



Advance Peace Stockton

Local Evaluation Report
CalVIP Cohort 3

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Safe Passages/Advance Peace

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Introduction

This report summarizes key findings from the Advance Peace (AP) Stockton program, Peacemaker Fellowship that ran from October 2020 through June 2023 as part of the California Violence Intervention Program, Cohort 3. The AP Stockton program spent the first months in a start-up phase, recruiting outreach workers, training them, and launching the street outreach apparatus. The community violence prevention and intervention work, including intensive participant mentoring and street outreach as part of the Peacemaker Fellowship was launched in January 2021. Thus, this evaluation report focuses on the period of the Advance Peace, Peacemaker Fellowship, **from January 2021 through June 2023.**

We found a statistically significant reduction in the number of arrests and gun-shot injuries among Peacemaker Fellows and almost 90% reported not using guns after the program. There was also a 28.6% reduction in youth (<18 years old) firearm homicides and a 5% reduction in firearm homicide victims under 35 years old during the Peacemaker Fellowship from January 2021 through June 2023.

The Peacemaker Fellowship is an intensive program of mentorship, social services and opportunities for active firearm offenders who have not been apprehended by law enforcement. The Fellowship uses these methods and others described below to convince ‘shooters’ to stop, and get the healing and life supports they need to remain free and peaceful. This report was drafted by Professor Jason Corburn (jcorburn@berkeley.edu), from the UC Berkeley, School of Public Health and Center for Global Healthy Cities, along with research staff from the UCB Learning and Evaluation (L&E) team.

What is Advance Peace?

Advance Peace is a national non-profit, that works in multiple cities to reduce gun violence and promote community healing. Advance Peace reduces urban gun violence by engaging with the people most impacted by cyclical & retaliatory gun violence. The engagement is done by a team of mostly formerly incarcerated, street outreach workers. The outreach workers, called Neighborhood Change Agents (NCAs) engage those creating the gun violence risk daily, providing mentorship, helping mediate conflicts, managing anger, and enrolling them in the Peacemaker Fellowship.® While in the Fellowship, NCAs develops a Life Management Action Plan (LifeMAP) with each Fellow, which acts as their roadmap for activities, services and a transition to a more peaceful life. Also in the Fellowship, participants get intensive, one-on-one and group supports, counseling, social service navigation and referrals, as well as job readiness, internships, opportunities to travel and, if making progress, a LifeMAP milestone allowance. Advance Peace puts those most acutely impacted by gun violence at the center of developing solutions and focuses on healing the individual & supporting community change.

Goals of Advance Peace (AP) Stockton, Peacemaker Fellowship

Enrolled 134 Peacemaker Fellows

*Goal 1a – 85% engaging staff 3-5 hours/week.

Accomplishment: 33,992 total hours of engagement; 182 weeks program =187 hours/week; avg. \approx 1.5 hours/week/fellow.

Goal 1b – 70% participants completed 12 weeks of life skills-training

Accomplishment: 57% of fellows completed 12-weeks of life-skills training.

*Goal 1c – 70% of fellows participate in trauma-centered counseling, CBT or group sessions.

Accomplishment: 80% participated in CBT, 78% in culturally responsive counseling, and 71% in trauma-informed practices.

*Goal 2a – 90% alive at completion.

Accomplishment: 96% are still

*Goal 2b – 75% no gun-related injuries/hospitalizations.

Accomplishment: 94% were not injured by a gun.

*Goal 2c – 75% of enrolled fellows will have no new gun charges after becoming a fellow.

Accomplishment: 83% of fellows were not arrested on a new gun charge.

*Goal 3a – 78% Fellows engaging in pro-social activities.

Accomplishment: 77% are engaging in pro-social activities.

