



How Austin Became Safer: Community Partnerships and the Decline in Violent Crime



Executive Summary

Between 2021 and 2025, the City of Austin experienced a sustained decline in violent crime, with both homicide and aggravated assault rates falling across the five-year period. This report examines that decline with the intent to guide continued efforts to reduce violence in Austin and to identify what other jurisdictions can draw from its experience. Drawing on Austin Police Department crime data analyzed at the census block group level, alongside interviews with front-line workers, our analysis finds that the reductions were genuine and citywide rather than the product of violence shifting from one neighborhood to another.

We further find that census block groups served by Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs experienced steeper declines in violent crime than those without such programs, consistent with a growing body of evidence that community-based violence prevention contributes to safer neighborhoods. A survey of Austin residents adds the ground-level view: residents look to community-rooted avenues for safety and support, yet the survivors who most need services remain the least likely to receive them. We also highlight how some of the same skills honed in addressing violence in Austin's hardest-hit ZIP codes proved essential in responding to a high-profile mass shooting.

Much of the funding associated with this period of investment is now sunseting with no replacement identified.

Violent Crime Rates Have Decreased in Austin, TX

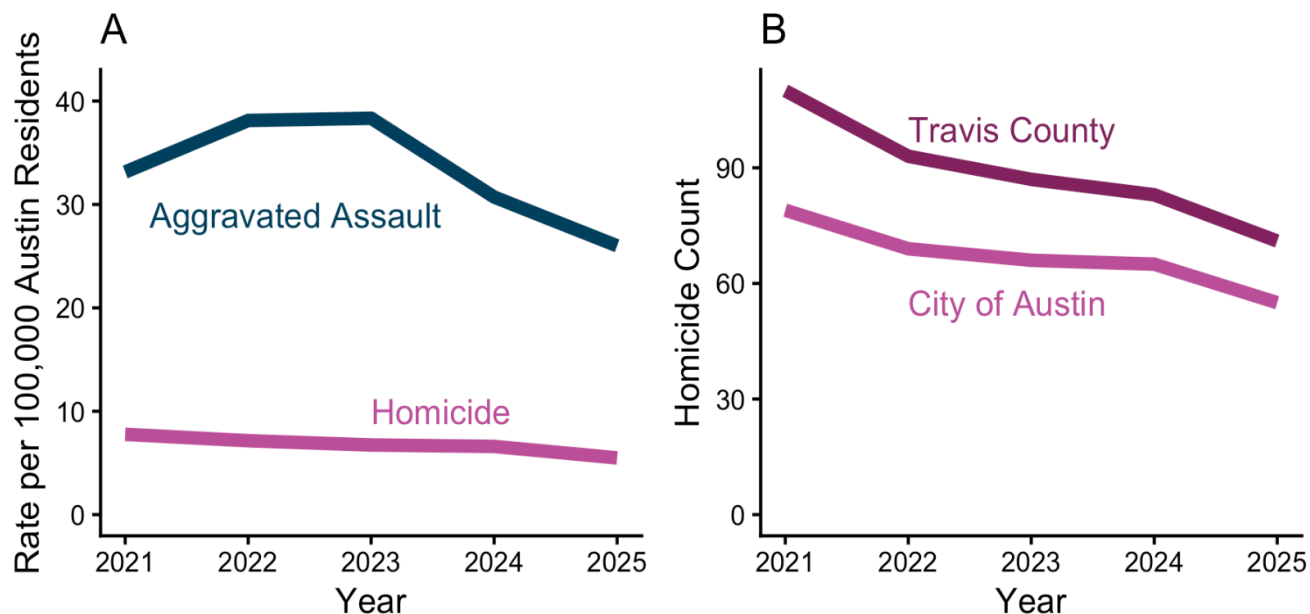


Figure 1. Comparison of per 100,000 people of aggravated assault and homicide rates in Austin, TX (A) and comparison of homicide counts in Travis County and the City of Austin (B), between 2021 and 2025.

Changes in aggravated assault and homicide rates were calculated over a five-year period at the census block group level across Austin. Overall, the results show a clear citywide decline in these violent crime rates, indicating that reductions were widespread rather than isolated to a small number of areas. However, there was still variation in trend and some census block groups had slight increases in violence trends. Importantly, there is no evidence that these declines in one location were offset by increases in nearby neighborhoods. Instead, areas experiencing reductions in violence did not tend to correspond with increases in adjacent block groups, suggesting that crime was not simply shifting geographically. Taken together, the pattern points to a general reduction in violent crime across the city rather than a redistribution of violence from one neighborhood to another (**Fig. 1 and Appendix**).

Areas in the City with CVI Programs Experienced a Steeper Decline in Violent Crime 2021–2025

There is a correlation between location of CVI programs and steeper decline in aggravated assault and homicide. Of the steepest-declining 5% census block groups, 97% of them have CVI programs, and 93% of them are within 3 miles of a CVI brick-and-mortar (including Harvest Trauma Recovery Center).

