

Local Evaluation Report: City of Fresno- Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement:

“Reducing Violence Through Intervention, Prevention, and Education”

California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant
Program

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Fresno has been disproportionately impacted by violence and gangs. As such, Fresno has a history of substantial crime prevention, reduction, and intervention strategies and initiatives to counter these significant problems. In addition, Fresno has been greatly involved with crime and violence prevention programs and services that emphasize building personal resiliency, economic development, and neighborhood engagement activities in partnership with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSSC) California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Program encourages local jurisdictions to develop local approaches that meet the diverse needs of each community.” (CalVIP Cohort 3- Final RFP, p.8). The BSSC Fiscal Year 2020 California Violence Intervention Program Grant was awarded (\$1,263,368) to the City of Fresno for the “Reducing Violence through Intervention, Prevention, and Education” Project to implement eight violence interdiction programs in coordination with local CBOs. Project goals and objectives are to enhance and benefit the lives of our local residents through meaningful reductions in violence and enhanced personal resiliency of the citizenry.

This purpose of this Local Evaluation Report (LER) is to analyze the process and outcome data collected from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 to document and evaluate the impact and benefit of CalVIP supported community violence interdiction projects in the City of Fresno. Data used in this study is found from a variety of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), the City of Fresno, Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement (ONSCE), and the Fresno Police Department (FPD). In addition to evaluation research, this report seeks to make select recommendations for future programmatic decisions, enhanced program performance, long-term intervention strategy, and initiative sustainability.

Notable findings in this Local Evaluation Report (LER) include:

- * Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission included a total of 104 Tattoo Removal Treatment Program Participants who volunteered 2,556 hours to serve the community.
- * There was a significant decrease in City of Fresno shootings (50% decrease) and gang related shootings (31% decrease) from 2020 to 2023.
- * Fresno Barrios Unidos provided Street Outreach Programs to 714 participants (first time), 71 (second time), and 121 (third time) enrollments.
- * Urban Peace Initiative Street Outreach Training had 44 attendees, including 11 street outreach workers and 33 law enforcement personnel.
- * The number of City of Fresno shooting victims declined 42% over the project performance period.
- * City of Fresno Domestic Violence (DV) arrests are up 57% from 2020 to 2023 in the pandemic era.

CITY OF FRESNO PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Fresno project enhances support for community partner programs whose primary mission is violence prevention, crime reduction and greater public safety. Effective violence intervention and response programs and services are essential in communities such as ours. The City of Fresno sought community providers to have a positive impact on the lives of at-risk youth and young adults in violence “hot spots” locally. There are many factors involved in violence that must be taken into consideration when formulating community strategies and approaches to its prevention and reduction.

The City of Fresno project includes eight related projects directed at different facets of violence. These projects involve different organizations, programs, and services to serve thousands of local community residents. Projects include after school programs, violence intervention outreach, hospital trauma center intervention, youth centered counseling, leadership development and mentoring, and mental health approaches (including treatment plans, social services referrals, etc.) These multiple strategies of prevention and interventions best fit the scope of the local violence problem and needs of the target community. Like many communities, Fresno sought to interrupt the cycles of violence, gangs, and retaliation in an effort to enhance safety and quality of life by reducing the incidence of homicides, shootings and aggravated assaults in Fresno.

The community-based organizations included in this program provide direct services for youth and young adults in the public health model of primary, secondary, and tertiary development and intervention. The objective of this evaluation report is to measure and analyze individual (micro) and organizational (macro) variables and metrics utilized in this project. Metrics used for evaluation include both process and outcomes-based variables and are found within the Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR). Data used in this study is found from a variety of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), the City of Fresno, Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement (ONSCE), and the Fresno Police Department (FPD).

Process Evaluation- to understand key aspects of the process utilized in project planning, roll-out, and implementation for each specific project here.

Outcome Evaluation- to analyze the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of these projects and their impacts and benefit to the local community.

General Evaluation- summarize process and outcome evaluations.

Recommendations- evaluator recommendations.

In order to accomplish project evaluation goals and objectives, we first describe the City of Fresno and the project background. The nature of local community need on a variety of pressing social and criminal justice issues like the presence of gangs and violence within our neighborhoods is also discussed. We discuss the history of the grantee and its close ties to our surrounding community (City of Fresno, ONSCE). After that, we relate this specific Cal VIP project with the broader and comprehensive grant programmatic goals and objectives. Once we have discussed this contextual information, we provide the scope and specifics of the City of Fresno project evaluation.

FRESNO PROJECT BACKGROUND AND EVALUATION: UNDERSTANDING LOCAL NEED

The Nature of Crime and Violence Problems Facing Fresno:

There are numerous significant social problems directly impacting safety and the quality of life in Fresno, California-- the 34th largest city in the U.S. The first problem is crime, particularly violent crimes. At the time this project was initiated in 2019-2020, FPD had 6,757 Domestic Violence (DV) cases reported (2019). In 2018, the City of Fresno experienced 32 homicides (22 gang related), 909 robberies and 1,842 aggravated assaults (353 shootings). In 2019, Fresno had 45 homicides (31 gang related), 948 robberies and 1,887 aggravated assaults (497 shootings). In 2018, FPD investigated 3,206 violent crime reports compared to 2,864 in 2019. Of these reported incidents, the majority occurred in the proposed underserved socio-economic and gang-stricken target areas.

A second significant community problem strongly related to crime and violence is poverty; particularly in these underserved and gang areas. As many as 27% of Fresno residents live below the poverty level. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion initiative identified many modifiable risk factors identified as contributing to violence, including poverty, poor education, lack of job opportunities, complex post-traumatic stress disorder, domestic violence, and lack of positive role models. Poverty is a factor that many abused perpetrators and victims have in common and it presents a major challenge and barrier in health, education, job opportunities, and the well-being of local residents.

A third community problem exists in terms of access to trauma related acute health and mental health capabilities. Health capacity problems include a lack of mental health assistance for youth, young adults, and family victims of trauma. Many youth in these neighborhoods come from one-parent households and are participating in government assistance programs such as Medi-Cal. The average Medi-Cal enrollment of children and youth ages 0-20 is 49% of Fresnoans, a much higher percentage than the 33% average for the rest of the state. Fresno residents covered by Medi-Cal have a short supply of quality mental health services, and the wait to receive services is often six to nine months. Further factors contributing to Fresno violence are a shortage of structured youth activities, lack of positive role models in their life, and multi-generational gang involvement influencing local youth on a regular basis.

Acute care settings, such as trauma centers, stand on the front lines of violent crime and are key in coping with victim mortality and injury. In 2018, 692 trauma patients were seen at Fresno Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC) following an assault. Standard of care in many facilities does not address root causes and risk factors that led to violent injury. Therefore, trauma centers are often "revolving doors" for many young individuals, as violent injuries are typically not a one-time event. It is estimated up to 45% of patients treated for

violent injury are reinjured within five years and 20% of violently injured patients had died by their 5-year follow-up survey.

These are a variety of problems and issues the City of Fresno experiences daily. Violence, crime, poverty, and limited acute and mental health capabilities drive other local negative issues as well. Gangs, drugs, alcohol, and guns are a sure-fire trigger for the significant problems described above. In terms of working on solutions to these issues, the City of Fresno works with community and neighborhood-based organizations to address and resolve the problems facing Fresno today. This program included proactive (preventative) measures along with reactive (response) measures to these problems. Many of these community service agencies network and work together collaboratively with the Grantee, the City of Fresno PARCS Department's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement (ONSCE); as well as with partners from the City of Fresno Police Department (FPD). Both agencies are briefly discussed in the following report section.

History of the Grantee within the Target Community:

Fresno is the 5th largest city in California (and 34th largest in the U.S.). The population is 544,510 and Fresno serves as the Fresno County seat. "Jerry P. Dyer is the City of Fresno's 26th Mayor and sworn into office on January 5, 2021. Mayor Dyer came into office with a vision of uniting Fresno – seeking an inclusive, prosperous, beautiful city where people take pride in their neighborhoods and community. A government that listens, keeps its promises, and is owned by the people. This is his "One Fresno" vision." ¹

Mayor Dyer was a former Chief of Police of the Fresno Police Department and an advocate for city and community support for kids, young people, and supporting neighborhoods and residents across the city. In addition, Mayor Dyer understands the local community and the problems associated with big cities like concentrated poverty, under-resourced social services, and crime/violence. As such, the grantee has a very solid history and long relationship across the entire city, as well as in lower income anchor communities. The Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement (ONSCE) was formed within the Fresno Police Department, and moved to the Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services (PARCS) Department during the term of this grant.

"(ONSCE) provides collaborative efforts to minimize violence in the community, providing support for Fresno's youth and families through partnerships and community services. ONSCE facilitates community-wide collaborative efforts to prevent and mitigate violence." ² "This is achieved by providing support for Fresno's youth and families through job

¹ <https://www.fresno.gov/mayor/> Accessed electronically on 12/20/2023.