*Goal 3b – 75% fellows have attitude change towards violence and other anti-social behavior

Accomplishment: 89% of Fellows are not using guns

*Goal 3c – 75% Fellows have knowledge of appropriate responses to violence

Accomplishment: 87% have improved conflict resolution skills

* = Target Goal met/accomplished

Data Sources:

The findings of this report reflect a mixed set of methods employed by the UCB team. First, observation and group focus groups were gathered with AP Stockton program staff. Next, we utilized weekly activity logs and case reports from **AP Stockton, Neighborhood Change Agents (NCAs)**, which captured all their street outreach activities, including conflict mediations. NCAs are the street outreach workers who engage those at the center of gun violence in Stockton daily. Third, we reviewed all data pertaining to the AP Peacemaker Fellows, or the key clients of AP Stockton. Fourth, we used crime data provided monthly by the Stockton Police Department. We focused our analyses on firearm homicides (CA Criminal Code 187) and firearm assaults (CA Criminal code 245).

Process Evaluation Data:

The Advance Peace (AP) Stockton program is supported by the Advance Peace national non-profit. AP Stockton was established in 2018 and utilized the CalVIP Cohort 3 resources to launch its second Peacemaker Fellowship, enroll additional participants and increase the training and support to outreach workers delivering the Peacemaker Fellowship. There are 6 Neighborhood Change Agents, one coordinator of the NCAs and one program manager, for a staff of 8.

The AP Stockton program spent the first 3 months of the CalVIP training staff and receiving support for the implementing the Peacemaker Fellowship from AP national staff and outreach workers from the city of Richmond's Office of Neighborhood Safety. The AP Stockton staff also participated in Advance Peace leadership trainings and multiple trainings by the UC Berkeley Evaluation team. During this period, the AP Stockton staff was identifying a new cohort of fellows and building service-delivery partnerships with the following local organizations: The OWL Movement CBO; Native Directions Inc; Concrete Development; San Joaquin County Probation Probation/Parole ; San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office; San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office; Faith in The Valley of San Joaquin. The AP Stockton staff also kept the City of Stockton, mostly through the city's OVP, informed of its work and the potential fellows it would recruit.

In January 2021, the AP Stockton team began enrolling Fellows. Each fellow was interviewed and their assigned NCA filled out their intake forms. Within thirty-days, more than 74 fellows had drafted LifeMAPs with their assigned NCA. The NCAs continued to both mentor their fellows and perform street violence interruptions. The AP Stockton program also navigated the COVID-19 rules during this period, maintaining social distancing, which meant they couldn't engage face-to-face with their fellows in all settings. The outreach team used Zoom when possible, but instead met with fellows outside and using protective equipment. They also engaged with fellows over the phone and through social media. The AP Stockton program also had to rebuild city-knowledge and awareness of their work since there was a new Mayor, city manager, and police chief during the program period.

Advance Peace Stockton, Community Engagements & Violence Interruptions (2021-2023)

18,049 Fellow Engagements for 24,811 hours. These are 1-on-1 engagements between an AP Stockton NCA and their assigned Fellow.

5,866 Street Outreaches for 7,145 hours. Street Outreach is when an AP Stockton NCA engages someone with close proximity, influence, relevance & importance to a Fellow, like a family member, but the person is not a Fellow.

NCA Street/Community Conflict Mediations

Our research suggests that AP Stockton NCAs are regularly putting themselves in the middle of harm's way to diffuse conflictual situations, frequently where guns are present. This is not only life-threatening for the NCAs, but it is also traumatizing. The NCAs told us these experiences can also re-traumatize them and bring-up their own past experiences with violence, abuse and guns. We also learned that NCAs work 24/7, responding to situations when they occur even in the middle of the night, during their own family's functions, on weekends, etc. We also learned that NCAs spend time on social media looking for potential conflicts based on postings by their Fellows, their friends and rivals.

350 General Conflict Mediations for 1,125 hours. These are interventions in the community to resolve a dispute that likely involves or impacts a Fellow and takes place during normal business hours. No guns were present or likely to be used. These number of conflict mediations occurred in the following neighborhoods:
97 – North Stockton; 98 – South Stockton; 46 – Central Stockton; 48 – East Stockton
39 – West Stockton.

