



KANSAS CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW

The Power of
Partnership and Data

INTRODUCTION

Kansas City continues to strengthen a collaborative approach to reducing community violence, bringing together partners from across the community around a shared commitment to safer neighborhoods. Over the past several years, public agencies, community organizations, healthcare systems, businesses, philanthropy, researchers, faith leaders, and residents have aligned around a shared strategy that integrates prevention, intervention, enforcement, reentry, victim services, and neighborhood investment. Together, these partnerships have significantly expanded the community's capacity to serve individuals and neighborhoods most impacted by violence. These partnerships complement and strengthen traditional law enforcement efforts, while also emphasizing and expanding comprehensive public safety efforts.

This coordinated, data-driven approach has produced measurable results. Between 2020 and 2025, Kansas City experienced a 61.7% reduction in shootings, reflecting the collective impact of sustained investments in community violence intervention, focused law enforcement strategies, and cross-sector collaboration. Community-based organizations have filled longstanding service gaps by

providing trusted outreach, intensive case management, workforce development, behavioral health services, victim support, and neighborhood stabilization. These efforts have strengthened trust between residents and public institutions, improved coordination among partners, and contributed to higher case clearance rates by fostering stronger community engagement and information sharing.

Beyond improving public safety, violence reduction delivers significant economic benefits. Homicides cost the Kansas City region more than \$2 billion annually in medical expenses, criminal justice costs, lost productivity, and diminished community well-being. Every homicide prevented represents an estimated \$13.8 million in economic savings, demonstrating that investments in prevention not only save lives but also generate substantial returns for taxpayers, businesses, and communities.

Grounded in shared accountability, continuous performance measurement, and evidence-based decision-making, Kansas City's collective impact model continues to build a safer, healthier, and more equitable community. This report highlights the partnerships, investments, and measurable outcomes that are transforming public safety and improving quality of life across Kansas City.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF Comprehensive Public Safety

1 Collaboration

KC 360 serves as the backbone of Kansas City's violence reduction ecosystem, convening partners weekly to share real-time data, identify emerging trends, coordinate resources, and develop collaborative solutions. This consistent communication strengthens trust, streamlines service delivery, improves accountability, and enables partners to respond rapidly to community needs through a collective impact approach.

2 Prevention

Prevention strategies focus on addressing the root causes of violence before it occurs by investing in youth, families, and neighborhoods. Partners work together to expand youth employment, mentoring, education, behavioral health services, conflict mediation, family support, and neighborhood engagement while connecting residents to opportunities that strengthen long-term community stability.

3 Intervention

Community violence intervention partners engage individuals and families at the highest risk of violence through street outreach, school-based engagement, hospital response, neighborhood outreach, and intensive case management. Credible messengers and individuals with lived experience build trusted relationships that connect participants to employment, education, housing, behavioral health, mentoring, and other supportive services, thus creating alternatives to violence and pathways toward long-term success.

4 Enforcement & Community Engagement

KC 360 provides a consistent platform for collaboration between law enforcement and community partners to identify strategies that prevent and reduce gun violence. Through shared intelligence, coordinated responses, and community-informed problem solving, partners work together to improve public safety while strengthening trust, increasing case clearance rates, and expanding diversion and intervention opportunities that reduce unnecessary arrests, detention, and incarceration. This balanced approach supports both accountability and long-term systems improvement.

5 Reentry

Reentry partners collaborate to ensure returning citizens successfully transition back into the community through coordinated, wraparound support. Beginning prior to release, partners develop individualized reentry plans and provide direct connections to housing, employment, education, healthcare, behavioral health services, mentoring, and community resources. This coordinated approach reduces barriers to successful reintegration, strengthens community stability, and decreases the likelihood of future justice system involvement.

Expanding Community Leadership, Empowerment, and Ownership

Kansas City's violence reduction ecosystem has grown into one of the nation's largest cross-sector public safety collaboratives. What began as a weekly convening of about 25 stakeholders has evolved into KC 360, a collaborative violence-prevention model driven by trust, data, and action. Today, KC 360 convenes more than 600 individuals representing over 350 organizations across public safety, neighborhoods, healthcare, education, business, philanthropy, faith communities, and government.