² <https://www.fresno.gov/parks/activities-recreational-programs/#neighborhood-safety-and-community-engagement-program> Accessed electronically on 12/20/2023.

readiness programs, training opportunities, tutoring, tattoo removal, hospital based intervention programs, and street outreach. The Programming brings together over 100 local service providers to provide wrap-around resources for youth and young adults including: substance abuse intervention, anger management, mental health, education, food, housing, mentoring, health services, activities, and other basic life skill needs and services.”³

It is the mission of the City of Fresno Police Department (FPD) to preserve the trust of the community by providing a safe and secure place to work and live. The City of Fresno is divided into five policing districts: Southwest, Central, Southeast, Northeast and Northwest. Violent crime is primarily concentrated in the Southwest, Central, and Southeast Districts of the city. FPD coordinates and implements intervention programs that comprehensively focus on crime and violence prevention through strong partnerships with local community-based organizations. Many of these projects have been federal and state funded, effective, and widely appreciated within the community. One project, for example, involved implementation of SpotShotter technology with forensic bullet casing analysis in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice NIBIN shell case registry.

These and other community improvement programs provide better linkages and community between the grantee and the Fresno population. Because of public safety programs, community-based partnerships, neighborhood outreach, and violence reduction programs such as these, the grantee enjoys a positive and collaborative relation within the city. CalVIP funding for such projects support Fresno neighborhood initiatives and community engagement enhance the opportunities and quality of life for families, furthers citizen involvement, builds closer ties between residents and local agencies, and provides much needed programs and support to those in need.

Grant Purpose Relative to These Conditions:

The purpose of this grant is to form and deepen partnerships with established Community-based organizations to provide proven and expanded multi-faceted violence reduction strategies to reduce violent crime and support victims of violence in the City of Fresno. The focus of this project was adolescents, young adults, their families, and those who currently or previously had justice system engagement who live in targeted low- income neighborhoods and who are at high-risk for gang recruitment and activities, violence, and substance abuse.

Through collaboration, this program provided evidence-based interventions that included violence analysis, outreach, tattoo removal, hospital based intervention, training for law enforcement and other stakeholders, mentorship, educational and computer lab classes, excursions, structured sports programs, case management, community building and group or individual counseling with licensed mental health clinicians.

³ <https://www.fresno.gov/parks/activities-recreational-programs/#neighborhood-safety-and-community-engagement-program> Accessed electronically on 12/20/2023.

Other Similar Services Available within the Community:

There are a variety of hospitals, mental health, and other services available within the City of Fresno. In addition, there are victim service providers, unhoused community advocacy organizations, immigration groups, and additional neighborhood organizations that serve the local Fresno community. However, programs that focus on the **target populations and participants** this project sought to serve are hard to find.

This project sought to serve targeted low- income neighborhoods at high-risk for gang recruitment, activities, violence and drug abuse. For example, many upper and middle class residents with private insurance may have access to select services and the financial ability to pay for project outcomes such as tattoo removal or mental health counseling. However, members of this intended target population may not have the insurance or resources to secure these services for themselves. Thus, we sought to provide services and assistance for our local adolescents, young adults, their families, and those who currently or previously had justice system engagement.

To this point, additional similar services available to the specific target populations served in this project may not be available to all, particularly those from underserved groups. Projects and services found in this Cal VIP program are distinct in city districts, the target population, and have brought a larger number of underserved groups together in coordination with community-based organizations developing and implementing these program projects and services.

Scope of the City of Fresno Project

The scope of the City of Fresno project was designed to be very broad, covering multiple components, and involving numerous partners. Project evidence-based intervention components included violence analysis, street outreach, tattoo removal, hospital based intervention, mental health services, training for law enforcement and other stakeholders, mentorship, educational and computer lab classes, excursions, structured sports programs, training, curriculum development, case management, community building and group/individual counseling with licensed mental health clinicians. There are many complex aspects of violence prevention and intervention efforts to coordinate and synchronize.

The scope of the City of Fresno project is also very wide. Instead of one set of services that everyone receives, services are varied by program and participant need. Individuals often rely on referrals for service among eligible participants. This is one way to help establish a community network of program service providers to form a comprehensive prevention and intervention strategy that benefits all residents. Thus, planning and training of street outreach personnel is an important theme found within this broader project.

The City of Fresno project included seven different programs with a host of different goals, objectives, eligibility requirements, service delivery models, and outputs and outcomes. These are described in further detail throughout this local evaluation report. In addition, the eligibility definition of project participants utilized by organizations (below) are included within each specific program evaluation.

All project programs and services contribute to the focus on the target population and participants we seek to serve, including adolescents, young adults, their families, and those who currently or previously had justice system engagement who live in targeted low- income neighborhoods and are at high-risk for gang recruitment, activities, violence and drug abuse. Specific participant program eligibility guidelines are found with each of the organizations discussed below:

Project Participant Organizations Include:

To conduct the program evaluation, we organize the tremendous amount of data and information into a section per program project (7) coordinated by respective CBOs. Each evaluation report section provides information on the scope of each project, target populations served, potential participant eligibility requirements, and how the determination for services and/or interventions an individual may be able to receive relating to program projects was made. Various inputs, resources, and outcomes are found with each project, as well as information on how organizational programs and services are distributed within the goals/objectives for all seven (7) projects. However, before going into greater project details—we briefly mention the program goals and participating organizations. The following organizations are involved in delivering programs and services for the City of Fresno CalVIP FY 2020-2023 Grant Program:

Goal #1- Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) - Tattoo Removal Program (TRP)

Goal #2- Fresno Barrios Unidos-Street Outreach

Goal #3- Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) – Hospital Based Violence Intervention (HBVIP)- Advance Peace

Goal #4- Urban Peace Initiative

Goal #5- Central La Familia Advocacy Services (CLFA)

Goal #6- Care Fresno (CF)

Goal #7- Fresno Resiliency Center (FRC)

LOCAL EVALUATION REPORT (LER) ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The LER is organized and structured in the following manner: we provide information on key partnering organizations, discuss each project goals (7), research methodology, and project process and outcome evaluations findings and recommendations:

1. Participant-eligibility- Each program has their own services element and their own respective eligibility requirements (noted in each specific project description/discussion).

2. Research questions- As the City of Fresno project contains numerous community service providers and services; we note process and outcome orientations and research questions within each respective project description/discussion.

3. Both individual (micro) and organizational (macro) variables are included for analysis within each project over time. For purposes of comparison of project participants with other groups, we generally mean with residents of the City of Fresno (unless otherwise stated) in specific project description/discussions.

4. Data Collection- the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is a data collection administration survey tool. The objective is to reduce the complication and difficulty of having many community service providers reporting quarterly data to the project management team by having all program performance data submitted regularly through the data administration survey.

5. Findings- Discussion of Process and Outcome Evaluations data and analysis.

Process Evaluation-

Outcome Evaluation-

General Evaluation-

6. Recommendations- Program evaluator project recommendations.

PROGRAM EVALUATION QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Government and law enforcement agencies are constantly looking into innovative policies, programs, and solutions to common social problems like violence and gangs. However, these solutions only last so long before we need to continue and adjust how we do things and explore newer effective ways of prevention and intervention. In the process of innovating and new approaches to simultaneously strengthen law enforcement and enhance community relations—we rely deeply on partnerships across many agencies and organizations. Towards this objective, the City supports a variety of exciting programs and practices (existing and innovative) that focus on fostering collaboration and deeper sustainable community relations across the City of Fresno.

The purpose of this section of the Local Evaluation Report (LER) is to discuss program evaluation data and research methodologies utilized to measure the City of Fresno project process and outcome metrics. The ambitious scope of work and plan were previously detailed in the previous CalVIP Local Evaluation Plan (LEP). In that document, we identified a variety of programmatic goals and objectives to measure, highlight, and showcase the impact and benefits of the “Reducing Violence through Intervention, Prevention, and Education” Project. In addition, a variety of key measures (variables) were created including inputs, resources, project(s), timelines, and processes necessary to accomplish these specific goals and objectives to implement seven (7) violence interdiction programs in coordination with local CBOs. Multiple data sources (e.g., police reports, surveys, social media, interviews, etc.) were analyzed to obtain valid and reliable outcome measures with statistical analysis for a thorough assessment of the causal effects “outcomes” of the programs under study.

The researchers’ expertise in criminological and evaluation research, quality data obtained from multiple sources, and proper research designs ensured that evidence-based practices and adequate evaluations were implemented throughout the course of the project (2021-2023). In a process evaluation of each program, both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies are employed as part of a data triangulation strategy, while quantitative data analysis with statistical models is emphasized in outcome evaluations. This is to assess the impact of each program. Within this report, various data tables will summarize the program’s goals and objectives and variables used to measure and analyze in the process and outcome evaluations.

The methodology of each program process evaluation is designed to analyze the planning and implementation processes and into the actual “rollout” phase. In order to monitor the progress of program implementation while easing the burden of administrative data collection, BSCC Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) were utilized. Such a system supported both efficient data collection in a standardized format and timely descriptive analysis of program characteristics in the process evaluation. QPRs (from Q1 to Q11) were utilized for data collection on process and outcome evaluation measures. In addition, Fresno Police Department data is utilized.