77 After Hours Conflict Mediations for 168.5 hours. These are general conflicts (see above) that occurs after normal business hours (i.e., in the middle of the night).

50 Shooting Responses for 128.5 hours. This is when an AP Stockton NCA goes to the scene of a shooting and works to understand what happened and prevent any potential retaliation.

40 Cyclical & Retaliatory Gun Violence Interruptions (CRGVI) for 286.5 hours. CRGVI are when an AP Stockton NCA interrupts a conflict where guns are present and/or very likely to be used. Also, where the conflicting parties are/have been engaged in retaliatory gun violence.

26 Social Media conflict mediations for 60.5 hours – This is when an NCA scans social media and comments on, advises, intervenes to address a post made by Fellow on various social media (Instagram, Facebook, etc.) that likely antagonizes and could/does stimulate a violent response.

The Advance Peace Stockton, Peacemaker Fellowship

At the heart of the Advance Peace program is the Peacemaker Fellowship. The **Peacemaker Fellowship** is the opportunity where enrolled Fellows receive everyday mentorship, 24/7, from their NCA & work to achieve personal **Life Management Action Plan (LifeMAP)** goals that will help them avoid gun violence.

The Peacemaker Fellowship only enrolls the most likely perpetrators of gun violence in Stockton, as determined by referrals from key partners, street knowledge of the outreach workers, and other information provided to Advance Peace leadership. The Fellows do not have to be gang-affiliated, of a certain age, or have other enrollment criteria except that they are highly likely to be/have been involved in gun crime and have avoided the reach of law enforcement to date.

Once Fellows are identified, they are recruited into the Peacemaker Fellowship. It is important to note that most potential Fellows are skeptical of the Advance Peace Program, they distrust most organizations, have been let down by most adults/institutions in their lives and are often living in the ‘shadows’ to avoid being a victim of gun violence themselves. Therefore, much work and time goes into recruiting and enrolling the right people into the Peacemaker Fellowship. This process takes at least six or more months in Advance Peace cities, and frequently potential fellows are engaged for some period of time until they agree to ‘officially’ enroll into the Peacemaker Fellowship.

Once a person agrees to enroll into the Peacemaker Fellowship, intake information on their background and experiences is captured in their ‘fellow profile.’ These data are gathered by their assigned NCA mentor, and includes their birthday, race/ethnicity, and questions about any experiences they have had that might be influencing their use of guns, traumas they might be grappling with, and characteristics that might be built upon to help them avoid a life of engaging in gun crime. The characteristics of the Advance Peace Stockton Fellows enrolled in the cohort 2021-2023, appear in Table 1. We also capture fellow assets or strengths in order to build upon these in developing the Fellow’s Life Management Action Plan (LifeMAP) and to identify opportunities for them to pursue during the Peacemaker Fellowship.

Many of the intake questions are specifically designed to capture Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Research suggests that self-reported ACEs is linked to trauma that adversely impacts decision making, interpreting social situations as safe or threatening and cognitive development. This research also reveals that it is possible to prevent the negative impacts of ACEs on behaviors by creating regular supportive connections in schools and the community, teaching anger management, and ensuring that young people have consistent healthy adult supervision/mentorship.^{1, 2, 3}

Importantly, the ACEs do not capture any experience with or exposure to gun violence. Thus, the intake questions specifically ask the AP Stockton Fellows about any prior exposure to gun violence.