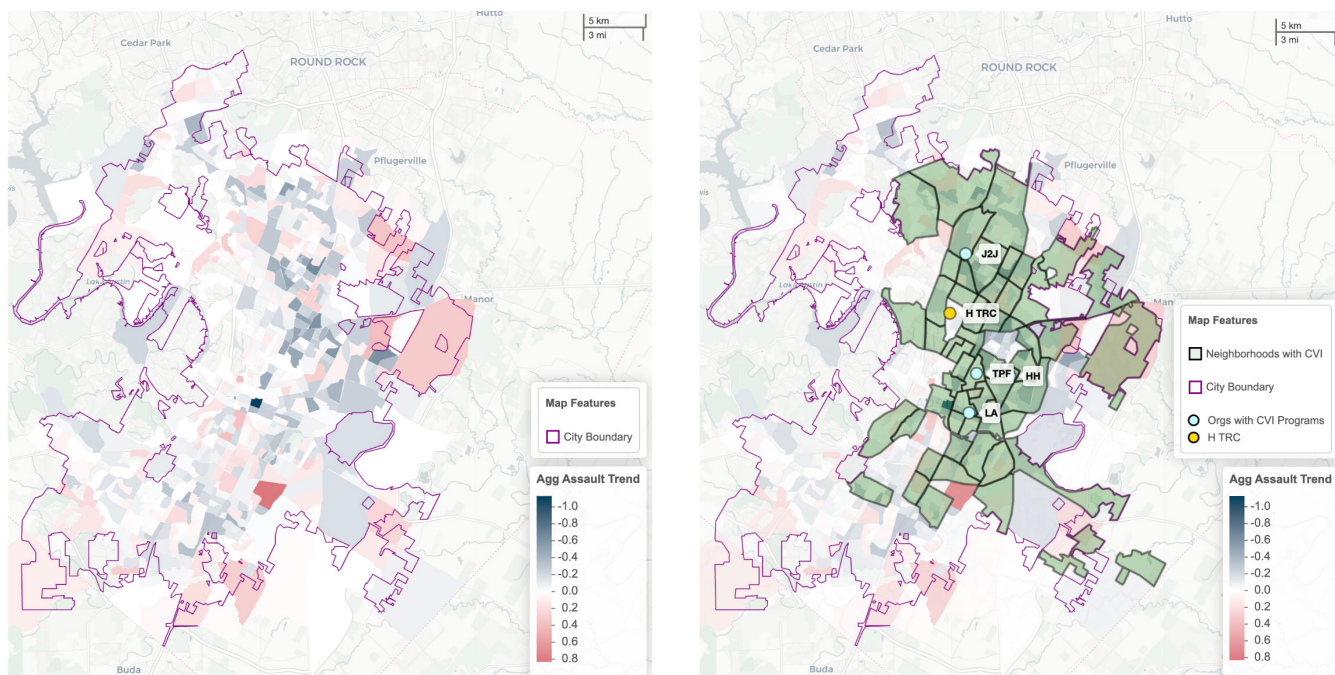


Figure 2. Decline of aggravated assaults across most census block groups in Austin between 2021-2025 (left), where dark blue indicates steep declines and reds indicate increases in violent crime, and the same map overlaid with neighborhoods with CVI presence (green polygons) and brick-and mortar of community violence intervention organizations on the right including ATX Peace (Jails to Jobs and Life Anew), Harvest Trauma Recovery Center, Tomorrow's Promise Foundation, and Hungry Hill.

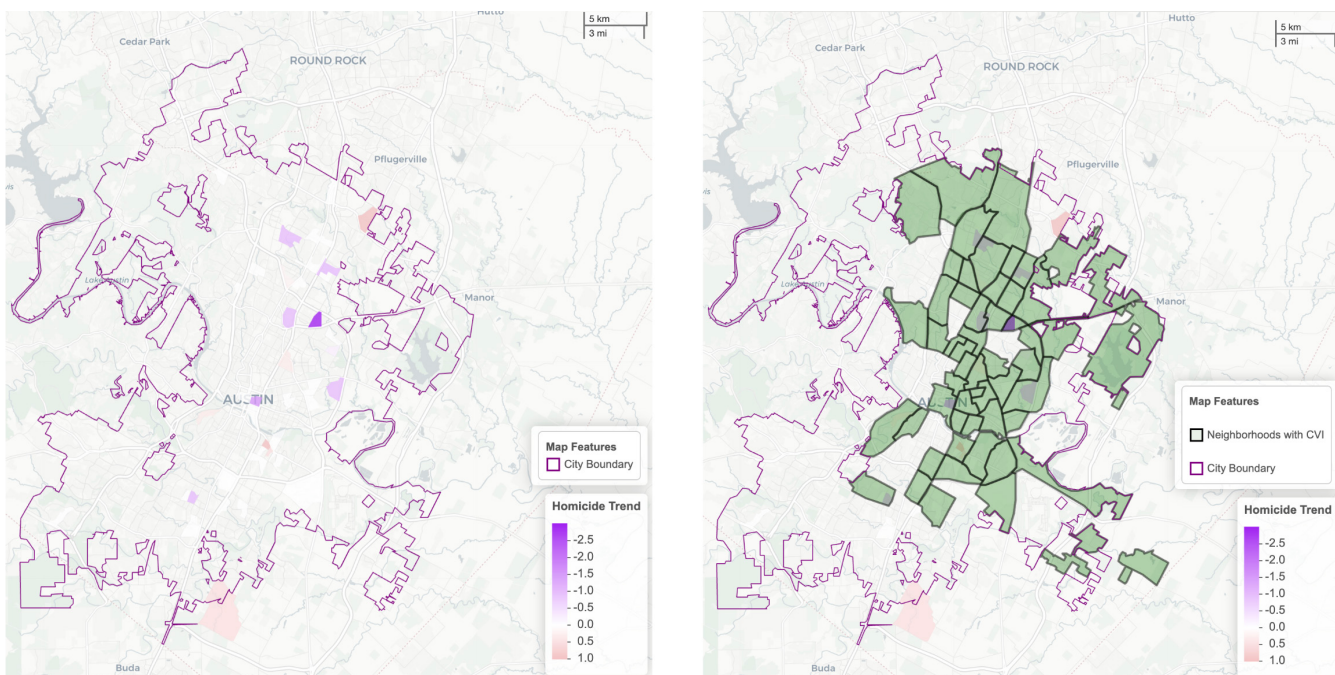


Figure 3. Decline of aggravated assaults across most census block groups in Austin between 2021-2025 (left), where dark purple indicates steep declines and reds indicate increases in violent crime, and the same map overlaid with neighborhoods with CVI presence (green polygons) on the right.

The locations of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) program coverage were overlaid onto the census block group map to examine whether changes in violent crime differed between areas with and without CVI presence (**Figures. 2 -4**). This allowed for a comparison of how crime trends evolved in neighborhoods served by these programs versus those outside their reach over the same five-year period.

