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NEWS RELEASE
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New Northwestern University Research Shows Coalition of Community Violence Intervention Groups Are 'Saving Lives' in Chicago's Most Violent Neighborhoods

CHICAGO, April 12, 2023 – A [new report](#), released by Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS), shows a coalition of Chicago community violence intervention (CVI) organizations known as Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) are reducing gun violence in Chicago's neighborhoods most impacted by violence.

"Our results found evidence of favorable treatment effects in 30% of CP4P treatment areas, indicating that rates of homicide and non-fatal shooting victimizations experienced either larger decreases or smaller increases as compared to their synthetically created controls," says Northwestern researchers who began the study in 2018. "In total, we estimate that this resulted in 383 fewer non-fatal shootings and homicides from the start of the program until December of 2021, thus averting considerable human death, injury, and suffering, as well as the associated financial toll for administrative, police, and medical efforts."

CP4P is a unique network of 14 Chicago community violence intervention (CVI) organizations in 27 Chicago neighborhoods coordinating their efforts towards one common goal: reducing gunshot victimization among individuals who are most likely to be involved in gun violence, neighborhood disputes and group conflicts. Convened by Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), CP4P's model relies on street outreach workers facilitated by hyperlocal organizations to serve as front-line violence preventionists who mediate gang and interpersonal conflicts, monitor emergent activities and areas for community violence, and mentor those at highest risk of violence involvement. CP4P partner organizations also provide participants with direct services including legal advocacy, employment support, educational opportunities, housing assistance, and trauma-informed behavioral health counseling.

"The collective impact of CP4P is rooted in our shared ability to collaborate around data, violence intervention strategies, and relationships that reduce violence and allow for community restoration. We believe that healing is possible and relentlessly engage with that hope," said Yolanda Fields, Executive Director of Breakthrough in East Garfield Park.

"Our coalition has created a civilian architecture that treats gun violence as the public health crisis it is. As a result, we're saving lives," says MPI Executive Director Vaughn Bryant. "CP4P proves that collaborating and leveraging partnerships *within* and across our communities allows us to better provide the comprehensive, trauma-informed care and services needed to reduce gun victimization, and meet the social, emotional and economic needs of our most vulnerable residents."

About CP4P

Communities Partnering 4 Peace's (CP4P), convened by Metropolitan Peace Initiatives, mission is to engage and build trusting relationships with individuals and groups most vulnerable to gun violence, and to mobilize and provide them with a comprehensive set of services that lead to their healing and the healing of our communities. For more information, visit our website at www.MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org.

About MPI

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives, a division of Metropolitan Family Services supporting CP4P, convenes community-based and citywide organizations to help heal Chicago's communities experiencing the highest levels of gun violence. For more information, visit our website at www.MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org.

About CORNERS

The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS) is housed at Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research. We develop transformative research projects with community and civic partners aimed at improving health and safety for more equitable neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.CornersResearch.org.

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