Furthermore, qualitative research methods of field observations and interviews of participants and program managers became an invaluable means to uncover unexpected barriers and obstacles to program implementation; adjustments in program management were recommended through reports and meetings with key stakeholders. Throughout the course of the research project, feedback from the program evaluation team helped to ensure program management and implementation.

The methodology of the outcome evaluation to analyze each project's success and potential limitations includes a research design and statistical analysis to evaluate programmatic impact and benefits for programs within the City of Fresno project. Additional statistical analysis methods are used to evaluate the program outcomes within the local community. The results of both process and outcome evaluations are documented with QPR and FPD data summarized throughout the report via data tables. Descriptions of implemented programs are provided in detail as a part of the process/outcome evaluations to allow for critical assessment, analysis, and recommendations for future successful "best practices." Finally, through the evaluation process, we utilized policy analysis and research tools to prepare actionable recommendations and make meaningful program adjustments after the grant performance period ended with an eye to sustainability into the future.

The following sections of the LER focus on each specific project found within the City of Fresno CalVIP Program 2020-2023.

FRESNO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION (FEOC)- TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM (TRP)

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program Goal #1: Assist individuals with visible criminal activity related tattoos to positively transform their path and enter mainstream society without difficulty.

Program Objectives:

- A. Perform tattoo removal treatment on 50 enrolled participants in the program.
- B. Ensure that a minimum of 1,000 community service hours are completed for Tattoo Removal Program participants.

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission's (Fresno EOC) Tattoo Removal Program (TRP) is modeled after the success of 'Project New Start' in Alameda County and provides free tattoo removal treatment. Fresno EOC's TRP supports collaborative efforts in augmenting and developing violence reduction strategies through multi-disciplinary, community-based, proven strategies to decrease violent crime and support victims of gang violence in the City of Fresno. Fresno EOC supports collaborative efforts in the development, expansion and implementation of gang prevention, intervention, community engagement specifically designed to address partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach and accountability and data driven efforts to address gun and gang crime and our cities reduction. This is to further the objective to sustain a reduction of gang and gun violence and support the victims of gang violence in the City of Fresno.

Fresno EOC operates 35 other programs in a holistic fashion designed to help clients become self-sufficient including employment and training. Fresno EOC works closely with the City of Fresno Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement Services program on the Tattoo Removal Program and provides direct oversight of the Health Services Tattoo Removal Clinic strategy development and implementation plan. Residents benefit from the establishment of a collaborative approach to help tackle the City of Fresno's gang problem.

Program Participants

TRP serves former gang members and victims of human trafficking that reside in the City of Fresno, and since 2009 and has performed thousands of procedures on hundreds of individuals. To qualify for the TRP, participants are required to perform the following sequence of steps: determine eligibility requirements, intake and enrollment, laser treatment,

and complete community service hours with non-profit organizations and churches. This service is not only critical for former gang members but also victims of human trafficking due to visible tattoos or branding that presents physical obstacles and makes it difficult for them to obtain/secure employment. This program also erases scars from their past victimization.

Research Design

Process Evaluation:

The following variables were tracked throughout the grant funding period in order to ensure proper implementation of the program and make program modification recommendations.

- (1) The number of youth and adults who use the tattoo removal service;
- (2) The number and size of removed tattoos;
- (3) The number of participants who maintain the program participation requirements and keep their service status active (i.e., attrition rate);
- (4) The number of community service hours logged by participants.

Outcome Evaluation:

The following variables are key outcome variables to assess the impact of the tattoo removal program.

- (1) The number of participants who secure employment;
- (2) The number of participants who continuously maintain their treatment service status active throughout the funding period;
- (3) The number of participants who are arrested.

These variables are evaluated among program participants to identify characteristics for those who are open and receptive to completing tattoo removal programs. Furthermore, the number of participants who are arrested will be analyzed by crime type and gang/non-gang crimes. Comparisons may be made to non-participants to assess if the tattoo removal program participants show a lower recidivism rate and if their reoffending time interval is longer than non-participants.

Findings

Process and outcome evaluation variables are summarized below on Goal 1-Table 1 and analyzed in further detail in the narrative below.

Goal #1- Fresno EOC Tattoo Removal Program (TRP)- Process Evaluation

Objective 1a: perform tattoo removal for 50 participants.

Objective 1b: Ensure 1,000 community service hours among participants.

Table 1: Goal 1- Fresno EOC Tattoo Removal Program (TRP) Statistics

Quarter #1-#11 Period (Month, Year)	1a. Tattoo Removal Treatment Participants (#)	Size of Tattoos Removed (square inches)	Active Participants (#)	Volunteer Hours (#)
Q1: 10/2020-12/2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q2: 1/2021-3/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q3: 4/2021-6/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q4: 7/2021-9/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q5: 10/2021-12/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q6: 1/2022-3/2022	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q7: 4/2022-6/2022	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q8: 7/2022-9/2022	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q9: 10/2022-12/2022	37	2180	43	743
Q10: 1/2023-3/2023	35	1845	46	964
Q11: 4/2023-6/2023	32	1931	45	850
Totals:	104	5,956	134	2,556

Source: CalVIP, Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Process Evaluation:

Project Goal Objective (#1a) was to serve 50 TRP participants. The TRP component of the project served 104 participants. This is double the number of program participants anticipated in this goal objective. A total of 5,956 square inches of tattoos were removed, approximately 1,985 square inches quarterly. The TRP project goal/objective commenced in program year three (Q9, 2022). In addition, a total of 134 participants maintained program participation requirements and kept their service status active.

Project's Goal Objective (#1b) was to ensure 1,000 community service hours were conducted by TRP participants. A total of 2,556 volunteer hours were logged in the community by TRP participants. This is slightly over 2.5 times the number of community service hours anticipated by the project goal objective.

Outcome Evaluation:

Goal #1 Outcome Evaluation Statistics

- (1) The number of participants who secure employment-32
- (2) The number of participants who continuously maintain their treatment service status active throughout the funding period; QPR=64
- (3) The number of participants who are arrested. 0

In terms of outcome evaluation, 32 TRP participants secured employment and 64 TRP participants continuously maintained treatment service status over the entire performance period. No TRP participants were arrested over the grant time performance period. As there were no arrested program participants, no additional analysis of types of crimes committed and gang ties was conducted. Given the process and outcomes evaluations analysis here, the Fresno EOC Tattoo Removal Treatment Program met and exceeded the project goals and objectives.

General Evaluation:

Tattoo removal is not an easy or painless process for participants. It reflects a commitment to move beyond life on the streets or in gangs through personal growth and into more traditional and involved community. Both process evaluation goals and objectives (Number of TRP participants, Volunteer Hours) were met and exceeded. Outcome measures were also positive, including TRP participants securing/maintaining employment and staying out of trouble with law enforcement.

Recommendations:

1. The TRP relies on grant funding to enable services. Develop and implement a long-term strategy and resource stream for continued future Tattoo Removal Program sustainability and success within the City of Fresno.

FRESNO BARRIOS UNIDOS-

STREET OUTREACH

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program Goal #2: Provide Street Outreach intervention to de-escalate incidents, rumor control, retaliatory and prevention pre or post shooting(s) in correlation to gang(s) violence.

Program Objectives:

A. Reduce the number of retaliatory shootings by 10%.

B. Provide services to 75 clients or victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings including by gang(s)

Fresno Barrios Unidos (Street Outreach) is an existing gang street outreach program which focuses efforts in neighborhoods infested by gang-related and violent crimes. This is achieved by creating a public safety presence of trained, street credible and vetted Crisis Intervention Outreach Specialists (CIOS). These CIOS respond to areas of high violence to build relationships with local residents, promote positive life choices, connect high-risk individuals to resources, and prevent the escalation of tension that could lead to additional violence. The need for CIOS response was identified collaboratively with assistance by FPD command staff who identified gang related incidents to CIOS and facilitated requests for street outreach response.

Following notifications, CIOS immediately responded to the location/s where the violence occurred to reach out to community members and those responsible. Their primary goal was to prevent retaliatory violence by community intervention and providing referrals for program services in collaboration with the ONSCE and social service partners. The CIOS were selected by a diversified panel representing the target population from multiple perspectives. They participated in rigorous training provided by independent consultant Urban Peace Institute and hold continuous meetings with law enforcement partners and the community they serve.

Program Participants

The target population was community residents and those criminally responsible for violence within high crime areas of the City of Fresno. Program participants were referred from FPD command staff based on gang events, locations of violence, and high-risk individuals. Participation included: Hospital Based Violence Intervention, street level gang intervention, supervision, and intervention strategies for all partners to facilitate the case management of participants including linking patients to resources focused on modifying risk factors.

Research Design

Process and Outcome Evaluation:

Key variables were tracked throughout the grant funding period to ensure proper program implementation and make program recommendations.

