Violence Prevention Is a Shared Responsibility

Public Health
MADISON & DANE COUNTY
Healthy people. Healthy places.

Purpose of Today's Discussion

Explain the role of Public Health in violence prevention

Highlight cross-agency and cross-jurisdiction collaboration

Share key successes and challenges

Share accomplishments achieved

Reinforce that public safety requires a collaborative approach– with multiple departments at the table

Why Public Health Is at the Table

Violence is a public health issue tied to trauma, housing instability, and mental health

Violence is predictable and preventable

Prevention reduces long-term demand on police and emergency services

Public Health operates at the intersection of prevention, systems coordination, and healing

PHMDC uniquely serves both City of Madison and Dane County residents

This dual role should allow us to bridge city services with county-funded and regional strategies

It Takes a Village: Shared Responsibility for Safety

Madison Police Department: Enforcement, crime data, officer engagement

Madison Fire Department CARES: Crisis response and stabilization

Building Inspection & City Attorney: Nuisance abatement and environmental safety

Violence Prevention Unit: Prevention, intervention, system coordination, and healing

Examples of City-Level Collaboration

Coordination around properties contributing to violence or unsafe conditions

Partnership with Building Inspection and City Attorney Zilavy on nuisance abatement

Alignment with harm reduction and housing stabilization efforts

Shared data, leveraging partnerships, aligning programming/services and case coordination where allowable

Work Beyond the City: County & Regional Collaboration

County-funded violence prevention and supportive service contracts

Coordination with Dane County Human Services partners

Partnership with Office of Community Justice Reform

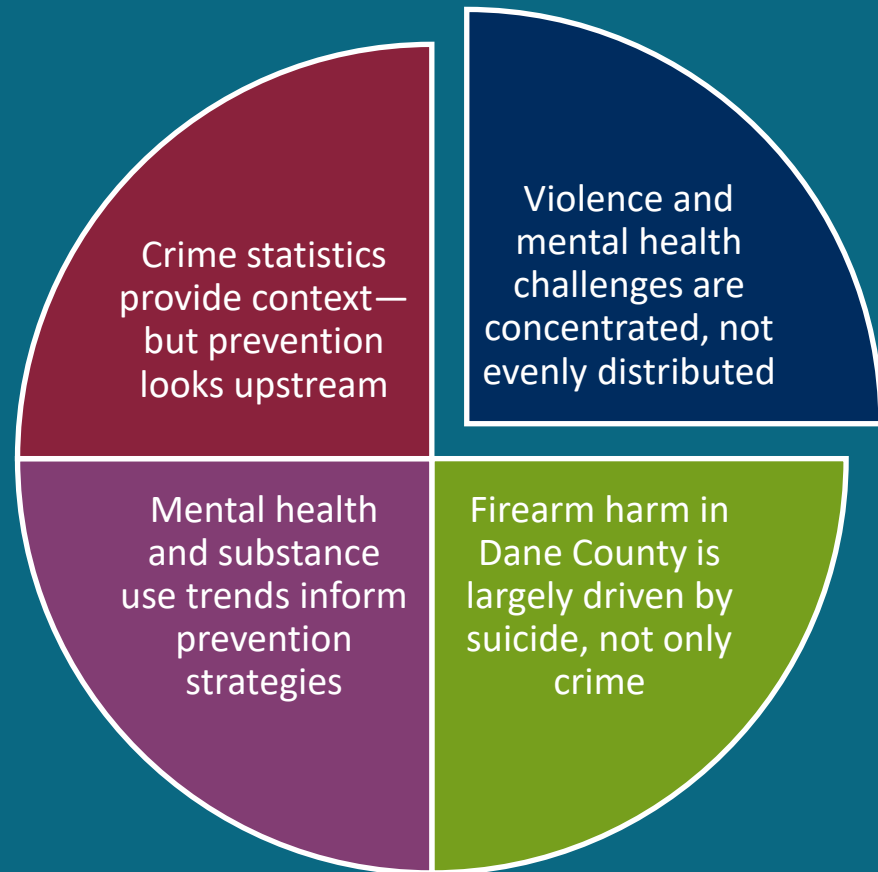Alignment with statewide and national violence prevention initiatives

Leveraging county resources to prevention work

What the Violence Prevention Unit Does

- Community-based violence intervention and outreach
- Conflict mediation and de-escalation
- Connection to comprehensive supporting including harm reduction, housing, and mental health services
- Contract management and support for community-based organizations
- Data, evaluation, and continuous improvement