The analyses establish that Census block groups served by these programs saw steeper reductions than those outside their reach (**see Appendix for statistical outputs**). Establishing causation would require further research. The measured difference between block groups with and without program coverage is modest, as would be expected in a city with Austin's comparatively low baseline of violence. Larger effects have been documented in jurisdictions with substantially higher baseline levels of violence, such as Miami-Dade County¹, where the ZIP codes that had long carried the county's highest homicide counts recorded its sharpest declines¹. Austin's lower baseline may leave less room for reductions of that scale. But the correlation is consistent with the broader research literature (e.g. the causal relationship that community nonprofits drive down crime rates)² and with what is observable on the ground in Austin: organizations that have spent years building trust in the city's most affected neighborhoods are also the ones positioned to interrupt violence, support victims, and respond when crisis strikes.

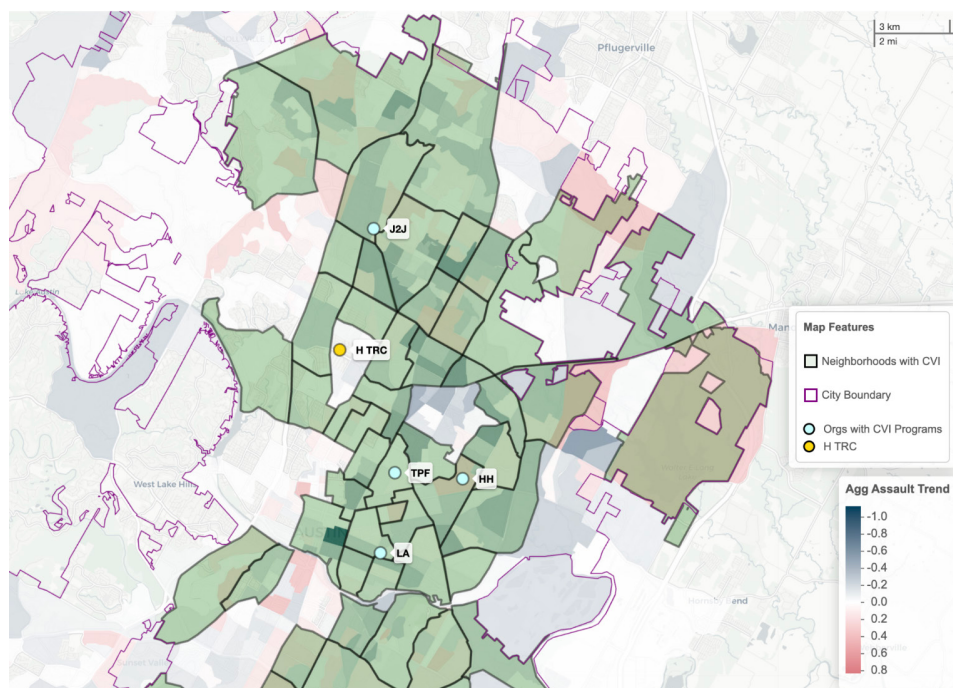


Figure 4. Zoomed-in map of the overlay of CVI programs (green polygon) with the deepest blue census block groups (steepest decline in agg assault), and location of CVI brick-and-mortars: ATX Peace (Jails to Jobs and Life Anew), Tomorrow's Promise Foundation, and Hungry Hill in Austin, TX. In Yellow is Harvest Trauma Recovery Center, which provides direct services onsite.

1 Just Safe. 2025. [Two Miami-Dade ZIP Codes Experienced Historic Drops in Homicide: Community Partnerships Result in More Safety.](#)

2 Sharkey, P., Torratts-Espinosa, G. and Takyar, D., 2017. Community and the crime decline: The causal effect of local nonprofits on violent crime. *American Sociological Review*, 82(6), pp.1214-1240.

Austin's Community Based Safety Ecosystem at a Glance

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) *is a resident-driven, victim-centered strategy for addressing violence. CVI relies on trusted community members, often people directly impacted by violence themselves, to reach those at highest risk of committing or being harmed by it. CVI workers mediate conflicts before they escalate, prevent retaliation and re-victimization, and help high-risk individuals find stability through connections to counseling, housing, and employment.*

Austin has long maintained a strong Community Violence Intervention (CVI) network, anchored by organizations such as **ATX Peace** the city's very first CVI program, (spearheaded by **Jails to Jobs** and **LifeAnew**), whose work spans the 2021–2025 period examined in this report, along with **Hungry Hill Foundation** and **Tomorrow's Promise Foundation**. CVI programs rely on trusted community members working in areas with high concentrations of violence to mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation, and connect people to support, working to stop violence before it occurs. In Austin, these organizations have built credibility over years of sustained presence: working with hundreds of at-risk youth and their families, organizing spring break and summer camps, helping families facing financial hardship, and assisting residents with housing, employment, and access to counseling. In addition, these organizations have coordinated wellness walks, yoga and physical-exercise sessions, and art and jewelry-making classes intended to help residents regulate their emotions and cope with depression, stress, and anxiety. This durable, relationship-based work is the foundation on which their crisis response capacity rests.

Austin's CVI ecosystem operates alongside a trauma recovery infrastructure that has expanded across the country in recent years. **Trauma Recovery Centers (TRCs)** *are an evidence-based, multidisciplinary model that provides comprehensive care for survivors of violent crime. TRCs are designed to remove traditional barriers to healing, offering wraparound mental health care, case management, and assertive outreach free of charge, and reaching survivors who are least likely to access conventional services.* Austin's **Harvest Trauma Recovery Center**, now in its third year, brings this model to the city. Nationally, more than four dozen accredited TRCs operate across fifteen states, and studies of these sites suggest they reduce PTSD symptoms, help clients stabilize enough to retain jobs and housing, and contribute to interrupting cycles of victimization in communities most impacted by violence. TRCs often do all of this more cost effectively than traditional social service agencies.

Austin's Community Violence Intervention ecosystem also includes the **Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program**, run by Ascension Hospital, and the **Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team**, run by the City of Austin. This report's spatial analysis focused on the neighborhood-based organizations whose service areas could be mapped, but the broader ecosystem includes intervention done at the hospital level and crisis response in communities.