KC 360 has become the backbone infrastructure for citywide collaboration, aligning partners around a shared vision of creating a safer Kansas City through coordinated prevention, intervention, enforcement, and neighborhood investment. By breaking down silos, accelerating information sharing, and fostering shared accountability, the collaborative has strengthened relationships between community organizations, residents, and public agencies while creating sustainable solutions that no single organization could accomplish alone.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Built one of the Midwest's largest collaborative violence reduction networks, engaging more than 350 organizations and 600 cross-sector leaders.
- Established five standing action committees focused on Youth Empowerment, Business Engagement, Reentry, Community & Police Relations, and Neighborhood Outreach to coordinate citywide strategies. • Expanded community leadership by increasing resident participation, neighborhood engagement, and cross-sector partnerships.
- Increased participation from businesses, healthcare systems, universities, faith communities, and community-based organizations.
- Mobilized thousands of collective community actions supporting violence prevention, neighborhood stabilization, and public safety.
- Trained residents and community leaders in evidence-based conflict resolution, violence de-escalation, and community engagement practices.
- Expanded youth employment opportunities starting with Working for Youth, providing paid internships, career coaching, mentoring, and workforce development for 750 young people annually.
- Improved physical environments in neighborhoods most impacted by violence through community cleanups, repair of bullet-damaged property, traffic calming, bus stop relocation, expanded lighting, beautification projects, and neighborhood activation efforts.
- Established regular door-to-door outreach and community canvassing to build trust, connect residents with resources, and engage individuals who have historically been disconnected from services.
- Accelerated early prevention by connecting disconnected youth and young adults to employment, education, behavioral health, mentoring, and supportive services.
- Strengthened trust, collaboration, and information sharing among community organizations, residents, public agencies, and law enforcement, contributing to Kansas City's lowest homicide rate in eight years in 2025.

Village Initiative

An asset-based framework for community safety and violence prevention centered at the neighborhood level.

- KC 360 partners address the top issues of each neighborhood that residents have identified. Residents can serve their neighborhoods as block captains, event volunteers, and through other roles.
- The first Village launched in 2022 in the Santa Fe neighborhood of East Kansas City. Since then, other neighborhoods have joined the village initiative, and Santa Fe has seen a 33% decrease in shootings over the past three years.

RECASTING DRIVERS OF VIOLENCE

Kansas City's violence reduction strategy has evolved from simply responding to violent incidents, to addressing the individuals, relationships, and underlying conditions that drive violence. At the center of this approach is Community Violence Intervention (CVI), an evidencebased public safety strategy that engages individuals at the highest risk of violence before incidents occur. Nationally, CVI programs have been shown to reduce violence by as much as 60 percent by leveraging trusted messengers who work directly with individuals most likely to commit gun violence, intervene in conflicts, and connect participants to social, health, wellness, and economic opportunities that reduce the likelihood of violence as a means of resolving conflict.

Kansas City has embraced this evidence-based model by investing in community organizations that provide intensive case management, conflict mediation, violence interruption, life skills coaching, workforce development, behavioral health services, housing assistance, education, and wraparound support for individuals and families closest to violence.

Community violence intervention organizations, including SAVE KC, Uncornered, Aim4Peace, AdHoc Group Against Crime, KC Mothers in Charge, neighborhood organizations, and numerous grassroots partners, work alongside law enforcement, healthcare providers, schools, and social service agencies to identify and engage individuals at the highest risk of violence through street outreach, hospital response, neighborhood engagement, and sustained relationshipbased support.

Through sustained public and private investment, Kansas City has significantly expanded its CVI infrastructure. Between 2020 and 2025, CVI coverage increased from three priority service areas to more than twelve neighborhoods, allowing intervention teams to reach more individuals and communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence. As investment expanded, the city's highest-risk neighborhoods experienced meaningful reductions in shootings, demonstrating that focused intervention strategies complement traditional law enforcement and improve public safety outcomes.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Expanded Community Violence Intervention coverage from 3 priority areas to more than 12 neighborhoods.
- Increased investment in violence interruption, credible messengers, and street outreach services. • Expanded intensive case management, conflict mediation, and life skills coaching for individuals at highest risk of violence.
- Increased workforce development, education, and employment opportunities for high-risk youth and adults.
- Enhanced access to behavioral health, trauma-informed care, housing, and supportive services.
- Strengthened reentry services through coordinated case management and individualized transition planning.
- Increased collaboration among community organizations, healthcare providers, schools, and justice system partners to reduce retaliatory violence.
- Communities receiving sustained CVI investments experienced greater reductions in gun violence than areas without comparable intervention resources.
- Individuals participating in CVI programs were less likely to be arrested for violent offenses and experienced fewer gunshot victimizations, demonstrating improved longterm public safety outcomes.

By focusing resources on the relatively small number of individuals and neighborhoods disproportionately affected by violence, Kansas City's Community Violence Intervention strategy complements enforcement efforts while addressing the root causes of violence. Together, these coordinated investments are creating safer neighborhoods, reducing victimization, strengthening community trust, and expanding opportunities for individuals and families most impacted by violence.