- 100% of the fellow enrolled voluntarily.
- Of the 134 enrolled Fellows, 55% are African American. 38% Latino; 7% Asian.
- Fellows’ average age is 27 years old.
- 98% male and 2% female

Table 1: Ap Stockton Fellow Intake Characteristics:

Risk factors for gun violence	Percentage responding Yes
Any Prior Arrests	78.67
Currently on Parole	57.32
Previously Incarcerated	73.81
Currently Employed	21.59
Ever in Foster Care	7.50
School Suspension	68.60
Currently receiving regular social services	16.25
Currently in School	17.05
Is a Parent	44.83
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)s questions	Percentage responding Yes
Ever/regular physically assaulted in home	72.15
Ever/regular verbal abuse	65.00
Ever on Food Stamps/food insecure	54.28
Ever homeless	47.50
Household member depressed	68.67
Witnessed domestic violence	78.83
Lived in household with addiction	67.90
Parent incarcerated	64.47
Ever witnessed a homicide	64.47
Has a Caring adult in life	8.89

Table 2: AP Stockton, Gun Violence Exposures

Prior Gun Violence Exposure	Percentage responding Yes
Ever Shot at	82.93
Prior gun-shot injuries	34.18
Prior arrest on a gun/firearm-related charge	68.22
Family Member killed by gun	61.04

Table 3: AP Stockton, Fellow Assets/Strengths at Intake

	Percentage responding Yes
Has Artistic Talents	30.56
Has Marketable Skills	53.58
Has a Strong Work Ethic	72.50
Is Open to Changing life	89.13
Is a charismatic Leader	62.16
Is a critical Thinker	91.84

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

■ Count of fellows with ACE

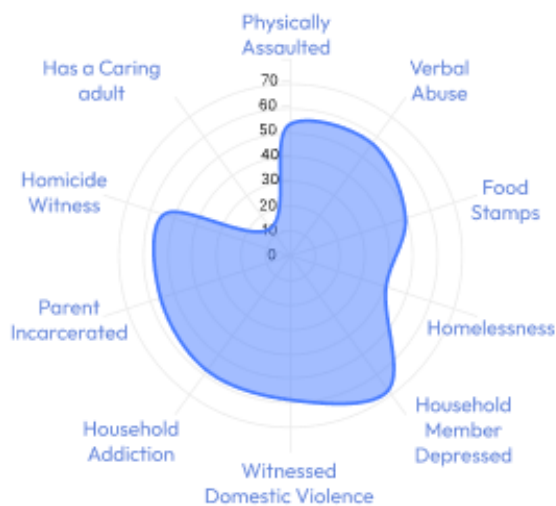


Figure 1: Adverse Childhood Experiences of Advance Peace Stockton, Peacemaker Fellows

65% of AP Stockton Fellows had 4 or more ACEs prior to enrolling.

58% of AP Stockton Fellows had 4 or more ACEs and 2 or more Gun Violence Exposures prior to enrolling

Advance Peace Stockton, Impact Evaluation:

The following describes the percentage of AP Stockton Fellows or participants that received each service or support:

100% - case management/mentorship

78% - Culturally Responsive Counseling. This is when an NCA who understands and is from a similar cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds of their ‘client’ offers supports to address trauma, promote healing and change unhealthy behaviors. This is done in a way that does not assume or essentialize a ‘culture,’ ensures NCAs approach clients with humility, and helps clients understand the ways institutions and social systems create and perpetuate trauma.

80% - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) sessions. This is when an NCA helps their Fellow to identify & change the destructive or disturbing thought patterns and traumas that have a negative influence on their behavior and emotions. CBT helps Fellows reflect on their own thinking, slow down in key moments of conflict, practice less harmful responses in dangerous situations, and to being to adapt their behavior to a new, non-violent identity.

84% - Life Coaching sessions. This is when an NCA delivers culturally responsive and competent support for a Fellow to help them identify their strengths, weaknesses and trauma, and help them overcome obstacles holding them back.

24% - Social Service Navigations. This is when an NCA supports their Fellow with any social services, such as the DMV, housing assistance, the legal system, welfare benefits, etc.

16% – Job Readiness – this is when an NCA supports a Fellow in preparing them for employment (i.e., create a resume, apply for certification classes, get an ID, etc.).

34%- Internships. These are opportunities for Fellows that are enrolled and participating in the Fellowship for at least six months. These typically are part-time paid opportunities that prepare a Fellow for full-time work.

