervention program in partnership with University Health (formerly Truman Medical Center) and Research Medical Center. The program offers supports to survivors of violence-related intentional injury, as well as to their families and friends while at the hospital and post-discharge, including to deescalate conflicts and prevent further involvement in violence. From 2018 to 2020, partner hospitals made 908 intentional injury patient referrals to Aim4Peace of which approximately 75% were related to a gunshot wound, 71% involved Black residents, and 71% were males. A4P facilitated 1,544 case supports, including referrals, to patients and their loved ones. Aim4Peace continued providing services to 155 patients post-discharge who became participants of the program.

Street Outreach

Aim4Peace provides a continued presence in the neighborhood, including after the occurrence of violent incidents, to build rapport with residents in the neighborhoods through outreach activities. During the report period, Aim4Peace provided supports to 146 participants enrolled in the program through 10,127 contacts which were primarily in-person (55%). Although in-person contacts substantially decreased after the onset of COVID. Nearly, 36% of the 121 participants for whom changes in risk levels were examined showed a decrease in risk.

Mobilize Community for Norms Change

From 2018 to 2020, there were 598 community activities facilitated by Aim4Peace and partners serving over 31,000 residents. A4P mobilized multisector partnerships involving 10 different sectors of the community including through collaboration with schools, nine neighborhood associations, and residents in the priority area to improve community conditions. A4P supported 538 neighborhood canvass or anti-violence activities to promote a message of non-violence and provide a consistent presence in the community with residents and groups to reduce tolerance towards violence. In 2018 and 2019, A4P staff provided 74 days of support to De LaSalle Educational Center to offer a positive presence to students, including by facilitating training. Through the KC Violence and Trauma Response Network, A4P worked with collaborative partners to support 274 referrals and case supports specifically for young male survivors and their families who were primarily racial and ethnic youth.

Community-Level Outcomes to Reduce Violence in the Community

There were high rates of violence experienced in KC, MO, and the East Patrol Division from 2018 to 2020. Although there was variability across years, the number and rate of homicides for the 330 Sector, East Patrol, and KC, MO were higher between 2018 and 2020 than during the baseline year (2006). From 2006 (before A4P) to 2020, the percent change increase in the number of homicides was 23% in Sector 330, 64% in the East Patrol, and 53% in KC, MO. However, the rate of increase over time from 2006 to 2020 may have been less in Sector 330 than in many of the comparison sectors.

Both locally and nationally, between 2019 and 2020 there was a substantial increase in the frequency of homicides. From 2019 to 2020, in Kansas City, MO and in the East Patrol there was a notable increase in homicides. There was a 36 percent change decrease in the number of homicides from 2019 (n=25) to 2020 (n=16) in Sector 330; whereas there was an increase of 20% in East Patrol and 19% in KC, MO. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a decrease by 6.35 in the homicide rate in Sector 330 with a difference from 17.65 in 2020 to 11.30 in 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, there were slight increases in the homicide rates for the East Patrol of 1.6 and .61 for Kansas City, Missouri.

Youth Violence Outcomes

From 2008 to 2020, there were observed decreases in the frequency of youth homicide in the East Patrol Division and Sector 330. Between 2008 and 2020, the number of youth homicides increased overall for KC, MO. Of the 58 youth homicides in Sector 330 between 2008 and 2020, 97% (56) involved a firearm. In 2020, Sector 330 experienced the only year since before 2006 in which there were no incidences of youth homicides. There were zero youth homicides in Sector 330 in 2020, compared to a marked increase in both youth and overall homicides across the city. In 2020, the youth homicide rate for the 330 Sector was significantly lower than the average homicide rate for the comparison sectors.

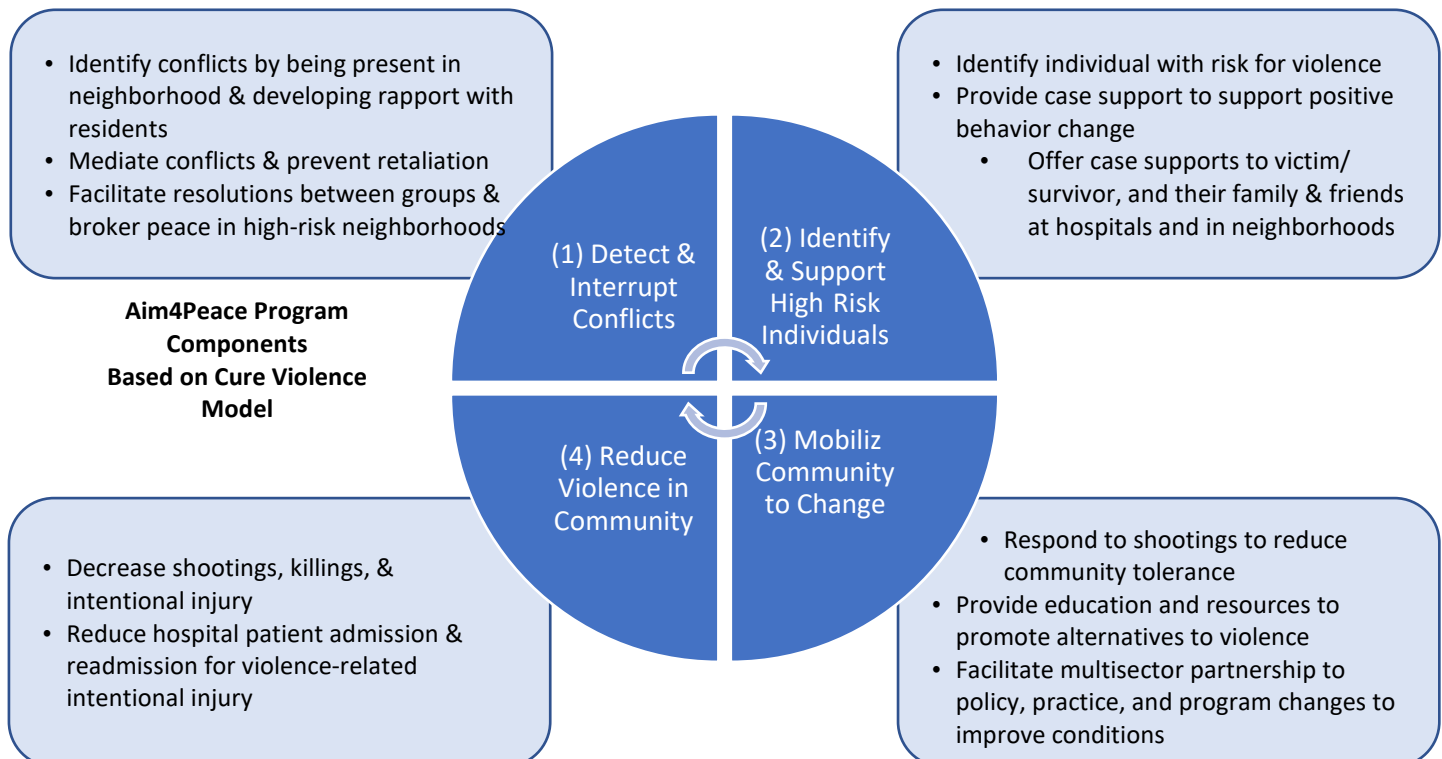
Approach: Aim4Peace Violence Prevention Program