Community Violence Intervention Orgs Respond to Mass Shooting

On March 1, 2026, Austin suffered one of the worst mass shootings in its recent history when a gunman moved through the bar district, killing three people and injuring thirteen. That night, some of the first calls from the mayor's office, the Austin Police Department, and the Office of Violence Prevention went not only to police and paramedics, but to the city's Community Violence Intervention infrastructure. Outreach workers from ATX Peace, Hungry Hill and Tomorrow's Promise foundation were called into the city's victim's assistance center. This formal activation appears to be among the first of its kind documented in the country: community violence intervention organizations integrated into a city's official response to the aftermath of an indiscriminate active shooter attack. From there they worked to tamp down unverified rumors circulating on the street, helped lower tensions, and began connecting with victims, ultimately referring them to the Harvest Trauma Recovery Center (HTRC) for additional services and intensive counseling. HTRC also provided crisis counseling on site at the staging area and worked with the intervention network to ensure long-term mental health services were provided to survivors and their families. In the weeks that followed, Community Violence Intervention workers held Sunday sessions with young people to help them articulate their fears about mass shootings. What made the response notable was that these organizations applied skills developed through everyday community violence intervention work, and through years of helping Austin's most vulnerable crime victims access support, to a high-profile mass-casualty event. The organizations mentioned above have since similarly been called in to respond to other high profile shootings.

Policing Strategies, 2021–2025

Community-based programs operated alongside changes in policing over the same period. The Austin Police Department (APD) expanded its use and public availability of data, giving residents the ability to see

“I usually turn to
local community
centers and trusted
neighbors when I
need help.”

“I usually go to
the ones that been
in the area for
some years and
helped out.”

what is happening in their neighborhoods in close to real time. APD also shifted from traditional patrol models toward evidence-based directed patrols, and adopted Place Network Investigations, an approach that draws data from multiple city agencies to identify the specific hot spots where attention is most needed. These strategies share a premise with the community-based work documented in this report: concentrating attention and resources where violence is most acute.

Findings From a Survey of Austin Residents' Public Safety Perceptions

Scaling Safety conducted an online survey of Austin residents, with intentional oversampling from ZIP codes characterized by higher reported crime rates. The final sample included 394 respondents, of whom 168 reported some form of personal experience with violent crime, and approximately 30% lived in priority ZIP codes (see Appendix). The survey was designed to capture public perceptions of safety across the city, with particular attention to how lived experience and neighborhood context shape those views.

The survey found overall high rates of crime victimization in Austin experienced by the respondent or an immediate family member (see Table 1). Crime victimization had profound impacts on people's lives, including harm to emotional wellbeing, job loss and relocation. Half of all crime survivors said they experienced mental health strain as a result. While many survivors are able to access services or support and did not experience challenges, a quarter of survivors *said they did not access any services*³. Rates of access to services drop in ZIP codes with higher crime rates (see Table 2).

³ Self-reported rates of service usage post-victimization are slightly higher in Austin compared to similar surveys of other cities conducted by Scaling Safety.

Table 1. Experiences of one or more crime in Austin by you or an immediate family member

All victimization	168 respondents; 42.5%
Stalking	88 respondents; 22.2%
Assault	85 respondents; 21.5%
Robbery	81 respondents; 20.7%
Physical harm from partner	64 respondents; 16.2%
Threats to kill	62 respondents; 15.7%
Sexual violence	60 respondents; 15.2%
Home invasion	41 respondents; 10.4%
Shooting	31 respondents; 7.8%
Human trafficking	28 respondents; 7.1%

Table 2. Rates of services accessed by crime survivors by ZIP code type

Service accessed	Priority ZIP code	Non-priority ZIP code
Mental Health	41.8%	45.1%
Peer Support	23.6%	25.7%
None of the above	29.1%	26.5%
Trauma recovery	8.9%	14.9%
Case Management	19.6%	10.7%

Some respondents shared personal and systemic barriers to receiving services such as long wait times, staffing shortages, lack of awareness of services, and challenges with navigating eligibility requirements.

The survey results show opportunity for grassroots, trust-based and community-led supportive services. Top findings for where people go for help include police (25%), family, friends or peers (23%), and neighbors (18%). Notably, many respondents indicated a lack of trust in systems, saying they do not reach out for help (17%). These findings suggest that while residents rely on emergency services when in crisis, many prefer avenues for help that are rooted in relationship and neighborhood, alongside a desire for community cohesion.

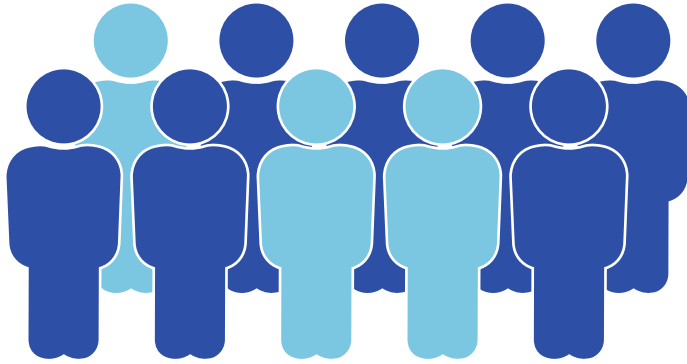
When asked what would reduce violence in their communities, Austin residents shared ideas supporting a broad range of interventions and solutions including law enforcement, neighborhood initiatives, cost of living (e.g., affordable housing, workforce development, inflation reduction), restrictions on gun access, behavioral health for substance use and mental health, community-based services, youth programming, and improvements to education.

