



Impact Report

June 2021-July 2022



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Introduction

The Newark Community Street Team (NCST) is the City of Newark's community-based public safety initiative. NCST hires, trains and deploys Outreach Workers and High Risk Interventionists in the South Ward of Newark and also operates a Trauma Recovery Center, an Overdose Response Team and an Eviction Prevention Team. NCST operates as a complement to law enforcement and draws upon an evidence-based, trauma informed approach to violence reduction. NCST was founded by Mayor Ras J. Baraka in 2014 but operates as an independent organization. NCST puts the public into "public safety."

This Impact Report offers a snapshot of the work we did in Newark within a specific time frame, from **June 2021-July 2022**. During that time, our staff worked to improve the safety and well-being of the communities we serve. This report includes a brief explanation of the work done by our High Risk Interventionists, Case Workers and Safe Passage team, as well as by our professionals serving victims of crime, neighbors struggling with housing and residents looking to become better leaders.

"The Newark Community Street Team employs non-traditional community leaders, including those who have been formerly incarcerated and those who have been engaged in the drug trade. They are trained as mentors and interventionists, and support at risk youth and young adults 14-30 years old through a case management model. NCST Outreach Workers have transformed their own lives and are committed to supporting others' transitions."

– Mayor Ras J. Baraka

Newark Public Safety Collaborative Data

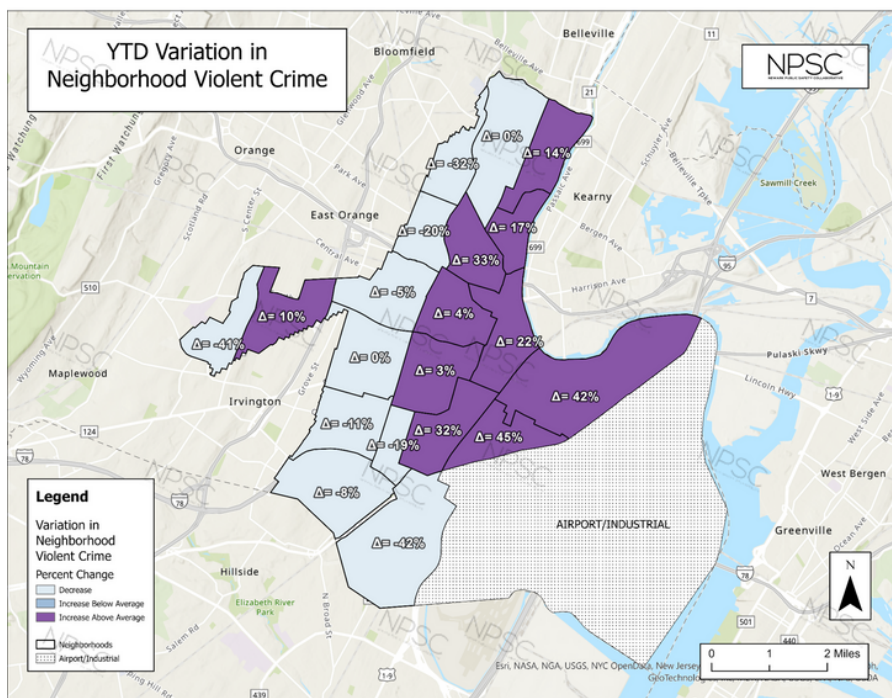
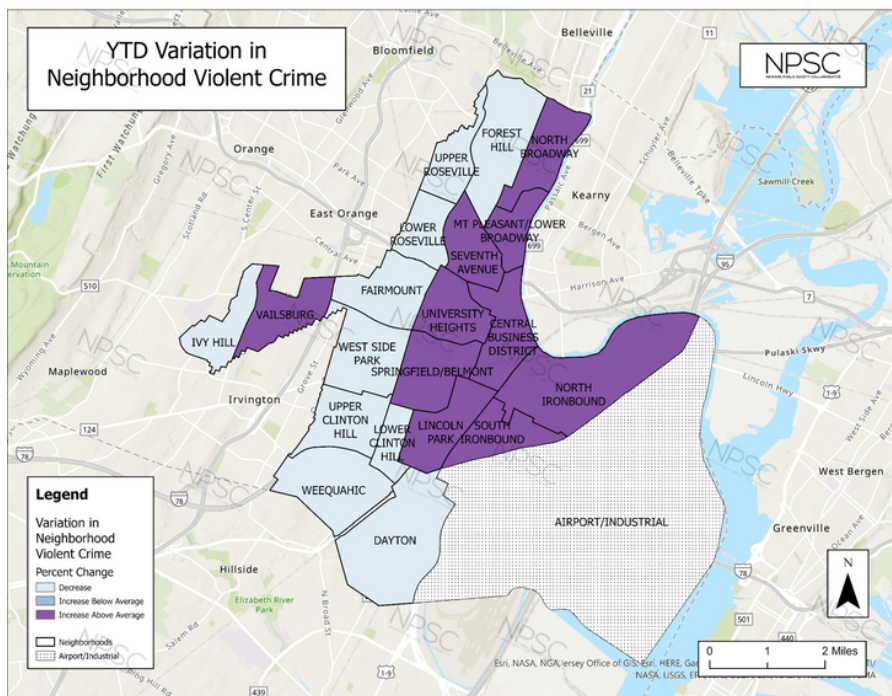
Variations in Violent Crime