Program Goal #2: Provide Street Outreach intervention to de-escalate incidents, rumor control, retaliatory and prevention pre or post shooting(s) in correlation to gang(s) violence.

Program Objectives:

A. Reduce the number of retaliatory shootings by 10%.

B. Provide services to 75 clients or victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings including by gang(s).

Findings

Goal 2 violence outreach and intervention program objectives are summarized in Table 2 (below) and Table 3 (on the following page). We include an unduplicated enrolled participant count as well as project services participant count over the project performance period. Data is summarized below and analyzed on the following page. Fresno Barrios Unidos Street Outreach provides numerous programs and services to project participants that relate to violence reduction and intervention.

One service included “Other: Direct Response to Shootings” is of great significance to their mission and highlighted in the process evaluation (151 participants) findings from Table 3.

Table 2: Goal 2- Fresno Barrios Unidos- Unduplicated Number of Enrolled

Quarter	Enrolled	Second Enrolled	Third Enrolled
Quarter #6	108	71	122
Quarter #7	471		
Quarter #8	30		
Quarter #9	56		
Quarter #10	21		
Quarter #11	28		
Totals	714	71	122

Source: CalVIP Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Table 3: Goal 2- Fresno Barrios Unidos Street Outreach- Participation in Services

Participation in Services (Life of Grant)	Totals
Case Management	135
Conflict Resolution/Anger Management/Violence Avoidance/Social-Emotional Learning	233
De-escalation/Violence Interruption/Intervention Services	457
Life Skills/Healthy Choices/Family Management	173
Mentoring	135
Trauma-informed/Restorative Justice Practices	399
Other: Direct Response to Shootings	151

Source: CalVIP, Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Process Evaluation:

Project Goal Objective (#2b) was for Fresno Barrios Unidos Street Outreach to provide services to 75 clients or victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings or gang (s). Participant enrollment data included 714 participants (first time), 71 (second time), and 121 (third time) enrollments. Of additional interest was the 151 participants in the “Direct Response to Shootings” project activity. This is a critical measure of significant intervention/de-escalation/intervention and prevention of additional violent retaliatory activity. This metric of providing street outreach services to 75 clients/victims was exceeded by 10 times.

It should also be noted that numerous other participants were served by other Street Outreach programs as well. Participation in service types (over the life of the grant) include the following: Case Management (135), Conflict Resolution/Anger Management/Violence Avoidance/Social-Emotional Learning (233), De-escalation/Violence Interruption/Intervention Services (457), Life Skills/Healthy Choices/Family Management (173), Mentoring (135), and Trauma-informed/Restorative Justice Practices (399). There were a significant number of participants served by Fresno Barrios Unidos Street Outreach programs and services during the project performance period. The following section provides the project outcome evaluation.

Outcome Evaluation:

A difficulty is noted with one of the project outcome evaluation variables/measures. There is no calculated “retaliatory shooting variable” developed to track and measure. This is due in part to the variety of contextual factors and relationship information needed to calculate this figure. Specific known links between otherwise seemingly unrelated shootings must be sufficiently understood to calculate a phenomena such as number of retaliatory shootings. For example, which shootings are related to retaliatory events or are independent events? Furthermore, this variable would be significantly undercounted as we do not always know the relationship between shooters, their victims, and specific motivations. In addition, these numbers may need to be updated frequently as additional information and evidence becomes known throughout the criminal investigation and adjudication processes.

With no retaliatory shooting variable data available, we provide data analyzing the number of City of Fresno shootings and Gang Related Shootings during the grant performance period (2020-2023) on Table 4 below. Fresno shootings declined a total of 50% during the project performance period with the number of city shootings declining each year. There was a pronounced decline in both types of shootings between 2021 and 2022 as the table below indicates. Gang shootings decreased 31% over the same period. Gang shootings made up between 27% to 43% of Fresno shootings in any given year. This number is a significant reduction in both Fresno shootings and gang related shootings.

Table 4: City of Fresno Shootings and Gang Related Shootings 2020-2023

Year	Shootings (#)	Gang Shootings (#)	(%)
2023	366	98	27%
2022	448	142	32%
2021	688	293	43%
2020	732	313	43%
Total Change (%)	50% decrease	31% decrease	

Source: Fresno Police Department, SVB Weekly Crime Report through 12/31/2023

General Evaluation:

There were numerous participants served by street outreach violence intervention and de-escalation programs and services as summarized above. The process evaluation indicates program success and represents assistance, support, and hope for those seeking to break the cycle of street violence and retaliation.

According to the data, there was a significant decrease in Fresno shootings (50% decrease) and gang related shootings (31% decrease) from 2020 to 2023. The reduction of shootings and gang violence is an excellent trend that comes with a significant impact on enhanced community and neighborhood safety. The impact of a solid reduction in shootings and gang shootings in Fresno is great news to the public and tremendous benefit to the quality of life in town. A substantial and continual reduction in shooting based violence is a key long term-strategy of both the City of Fresno and Fresno Police Department.

Recommendations:

1. There is a tremendous value of a strong referral system between street outreach groups to additional social and preventative services. Deeper involvement with partnering local government services and programs is to be encouraged and supported.
2. Work with key agencies and organizations to develop accurate measures to count and track retaliatory shootings.

FRESNO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION (EOC)-

HOSPITAL BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (HBVIP)

ADVANCE PEACE

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program Goal #3: Make available Hospital Based Intervention services at Community Regional Medical Hospital to victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings or gang(s) violence.

Program Objectives:

- A. To provide Hospital based intervention services for clients while in the hospital and post release for up to 12 months.
- B. To reduce the recidivism of recurring shooting victims by 10%.
- C. Provide services to clients or victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings including by gang violence.

The Hospital Based Violence Intervention Program (HBVIP) is supervised and managed by Fresno EOC and Fresno Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC). Currently the HBVIP is in its developmental stages in the CRMC Trauma Center, the only HBVIP Level 1 trauma center between Los Angeles and Sacramento. In 2017, CRMC commenced the collaboration with FPD, Hope Coalition and Fresno EOC to provide crisis intervention services to patients admitted at the CRMC trauma center following gang violence incidents. CRMC has committed to transition to a method of acknowledging the violence and connecting patients with Crisis Intervention Outreach Specialist (CIOS) who can educate and encourage them to break the cycle of violence in their lives.

The City's existing street outreach program through the use of CIOS had already been tasked with responding to areas of high gang violence, which eased the extension and expansion into the HBVIP. Through this partnership, the City sought to establish evidence-based injury prevention programs for CRMC and the community in collaboration with various government agencies and community-based organizations. The program emphasizes working with high-risk groups who may benefit from violence and injury prevention programs.

Program Participants

The risk/need for HBVIP is identified by CRMC trauma staff screening the daily emergency department log to identify patients who meet program criteria and gang ties. Stable patients will be approached by a member of the HBVIP team while in the Emergency Department, or in the inpatient setting once they are stabilized and informed of the HBVIP. Interested patients once completing patient consent would then continue completing the inclusion/exclusion checklist to ensure that the patient is eligible for participation. The patients were given an assessment regarding personal health behaviors and their experience with trauma. Following consent and assessment, a CIOS followed-up with the participant at an agreed upon location and reviewed the initial assessment with them. The CIOS then devised a services plan in collaboration with ONSCE utilizing a service provider network maintained by ONSCE. After discharge, the CIOS continued to meet with participants (as needed) for up to twelve months.

Research Design

Process Evaluation:

The following variables were tracked throughout the grant funding period to ensure program implementation and make program recommendations.

- (1) The number of participating risk/need patients.
- (2) The number of participants who utilize program services.
- (3) Number and types of services provided.

Outcome Evaluation:

The following outcome variables are utilized to assess violence recidivism/retaliation program and service impacts and participant benefits.

- (1) The number of correlated and recurring violence (shooting) incidents.
- (2) Recidivism of recurring shooting victim rates/incidents.
- (3) Evaluate the number, type, and effectiveness of violence intervention services in the hospital and post-release setting.

Variables were analyzed to identify the numbers of participants and types of programs utilized. Furthermore, we look at the number of participants served by the program intervention and the reduction of recurring shooting victimization.

Findings

The process and outcome evaluation variables are summarized in Goal 3 - Table 5 and Table 6 (below). The data is further analyzed in the narrative and is related to the recommendations provided.

Program Goal #3: Make available Hospital Based Intervention services at Community Regional Medical Hospital to victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings or gang (s) violence.

Program Objectives:

- a. To provide Hospital based intervention services for clients while in the hospital and post release for up to 12 months.
- b. To reduce the recidivism of recurring shooting victims by 10%.
- c. Provide services to clients or victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings including by gang violence.