1 in 6 Austin residents (16%) said neighborhood initiatives, community programs, youth programming, or community values would help reduce violence in their community. Half of these responses are from people who experienced crime, and about one third come from people who lived in higher crime ZIP codes. Below are examples of these responses:

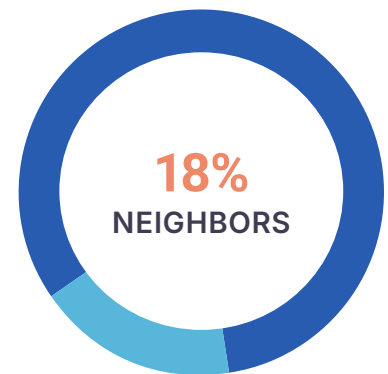
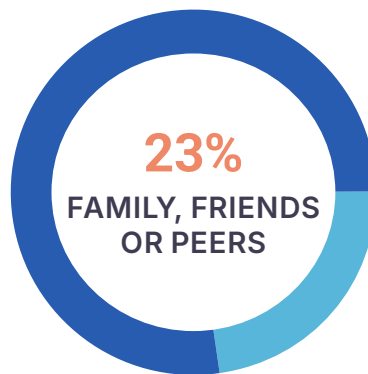
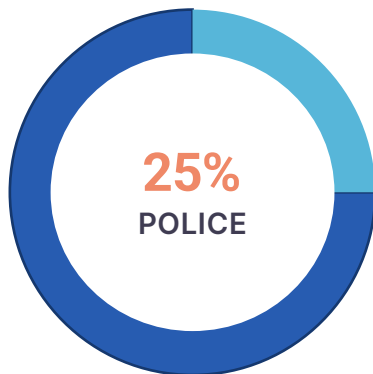
“My community can feel safer if neighbors support each other, there is good communication, and local authorities respond quickly.”

“I believe more community programs and better communication between neighbors could help reduce violence.”

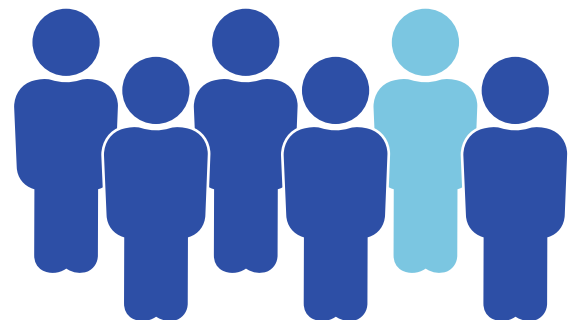
TOP FINDINGS FOR WHERE PEOPLE GO FOR HELP*



The final sample included **394 respondents**, of whom **168 reported some form of personal experience with violent crime**, and approximately **30% lived in priority ZIP codes** (see Appendix).



1 in 6 Austin residents (16%) said **neighborhood initiatives, community programs, youth programming, or community values** would help **reduce violence** in their community.



* 17% of respondents indicated a lack of trust in systems, saying they do not reach out for help

A Recent Survey of Law Enforcement Employees Found Support for Programs That are Traditionally Offered by Community Violence Interruption Organizations⁴

There is widespread support among law enforcement for programs that provide services traditionally offered by community violence interruption organizations, such as conflict mediation, direct outreach with people most at risk of being involved in violence, and youth mentorship.

Almost 90% of law enforcement officers agree, and a majority strongly agree, that “the needs of people experiencing drug overdoses, homelessness, and mental health crises outstrip what their departments are equipped or able to provide”. 80% of law enforcement agreed these types of services “would help prevent retaliatory violence, reduce neighborhood incidents, and make their jobs safer and easier in the long term.” Law enforcement recognize these programs are essential safety strategies that complement their work and contribute to safer neighborhoods for all.

Conclusions

01

Violent crime in Austin genuinely declined, and the decline was not displacement.

Homicide and aggravated assault rates fell across the city between 2021 and 2025, the trend held across Travis County, and spatial analysis shows no evidence that violence simply moved to adjacent neighborhoods. Austin became safer.

02

Areas served by Community Violence Intervention programs saw steeper declines.

Census block groups within program coverage by ATX Peace, Harvest TRC, Hungry Hill, and Tomorrow's Promise Foundation experienced sharper reductions in violent crime than those outside it. While this correlation does not establish causation, it is consistent with a growing national evidence base. Documenting these impacts requires fine-scale spatial and temporal data on CVI programs that most grassroots organizations are not resourced to collect.

<?> Just Safe. Law Enforcement Views on Safety and Justice: National Survey Reveals Strong Support for Common-Sense Safety Solutions. (May 2026), justsafe.org/resources/law-enforcement-views-safety-and-justice.

Conclusions Continued

03 Residents strongly support community-rooted approaches to safety.

While residents rely on emergency services when in crisis, many prefer avenues for help rooted in relationship and neighborhood, alongside a desire for community cohesion. When asked what would reduce violence in their communities, 1 in 6 residents (16%) pointed to neighborhood initiatives, community programs, youth programming, or community values, and half of those responses came from people who had themselves experienced crime. *The community-led infrastructure residents say they want is the same infrastructure this report finds correlated with Austin's decline in violence.*

04 Too many survivors still go without support, especially where violence hits hardest.

1 in 4 crime survivors accessed no services after victimization, 17% of residents said they do not reach out for help because they do not trust the systems offering it, and access rates fall in the ZIP codes with the highest crime. The gap between what residents need and what reaches them is widest in the communities where the stakes are highest.

05 Austin's community violence intervention and trauma recovery infrastructure proved vital when a mass shooting struck the city.

The March 1 response revealed what years of investment had quietly built. The skills these organizations practice daily in the neighborhoods hit hardest by violence, rapid trust-building, rumor control, victim outreach, and connection to sustained care, were precisely what the city reached for in the hours after the shooting, and filled an important gap. Austin's investment in community violence intervention did not only make its most affected ZIP codes safer; it built a response capacity the entire city depended on when violence arrived without warning.

Conclusions continued

06 Failing to sustain funding risks rolling back Austin's progress.

Much of the funding that built this infrastructure, including ARPA allocations and federal grants, is sunsetting with no replacement identified, and supportive services in the Austin area face the loss of nearly \$17 million, with further reductions anticipated across Travis County. The Harvest Trauma Recovery Center was funded initially through the city's American Rescue Plan Act allocation and more recently through a direct federal grant. What could be a model program now faces the loss of both, with no dedicated funding flowing from federal, state, or local government. The trust and neighborhood presence these organizations have built took years to develop and cannot be reconstituted quickly if lost. It is unclear whether Austin's historic gains can outlast the funding associated with them.