Aim4Peace (A4P) is a violence prevention program within the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department (KCMO HD). A4P uses a public health approach to contribute to reducing shootings and killings by addressing the epidemic of violence in neighborhoods. Aim4Peace focuses on a specific priority area (330 Sector) of the East Patrol Division that has historically experienced higher rates of violence. Since 2008, A4P has implemented the Cure Violence evidence-based model to reduce violence. A4P collaborates with individuals and groups to address risk factors related to violence. Based on the Cure Violence model, the main components of the A4P program are to detect, interrupt, and mobilize the community to prevent and reduce violence. The report examines the efforts of Aim4Peace from 2018 to 2020.

Aim4Peace efforts are prioritized in the East Patrol Division's 330 Sector.



The Aim4Peace teams work with community partners to identify and mediate ongoing conflicts, provide case supports to those at risk of violence, and change norms by communicating a consistent message of peace, coordinating events and educational opportunities, distributing resources to address needs, and advocating for policy and practice changes to prevent violence. When violence occurs, Aim4Peace provides to two types of incident responses including: (1) in the neighborhood where the incident occurred and (2) at the hospital if the incident resulted in a hospital admission. The direct in-person responses help to interrupt the cycle of violence, offer resources to survivors, provide referrals to services, and connect survivors to trauma-informed services and supports.