Table 5: Goal 3- Fresno EOC- Advance Peace- Unduplicated Number of Enrolled:

Quarter	Unduplicated Number of Enrolled
Quarter #7	8
Quarter #8	6
Quarter #9	16
Quarter #10	0
Quarter #11	0
Totals	30

Source: CalVIP, Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Table 6: Goal 3- Fresno EOC- Advance Peace- Participation in Services

Participation in Services (Life of Grant)	Totals
Case Management	22
De-escalation/Violence Interruption/Intervention Services	22
Life Skills/Healthy Choices/Family Management	18

Source: CalVIP Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Process Evaluation:

Project Goal Objective (3a) was to provide Hospital based intervention services for clients while in the hospital and for post release for 12 months. Table 5 above notes the number of unduplicated enrolled participants for the Advance Peace program was 30.

Project Goal Objective (3c) was to provide services to clients or victims of violence in correlation to shootings, stabbings, or gang (s). Table 6 above notes the number of participants and types of services utilized throughout the life of the project. These services include Case Management (22), De-escalation/Violence Interruption/Intervention Services (22), Life Skills/Healthy Choices/Family Management (18) and are important aspects of violence prevention and intervention programs and services.

Outcome Evaluation:

Program Objective 3b- is to reduce the recidivism of recurring shooting victims. Table 7 summarizes the number of gunshot wound victims in Fresno from 2020-2023. The number of shooting victims declined 42% over the project performance period. Reducing the victimization and impacts of shootings within the community enhances public safety, decreases strain on the medical system and benefits criminal justice systems efforts (including law enforcement, courts, and corrections), staffing, and financial resources. This is a deeply encouraging local trend.

TABLE 7: City of Fresno Gun Shot Wound Victims 2020-2023

Year	Shooting Victims (#)
2023 *	143
2022	218
2021	291
2020	337
Total Change (%)	42% decrease

Source: Fresno Police Department, SVB Weekly Crime Report through 12/31/2023

Note: * Year to Date (YD) - all other data is Year End (YE)

In terms of “recidivism of recurring shooting” data, the reporting organization and local law enforcement do not measure and analyze the repeated victimization of shooting victims. It is not clear how often shooting victims are the additional victims of future shooting situations. This outcome evaluation variable was not analyzed here. However, for reference purposes on City of Fresno shootings, an analysis is found above in the Goal #2 evaluation.

General Evaluation:

Street outreach is an important violence intervention strategy and pathway to de-escalation for victims of shootings, stabbings, or gang violence. Reaching out to victims while in (or recently) inside of the hospital emergency room may make a difference in intervention strategies and may reduce retaliation and additional violence. Providing services to victims of violence in the clinical environment is a reasonable approach and should be a component of comprehensive anti-violence strategies.

In addition, there are two additional comments of note (found in qualitative data) in QPR reports that related to the project process. The first set of comments relates to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospitals, public health, and strict regulated access and availability. The COVID effect found within the hospital environment reduced Advance Peace's access within the clinical environment due to the rules and regulations found during this emergency period and the quarantine process. The COVID impact was particularly challenging in the first few quarters of the grant performance period. Running any type of hospital or clinic program and service was negatively impacted when facilities were full or near capacity throughout the critical shut-down and quarantine periods. In addition, many facilities operated under a new public health era of policies and regulations that limited accessibility—which includes hospital based programs such as this. It took several years for all these emergency public health conditions to be lifted and hospital operations to return back to some degree of normalcy.

Secondly, there was mention of difficulty in the referrals process in QPRs. Sometimes the referral for victims came in after their release from the hospital, thus reducing victim response rates. In other words, it was not exactly a hospital intervention if the patients were already out of the clinical environment and back at home recuperating/sometime after the incidence of violence. This situation made the referral process challenging and these connections “hit or miss.” Qualitative process-related comments are addressed in the following recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. Enhance the referral process for Advance Peace to make connections with clients or victims while still in the hospital due to violent crimes like shootings, stabbings, or gang incidents.
2. Work with critical stakeholders on the development of protocols for notification and referrals for utilization during future periods of emergency hospital and quarantine type situations.
3. Work with key agencies and organizations to develop accurate measures to count and track the recidivism rates of recurring shooting victims. In this way, we can tailor specific services and programs from this extremely vulnerable population (i.e. the group of people that have been shot in multiple shooting incidents).

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URBAN PEACE INSTITUTE (UPI)

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program Goal #4: Provide technical assistance, training, and support efforts with Fresno violence reduction projects.

Program Objectives:

4a: Develop Fresno Violence Reduction Projects- Conduct planning meetings with Fresno Team via series of phone meetings to discuss and plan technical assistance activities.

4b: Conduct assessment/Training Coordination and Preparation.

4c: Program, strategy, and documentation review of existing documents and strategy/program design for City of Fresno.

4d: Assessment of Community/Program. Facilitate a series of interviews with key community leaders, law enforcement, and public officials.

The Urban Peace Institute organization coordinates the City of Fresno's CalVIP Program Goal #4. UPI are a well-known group involved with a number of programs and types of services that include violence reduction training such as the Urban Peace Academy.

“The Urban Peace Academy develops teams of trained professionals working to prevent and reduce violence. Our rigorous instruction program develops teams of peacemakers that can effectively address gang-related violence. The Urban Peace Academy also presents effective strategies for forming relationships and trust between residents and officers to ensure neighborhood safety. This work has never been more important, as recent events highlight the need to bridge the gap between law enforcement and communities of color.”⁴

The Urban Peace Institute utilized the following activities to support identified program goals and objectives; conduct planning meetings with the Fresno Team to discuss and plan technical assistance activities, conduct assessment/Training Coordination & Preparation; Program, strategy, & documentation review of existing documents & strategy/program design for the City of Fresno. In addition, the Urban Peace Institute assessed the community/program; facilitated a series of interviews with key community leaders, law enforcement, and public officials; conducted focus groups with service providers, outreach workers, and residents (2

⁴ <https://www.urbanpeaceinstitute.org/our-work-urban-peace-academy> Accessed electronically on 12/27/2023.

days); prepared & conducted follow-up meetings with Fresno staff regarding assessment visit & findings; drafted an assessment memo & recommendations; conducted trainings for street outreach, law enforcement, public sector leaders, services providers, & street outreach workers; supported strategy/program development and, to observed, reviewed, and developed feedback on program & strategy initiatives to align with the broader project mission.

Program Participants

UPI provides consulting services to the City of Fresno Office of Neighborhood Safety and Community Engagement (ONSCE) on street outreach training. Thus, UPI program participants are defined differently than most participants served under other programs in the City of Fresno project. The target populations and participants directly served here include those needing street outreach training: law enforcement, public sector leaders, services providers, & street outreach workers.

Those indirectly served by street outreach training include adolescents, young adults, their families, and those who currently or previously had justice system engagement who live in targeted low- income neighborhoods and are at high-risk for gang recruitment, activities, violence, and drug/substance abuse.

Research Design

Process Evaluation:

The following variables will be tracked throughout the grant funding period to support program implementation and provide program recommendations.

- (1) Fresno Violence Reduction Project Design.
- (2) Violence assessment/training coordination and preparation.
- (3) Program, strategy, and documentation review of existing documents and strategy/program design for City of Fresno.

Outcome Evaluation:

The following key outcome measures are utilized to assess the impact of the UPI Street Outreach project programs and services.

- (1) The number of street outreach violence training participants drawn from law enforcement, public sector leaders, service providers, and street outreach workers.

Findings

Process Evaluation:

This project relies on the design, development, and implementation of street outreach training programs for street workers and law enforcement personnel. The project MOU was approved in Q3 (4/2021-6/2021) of the performance period. The training project planning process began in Q5 (10/21-12/21), including getting key stakeholders together and collaborating on curriculum and training materials. Q6 (1/22-3/22) marked the needs assessment process and then meetings to develop training curriculum and program. The training meeting was held in November 2022. This objective of the UPI project was completed successfully.

Outcome Evaluation:

The Street Outreach Training (held in November 2022) had a total of 44 attendees (11 street outreach workers and 33 law enforcement personnel). This was an important training for street-level workers and the law enforcement community and will help meet critical street violence outreach, prevention, and intervention needs in the future. Training such as this is key to preparing for effective street outreach, anti-violence messaging, and the further assistance of those with gang ties.

General Evaluation:

There was a significant collaborative partnership that successfully completed comprehensive street outreach training curriculum and program development. The training was held on schedule.

Recommendations:

1. Utilize street outreach training to reach more street workers, law enforcement, criminal justice, and juvenile justice professionals and prepare them for this aspect of their position.
2. Schedule an annual meeting amongst key stakeholders and major partners to update the curriculum and training materials to meet the evolving and dynamic needs of street outreach and law enforcement professionals.
3. Hold future street outreach training to enhance street workers, law enforcement personnel, and criminal justice professionals should help improve systematic response and intervention with street violence.

CENTRAL LA FAMILIA ADVOCACY (CLFA)

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program Goal #5: Enhance Victim Advocates ability to provide effective education, awareness and intervention services to reduce the number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in South Fresno.

Program Objectives:

5a. Reduce the number of Domestic Violence victims by providing education and awareness presentations in schools, college campuses, community centers and parenting groups to 1,500 community members.