(June 2021-July 2022 period)

These maps show where violence increased and decreased around Newark during the period we focus on in this report. Note that in the South and West Wards (the neighborhoods we serve), there was a decrease in crime, while there was an increase in all the other Wards.

Neighborhoods served by NCST during this time period included:

- Dayton (42% decrease)
- Ivy Hill (41% decrease)
- Lower Clinton Hill (19% decrease)
- Upper Clinton Hill (11% decrease)
- Weequahic (8% decrease)
- Fairmont (5% decrease)



High Risk Intervention

The High Risk Intervention (HRI) team's primary responsibility is to respond to community based violence incidents based on referral from the community or law enforcement. HRI connects those engaged in violence to supportive counseling, provides crisis intervention assessment and mediation and coordinates referrals and resource information in order to restore peace and avoid arrest and incarceration.

The HRI Department works on an on-call basis outside of standard office hours, and the team has regular trainings and team meetings.

6

NCST employs six
(6) High Risk
Interventionists

549

HRI Dispatches
June 2021-July
2022

Professional street intervention is often unseen. The goal of violence intervention is to stop the bloodshed on our streets in a way that law enforcement and others can not. HRI professionals are highly trained and trusted in their specific neighborhoods. They intervene in violent incidents in order to restore peace and prevent further harm. They mediate disputes to prevent additional bloodshed. They connect members of the community, especially those who have been victims of crime, with the services that can help them process and heal. The HRI team is there to listen, to encourage, to defuse and to restore peace.

The HRI team intervenes when they come across a conflict to keep it from escalating. They respond to calls when violence is being threatened. They are there to remind individuals that there are better ways to solve conflicts than violence. Since NCST's HRI professionals have made mistakes in their own lives, community members are more likely to listen to them, their experience and their advice.



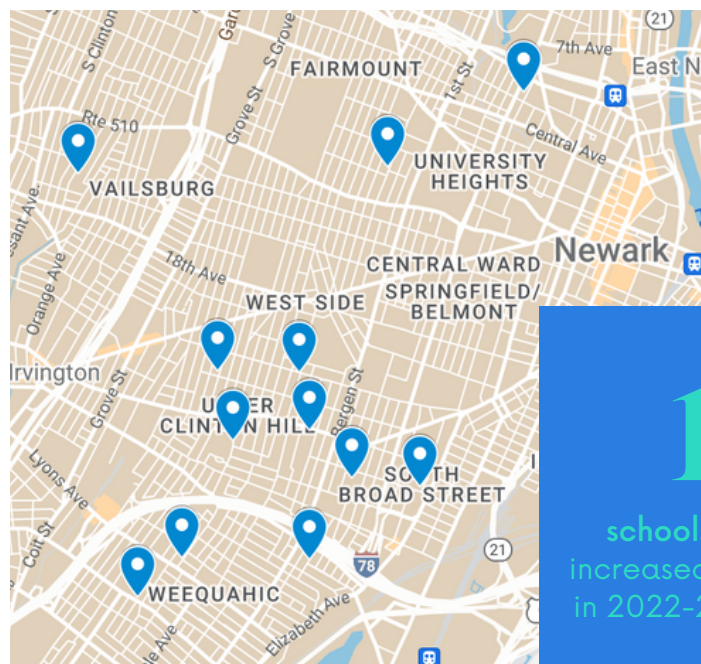
HRI professionals are saving lives and families, and improving individual neighborhoods around Newark.

