



KANSAS CITY MISSOURI

The *Violence-Free KC Committee (VFKCC)*
is a committee within the KC Health
Commission

Violence-Free KC Committee

Vision

A violence-free Kansas City in which all communities are safe and healthy for all people, and where young people are valued and cared for as a significant priority.

Mission

The Violence-Free Kansas City Committee ensures that violence prevention and deterrence efforts in Kansas City move toward improved coordination and from collaboration to unity, to achieve safe, caring communities and thriving youth throughout the city.

VFKCC Committee Members (2022)

- KCMO Public Schools
- KCMO Police Department
- KCMO Health Department
- Youth Ambassadors
- Second Chance, KC Metro Crime Commission
- Children's Mercy Hospital
- Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
- Concerned Clergy Coalition (CCC)
- AdHoc Group Against Crime
- Juvenile Justice Center & Family Court
- Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund
- US Department of Health & Human Services (Region VII)
- MORE²

In 2016, the Health Commission's Community Health Improvement Plan included, as an objective, to create, implement and sustain a Youth & Family Violence Prevention Plan by 2021.

**Why was the KC
Blueprint developed?**

- Recommended by the Commission on Violent Crime (2013, 2017)
- Adopted as a component of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- No existing multi-sector, citywide plan for violence prevention
- Existing approaches focus only on suppression/ deterrence, not actual prevention

Ten leading factors selected to be strengthened to ensure safety & prevent violence

Rank of order	Risk factors	Responses	%	Questions are from
1	Positive relationships and support	4145	34.3	Individual-and Relationship-Level
2	Jobs/economic opportunity	3451	28.6	Economic/Education Environment
3	Quality schools/education	3292	27.3	Economic/Education Environment
4	Community that promotes safety	2884	23.9	Physical/built Environment
5	Community support and connection	2675	22.2	Sociocultural Environment
6	Safe parks and open spaces	2600	21.5	Physical/built Environment
7	Connection and commitment to school	2569	21.3	Individual- and Relationship-Level
8	Changes in behavior/response that support alternatives to violence	2362	19.6	Sociocultural Environment
9	Skills to solve problems non-violently	2315	19.2	Individual- and Relationship-Level
10	Personal involvement or leadership that improves the community	2192	18.2	Sociocultural Environment

There were 12,072 responses based on online or site survey.



KC Blueprint Principles

- **A Narrative of Hope, Opportunity, and Resilience**
- **Collaboration of Sectors and Stakeholders**
- **Comprehensive Strategies**
- **Evidence, Evaluation and Accountability**

Sector-based Strategies

- Local government
- Business
- Nonprofit organizations
- Faith
- Health and Social Services
- Law enforcement
- Education
- Resident organizations
- Media
- Funders/Philanthropic
- Multi-sector (collaboratives)

Across domains

*A violence-free Kansas City in which all communities are **safe, resilient and healthy** for all people, and where young people and families are **valued and cared for** as a significant priority.*

Where we live and play:

1. Build strong, thriving, and connected neighborhoods

Where we learn:

2. Support healthy childhood development and education

Where we work:

3. Foster safety in workplaces & through employment opportunities

Where we receive care:

4. Promote safety and dignity through health, social services & family support

How we build effectiveness & sustainability:

5. Invest in prevention and community resilience

Strategy Examples

- Increase the pickup of trash and bulky items within neighborhoods that experience high levels of inflow, outflow, and illegal dumping, particularly in City Council Districts 3 and 5 (**Where we live and play, Local government**)
- Encourage employees to volunteer as mentors to youth within the local schools (**Where we learn, Businesses**)
- Ensure that public-facing staff (e.g., all care providers, reception) treat clients with dignity and appropriate customer service (**Where we receive care, Health and Social Services**)
- Increase opportunities for young people to be gainfully employed through jobs and internships (**Where we live, Businesses**)
- Increase the number of safe spaces for youth in crisis to receive support and counseling (**Where we live, Faith Community**)

Prior Council Action

- Resolution 200577 Adopted the KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention and a Safe and Healthy Community in July 2020
- Resolution 201076 Directed City Manager to devise a funding strategy plan to fund the Blueprint for Violence Prevention and Healthy Communities

That strategy was never presented and there have been over 500 homicides since the adoption of this plan.