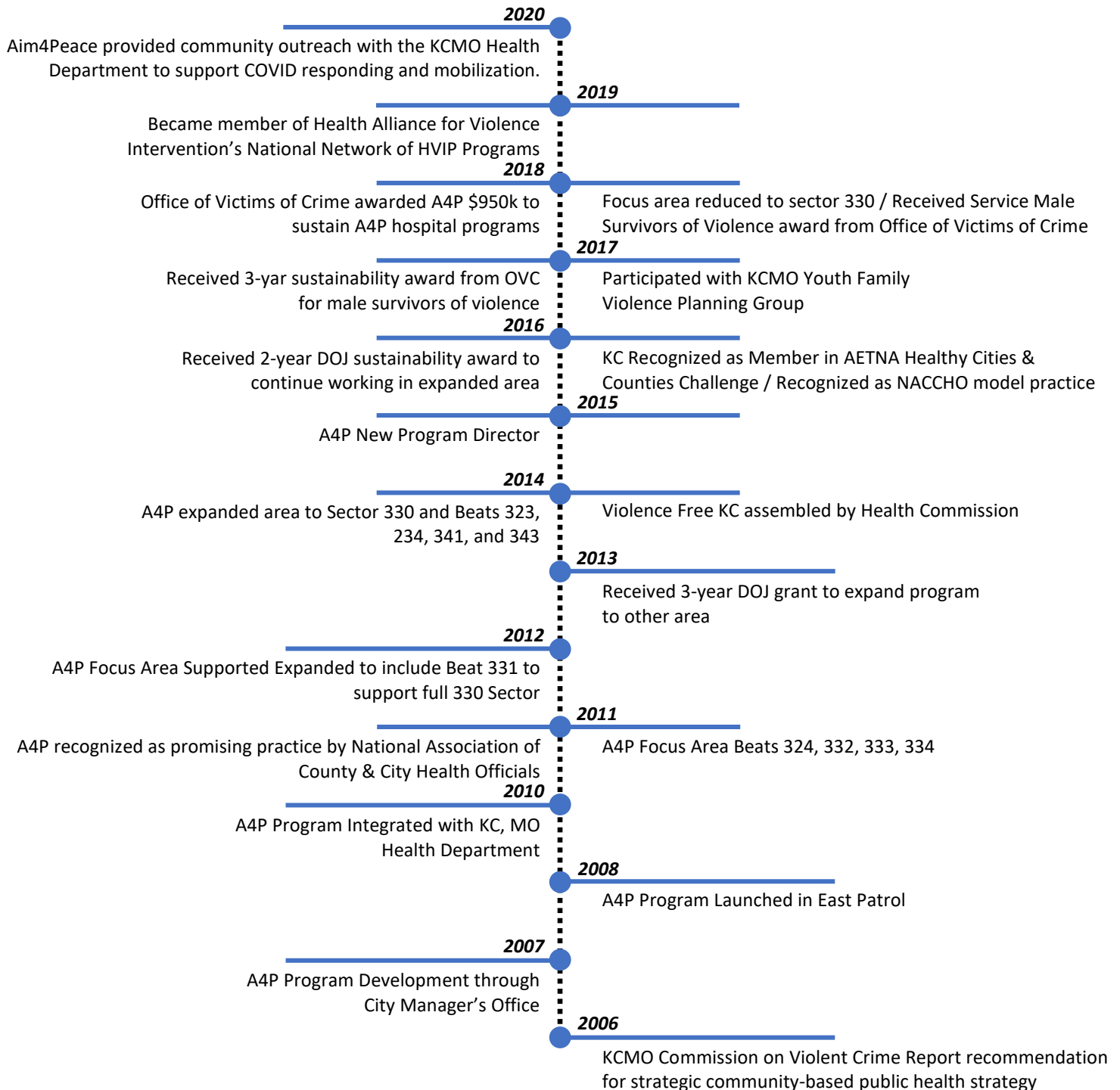


Key Events

There have been some critical milestones and key events that are important for understanding the development, implementation of the Aim4Peace program over time.



KEY EVENTS 2006-2020



Detect and Interrupt

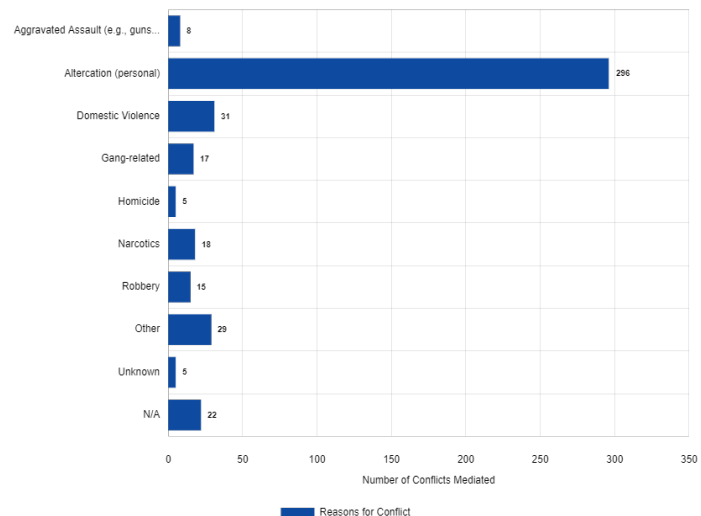
A critical function of Aim4Peace is to identify and mediate conflicts in the community before a violent incident occurs. From 2018 to 2020, A4P mediated 446 conflicts, with 84% resolved and ending in a peaceful resolution.

- The primary reason for conflict in 66% of mediations was personal altercations.
- Most mediations (59%) occurred in the A4P priority area (Sector 330).
- Common risk factors for those involved in mediations included: acting hyped up (72%), history of violence (57%), presence of weapons at either the conflict (49%) or mediation (59%), high-risk street activity (43%), or intoxication or drug use (43%). Slightly more than one-third (35%) were gang-related.

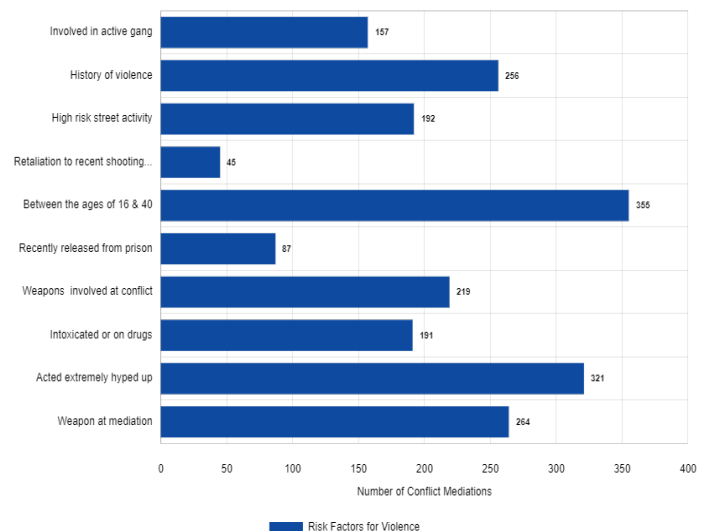
By maintaining a constant presence in the community and forming trusting relationships with community members and organizations, A4P was notified of conflicts by community members.

- Over one-third of the conflicts (38%) were identified and communicated to A4P by community members. One in five, (19%) were observed by A4P staff while canvassing the neighborhood.

Primary Reason for Conflict Mediations



Risk Factors for Violence & Conflict Identified Based on Mediation



*Multiple risk factor may be associated with a conflict.

About an hour after a homicide, we went to speak with the victim's family. Several male family members were out when we approached the block. I knew most of them from staying in this neighborhood for years. We sensed the tension in the air and noticed that just about all of them had handguns and rifles. As I approached the men and expressed neighborhood affection, I also expressed my condolence for the family. I spoke with the leader and asked to have his men stand down and show support to the victim's mother, spouse, and child. He and all the other men agreed. We will follow up by stopping by the family's house, deploying the street team to the neighborhood, calling and regularly visiting family members.

