Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission
Grantee: Milwaukee Police Department
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Academic Partner: Ron Cisler, PhD, Director, Center for Urban Population Health; Associate Professor, UW SMPH Population Health Sciences and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Health Sciences
Program: Implementation
Grant Duration: 01/01/2005 to 12/31/2007 (36 months)
Expenditures: $400,001 (100% expended)
Use of Funds: Development of data/information system

Description: The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) developed a multi-level review process aimed at reducing homicides in Milwaukee and promoting healthy and safe neighborhoods. The MHRC had three goals: (1) to gain a better understanding of the nature of homicide through strategic problem analysis, (2) to develop innovative responses to homicide, and (3) to strategically focus limited enforcement and intervention activities on identifiable risks.

Results: The MHRC reviewed over 150 homicides and developed over 100 recommendations. The MHRC recommendations better positioned criminal justice, social service, and community-based organizations to address high-risk places and high-risk people central to recurring homicides. These recommendations have led to significant changes in the policies and procedures of the Milwaukee Police Department and other agencies. Moreover, the recommendations are credited by participants for improving both criminal justice and community provider capacity to prevent violence. A key to this increased capacity has been improved communication, information sharing, and cooperation—both within and between criminal justice agencies, community service providers, and community members.

During the grant period, homicides decreased 15% in participating police districts but increased 44% in the non-participating districts.

Met Objectives: Project Completed
Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives: Yes—Intentional and Unintentional Injuries and Violence.
Academic Partner Role: The Center for Urban Population Health assisted with the MHRC data collection, analysis, and evaluation.
Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind): $262,686
Dissemination:
- Published article: Wisconsin Medical Journal
- Award from: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute for Outstanding Population Health Practice Publication 2007 (May 2007)
- Award from: U.S. Department of Justice, Project Safe Neighborhoods, for Outstanding Contribution by a Research Partner (September 2007)
Sustained: MHRC received a renewal OAC Implementation Award in 2007 to implement the findings. The program also leveraged additional funding from Project Safe Neighborhoods (administered through the U.S. Attorneys Office) and the Violence Against Women Act (administered through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Statistics).