57%- Life Skills Class. These are groups of Fellows learning about important life affirming skills, frequently facilitated by an NCA or a third-party professional.

13% -Elder Circles. The Elder’s Circle is a group of community members that meet with Fellows to share their life experiences and ways they avoided gun violence and became successful in raising a family, in business and other endeavors.

27% - participated in an Excursion or Transformative Travel. Transformative travel is when the AP Stockton team takes more than one Fellow out-of-state to a cultural, educational or other trip and exposes them to life-affirming opportunities. The Transformative Travel only occurs after a Fellow has been enrolled and actively participating in the Peacemaker Fellowship for at least 6 months, is making progress on their LifeMAP, is regularly attending Life Skills classes, and agrees to travel with another Fellow, who happens to be one of their rivals.

85% - Attended Conflict Resolution/Anger Management/Violence Avoidance/Social Emotional Learning or Training

71% - Received De-escalation/Violence Interruption/Intervention Services

77% - Received Pro-social/Leadership Skills and Activities

25% - Received Substance Abuse Treatment

71% - Received/experienced Trauma-Informed/Restorative Justice Practices

1,091 - Referrals, for 920 hours. The NCAs also refer their Fellows to social service providers, such as substance abuse, anger management, housing, food security and others. Referrals included anger management counseling, court/criminal justice system supports, DMV, family supports, housing and food assistance, health care, GED programs, mental health services, and substance abuse counseling, among others.

Influences on Peacemaker Fellows

We used a McNemar’s test (also known as the paired or matched chi-square) to examine the difference in the proportion of Fellows pre-and-post-intervention reporting the following outcomes:

Fellow Variables	Total %
Gun arrest prior to AP Stockton	68.2%
Gun arrest since AP Fellowship	17%*
-75.8% decrease in the number of Fellows with gun charge arrest	
Gun-shot injury prior to AP Stockton	34.2%
Gun-shot injury since AP Fellowship	6.2%*
-82.2% decrease in the number of Fellows with a gun-shot injury	
Any arrest prior to AP Stockton	78.7%
Any arrest since AP Fellowship	20.6%*
-80.9% decrease in the number of Fellows arrested	
Caring adult in life prior to AP Stockton	8.9%
Caring adult in life since AP Fellowship	70.4%*
+650% increase in Fellows reporting having a caring adult in their lives	
Receiving supportive social services prior to AP Stockton	16.3%
Receiving supportive social services since AP Fellowship	87.5%*
+433% increase in the number of Fellows receiving social services	

(* = p < 0.01)

Table 4: AP Stockton, Peacemaker Fellowship, Fellow outcomes, 2023 (n=129)

	% reporting Yes
Improved mental health	82.93
Improved conflict/anger mgt skills	87.06
Improved physical health	67.90
Feel safer in my community	88.75
Improved basic needs	68.48
Secure housing	58.48
Not using guns	88.75
Employed/new job skills	72.15