Identify and Support High-Risk Individuals

Aim4Peace provides support in settings where violence may occur and to those who may have risks for involvement by responding to situations in the neighborhoods and with local partner hospitals.

Aim4Peace works to identify and develop rapport with individuals at risk for violence and provide support in attaining goals for more positive alternative pathways.

Hospital Outreach

Aim4Peace partners with University Health (formerly Truman Medical Center) and Research Medical Center to offer a hospital-violence intervention program. In 2019, Aim4Peace became a recognized Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program through the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs.

- The A4P Hospital Outreach Team supports survivors of violence-related intentional injury, as well as their families and friends while at the hospital and post-discharge, including deescalating conflicts to prevent further violence.
- Hospital Responders received 42 hours of training including community health worker, public service communication, compassion without fatigue, mental health, adverse childhood experiences, and trauma-informed care training.
- Hospital Responders are notified of survivors of a penetrating injury due to a gunshot, stabbing, or blunt force trauma by the hospital's trauma service unit or chaplain. Hospital Responders conduct initial and follow-up visits to help the patient navigate the hospital system and to offer case management supports including safety planning, identifying short and long-term goals, and providing referrals to reduce their risk for retaliation, reinjury, and hospital readmission. The goal is to continue to offer supports to the patient and family post-discharge for at least 6 months. During the height of the pandemic, A4P responders adapted to virtual supports, but have since resumed visiting patients in the hospital.

The Martin Atwell Story: Responding to COVID19 & Gun-Violence in Kansas City Hospitals

by Lia Thompson



Martin Atwell

Martin Atwell is the passionate leader of the hospital team and a responder that has been working with Aim4Peace for over 4 years. He has seen firsthand how bullets penetrate bodies and communities in Kansas City, MO causing physical damage to the body and emotional trauma to victims and entire families. He is dedicated to ensuring that he is able to provide as many people as possible with the tools they need to be able to settle conflicts without resorting to violence and to prevent retaliations at all cost. He wants people to know that the cost of violence goes beyond a dollar amount.

Can you walk me through what a hospital response looks like today?

Martin: We have a hospital phone when a shooting or blunt force trauma injury occurs, we get a call from the chaplain at Research or Truman. Normally, we would report to the hospital immediately after detectives talk to them but now, we may have to wait until they have passed a COVID 19 test. Next, we report to the hospital and get screened for COVID symptoms. Then we put on protective glasses, gloves, masks, and a gown to enter the rooms of patients. Even with all the protective equipment we still stay six feet away from the patient for everyone's safety. During this challenging time, we have had to be adaptive and find ways to be innovative to remain effective and build relationships.

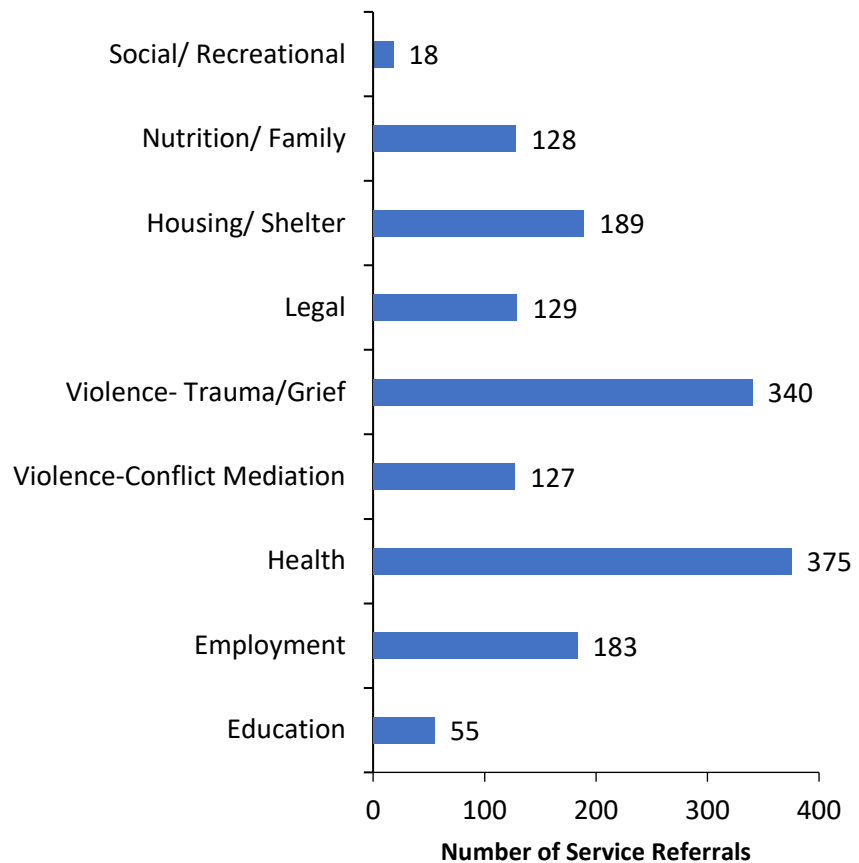
(Excerpt from The Martin Atwell Story)

Activities and Services

- From 2018 to 2020, partner hospitals made 908 intentional injury patient referrals to Aim4Peace. Nearly, 71% of referred patients were Black, 19% White, 7% Hispanic, and 74% were identified as male.
- Three-quarters of the patients referred to Aim4Peace by a partner hospital were admitted for a gunshot wound, 15% were survivors of blunt force trauma, and 10% had a stab wound.
- For the referrals for which geographical information for the incident was available, over 40% of referrals related to incidents that occurred in Sectors 110 (22%)¹ or 330 (20%). Through the hospital violence intervention program, Aim4Peace serves residents across KC, MO.
- Between 2018 and 2020, A4P Hospital Team staff engaged in 1,544 service referrals and support activities with hospital patients and/or their families. About 12% of these meetings included referrals for employment or housing, 24% for health services, and 30% were for referrals related to the violent incident (e.g., grief counseling).
- Of those patients served in the hospital between 2018 and 2020, 155 (17%) enrolled with the Aim4Peace program to continue participation upon discharge after returning home to the community. The hospital patients who became A4P program participants received more than 360 service referrals and supports. Nearly, one-quarter (23%) of the patients referred by the hospitals who enrolled with Aim4Peace to continue services were youth and young adults ages 13 to 24.