Violence Prevention Fund

Kansas City has made a historic investment in community-led public safety through the Violence Prevention Fund (VPF), establishing one of the nation's largest municipally funded Community Violence reduction initiatives. The City's \$30 million, five-year commitment reflects a fundamental shift toward a comprehensive public safety strategy that balances prevention, intervention, enforcement, and neighborhood investment.

At the same time, grants awarded to community-driven violence prevention and public safety initiatives have increased twenty-fold, ensuring that organizations closest to the challenges have access to sustainable resources needed to reduce violence, strengthen neighborhoods, and improve outcomes for individuals and families most impacted by gun violence.

The Violence Prevention Fund supports community-based organizations delivering evidenceinformed violence prevention strategies, including street outreach, youth development, behavioral health services, workforce development, reentry support, conflict mediation, victim services, and intensive case management.

Since implementation, funded organizations have collectively:

- Served more than 6,500 residents through prevention, intervention, outreach, and supportive services.
- Connected participants to employment, education, housing, behavioral health care, mentoring, victim services, and other stabilizing resources.
- Expanded coordinated case management across multiple community providers.
- Increased accountability through shared performance measures, continuous improvement, and independent evaluation.
- Strengthened collaboration among community organizations, healthcare providers, researchers, law enforcement, and government agencies.

Independent evaluation from Justice System Partners demonstrates encouraging outcomes, including:

- Approximately 24% reduction in homicides.
- Approximately 23% reduction in nonfatal shootings.
- Nearly 80% of participants had no new police contact within 12 months following program engagement.
- Expanded access to evidence-based intervention services for individuals and neighborhoods at the highest risk of violence.

The results of this collective investment are becoming increasingly evident. In 2026 gun violence in Kansas City is at its lowest level, reflecting the impact of coordinated action across community organizations, public agencies, healthcare systems, law enforcement, philanthropy, businesses, and residents. While no single program or organization can claim responsibility for this progress, the Violence Prevention Fund has provided the infrastructure and sustained investment necessary to scale Community Violence Intervention across the city.

Kansas City's experience demonstrates that lasting public safety is achieved when communities invest in both prevention and enforcement. By pairing focused law enforcement with evidencebased community violence intervention, victim services, youth opportunities, and neighborhood stabilization, the city is building a more comprehensive, equitable, and sustainable public safety system that saves lives, strengthens communities, and creates long-term opportunities for residents most impacted by violence.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ENGAGEMENT & PROSECUTORIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Kansas City's public safety strategy recognizes that sustainable violence reduction requires strong collaboration between law enforcement, prosecutors, and community partners. Through intelligence-led policing, focused deterrence, and coordinated prosecution, public safety agencies are concentrating resources on the relatively small number of individuals and groups responsible for a disproportionate share of violent crime. This balanced approach combines accountability with prevention and intervention, ensuring enforcement efforts are supported by community-based services and opportunities for long-term behavior change.

Kansas City Police Department Crime Reduction Strategy

Implemented in 2024, the Kansas City Police Department's Crime Reduction Plan is built upon three core strategies:

- **Data-Driven Deployment** – Using crime analysis, intelligence, and predictive data to strategically deploy resources where violent crime is most concentrated.
- **Data-Informed Community Engagement** – Strengthening collaboration with residents, neighborhood organizations, and community partners to improve trust, information sharing, and public safety outcomes.
- **Focused Deterrence** – Concentrating enforcement and intervention efforts on the city's most prolific violent offenders and associated groups while connecting eligible individuals to community-based resources that reduce the likelihood of future violence.

Rather than broad enforcement strategies, KCPD's approach prioritizes the small number of individuals responsible for the majority of serious violent crime, allowing law enforcement and community partners to work together to prevent retaliation, interrupt conflicts, and improve neighborhood safety.

JACKSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

The Jackson County Prosecutor's Office has strengthened this strategy through focused prosecution and close collaboration with law enforcement, community violence intervention organizations, and social service providers. By aligning prosecution efforts with focused deterrence, the office is helping improve accountability while supporting broader violence reduction goals.

From May 2024 through August 2025, outcomes associated with the focused deterrence strategy include:

40%

reduction in group-related homicides involving KCPD-identified violent group members as victims or suspects.

34%

reduction in group-related nonfatal shootings.

As well as increased coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, and Community Violence Intervention partners to identify high-risk individuals and deliver a balanced approach with accountability, support, and intervention.