Stockton Gun Crime Data

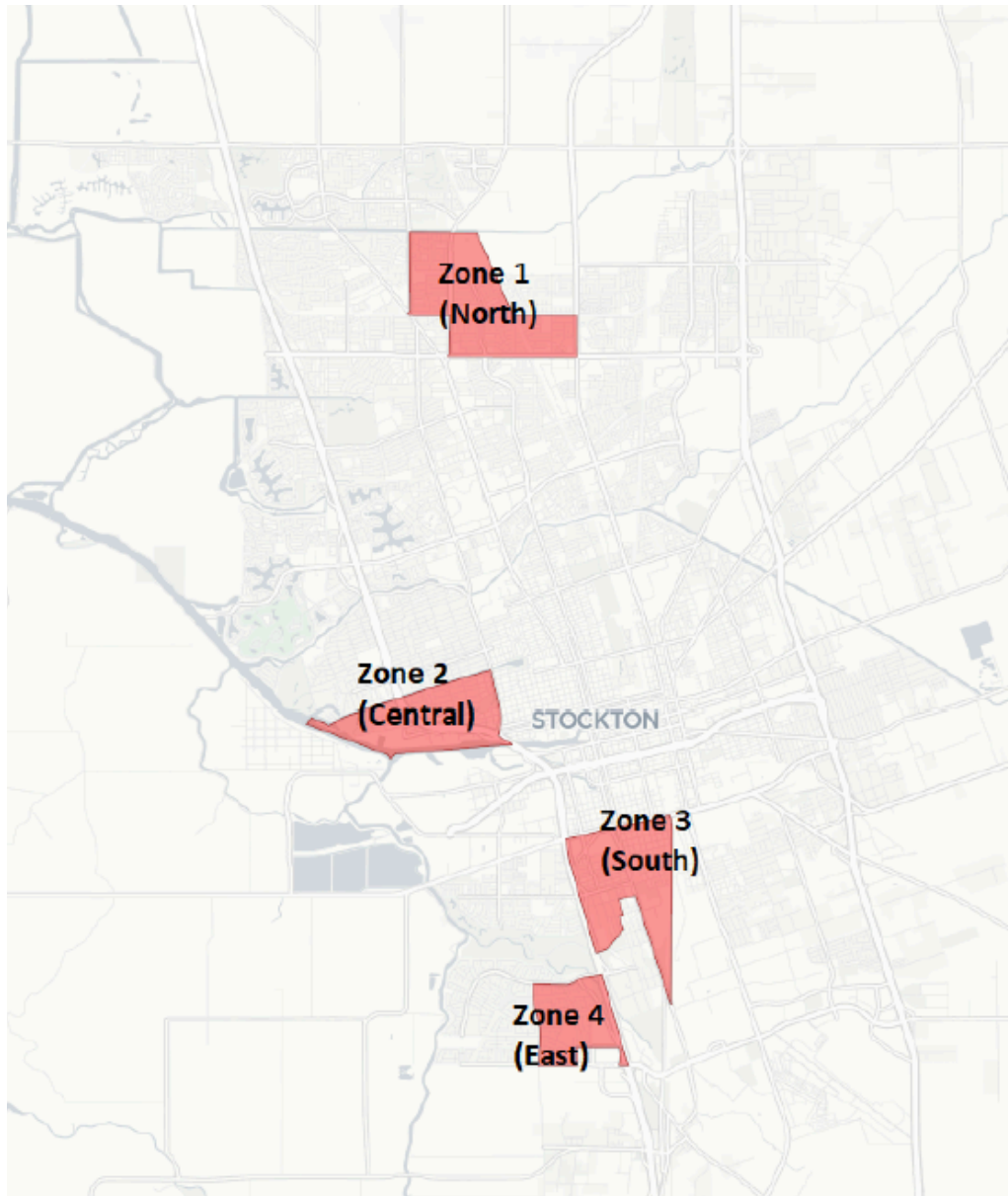
We analyzed firearm homicide and non-fatal shootings during the AP Stockton, Peacemaker Fellowship period of January 2021 through June 2023. In most cases, we compared the intervention period to a pre-intervention, 30-month period of January 2016 through June 2018. The comparison period was selected since it was before the Advance Peace program started its first cohort in Stockton in October 2018. While overall firearm violence was not significantly reduced in Stockton during the AP Peacemaker Fellowship from January 2021 through June 2023, there was a 28.6% reduction in youth (<18 years old) firearm homicides compared to the comparison period (5 vs. 7) and a 50% reduction in Latino youth homicides (2 vs. 4) during the Peacemaker Fellowship period. During the Peacemaker Fellowship, there was a reduction in gun homicides among all age groups under 35 years old but an increase in gun homicides among those 35 years and older. While Advance Peace does not limit Fellows by age, they focus on shooters under the age of 35. Thus, there was a 5% decrease in gun homicide during the Peacemaker Fellowship for those under 35 and a 26.7% increase in gun homicides for those over 35 during this period (Figure 2).