School Safe Passage

NCST provides Safe Passage at select contracted Newark schools where hot spots of violence have been identified. Specially trained Outreach Workers are deployed in teams at key exit and entry points of the school, bus stops, stores and intersections where youth congregate in and around the school. Safe Passage allows Outreach Workers to develop relationships with the youth and their parents, intervene in and mediate potential conflicts, and ensure that students arrive to and from school in a safe and timely manner.



Monday through Friday, the Safe Passage Team conducts Safe Passage in the morning beginning at 7:30 am and in the afternoons after school. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, they join meetings or trainings before reporting back to Safe Passage in the afternoon. These meetings include PSRT, Professional Public Safety Training, New U and the Staff Meeting.



12
schools in 2021-22
increased to 20 schools
in 2022-23 school year

Community Walks

Every Thursday at 5pm, NCST Outreach Workers lead team walks in areas recently affected by violence. They walk in these areas to engage with the community and residents to take the temperature of the neighborhood, provide information on NCST's trauma recovery and case management services, and may recruit mentees during the process. This is one way of introducing NCST's services to the community.



93
community walks
June 2021-July 2022

Victim Services

Skilled and trained Outreach Workers work individually and as a team to prevent and respond to community-based violence. They help residents with Hardship Assistance, Life Management Skills, Social Service Assistance, Wellness Support, Legal Support, Crime Survivor Support Services, Employment/Education Referrals and more.

4

NCST employs four (4)
Case Managers

\$37,665.84

Victims of Crime Compensation Office
Payouts (23 Applications)

59

NCST supported 59
mentees (August 2021-
2022)

Victim Services provides case management to at-risk clients and victims of crime, assisting them to meet short term goals to prevent retaliation and re-victimization. Case Managers are trained and certified to service clients through the National Advocate Credentialing Program as Credentialed Advocates and receive ongoing professional development.

Victim Services also assist victims of violent crimes in applying for benefits through the Victim of Crime Compensation Office as well as host Healing and Awareness Events for Survivors, such as the Annual National Day of Healing, Heal The Block Summer Initiative, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Paint and Heal Events, Heal Through Yoga, and more.



Hospital Violence Intervention Program

NCST's Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) is a hospital based approach to intervene and prevent violence, and to set the victim of violence on a different path from retaliation and/or revictimization. NCST has three (3) **Community Health Workers** (CHW), one (1) **High Risk Interventionist** (HRI) and one (1) **Project Manager** (PM) that engage individuals who have been hospitalized, offering wraparound services (trauma recovery, relocation, case management and victim assistance).



Upon the participant's (patient's) consent to the program, the CHW begins to create and implement a safety treatment plan for the participant while they are in the hospital and continues servicing participants until they have completed their service plan. Through the Treat & Release Program, the NCST's HRI staff engage individuals who have been victimized, but may not be hospitalized long enough to make contact with a CHW. The HVIP team is funded by a state grant to operate during traditional business hours.

Treat & Release was implemented to ensure that no victims fall through any cracks simply because they did not require inpatient hospitalization. NCST' HVIP services the City of Newark's South and West Ward, men and women ages 18 and above.



Trauma Recovery Center

NCST launched the Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) in order to expand delivery of clinical services to underserved traumatized populations. The TRC has created a safe space in the community for crime survivors to receive free mental health treatment, advocacy, and victim services.

TRC Outreach Workers participate in NCST's weekly Community Walks to inform and engage residents about TRC services. The Outreach Workers also initiate the process of breaking down the stigma associated with mental health treatment in many minority populations. They help educate community members about what trauma looks like and inform them about how the NCST TRC staff can help them heal. NCST utilizes established, evidence-based and trauma-informed practices in treatment while maintaining one clinician as the sole point of contact for the client.