5b. Provide capacity building and training to protect staff Victim Advocates and supervisor correlated to protection, rights, laws, and policies.

5c. Increase participation in community training and presentations.

Centro La Familia Advocacy (CLFA) was founded in 1972 and is a well-known and trusted community agency respected by City and County systems including the target population. CLFA is a multi-service agency that offers social service and education programs in the City of Fresno and surrounding rural areas of Fresno County. Services include victim services for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and other serious crimes, as well as services to strengthen families, support health and wellness, and immigration. CLFA is culturally inclusive and sensitive to community needs when providing services, considering primary language spoken, race, religious/spiritual preferences, sexual orientation, physical abilities, and social and economic dimensions. Ninety percent of CLFA staff are bilingual, 100% bicultural with backgrounds similar to their clients served, and first-generation Americans.

CLFA participates in various Victim Services committees statewide. Victim Advocates are responsible for participating in training and outreach education. Victim Advocates hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work, Victimology, or Pre- Law/Criminal Justice; successfully completed the 40-hour CalEMA training certifying them as paraprofessional crisis counselors for survivors of sexual assault; and 40-hour Domestic Violence training.

Grant funding assists CLFA programs, services, and objectives with enhancing professional staff capacity building and training for victim advocates and supervising staff. Staff attended a minimum of two (2) in person trainings (when allowed due to COVID-19

pandemic public health regulations) and five (5) webinars each year of the project. This was all part of an effort to increase staff knowledge of cultural responsiveness, court processes, immigration policies, and relevant areas to better assist the target population.

The project included an update of outreach education tools and curriculum related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The program also conducted targeted community education and outreach presentations to schools, colleges, and parenting groups on violence reduction and victim services in the southern districts of Fresno.

Program Participants

CLFA participates in community events throughout Fresno City and County promoting services and assisting victims with established Victim Services programs. CLFA also attends community outreach events and health fairs. Project outreach and education focused on community presentations in schools, community events, parenting groups, and promotional literature development include flyers, fotonovelas, and multi-media venues. Through these efforts, victims were able to seek on-site assistance and initiate an intake interview with CLFA staff to determine appropriate services.

Program participants were to include 1,500 community members education and awareness, as well as training for victim advocate and supervising staff. The target populations and participants served include the following: adolescents, young adults, their families, and those who currently or previously had justice system engagement who live in targeted low- income neighborhoods and are at high-risk for gang recruitment, activities, violence and substance/drug abuse.

Research Design

Process Evaluation:

The following variables were tracked throughout the project funding period to assist program implementation and program recommendations.

- (1) The number of community participants attending education and awareness presentations.
- (2) The number of community education and outreach presentations to schools, colleges, and parenting groups, community health fairs, and community outreach events.
- (3) The number of staff trainings attended.
- (4) The number of staff webinars attended.
- (5) The number of community training/presentations conducted:

Variables are analyzed with descriptive statistics over the project performance period.

Outcome Evaluation:

The following variables are key outcome variables to assess the impact of the education, awareness and intervention services programs.

- (1) The number of City of Fresno Domestic Violence arrests.
- (2) The number of City of Fresno Human Trafficking arrests.
- (3) The number of City of Fresno Sexual Assault arrests.

City of Fresno domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault arrests are analyzed between 2020-2023 to investigate the relationship between program goals, objectives, and their outcomes. We assess the potential impact of these key variables (arrest rates) of the three crime types on the provision of the program, media outreach, and supporting awareness programs over the project performance period.

Findings

Process evaluation variables are summarized on Goal 5- Table 8 (next page) and analyzed in further detail in the narrative below.

Program Goal #5: Enhance Victim Advocates ability to provide effective education, awareness and intervention services to reduce the number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in South Fresno.

Program Objectives:

- 5a. Reduce the number of Domestic Violence victims by providing education and awareness presentations in schools, college campuses, community centers and parenting groups to 1,500 community members.
- 5b. Provide capacity building and training to protect staff Victim Advocates and supervisor correlated to protection, rights, laws, and policies.
- 5c. Increase participation in community trainings/presentations.

Table 8: Goal 5- Central La Familia Advocacy Services- Statistics

Quarter #1- #11 Period (MO/YR	# of Presentations Training/ (5a)	Community Participants Attending (5a)	# of Staff Training (5b)	# of Staff Webinars (5b)	# of Community Training/Presentations Conducted (5c)/ (5f)
Q1: 10/2020- 12/2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q2: 1/2021- 3/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q3: 4/2021- 6/2021	6	10	2	0	4
Q4: 7/2021- 9/2021	8	Data not provided by agency	4	0	4
Q5: 10/2021- 12/2021	11	196	6	0	5
Q6: 1/2022- 3/2022	16	240	12	2	4
Q7: 4/2022- 6/2022	29	19,095	11	2	18
Q8: 7/2022- 9/2022	42	950	26	1	16
Q9: 10/2022- 12/2022	20	610	11	1	9
Q10: 1/2023- 3/2023	12	150	8	0	4
Q11: 4/2023- 6/2023	9	365	3	0	6
Totals:	153	21,616	83	6	70

Source: CalVIP, Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Process Evaluation:

Process evaluation measure 5a. related to the number of community participants attending education and awareness presentations. There was a total of CLFA 21,616 project participants- with 18,000 of total participants drawn from the Univision Broadcasts promoting CLFA Domestic Violence awareness and outreach programs to potential violence and sex crime victims within the community. The 5a. project process evaluation objective was to serve 1,500 participants and it served 3,616 participants - or more than double anticipated. This in

conjunction with the media campaign which reached a large number of viewers locally in addition to the in-person and virtual meetings, workshop, and event participants and attendees.

(2) The number of community education and outreach presentations to schools, colleges, and parenting groups, community health fairs, and community outreach events- 153.

(3) The number of staff training- 83.

(4) The number of staff webinars- 6.

(5) The number of community training/presentations conducted- 70.

Outcome Evaluation:

Table 9 below summarizes Fresno Police Department data on arrest rates on the following crime types:

- (1) The number of City of Fresno Domestic Violence arrests.
- (2) The number of City of Fresno Human Trafficking arrests.
- (3) The number of City of Fresno Sexual Assault arrests.

TABLE 9: City of Fresno Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Sexual Assault Arrests 2020-2023

Year	Fresno DV Arrests (#)	Fresno Human Trafficking Arrests (#)	Fresno Sexual Assault Arrests (#)
2023	4062	17 (12 gang related)	197
2022	3567	35	166
2021	2245	27	143
2020	2304	14	167
Average (#)	3,045	23	168
Total (%)	+57% increase	+8.2% increase	+8.5% increase

Source: Fresno Police Department

There are three objective outcomes anticipated to measure Fresno domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault arrest rates from 2020-2023 (the project performance period) as a result of CFDA trainings, media outreach, and increased awareness. Community safety is challenged by violent and sex-based crimes and a serious problem found in many communities. Table 9 (above) summarizes data for the key outcome variables. Human Trafficking arrests increased (+8.2%) and Sexual Assault arrests increased (+8.5%) in Fresno from the start to the finish of the project time period. Human trafficking arrests year-to-year decreased 50% from 2022 to 2023 which is an encouraging trend. But both figures are moderate

positive increases and not the 10% reduction rates as anticipated in the project outcome objectives. In addition to total numbers of arrests, we run the statistical average for these crime arrest rates: an average of 3,045 domestic violence arrests, 23 human trafficking arrests, 168 sexual assault arrests per year between 2020 and 2023.

This is a significant increase in domestic violence arrests (57%) and not a 10% reduction. A substantial increase in DV arrests requires further discussion as this is a concerning trend. We seek to better understand factors driving DV arrest increases. What factors may be involved with an uptick in domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault arrest rates?

The first contributing factor to increased Fresno DV arrest rates includes the impact of COVID-19 world-wide. This once-in-a-lifetime world event has profoundly transformed all aspects of our daily and organizational lives and continues to affect our communities to this day. The COVID-19 shut-down began in March 2020 (about 6-7 months before the grant performance period began) and included a lockdown, quarantine protocols, curfews, and additional societal and economic aftermath of the pandemic. The pandemic fundamentally altered our communities, schools, businesses, health care/medical care, and even the way government responded and provided critical services.

COVID is likely an important driver of the DV arrest rate increase. Our collective stress, anxiety, and financial worries like job security and inflation may have triggered individuals more likely to lash out at significant others during the pandemic and ongoing aftermath. "A lockdown increases the risk factors for domestic violence in multiple ways: there are more financial stressors because of income loss due to unemployment; there is also the loss of the ability to have breathing spaces for people who are in risky relationships." ⁵ "For people who are experiencing domestic violence, mandatory lockdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19 (the disease caused by the new coronavirus) have trapped them in their homes with their abusers, isolated from the people and the resources that could help them." ⁶ "... during times of crisis—such as natural disasters, wars, and epidemics—the risk of gender-based-violence escalates." ⁷

In other words, during COVID, victims may have economic resources and housing options to choose from in the event of physical and emotional abuse. We are still experiencing the lingering negative impacts of the worldwide pandemic and elevated DV rates remain a significant area of concern. These factors are likely continuing to affect contemporary and near future DV arrest rates as well.