Stockton, City-wide	Comparison: 01/2016-06/2018	AP Fellowship: 01/2021-06/2023	Absolute Change	% Change
Firearm Homicides	97	102	+5	+5.1%
Firearm Assaults	521	649	+128	+24.5%
Firearm Homicides and Assaults	618	751	+133	+21.5%

Figure 2: Stockton Gun Homicides by Age Groups, Peacemaker Fellowship & Pre-intervention Periods



While participation in the AP Stockton program is not restricted or limited to any area, the practicalities are that the NCAs focus their outreach in certain areas or zones. The AP Stockton Zones appear in Figure 3.



During the 2021-2023 AP Stockton Peacemaker Fellowship, there was a 21% reduction in gun homicides and non-fatal shooting in Zone 1 & a 22.8% reduction in Zone 3.

There were no decreases in the other Zones and Zone 4 had a 33% increase during the Peacemaker Fellowship, 2021-2023 period.

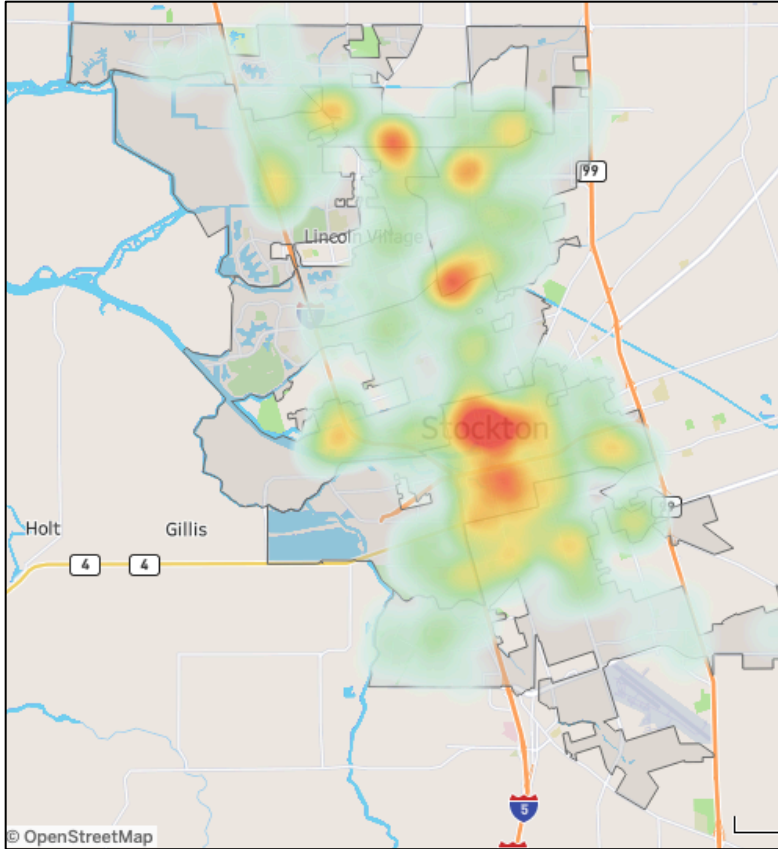


Figure 4 (left):

Density of Firearm Homicides and Non-Fatal Shootings, Stockton, January 2016- June 2018

There is a high concentration of gun crime in the Central area.