Hospital Responder met with a shooting victim's aunt about mentoring her nephew and helping him reach his goals. She stated that he is still unable to talk due to the severity of his wounds.

I sat with the victim just letting him know that I care for him and am willing to help him after his wounds heal.



Total Service Referrals by Hospital Team, 2018-2020, n = 1,544

¹ For incidents the location was unknown, or a home address was not reported, the police sector associated with the hospital location was used.

Street Outreach

Through street outreach, Aim4Peace provides a presence in the neighborhood, including after the occurrence of violent incidents. A4P staff develops a rapport with residents in the neighborhoods while supporting outreach efforts. When in the community, staff meet with program participants and responds to shootings. When violence occurs, the team provides an in-person response within 48 to 72 hours. Activities during a response may include identifying and offering services to survivors of violence, canvassing door-to-door to check on residents and promoting a message of non-violence, advocating for alternatives to violence, de-escalating tensions, and offering services to residents for grief support, safety, and individual and community healing.

A4P maintains partnerships with neighborhood, educational, faith-based, and private sector organizations in the community. Through the partnerships, resources are distributed in the community while canvassing the area including food, school supplies, hygiene kits, clothing, household disinfectants, and face masks.

Activities and Services

A4P responded to changing community conditions and related needs during the COVID pandemic by pairing neighborhood outreach efforts with the distribution of face masks and disinfectants to community members.

- Between March and April of 2020, A4P outreach workers, who are trained community health workers, distributed over 15,500 masks to local restaurants, living facilities, childcare centers, funeral homes, neighborhood associations, and thousands of community members.

The Neighborhood Outreach Team canvassed area neighborhoods and engaged with community members by disseminating information, providing resources, and spreading a message of community non-violence through 425 support activities between 2018 and 2020, and on average canvassed the neighborhood every 2.5 days.

- Outreach workers were able to maintain a high level of contact with participants despite the restrictions on in-person meetings during the COVID pandemic. Aim4Peace staff typically engages with participants in person, but during the pandemic, there was increased contact by phone to maintain social distancing.



"We delivered masks to front line workers at a Home Care facility where workers were without any personal protective equipment (PPE)."

"We assisted in the Justice Coalition's weekly food giveaway. We served 630 families with food, face masks, and household disinfectants."

"We distributed pre packaged masks, instructions on how to wear masks, and flyers with Aim4Peace information."

Examples of A4P community responses to the COVID pandemic

From 2018 to 2020, the Neighborhood Outreach Team enrolled 51 new participants through street outreach. Outreach workers provided individual support to participants to identify goals related to life domain areas, including employment, family, education, mental health, housing, and other areas.

- Participants who enrolled in the program between 2018 and 2020 were predominantly male (84%) and Black (69%), with an age range from 16 to 38 years. Nearly, 54% were youth and young adults ages 10 to 24.
- Aim4Peace focused on recruiting those at greatest risk for experiencing violence to become participants in the program based on identified risk factors. Between 2018 and 2020, 90% of new Aim4Peace participants were assessed as high-risk for experiencing future violence during the initial risk assessment.

Through outreach activities, Aim4Peace staff identified and supported rapport building with individuals with risk for violence². During the reporting period, Aim4Peace provided supports to 146 participants enrolled in the program.

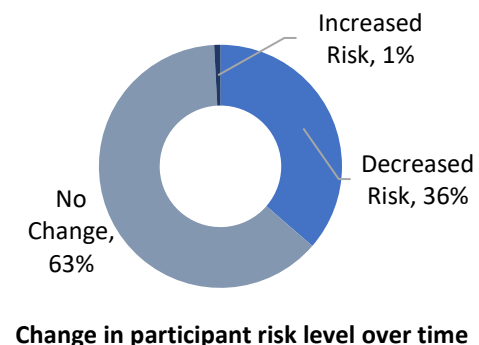
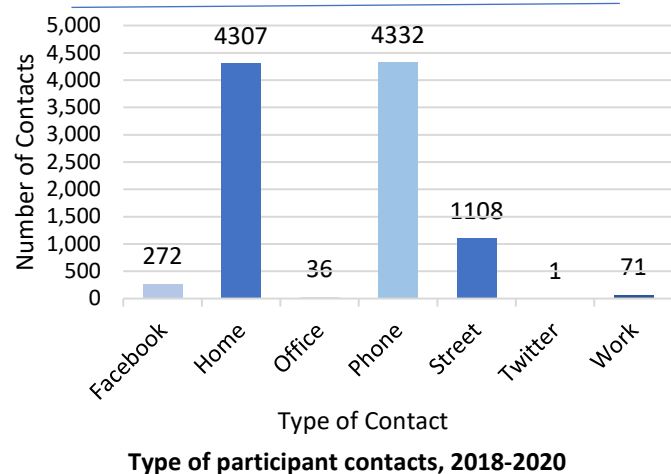
- Aim4Peace workers supported 10,127 contacts with 146 participants over the period of this report. About 55% of contacts were in-person, either in the participant's home (43%), on the street (11%), at the participant's place of employment, or at the Aim4Peace office (1%).

