

Pivot to Peace

Project Summary & Goals

Implemented in April 2016 for its pilot phase, Pivot to Peace is a hospital-based violence intervention program modeled after the National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs that, during the pilot phase, served patients who were treated for gunshot/stab wounds at University of Louisville Hospital. Intervention participants resided in one of nine high violence and high crime West Louisville neighborhoods plagued by historical and contemporary socioecological determinants that facilitate inequities.

Pivot's target geographic and demographic sampling pool was identified by correlating Louisville Metro Police Department violent crime data with University of Louisville Hospital data on patients treated for gunshot and stab wound injuries. In 2014, the highest number of reported injuries (101) was among residents from the West End zip codes in LMPD Police Divisions 1 and 2, with 60 percent of patients between ages 18 and 34. This corresponds with Louisville Metro's Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Violence Prevention Blueprint which focuses on improving outcomes in these communities; as a result, the following represents recruitment criteria for both study groups:

Intervention group: 18 – 34 years old; gunshot or stab wound injury; and reside in WL.

Comparison group: 18 – 34 years old; gunshot or stab wound injury; and reside in Newburg.

Evaluation design and metrics of success were determined using stakeholder involvement approaches. A quasi-experimental evaluation design was used to compare intervention group outcomes to comparison group outcomes over one year; the comparison group was comprised of residents from Louisville zip codes containing comparable levels of crime, and other stress-inducing conditions. Goals are delineated below:

Goal 1: Improve hospital protocols for trauma center (evaluation responsibilities external to CIK)

Goal 2: Increase stabilization of young adult violence victims.

Goal 3: Reduce violence perpetrated by victims in ED from gun/stab wounds.

Project Dates

April 2016 – June 2018

Principal Investigator(s)

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Communities and Partners Involved

Pivot to Peace goals and activities were conceptualized and facilitated by multiple stakeholders including No More Red Dots, KentuckyOne Health, University of Louisville Hospital, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness, Office for Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods, Kentuckiana Works, and both, the Commonwealth Institute of Kentucky and the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville. Participants were recruited from the following neighborhoods: Algonquin, Chickasaw, Shawnee, Parkland, Park Hill, Park DuValle, Russell, Portland, California, and Newburg.

Funders

Pivot to Peace

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Key Findings

Between April 2016 and June 2017, 54 (48 intervention) victims between ages 18 and 34 were recruited to participate in the pilot phase of Pivot to Peace; an emergency room community health worker recruited participants at point of service, and thereafter, Peace Education Program facilitated connections to social service needs and conflict resolution training.

While a quasi-experimental evaluation design was initially employed to compare intervention group outcomes to comparison group outcomes, comparison group participants were not successfully recruited and/or retained throughout the duration of the pilot phase. The intervention group experienced attrition while receiving *intentional* and *targeted* engagement, so it is probable that the lack of engagement or treatment inherent to study designs that include control and comparison group samples facilitated non-participatory outcomes for Pivot's comparison group.

Eight participants engaged in baseline and 12-month interviews while nine completed six-month interviews. Various themes emerged from baseline, 6 month, and 12 month interviews with Pivot participants. After assessing participant interviews, 6 major themes emerged. The six primary themes were: (1) Post-Traumatic Stress Following Incident; (2) Loss of Peace; (3) Poor Pain Management Support; (4) Positive Experiences with Pivot Staff; (5) Instability in Housing and Employment; and (6) Prosocial Norms. Each theme represents recurring thoughts, ideas and experiences communicated by participants.

Of the eight intervention group members who participated for 12 months, the following outcomes were reported:

- Eight completed Peace Education Program's conflict resolution classes
- Eight were not reinjured
- Seven were not criminal justice involved
- All 5 able-bodied participants became employed
 - Three are on permanent disability due to injury
- One is entering second year of college (4.0 GPA)
- Three purchased cars and payed outstanding traffic tickets and warrants
- Two upgraded from rental apartments to rental homes
- Three participated in an eight week parenting class
- Several participated in counseling
- The one person who was incarcerated maintained relationship with case worker