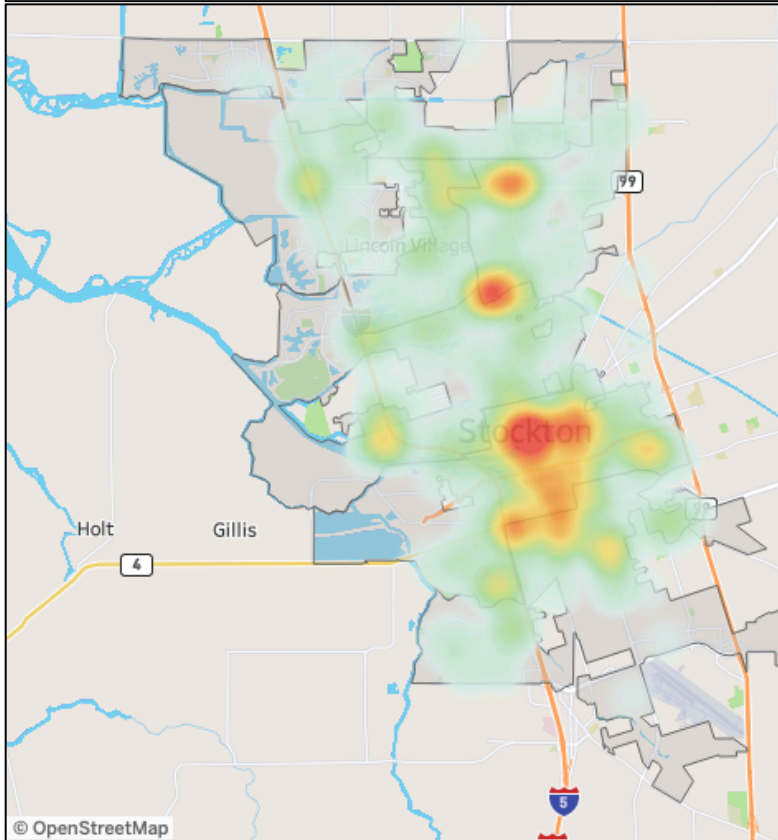


Figure 5 (left):

Density of Firearm Homicides and Non-Fatal Shootings, Stockton, January 2021- June 2023

The concentration of gun crimes remains in the Central area; in and around Zone 3 there is a reduction in gun crimes, well as in and around Zone 1.

Cost Savings Analysis

The benefits of the Advance Peace Stockton intervention were calculated by first using the cost estimates of the cost of gun violence in Stockton as calculated by the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR),⁴ which calculated the governmental and societal costs to Stockton of \$2.5M per homicide and \$962,000 per injury shooting. These costs include the emergency and police response, law enforcement investigation, District Attorney and Public Defender's office, hospitalization/health care, pre-trial incarceration and prison placement, victim supports, and lost revenue from victim and perpetrator not paying taxes.

Using data reported by the AP Stockton NCAs, there were **40 cyclical and retaliatory gun interruptions** (see definition above) over the Peacemaker Fellowship. **If all 40 of these incidents resulted in shootings with an injury, the costs would have been about \$38 million, and if all 40 were gun homicides, the cost would have been about \$100 million.**

Conclusions

This evaluation report has shown that the AP Stockton program has made significant contributions to community violence reduction in Stockton, improved the lives of program participants and is reducing recidivism. We also found that The AP Stockton program is helping to save public resources, interrupting tens of potential gun conflicts and contributing to a more peaceful Stockton for all.

¹ Garduno L. S. (2021). How Influential are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on Youths?: Analyzing the Immediate and Lagged Effect of ACEs on Deviant Behaviors. *Journal of child & adolescent trauma*, 15(3), 683–700. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-00423-4>

² Bellis, M. A., Hardcastle, K., Ford, K., Hughes, K., Ashton, K., Quigg, Z., & Butler, N. (2017). Does continuous trusted adult support in childhood impart life-course resilience against adverse childhood experiences - a retrospective study on adult health-harming behaviours and mental well-being. *BMC psychiatry*, 17(1), 110. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-017-1260-z>

³ Santilli, A., O'Connor Duffany, K., Carroll-Scott, A., Thomas, J., Greene, A., Arora, A., Agnoli, A., Gan, G., & Ickovics, J. (2017). Bridging the Response to Mass Shootings and Urban Violence: Exposure to Violence in New Haven, Connecticut. *American journal of public health*, 107(3), 374–379. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303613>

⁴ <https://nicjr.org/wp-content/themes/nicjr-child/assets/Stockton.pdf>