Keeping Milwaukee Neighborhoods Safe

The commission facilitates information sharing among criminal justice agencies and community members.

► Description: With an implementation grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program, Expanded Community Role in the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) promoted healthy and safe neighborhoods by developing violence-prevention activities in partnership with community-based organizations in Milwaukee. The commission created an incident review process to develop more effective violence prevention plans.

► Results: The MHRC reviewed 173 homicides and 99 shootings, and created the most comprehensive and reliable source of violent crime data in Milwaukee. The commission developed information-sharing partnerships with Milwaukee-area criminal justice and social service agencies and created a valuable conduit between community members and the Milwaukee Police Department for information about neighborhood crime problems.

The review process provided recommendations on improving policies and procedures at the MPD and other participating agencies. The evaluation also found that “the MHRC was associated with a statistically significant reduction in homicides in Milwaukee. Specifically, where the MHRC was involved (i.e., the intervention sites), homicides were reduced 52 percent compared to 9.2 percent in the control sites.”

► Partnerships: Prior to the development of the MHRC, key stakeholders in homicide investigations did not have a forum to discuss violent crime in the city of Milwaukee. Findings are shared at MHRC review meetings and published in data reports and newsletters available at www.milwaukee.gov/hcr.

► Next Steps: The MHRC has been embraced by Milwaukee as a productive enterprise for understanding and responding to serious violent crime problems, and the commission is now completely institutionalized within the city of Milwaukee. A $750,000 allocation was added to Milwaukee’s 2009 budget; and in 2010, the MHRC began diversifying its funding sources by providing contract consultations and third-party funded technical assistance for other agencies.

EXPANDED COMMUNITY ROLE IN THE MILWAUKEE HOMICIDE REVIEW COMMISSION

Grantee: Milwaukee Police Department
Contact: Mallory O’Brien, PhD, Milwaukee Police Department, mobrie@milwaukee.gov
Academic Partner: Ron Cisler, PhD, Health Sciences, UW-Milwaukee; Population Health Sciences, SMPH; Center for Urban Population Health, Aurora Sinai Medical Center, rac@uwm.edu
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