⁵ <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/06/shadow-pandemic-of-domestic-violence/> Accessed electronically on 1/14/2024.

⁶ <https://time.com/5803887/coronavirus-domestic-violence-victims/> Accessed electronically on 1/14/2024.

⁷ <https://time.com/5803887/coronavirus-domestic-violence-victims/> Accessed electronically on 1/14/2024.

General Evaluation:

CLFA provided Domestic Violence education and awareness presentations in schools, college campuses, community centers and parenting groups to the project objective to 1,500 community members. The process evaluation metrics were double this number and represents project goal and objectives success.

In terms of outcome evaluations, we need additional research to estimate and evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the critical problem of violence and sexual assault criminal arrests. We must address these problems and work towards their innovative solutions.

Recommendations:

1. Expand the availability and access of domestic and sexual violence training and intervention programs through the additional utilization of social and media channels.
2. Increase capacity building and training to protect staff Victim Advocates and supervisors.
3. Invest resources to work with domestic violence key stakeholders and partner Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to understand key driving factors for increased DV (and related) arrest rates. This includes a discussion of the impact of pandemic effects as well as strategies on future outreach and awareness campaigns to meet this elevated level of need.

CARE FRESNO (CF)

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program Goal #6: Interrupt cycles of violence and poverty and reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults in at-risk communities by using evidence-based, violence-reduction strategies to provide education to children and youth, and young men.

Program Objectives:

6a. After-School Program: Enroll 100 children and youth (ages 5-13) in the after-school program during the grant period.

6b. GED Program: Enroll 70 men (ages 18-35) in the GED classes during the grant period.

6c. Sports Mentoring: (1) Enroll 100 children and youth (ages 6-13) in sports mentoring during the grant period. (2) Enroll 50 young men (ages 14-35) in sports mentoring during the grant period.

6d. Youth Sports: Serve 200 children and youth (ages 5-18) through sports and artistic recreational activities during the grant period.

Based in one of Fresno's concentrated housing hot spots with the highest crime-index, Care Fresno's (CF) mission is to break cycles of poverty and violence in underserved neighborhoods by providing critical resources to youth, families, and other residents via community resource centers. The existing programs have risen organically as a response to the spoken needs of community residents. CF staff routinely conducts frequent door-to-door neighborhood surveys to remain informed of needs and assist residents develop their own vision for community restoration.

One important program element is community support and building capacity across stakeholders. An established CF assistance referral network includes community partnerships such as local service providers, Fresno City College, Fresno County Probation, Fresno Unified School District, Community Food Bank, CASA of Fresno County, Fresno Rescue Mission, and others.

Program Participants

The program targets City of Fresno residents, specifically youth, young adults and their families. The first early intervention program targets youth ages 5-13 in After-School Programs (ASP) which offer one-on-one tutoring and mentoring. The second prevention/intervention program targets young adults ages 14-35 and includes structured mentoring &

accountability through sports activities; resources such as GED preparation; parenting classes; and adult mentorship which has opened alternative paths to gang involvement through utilization of the Castle Brigade Training and Mentoring Curriculum.

The project staff ensure the integration of proposed activities into the continuum of services. The After School Program worked directly with disadvantaged youth and trained and supervised project staff and volunteers; oversaw community activities; ensured quality of programming; recruited, supervised, and worked closely with schools and community-based organizations to develop afterschool education and GED programs. CF developed initiatives and community programs, compiled data, and analyzed the project outcomes and offered technical assistance to community members who seek services.

Research Design

Process Evaluation:

The following variables were tracked through the grant funding period to determine effective program implementation and make program recommendations.

- (1) The total number of participants who use programs and services.
- (2) The number of participants who participate in the after-school program.
- (3) The number of participants who participate in the GED program.
- (4) The number of participants who participate in the Sports Mentoring program.
- (5) The number of participants who participate in the Youth Sports program.

The above variables were analyzed by describing the number of participants and types of services/programs they are enrolled in.

Outcome Evaluation:

The following outcome variables are utilized to assess and evaluate program impact.

- (1) The number of participants who enroll in various education programs.
- (2) The number of participants who are arrested.

Variables are analyzed and evaluated among program participants in terms of the number of participants and the number of arrests in the City of Fresno between 2020 and 2023. Comparisons will be made to assess the impact of interventions on arrest rates to determine potential program impact (s) during the grant performance period.

Findings

Process and outcome evaluation performance variables are summarized on Tables 10 and 11 (below). Data and recommendations are found in the narrative on the following page. It should be noted that there is a methodological and data reporting issue identified that impacts the ability to report unique participants. Specifically, the organization reported key variables in one format that did not meet BSCC data reporting requirements. Enrollees into the several Care Fresno programs did not always follow the “Unduplicated Numbers of Enrollees” standard.

In other words, there are substantial numbers of participants that we do not know their enrollment status as “unduplicated”. Thus, these values are not reported for several key programs in the corrected QPR reports. As such, the number of program participants is lower in reports than the actuality of participant numbers. The corrected data is found below. The “uncorrected” data is found in Appendix 1 and shows the additional participants that were not coded correctly in the data collection and reporting processes.

There are two specific variables found in Table 11 (next page) impacted by the data coding and collection comments.

1. (Objective 6c.) Sports Mentoring Program- no differentiation provided on youth and adult enrollee participant counts- please see Appendix 1 for additional information.
2. (Objective 6d.) Youth Sports Programs- organization did not report unduplicated enrollee participant counts - please see Appendix 1 for additional information.

Table 10: Goal 6- Care Fresno- Participation in Services

Participation in Services (Life of Grant)	Totals
Conflict Resolution/Anger Management/Violence Avoidance/Social-Emotional Learning	245
Culturally Responsible/Culturally Competent Services	245
Diversion	272
Education: K-12/GED	245
Health: Physical Health	245
Life Skills/Healthy Choices/Family Management	267
Mentoring	102
Pro-social/Leadership Skills and Activities	272

Source: CalVIP, Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Table 11: Goal 6- Care Fresno- Statistics (Revised Unduplicated Number of Enrolled)

Quarter #1-#11 Period (Month, Year)	After School Program (6a)	GED Program (6b)	Sports Mentoring Program (6c) Ages: 6-13/14-35	Youth Sports (6d)
Q1: 10/2020-12/2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q2: 1/2021-3/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Q3: 4/2021-6/2021	0	0	0/0	0
Q4: 7/2021-9/2021	0	0	0/0	0
Q5: 10/2021-12/2021	0	0	0	0
Q6: 1/2022-3/2022	0	0	0	0
Q7: 4/2022-6/2022	0	16	13	0
Q8: 7/2022-9/2022	0	6	8	0
Q9: 10/2022-12/2022	0	2	3	0
Q10: 1/2023-3/2023	0	3	70	0
Q11: 4/2023-6/2023	141	2	8	0
Totals:	141	29	102	0

Source: CalVIP, Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Process Evaluation:

Goal #6- Care Fresno: Interrupt cycles of violence and poverty and reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults in at-risk communities by using evidence-based, violence-reduction strategies to provide education to children and youth, and young men.

Objective 6a- Total Number of Care Fresno project participants- 272 (unduplicated).

Project Objective 6a- Care Fresno After School Programs were to serve 100 children and youth during the grant period. The After School component of the program served 141 participants anticipated in this goal objective. The objective was achieved and exceeded.

Project Objective 6b- GED program was to serve 70 men during the grant period. The GED component of the program served 29 participants anticipated in this goal objective— about 42% of the objective. Based on QPR submissions, Care Fresno indicated they experienced difficulty recruiting participants even with continuous outreach efforts. This is not a surprise given the project performance period began on 10/01/2020- and as recent as November 2021, Governor Newsom extended the State of California COVID-19 emergency.⁸ This would negatively impact potential classroom participant numbers for Year 1. The COVID-19 Omicron variant was peaking in January 2022 further impacting indoor program participation in Year 2.⁹ In total, 2/3 of the project performance period was impacted by COVID-19 public health concerns which reduced the opportunity for project participation and meeting this anticipated target goal.

Project Objective 6c- Sports mentoring Program was to serve 100 youth/50 men during the project performance period. The Sports Mentoring component of the program served 102 unduplicated program and services participants. There was no breakdown of youth/men provided in the data. Therefore, the results are analyzed based on the anticipated total number of

⁸ <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2021/03/timeline-california-pandemic-year-key-points/>

⁹ <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2021/03/timeline-california-pandemic-year-key-points/>

participants (150), 68% of anticipated Sports Management participants were served by this program. Additional information is found in Appendix 1.

Objective 6d- Youth Sports- 200 youth during the grant period. According to the unduplicated program and service participant corrected count, the Youth Sports component of the project served 0 participants anticipated for this objective.