07 Law enforcement and community violence intervention are complementary strategies, not competing ones.

Over the period of Austin's decline, the Austin Police Department sharpened its use of data and focused patrols where violence concentrates, while community violence intervention organizations worked the same neighborhoods through trust and relationships to mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation and refer those harmed by violence to resources for healing. National survey data reflects this: 80% of law enforcement officers surveyed across the country agreed that services traditionally offered by community violence interruption organizations would help prevent retaliatory violence, reduce neighborhood incidents, and make their jobs safer. Austin's decline in violence was not the product of one strategy replacing another, but of complementary strategies working the same problem from different directions.

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Appendix (Methods, Results)

Research Question:

Did census block groups in Austin with CVI programs administered by ATX Peace, Harvest Trauma Recovery Center, Hungry Hill, and Tomorrow's Promise, experience steeper declines in violent crime in the past five years than census block groups without these programs?

Data Sources:

Public datasets were obtained from the City of Austin, Travis County, and U.S. Census Bureau: Austin Police Department (APD) Crime Reports: [APD Crime Data](#). Austin Neighborhood Boundaries: [Neighborhood Boundaries Dataset](#) and [Austin Boundary Data](#). Medical Examiner Records were obtained from the [Travis County Medical Examiner Office](#). Community Violence Intervention (CVI) program areas were obtained from ATX Peace Website: <https://www.atxpeace.org/where-we-work>, and from conversations with staff from Tomorrow's Promise Foundation and Hungry Hill about service areas in the city of Austin. Public data were downloaded for final analyses on Jun 21 2026.

Data Processing and Feature Construction:

All spatial processing and statistical analyses were conducted in R 4.5.1. The threshold for statistical significance was set at $\alpha = 0.05$. *Crime Filtering*- Extracted records corresponding specifically to aggravated assault and homicide from APD crime reports, and crime incidents per year were consolidated at the census block group level, the smallest geographic unit of the [crime data reports](#). *Violence trend calculation*- Change in incident rates per census block group geography were calculated to enable cross-area comparison across time. The slope of the regression line of 5-year crime counts was used to estimate change in crime rates per census block group. *CVI Overlay*- Community Violence Intervention (CVI) program service areas of ATX Peace (Jails to Jobs, Life Anew), Hungry Hill, and Tomorrow's Promise were overlaid onto the spatial crime dataset. Census block groups were classified based on whether they intersected with CVI programs. Because of the difference in spatial resolution between the CVI program data (neighborhood) and city crime data (census block group), we identified census block groups that intersected with neighborhoods with CVI program presence (st_intersection in package sf). Intersection over other spatial functions was chosen so as to be as inclusive of service areas as possible and not inadvertently leave out effects of intensive programming and service to residents that are better captured by point data and analyses, and are not captured by our neighborhood level and census block group-level analyses. I.e., too conservative of a spatial join function may leave out very intensive CVI programs that occurred in reality. This resulted in 394 out of 559 census block groups with CVI programs in Austin. Future, more labor-intensive studies using metrics that capture a more nuanced view of victimization outside of crime trends could explore fine-scale spatial relationships of neighborhood service provision intensity and changes in crime rates to examine the true impacts of these organizations on violence.

Statistical Analyses and inference:

Net reduction in crime vs displacement: A Wilcoxon signed-rank test (one-sided, one-sample test) for Aggravated Assault: showed that overall slope values (mean slope = -0.269; N = 559) which indicate the change in crime rates were below zero (V = 52110, p = 5.367e-11), suggesting a systematic negative slope across block groups. *The same analyses for Homicide (using same analyses as agg. assault):* overall slope values (mean slope = -0.12, N = 559; which indicate the change in crime rates) were significantly below zero (V = 860, p = 0.006381) and a systematic negative slope across block groups. Overall crime has decreased across Austin in the past 5 years (mean 27% for aggravated assault and 12.1% for homicides).

Differences in crime trends between census block groups with and without CVI programs.

Aggravated Assault: A Wilcoxon rank-sum test showed a statistically significant difference in slope (between block groups inside and outside the neighborhoods with CVI, W=28,005 p=0.010. A rank-biserial correlation (in R package effect_size) was calculated to quantify the magnitude and direction of the difference in slope (i.e. change in crime rates) between the two group categories of CVI vs no presence. This effect size measures the degree to which slope values in one group tend to be higher or lower than those in the other group, with values ranging from -1 to 1. Positive values indicate higher slopes in the first group, negative values indicate higher slopes in the second group, and values near zero indicate little difference between groups. However, the effect size was small to modest: rank-biserial correlation (Rrb = -0.14, 95% CI [-0.24, -0.03]). When this analysis was repeated without 2 outliers (see Figure i in Appendix), the differences between statistical outputs were negligible, i.e. the statistical correlation held. *Homicide:* statistically significant difference in slope (between block groups with and without CVI (W = 40, p-value = 0.03363). Effect size was sizable but with a very large confidence interval (Rrb= -0.56, 95% CI [-0.84, -0.03]), likely due to low sample size (8 Census block groups). While -0.56 can be interpreted as a 56% difference between groups, the 95% CI is very wide. Additionally the number of census block groups which had homicides occurring in 2021-2025 and that overlap with CVI programs are only 8 out of 559 (1.4% of) census block groups (Figure 2). These methods do not signal causality, and do not account for endogeneity of CVI programs (i.e.; CVI programs are present where there is a need). See Appendix Fig. i. for more nuanced discussion of data distribution and justification. Census block groups with CVI programs had steeper drops in aggravated assault and homicides.

Relationships between crime trends and distance to nearest CVI Brick-and-Mortar: We conducted a nearest-neighbor distance analysis to calculate the Euclidean distance from each census block group centroid to the nearest CVI brick-and-mortar site (Locations in Fig. 3). These distances were then plotted by census block group slope, and the relationship between distance to the nearest CVI location and crime change was visualized. Of the top 5% census block group with the steepest declines in crime (30 of 599 census block groups), 97% of them have CVI programs, and 93% of them are within 3 miles of a brick-and-mortar of the five organizations. Austin is roughly 30 miles N-S by 25 miles E-W.