For the 124 participants that monthly goal attainment is available, 88% of the participants reported progress on goals in at least one or more monthly progress reports.

- Nearly, 70% of participants reported not experiencing any violence over the previous 30 days during monthly progress checks.
- From 2018 to 2020, 121 participants were examined and 36% showed a decrease in their risk level.³

Nine Risk Factors for Violence Assessed by A4P:

1. Gang involvement: participant may be member of violent gang
2. Key role in gang: participant may have key role in violent gang
3. Prior criminal history; including crimes against persons, weapons arrest
4. High-risk street activity: may be involved in violent street activity
5. Recent victim of shooting: shot within last 90 day
6. Between the ages of 16 and 40
7. Recently released from prison, for offense for crime against person
8. Someone close to participant recent victim of shooting: shot within last 90 days
9. Weapons carrier



² Individuals who met five or more risk factors were categorized as high risk. Individuals who met three to four of the criteria were medium risk. Individuals who met two or fewer of the criteria were low risk.

³ By comparing participant risk level at intake and the most recent assessment (either monthly progress or closeout), participant risk level changes over time were examined.

Mobilize Community for Norms Change

Aim4Peace mobilized residents, local organizations, and businesses to change social norms. Aim4Peace's outreach workers promoted a message of non-tolerance to violence together with the community and faith-based leaders, business owners, service providers, and residents. Through collaborative partnerships with neighborhood associations, schools, and organizations, the Aim4Peace Team provided resources and educational opportunities, life skills development, job readiness supports, conflict resolution skill development, and positive alternatives to violence.

- Aim4Peace supported changes in community conditions and systems by facilitating 57 program, policy, and practice changes with community partners between 2018 and 2020. The facilitation of community and system changes (i.e., new programs, policies, and practices) indicates how improvements in the neighborhood and community are being supported through changes in community norms to address violence.

From 2018 to 2020, Aim4Peace collaborated with nine neighborhood associations to improve community conditions through activities including neighborhood clean-ups, gardening, establishing block watches, co-sponsoring activities, and distributing resources (e.g., recycling bins, face masks, and personal protective equipment).

- The Community Outreach Team shared information related to Aim4Peace's mission while participating in community events by providing resource tables and giving presentations in community settings such as libraries, schools, and community centers.

Activities and Services

From 2018 through 2020, there were 598 community activities facilitated by Aim4Peace and partners serving over 31,000 residents, with the majority (16,259) receiving services in 2018.⁴ Over 50% of the community activities facilitated were supported through community collaboration. Aim4Peace facilitated activities with more than 10 sectors of the community, including with businesses, residents, community organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, health organizations, law enforcement, schools, social service agencies, and youth-serving organizations. The most frequently engaged sectors were schools (39%) and community residents (42%).



The Santa Fe Neighborhood Association hosted an outreach event with Aim4Peace and members of the City Council, Macedonia Youth Ministry, Human Trafficking Task Force, Police Department, a prostitution prevention agency, and residents. The goal was to bring awareness to the problems around drugs, blight, prostitution, and poverty and create a safe place for residents to meet with community partners. The event fed 68 people, gave resource information, and promoted the next meeting for residents to help rebuild and restore hope and healing in the community.

Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association along with eleven other neighborhoods joined Aim4Peace at City Hall to receive a Resolution from the Mayor and City Council of Kansas City for their contributions to leading the Urban Core Clean Up event as important for our health, property values and the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

⁴ The numbers served are based on participation in activities and may be a duplicated count.

- *School Supports:* There were 23 days in 2018 and 51 days in 2019 in which Aim4Peace provided support to De LaSalle Educational Center staff and students for about 4 to 5 hours per day. Support involved mentoring, monitoring hallways, conflict mediation, presenting lessons, redirecting students to follow school policies, and speaking about trauma and alternatives to violence.
- Aim4Peace also facilitated 538 neighborhood canvass or anti-violence activities to provide a presence in the neighborhood, disseminate information, and spread a message of non-violence.

Kansas City Violence and Trauma Response Network

The Kansas City Violence and Trauma Resource Network is comprised of a group of organizations and service providers that collaborate with Aim4Peace to prevent violence and improve the social, economic, and health outcomes, particularly for young men, their families, and the community who experience violence and trauma. The focus of the Network was to support young male survivors of violence. When violence occurs, the Network responds with the Neighborhood Outreach Team to identify survivors and those at risk for being involved in future violence and provide service referrals and resources to promote resilience and interrupt cycles of violence. The Network was developed and supported as part of funding allocated through the Department of Justice through the Supporting Male Survivors of Violence initiative.