However, there is a problem in the data collection and reporting process here that impacted this participant count variable. Data was collected on Youth Sports participants, but the organization did not include unduplicated participant counts in data and QPR reporting for Quarters 3-6. Thus, for validity purposes, these unverified enrollment values (470 potential participants) were excluded from the analysis (See Appendix 1 Table 14). Participants from Quarters 7-11 were utilized as the data collection/reporting issue was resolved. In any case, this issue of problematic data collection resulted in “missing” a good number of participants. These numbers are discussed in additional detail below but is likely that this measure was met.

Table 11 (previous page) provides the Care Fresno educational program participant count: Conflict Resolution/Anger Management/Violence Avoidance/Social-Emotional Learning (245), Culturally Responsible/Culturally Competent Services (245), Diversion (272), Education: K-12/GED (245), Health: Physical Health (245), Life Skills/Healthy Choices/Family Management (267), Mentoring (102), Pro-social/Leadership Skills and Activities (272).

Outcome Evaluation:

(1) The number of participants who enroll in various education programs. There were 272 verified and unduplicated participants enrolled in these Care Fresno programs and services during the project performance period. A total of 520 participants would need to have been enrolled in these four (4) Care Fresno Programs to meet project objectives. About 52% of the anticipated participant enrollments were found for Care Fresno programs with the GED Program accounting for most of the deficiency. Appendix 1 includes unverified and potentially duplicate enrollment participants, but those numbers are not included here in this analysis.

(2) The number of participants who are arrested. Care Fresno indicated that there were no known arrests of program participants.

General Evaluation:

The findings of this project are mixed. Two out of the four process evaluation variables were met. One program process evaluation variable was 42% achieved due to participant

recruitment challenges. That being said—there were many participants in services offered—including GED, physical health, and additional mentoring and leadership components.

One anticipated problem here was the relatively slow start of enrollments into the program offerings. During Q3-Q6, the data provided included potential duplicated values and has therefore been excluded from this analysis. Q7 is when the number of enrollees and participants began and could be confirmed as unduplicated values. It is clear that some of these early quarter participant counts could have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 effects found from 2020-2022 including policies limiting some of the activities found here.

Recommendations:

1. Program service enrollments are key to establish and operate effective programs. More recruiting, promotion, and marketing should be done effectively to increase these numbers.
2. Additional investment and technical assistance training is needed to ensure data collection methods reliably distinguish unique participants from duplicate participants.

FRESNO RESILIENCY CENTER (FRC)

Overview: Program Objectives and Activities

Program #7 Goal: To mitigate the long-term impact of generational trauma and violence on kids by offering mental health services in real time.

Program Objectives:

7a. Offer Case Management services and licensed clinical counseling to all kids impacted by violence and trauma within 72 hours of critical incident.

7b. Provide mental health services to all victims, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

7c. Create partnerships with local school districts for additional support.

Fresno Resiliency Center (FRC) is an existing program which serves as First Responders in emergency situations for children impacted by emotional trauma. The FPO notifies the FRC of all calls for service, approximately 500-700 monthly, involving youth victims or witnesses of trauma. The FRC pro-actively reaches out to youth and family within the first 72 hours post call, offering resources, psycho-education and counseling by licensed mental health clinicians. The FRC is the sole agency with access to these calls for service and has the ability to initiate contact with a hurting family in a matter of hours. The selection of this strategy is due to the FRC's ability to offer a variety of trauma informed treatment immediately, including but not limited to mindfulness, cognitive behavioral therapy, relaxation, grounding, journaling, narrative therapy, and play therapy.

The plan of treatment goals was created after staff have learned and developed a trusting relationship with the parents and youth, including an assessment of youth level of learning/phase of life. This strategy achieves violence reduction by offering services aimed towards youth who face repeating family patterns through generations. This mechanism provides for real time to intervene and provides a cultural shift where we can eliminate the stigma of "what is wrong with you?" and start asking "what happened to you?" The program focuses on maintaining and sustaining engagement for clients receiving mental health services to offer "consistency" for a family to want to change or accept services and maintain an open-door policy for resources and services.

Counseling services by licensed clinicians are provided to kids, parents and siblings. After one (1) week of services, each child is re-evaluated and a new treatment plan is written for them to remain at the Center or be transitioned into another community agency. There was oversight of FRC clinical aspects, including establishing/maintaining policies and procedures with strict adherence to industry standards. Also, FRC supervision and trauma informed

training was provided for Associate therapists, clinical counselors, and trainees from local universities.

Program Participants

Program participants are drawn from the 500-700 monthly calls for service (approximately) involving youth victims or witnesses of trauma. The FRC pro-actively reaches out to youth and family within the first 72 hours post call, offering resources, psycho-education and counseling by licensed mental health clinicians. Program participants are those contacted that sought resources and services.

Research Design

Process Evaluation:

The following variables were tracked throughout the project period to ensure proper implementation of the program and make program modification recommendations.

- (1) The number of youths and adults to use provided health services.
- (2) The number of youths and adults who use provided mental health services.
- (3) The number of participants who utilize case management services.

The above variables were analyzed with descriptive statistics over the grant performance period.

Outcome Evaluation:

The following outcome variables are utilized to assess the impact of the FRC.

- (1) The number of participants who complete counseling services.
- (2) The number of participants who complete other mental health services.
- (3) The number of partnerships created with local school districts.

Variables are compared among program participants to identify participant characteristics that are receptive to intervention programs. Furthermore, the number of participants that complete various mental health services will be analyzed and evaluated. Comparisons will be made to assess the impact of interventions on participants, completion rates, and outcomes of those utilizing these mental health services.

FINDINGS

There were several process evaluation variables summarized below on Goal 7- Table 12 and Table 13 (below) and analyzed in further detail in the narrative.

Goal 7- Fresno Resiliency Center- To mitigate the long-term impact of generational trauma and violence on kids by offering mental health services in real time.

Objective 7a- Case Management services within 72 hours of critical incident.

Objective 7b- Provide mental health services to all victims, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

Objective 7c- Create partnerships with local school districts for additional support.

Complete MOUs with FSU, FPU, and Alliant School of Psychology
Fresno Unified, Resiliency Center, Department of Behavioral Health

Table 12: Goal 7- Fresno Resiliency Center- Unduplicated Number of Enrolled

Quarter	Enrolled	Second Enrolled	Third Enrolled
Quarter #3	16		
Quarter #4	21		
Quarter #5	11		
Quarter #6	10		
Quarter #7	15		
Quarter #8	26		
Quarter #9	1		
Quarter #10	8		
Quarter #11	12		
Totals	120	0	0

Source: CalVIP Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Table 13: Goal 7- Fresno Resiliency Center- Participation in Services

Participation in Services (Life of Grant)	Totals
Case Management	120
Health: Mental Behavioral	120

Source: CalVIP Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

Process Evaluation:

Project Goal Objective (#7a) was to provide Case Management services within 72 hours of critical incidents. Table 12 data indicated that 120 unduplicated participants enrolled.

Project Goal Objective (#7b) was to provide Mental Health to all victims. Table 13 data (above) indicated that 120 participants enrolled in mental health services.

An additional process evaluation measure includes the number of participants seeking case management services. Table 13 (previous page) data indicated that 120 participants enrolled in case management services.

Outcome Evaluation:

In terms of project outcome 7c- we are interested in the number of MOUs that were completed by prospective partnerships with FRC. There was one signed MOU with the Fresno Police Department.

General Evaluation:

Fresno Resiliency Center provided valuable mental health resources and support in crises situations. They served 120 participants including case management and mental-behavioral health care. In terms of outcomes, it would be great to see an increasing number of formal partnerships as established by MOUs with key Fresno stakeholders.

Recommendations:

1. Given the importance of mental and behavioral health issues to community wellness, additional partnerships with key community stakeholders should be undertaken. A campaign to develop new partnerships, strengthen existing partnerships, and sign formal agreements (MOU's) should be implemented to generate additional network partners and referring agencies and organizations.
2. Continue efforts to develop formal signed MOU's with key partners.

APPENDIX 1

Table 14: Goal 6- Care Fresno- Statistics- Potential Duplicate Enrollment Data

Quarter #1-#11 Period (Month, Year)	After School Program (6a)	GED Program (6b)	Sports Mentoring Program (6c) Ages: 6-13/14-35	Youth Sports (6d)
Q1: 10/2020-12/2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q2: 1/2021-3/2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q3: 4/2021-6/2021	59	0	15	15
Q4: 7/2021-9/2021	69	0	0/0	75
Q5: 10/2021-12/2021	30	4	166/0	184
Q6: 1/2022-3/2022	124	3	21/8	124
Q7: 4/2022-6/2022	91	16	13	56
Q8: 7/2022-9/2022	40	22	20	8
Q9: 10/2022-12/2022	124	1	0/24	8
Q10: 1/2023-3/2023	112	3	0/25	0
Q11: 4/2023-6/2023	208	3	0/25	0
Totals:	857	52	187/130	470

Data Source: QPR Data Collection and Reporting Numbers Unverified