Monte Carlo Simulations to Evaluate Random Assignment Effects: As there are no treatment and control variables for assignment of CVI like in a randomized control trial, we used Monte Carlo methods as an alternative test of sensitivity is to compare our dataset with simulated datasets where CVI is randomly 'assigned' to a census block group and the relationships between random assignment and our observed data can be compared to infer additional details about the underlying distribution of crime declines across Austin. We ran 1,000 randomization simulations to calculate how often a significant difference between 'treatment' and 'control' groups (CVI vs non-CVI) census groups would occur purely by random chance alone, if the programs had been randomly assigned to block groups without endogeneity. We randomly assigned each census block group to a 'treatment' and 'control' group. Group labels were randomly shuffled while keeping the original group sizes (CVI: n=394; No CVI: n=165), and a Wilcoxon signed rank test was performed for each simulation. This inelegant workaround attempts to illustrate control for two axes of non-independence that are inherent in our analyses: nonrandom assignment of CVI presence in census blocks, and endogeneity of CVI programs with crime. Only 4.3% of these randomized 1,000 CVI 'randomized-controlled trials' produced a significant relationship between 'treatment' (CVI) and 'control' (non-CVI) groups. The observed correlation we report, given all the spatial constraints of our datasets, cannot be explained by random chance alone.

Summary of statistical analyses:

There is a significant statistical correlation between presence of CVI program presence (ATX Peace, HH, TPF) and steeper declines in aggravated assault and homicide rates in a sample of 559 census block groups between 2021-2025. Effect size small to modest, with small sample size for homicides affecting the certainty around estimate. Monte Carlo methods bolster the claim that the patterns in crime decrease cannot be explained by random chance if CVI were randomly assigned to census block groups. Nearest Neighbor analysis suggests distance to nearest CVI brick and mortar may influence decrease in crime trends. Caveats of this study include i. endogeneity of program locations in the city in relation to crime rates, which are set up in response to immediate needs and incidents by definition, ii. relatively low sample sizes for homicides which are sparse in Austin, and iii. lack of nuance in this report describing CVI program intensity across neighborhoods, as only binary presence/absence was calculated. Community violence intervention occurs at a hyper-local level in response to immediate needs and neighborhood- or census-block group-level data inadequately captures the true concentration and spatial distribution of CVI services across Austin. Other methods⁵ need to be used for causal inference, but our multi-angled analyses of large public, private and community datasets combined with contextual information from grassroots organizations, resident needs, and established literature, have enough volume of signals to make this correlation worth pursuing.

⁵ See Sharkey, P., Torrats-Espinosa, G. and Takyar, D., 2017. Community and the crime decline: The causal effect of local nonprofits on violent crime. *American Sociological Review*, 82(6), pp.1214-1240., for e.g. of how to infer causality on crime rates and see Ramos, S., Graham, P.W., Anyanwu, O. and Tonigan, A., 2025. CVI Research and Evaluation Road Map Scoping composition of Austin although Black or African American residents were intentionally overrepresented (18% of respondents compared with approximately 7% of the city's population).

The burden of proof for CVI not being worth sustaining would be difficult in Austin given public data that are currently available.

Austin Resident online survey methods:

We conducted an online survey of Austin residents, sampling from all ZIP codes in Austin, with intentional oversampling from ZIP codes characterized by higher reported crime rates or historical hotspots of elevated violence, overlapping with service areas of CVI organizations listed in this report: 78702, 78721, 78723, 78741, 78752, 78753, 78759. We used internet based online non-probability surveys using PureSpectrum as an online survey vendor over 3 weeks in March and April 2026. N=394 Austin residents completed the survey. 121 (30%) respondents from priority ZIP codes and 168 (43%) respondents who reported that they or an immediate family member had experienced victimization. 54%) had lived in Austin for over 10 years.