Using Data to Inform Prevention

Violence and mental health challenges are concentrated, not evenly distributed

Firearm harm in Dane County is largely driven by suicide, not only crime

Mental health and substance use trends inform prevention strategies

Crime statistics provide context—but prevention looks upstream

How We Measure Our Work

Process & Program Implementation: engagement, outreach, service delivery

Individual Outcomes: stability, reduced justice involvement, well-being

Community & Systems Impact: partnerships, mediation, policy change

Metrics aligned with national CVI best practices

Process & Program Implementation

159

Number of outreach interactions (monthly or quarterly)
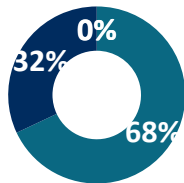
108

Number of individuals engaged by VPU / funded partners

38

Outreach activities in priority place based spaces
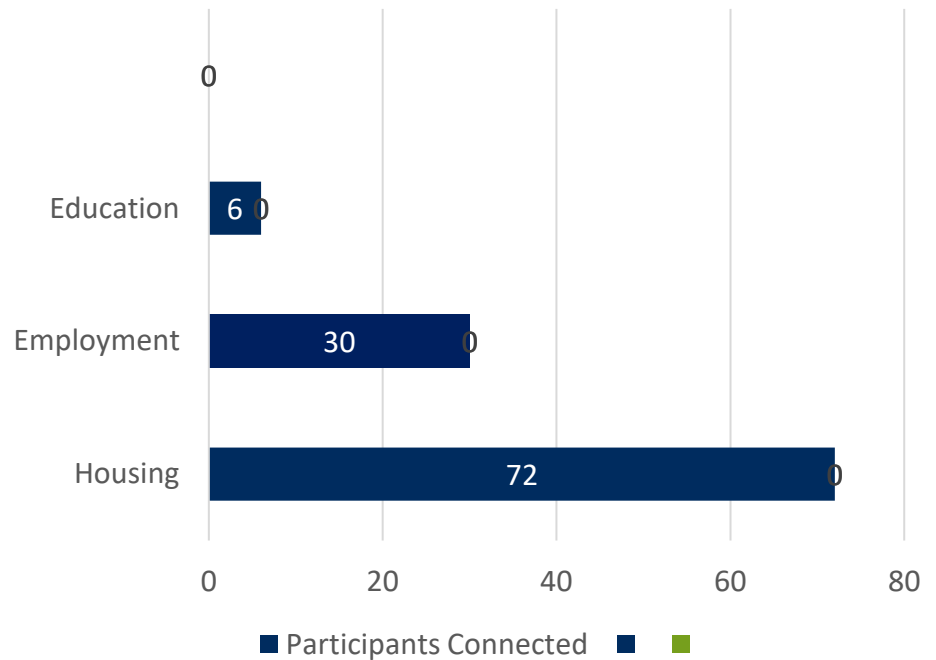(multi-unit housing complexes, parks, community settings)

Individual Outcomes

% OF PARTICIPANTS WITH NO NEW JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT AFTER ENGAGEMENT

- No new justice involvement
- New or ongoing justice involvement

0%
32%
68%

Connections to housing, employment, or education

0

Education 6 0

Employment 30 0

Housing 72 0

0   20   40   60   80

■ Participants Connected   ■   ■

Community & Systems Impact

28

Joint efforts with City + County partners
(including contracts and informal partnerships)

152

Number of VP Coalition Members

What We've Accomplished with Limited Resources

Built strong cross-department and community partnerships

Expanded outreach and coordination in priority areas

Improved alignment between prevention, housing, and harm reduction

Laid infrastructure for data-driven violence prevention

Council Investment Matters

The city currently supports about 70% of the total Violence Prevention Unit Budget

Recent budget investment converted existing positions to full-time

This increased staff capacity and program stability

More bandwidth to coordinate with MPD, MFD, and other agencies

Stronger support for community partners and residents

Ongoing Challenges

Prevention outcomes take time to materialize

Demand continues to exceed available resources

Workforce burnout in high-intensity roles

Need for sustained, multi-year investment

Closing: Public Safety Is a Shared Commitment

No single agency can own the burden of public safety

Public Health brings prevention, coordination, and healing to the system

Progress depends on continued collaboration and investment

Together, we support safer and healthier communities