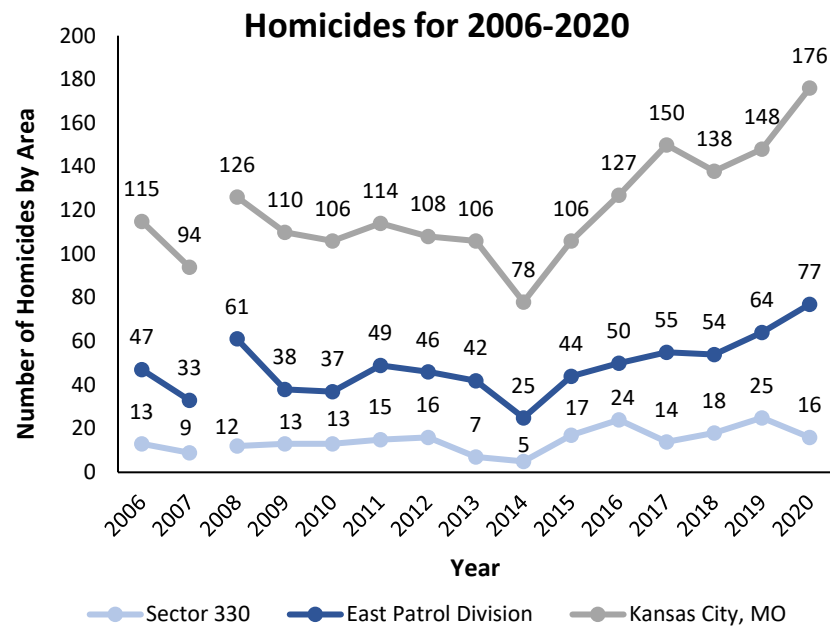
Activities and Services

- The Network conducted training for residents and organizations for compassion without fatigue, trauma-informed care, predatory lending, community organizing and advocacy, and Network volunteer orientation.
- From 2018 to 2020, Aim4Peace's active Network partners supported the referral process through 274 case supports with young male survivors of color, their families, friends, and others connected to a violent event. Network partners included: AdHoc Group Against Crime, Arts Tech, Beyond the Conviction, Bishop Sullivan Center, Catholic Charities of KC, Concerned Clergy Coalition, Communities Creating Opportunities, Cornerstones of Care, Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center, Healing Pathways, Kansas City Anti-Violence Project, Kansas City Metro Crime Commission, Kansas City Rescue Mission, Literacy KC, Metro Lutheran Ministries, Secondary Trauma Resource Center, Solace House, Strategic Workforce Development, Synergy Services, The Hope Center, and Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health.
- The Network supported youth-focused activities as part of the school and community-based social and educational supports, through mentorship and in the development of the iRYSE Peer Campaign and Youth Council.

The Network had a Non fatal Violent Injury Case Review Panel with 15 members from agencies across life domains. The panel was formed to review cases of male survivors of violence who have barriers with the systems that are designed to help them. Each anonymous case review presents a snapshot of the participant's history from a formal interview with the program participant. The panel presented resources, information, and suggestions for the participant and to help in the healing process.

Community-Level Outcomes to Reduce Violence in the Community

Since 2006, homicides occurring in the East Patrol have accounted for approximately 40% of the total homicides in Kansas City, MO.^{5,6} Generally, Sector 330 represents, on average, 12% of the total homicides in KC, MO. Although there was variability across years, the number and rate of homicides for the 330 Sector, East Patrol, and KC, MO were higher between 2018 and 2020 than prior to the Aim4Peace Program.⁷ From 2006 (before A4P) to 2020, the percent change increase in the number of homicides was 23% in Sector 330, 64% in the East Patrol, and 53% in KC, MO.



Nationally, one of the most substantial single-year increases in the annual homicide rates in the United States was experienced in 2020.⁵ From 2019 to 2020, Kansas City, MO, and the East Patrol both had a substantial increase in homicides. There was a 36 percent change decrease in the number of homicides in Sector 330 from 2019 to 2020; whereas there was an increase of 20% in East Patrol and 19% in KC, MO. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a decrease by 6.35 in the homicide rate in Sector 330 from 17.65 in 2019 to 11.30 in 2020. From 2019 to 2020, there was an increase in the homicide rate for East Patrol of 1.6 and .61 for KC, MO.⁸

In 2020, the homicide rate in the 330 Sector was 11.30 per 10,000, which was significantly higher than the average for comparison sectors (7.53).⁹ However, the rate of increase over time from 2006 to 2020 may have been less in Sector 330 than in many of the comparison sectors. Based on the percent change in homicide rates from 2006 to 2020, Sector 330 had an increase of 37% from a rate of 8.27 to 11.30; whereas the comparison sectors had an average increase of 118%. The change in the average homicide rate between 2015 to 2017 compared to 2018 to 2020 was a 7% increase for Sector 330 while the average increase in the comparison sectors was 25%, but it was not a significant difference.¹⁰

⁵ The East Patrol Division (EPD) comprises the sectors in the “300’s”. Using data from the KCPD, the number of homicides within the EPD and across all of Kansas City, Missouri was reviewed.

⁶ Gramlich, J. (2021, October 27). What we know about the increase in U.S. murders in 2020. Pew Research. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/10/27/what-we-know-about-the-increase-in-u-s-murders-in-2020/>

⁷ The years 2006 and 2007 were prior to Aim4Peace implementation. The Aim4Peace program began in 2008.

⁸ There were no statistically significant changes observed across years or with comparison beats.

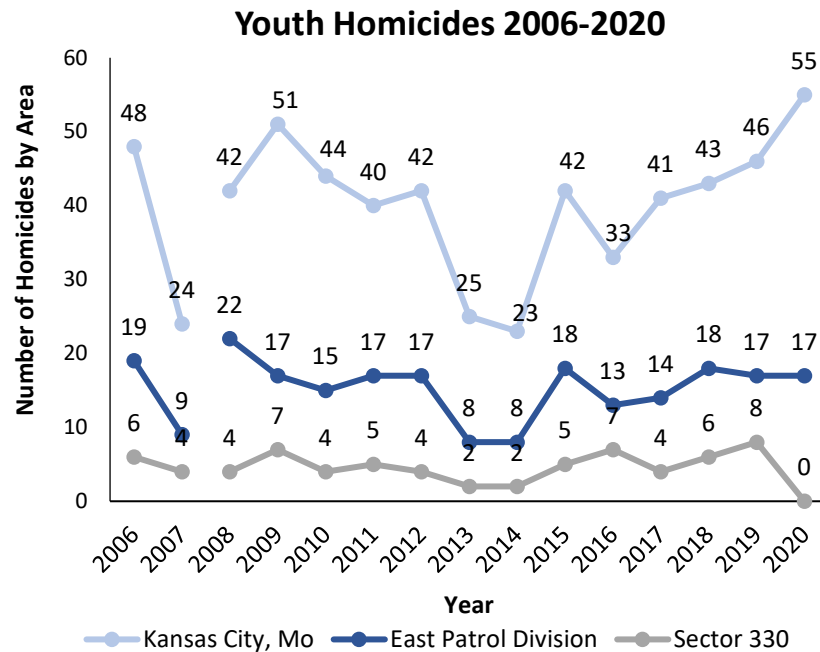
⁹ Rate calculations are based on population data from the 2010 Census.