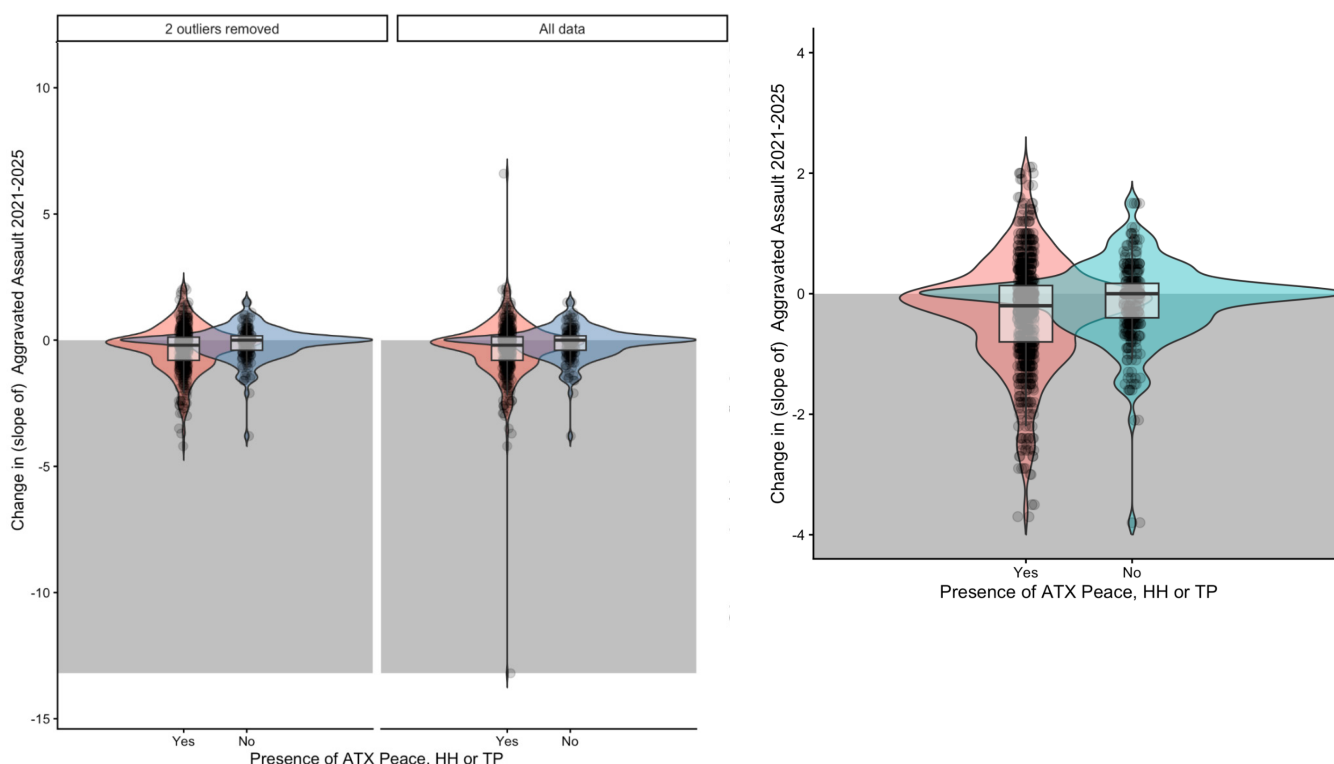


Figure i. Overlaid Box-plot, violin plot, and jitter plot of change in violence in census block groups (N=559) in Austin, Texas. Violin plots are bottom-heavy, showing the distribution of census block groups in the blue (CVI presence) group have steeper declines in aggravated assault rates with (left) and without (right) outliers. In particular, the narrow shape of the blue plots near $Y = 0$ indicate a higher proportion of these census block groups have no change (likely due to overall low rates to begin with). Relative violin plot shapes in relation to $Y = 0$ can be interpreted as a representation of the weight of data: the blue violin is wider at the bottom than the red violin. This is corroborated by the box-plots, with lower tails and lower means in the blue group. Finally, the jitter plot shows the distribution of raw data points and its heavier lower tail in the blue group. Underlying patterns and statistical inference remain unchanged with the removal of the two extreme outliers. While the Wilcoxon tests demonstrate statistically significant differences between the groups, these distributions suggest an interesting and potential bimodal relationship between CVI presence and violence reduction. Hypothesis: CVI, by definition, necessarily operates in areas with shootings and high-profile responses that automatically correlates high violence spikes with

Figure i cont. CVI presence. The relative shapes of the violin plots suggest signal into two patterns of how CVI programs impact neighborhoods: (1) immediate response to violence where it occurs, such as recent research into proof-of-concept evaluation of CVI ⁶, but also capable of (2) steep declines and (3) average declines in violence across many areas across years. Unpacking the nuances will likely require more granular information spatially and temporally.

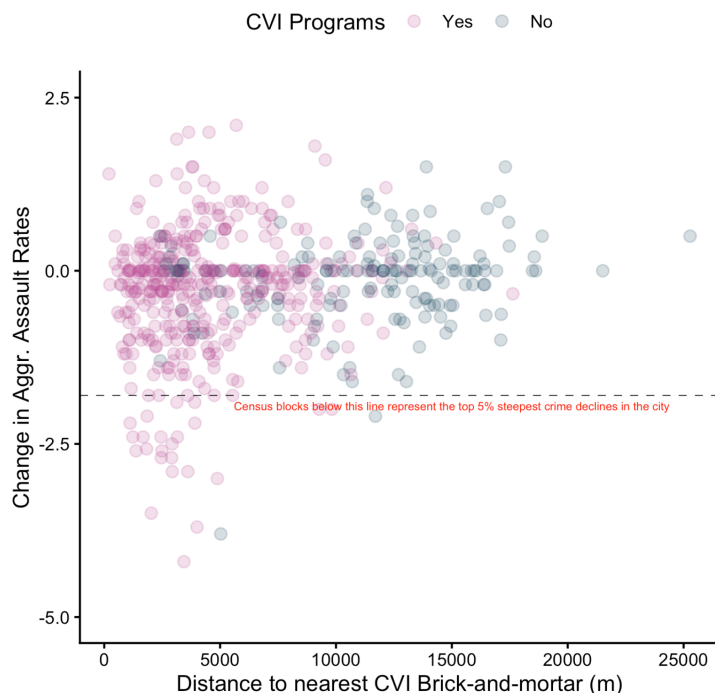


Figure ii. Scatter-plot of change in aggravated assault rates vs distance to nearest Brick and Mortar with CVI programs (ATX Peace, Harvest Trauma Recovery Cevnter, Hungry Hill, and Tomorrow's Promise Foundation). The red line ($Y=-0.18$) represents the threshold for the 5% of census block groups with steepest declines in aggravated assault. The cluster at the lower left portion of the graph represents the census block groups with lower crime rates and closer distances to CVI addresses. Of the Census block groups with the steepest declines in crime, 97% of them had CVI programs and 93% of them were within 3 miles (5 km) of a CVI address.

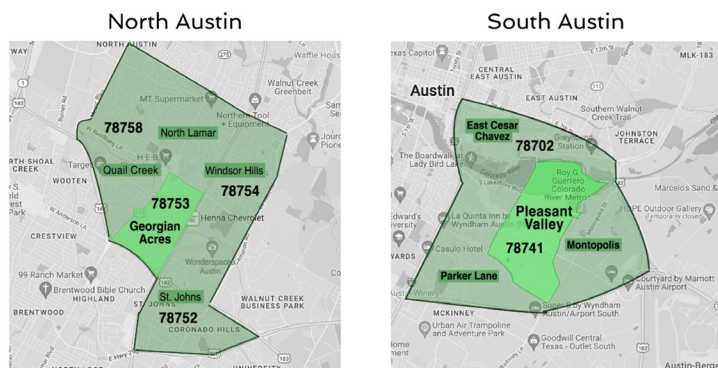


Figure iii. Service areas of ATX Peace (Life Anew, Jails to Jobs) in Austin, TX. Retrieved from <https://www.atxpeace.org/where-we-work> Sun Jul; 19 2026.

⁶ Leap, J., Franke, T., et al. (2025). Newark Community Street Team (NCST): Proof of Concept Evaluation. UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

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