As Covid continues to be a concern, the team has worked diligently to try to meet the needs of the community through remote engagement, mainly by conducting therapeutic services through Zoom. In the event a community member or client faced technological challenges, TRC clinicians conducted therapy in a large, socially distanced, therapeutic space.

The TRC launched a virtual referral form so that referrals can be received in real time.

The community has been very receptive to the mental health services that are offered at the TRC. NCST is continuously working to expand the programming and capacity of the TRC team to meet the community where they are and start them on their healing journey.

212

TRC clients served
June 2021-July 2022

Client Ages

0-12: 5

13-17: 3

18-24: 24

25-59: 167

60+: 11



Eviction Prevention

The Eviction Prevention Team knocks on Newark doors every day passing out information about Tenant Legal Services and helping people with quality of life issues including mold remediation, rodent infestations, facilities accessibility and more.

The team is here to make the lives of Newark residents better.

Prevented
5,000+ evictions

June 2021-July 2022

1

Supervisor

6

Staff



Eviction Prevention has knocked on over 13,000 doors and prevented over 5,000 evictions in the South, North and West Wards.

Community Sentinels

The Sentinel Leadership Academy works to heal the trauma created by violence driven by ignorance, fear, and desperation. The Academy's efforts to establish a critical mass of well-informed and courageous citizen leaders has started to yield fruit and results. The four cohorts have produced graduates who are deeply committed to transformational uplift. The Academy has helped both those who were already organic leaders by encouraging them along a trajectory of development and impact that they had already established; and those who needed to develop a higher sense of self efficacy rooted in improved levels

of self-understanding and awareness of social resources, and a sense of connection to the history of their community.

Several community events and initiatives have been born in Sentinel Classes and spearheaded by our graduates. Block Party events, community discussions, movie trips and other celebrations are an outgrowth of this work and illustrate the ability for classes to weave tight connections.

Intergenerational mentoring and post-course cooperation and contact has produced positive results in the communities. Nearly 20 percent of graduates have returned for an event or ceremony in subsequent classes.

In 2021, the 3rd cohort was hosted by the Georgia King Village apartment complex. This community engagement helped attract the most diverse, well attended, and enthusiastic cohort to date.

It is only wisdom and courage that can save us from destruction and self-destruction driven by despair.



20%

Almost 20 percent of graduates have returned for an event or ceremony in subsequent classes.

2021-2022 NCST Calendered Events

June 2021

- Abolish the Drug War Trenton Trip
- Survivor Speaks Harrisburg Trip PA

August 2021

- Young Adult Empowerment meeting
- Victim Assistance Training Class
- GKV/Zion towers community walk
- National TRC training motivational meeting
- Heal The Block
- Viral Kicks Tabling Event
- South Ward District Police Community Relations Council
- National TRC Training - Motivational Presentation

September 2021

- South Ward Community Resource Fair
- CVI Webinar
- Hawthorne Ave Event
- Back to School BBQ at Avon Elementary.

October 2021

- Victim Service Dept. Tabling
- Clothing Drive for Zion Towers

November 2021

- South North Summit
- Gang and Group Violence Awareness
- GKV Turkey giveaway

December 2021

- "Project Trust" focus group
- HVIP Care Evolution Clothing Drive at Zion Towers

January 2022

- Abolish the Drug War NJ Coalition

March 2022

- Verbal De-Escalation Skills Training
- Community Sentinels Leadership Academy of Newark
- Harriet Tubman Monument Workshop

April 2022

- TRC Support Group
- Annual National Healing Vigil Day of Action
- Harriet Tubman Monument Workshop

June 2022

- Trauma Survivor Support Group - GKV
- March For Our Lives Event
- TRC Outreach Event

July 2022

- TRC Outreach Event
- VSD Heal the Block

Since July 2022...

While much has happened at NCST beyond the scope of this report, we would be remiss not to include the launch of the NCST **Overdose Response Team** in the Summer of 2022.

NCST is partnering with University Hospital to provide this community-led response to overdose emergency calls in Newark, NJ.

The Overdose Response Team serves to:

- Reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses
- Reduce health and social harms to people who use drugs and their communities
- Improve use of harm reduction services
- Reduce arrests associated with overdose events

Stay tuned for the team's progress!



Public Safety IN Public Hands



newarkcommunitystreetteam.org
subscribe to our newsletter & follow us on social!