¹⁰ Homicide rate for 2020 in Sector 330 was significantly higher ($t(6)=2.09$, $p=.04$, effect size $d=.79$) than the average for comparison sectors 210, 220, 230, 310, 320, and 340.

¹¹ The change between sectors was not a statistically significant difference, $t(6) = .80$, $p=.23$, $d=.30$.

Youth Homicides

From 2008 to 2020, there were observed decreases in youth homicide¹¹ incidences in the East Patrol Division and Sector 330. The total number of youth homicides increased overall for KC, MO between 2008 and 2020. Historically, most youth homicides were the result of firearm-related injuries. Of the 58 youth homicides in Sector 330 between 2008 and 2020, 97% (56) involved a firearm. On average, Sector 330 accounted for approximately 12% of total youth homicides in the community.



In 2020, there were zero youth homicides in Sector 330,

compared to a marked increase in both youth and overall homicides across the city. The youth homicide rate (0) for the 330 Sector was significantly lower than the average homicide rate for the comparison sectors of 2.38 in 2020.¹² The percent change from 2006 to 2020 was a decrease of 100% for the 330 Sector, which was significantly less than for the comparison sectors that experienced an average increase of 31%. Since 2008, when the Aim4Peace program began, there has been a significantly smaller rate of change in Sector 330 than for the average of the other comparison sectors from 2008 to 2020 ($t(6)=2.84$, $p=.03$). It is important to continue to examine and maintain efforts to address youth violence, particularly in Sector 330, to better understand if the marked decrease and smaller rates of change can be continued over time.

¹¹ Youth violence involves individuals ages 10 to 24 years (Center for Disease Control & Prevention).

¹² The comparison sectors included 210, 220, 230, 310, 320 and 340. The difference between the 330 Sector and comparisons was significant $t(6)=3.81$, $p=.009$, effect size $d=.144$.

Recommendations Based on the A4P Evaluation, 2018-2020

The Aim4Peace program with the Kansas City, MO Health Department adapted its model in 2021 to focus primarily on the hospital outreach and community mobilization components. Thus, the report recommendations will be oriented towards the enhancement of existing programmatic components.

Detect and Interrupt

- **Identify and communicate the process for supporting conflict mediations-** Aim4Peace should consider with community partners how referrals for conflict mediations will be supported based on the adjusted scope of work for the program. For instance, will the Aim4Peace hotline still be supported and how will notifications of conflicts then be handled and/or referred to other partners.

Identify and Support High-Risk Individuals

- **Enhance data tracking to understand hospital readmissions and reinjury-** Establish and support partnerships across the multiple area health systems to obtain data that will allow for examining reinjury and hospital readmission for intentional injury across the hospitals as patients may not always return to the same hospital if readmitted for a violence-related intentional injury.
- **Identify staff capacity to offer direct supports through the hospital component-** Determine the appropriate ratio of staff to participants that can be supported based on current staffing levels. Ensure that case reviews are being regularly facilitated by staff and uninvolved participants are designated as inactive or terminated from the program to balance program staff and resources.
- **Ensure participants served through Aim4Peace are assigned unique identifiers-** Ensure that supports provided through the hospital referral process allows for examining the multiple contacts and supports that Aim4Peace staff and partners have with patients and family members served.
- **Complete and document the status of risk reduction plans-** During this report period, there were some gaps in the completion of risk reduction plans and monthly progress reports which limited more fully understanding goal attainment, and changes in risk factors and risk levels.

Mobilize Community for Norms Change

- **COVID-19 Adjustments-** A4P adjusted the modes of service delivery due to safety concerns with meeting in-person, which may have affected the ability of staff to build and maintain rapport with participants. Determine aspects of COVID responding by Aim4Peace that may have supported efficiencies (e.g., resource distribution) for the KC, MO Health Department as longer-term strategies.
- **Sustain community/system change efforts to ensure maintained impact in outcomes-** Sustain directly or with partners, the community and systems changes facilitated that are effective to ensure maintained improvements in community conditions (e.g., Urban Core Clean Up).

Community-Level Outcomes to Reduce Violence in the Community

- **Examine impacts related to program components-** As the Aim4Peace approach is adjusted, ensure community-level outcome measures are aligned. For instance, consider examining youth violence outcomes and/or hospital readmissions and reinjuries as appropriate measures based on the allocation of services and resources to support current and future efforts.
- **Changes in Conditions-** To permit the systematic examination of Aim4Peace, it is important to minimize changes in intervention conditions related to the priority geographical area served, level and types of programmatic supports offered, and the allocation of resources to the program, including both human and financial resources. It is important to ensure the implementation of intervention components are consistent for a least three or more years to better allow for trends in potential associations between program implementation and related community-level outcomes.