These results demonstrate the effectiveness of combining intelligence-led policing, focused prosecution, and evidence-based community violence intervention. Together, these coordinated strategies ensure that enforcement efforts are directed toward those driving violent crime while creating opportunities for individuals to access services, reducing future violence, and improving public safety throughout Kansas City.

"We have seen drastic reductions in the amount of homicide and nonfatal shootings of participants in this focused deterrence strategy. They are considered to be amongst some of the most high-risk individuals in our community to be either victimized by violent crime or commit violent crime."

**-PROSECUTOR
MELESA JOHNSON**

Investment in Research & Innovation

Kansas City's violence reduction strategy is grounded in a commitment to continuous learning, innovation, and evidence-based decision-making. By integrating research, data analytics, technology, and performance measurement into public safety strategies, the region continues to improve outcomes, strengthen accountability, and invest in practices proven to reduce violence.

A cornerstone of this effort is the independent evaluation of the Violence Prevention Fund, led by Justice System Partners, which provides ongoing analysis of program effectiveness, participant outcomes, and community impact. This rigorous evaluation framework enables policymakers, funders, and community partners to make informed decisions, identify emerging best practices, and continuously refine violence reduction strategies based on measurable results.

RECENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- Independent evaluation of the Violence Prevention Fund using evidence-based performance measures.
- Expanded use of shared data dashboards and common performance metrics across funded organizations.
- Greater integration of research findings into public policy, funding decisions, and program design.
- Increased collaboration with local universities, national research institutions, and public safety experts.
- Enhanced data sharing and coordinated case management among community organizations and government agencies.
- Continuous evaluation of violence reduction strategies to improve effectiveness, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

The City of Kansas City, Missouri is also modernizing its public safety infrastructure through significant investments in technology, intelligence, and multidisciplinary coordination. These innovations improve situational awareness, accelerate information sharing, and enable coordinated responses that combine prevention, intervention, enforcement, and community engagement

Key public safety innovations include:

- Modernized the Kansas City Police Department technology, crime analysis, and intelligence systems.
- Enhanced real-time information sharing across law enforcement, community organizations, healthcare providers, and government agencies.
- Expanded multidisciplinary collaboration among KCPD, Public Health, Neighborhood Services, Parks and Recreation, Municipal Court, Public Works, Housing, schools, healthcare systems, and community-based organizations.
- Increased coordination between Community Violence Intervention providers and law enforcement to improve referrals, conflict mediation, and support for individuals at the highest risk of violence.
- Developed integrated response strategies that combine enforcement with prevention, intervention, victim services, neighborhood revitalization, and restorative practices.
- Strengthened public accountability through performance reporting, outcome measurement, and transparent evaluation of violence reduction initiatives.

Kansas City's investment in research and innovation reflects a fundamental shift from reactive public safety strategies to a proactive, data-informed model that continuously adapts to community needs. By combining rigorous evaluation, modern technology, cross-sector collaboration, and evidence-based practice, the City is building a smarter, more effective public safety system that improves outcomes, strengthens community trust, and serves as a model for communities nationally.

Conclusion

Reducing violence is not the singular responsibility of any single organization, agency, or neighborhood—it is a shared responsibility that requires every sector of the community to play a role. Lasting change is achieved when residents, community organizations, law enforcement, healthcare providers, schools, businesses, philanthropy, researchers, faith leaders, and government work together toward a common goal.

Kansas City's progress demonstrates that meaningful reductions in violence do not happen overnight. They are the result of sustained investment, intentional strategy, evidence-based practices, and, most importantly, trust. Trust between neighbors. Trust between communities and public institutions. Trust among partners willing to share responsibility, learnings, data, and accountability.

While significant progress has been made—including historic reductions in gun violence and stronger outcomes for individuals and neighborhoods most impacted by violence—this work is far from complete. Sustaining and accelerating these gains will require continued investment in prevention, intervention, enforcement, victim services, research, neighborhood revitalization, and stewardship of this collective approach.

Kansas City's experience shows that collective impact works. When communities align around shared goals, invest in the people and places most affected by violence, and remain committed over time, safer neighborhoods are possible. Together, we are proving that lasting public safety is built not through a single program or institution, but through a sustained commitment to collaboration, innovation, accountability, and trust.

Source: [KC Common Good](#)

2020-2025 data from the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office.

A RAND Corporation study calculated the average cost for a single homicide was more than \$8.6 million (2007); adjusted for inflation, 2025 cost is \$13.8 million.

Source: [KCMO Annual Prevention Fund- Annual Evaluation Report 2025](#)

Source: [KCPD Crime Plan](#)

Source: [Jackson County Prosecutor, MO](#)

Source- [KCUR](#)

Source: [KCMO GOV](#)