

Evaluation of Brooklyn Park Police Community Metrics and Outcomes

Progress report summary

Submitted – March 1, 2021

Project overview

Wilder Research is working with the City of Brooklyn Park to conduct an evaluation with three areas focus:

- A qualitative analysis of the Brooklyn Park Police Department
- An analysis of City of Brooklyn Park community metrics and outcomes related to systemic inequities, public safety, and attitudes for law enforcement
- An analysis of likely root causes of violence in Brooklyn Park

Project updates

Below is an overview of the work completed or process of completion from December 2020 – February 2021.

Task	Date
Completed literature review; over 50 sources reviewed that will inform development of the police scorecard, the KILLS, the root causes of violence in Brooklyn Park, and the community metrics for public safety.	December - January
Conducted the evaluation/project kickoff meeting with Brooklyn Park core team, Advisory Committee, and Evaluation Subcommittee	January 28, 2021 February 4, 2021
Facilitated two subcommittee meetings	February 19, 2021
Began developing police scorecard (based on literature review)	January – February
Developed communications materials, including interviewee recruitment tools, PowerPoint presentations, and project timeline.	December - February
Began developing community metrics for public safety section of the report. This included identifying indicators from the literature review, researching what indicators are publically available (with help from our MN Compass Team).	January – February
Developed community/city interview protocol (based on literature review). Approach included drafting multiple iterations internally with Wilder Research team and data collection staff, as well as incorporating feedback from the evaluation subcommittee.	January – February
Trained Wilder Research staff on data collection tool.	February 15 th and 24 th
Began planning for youth focus group (new task, see Next Steps section below)	February

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Summary of work with Advisory Committee and Evaluation Subcommittee

- **Kickoff meeting: January 28, 2021** - Wilder Research co-facilitated a project kickoff meeting with the Brooklyn Park core team, Advisory Committee, and Evaluation Subcommittee. At that meeting, Wilder staff provided a project overview, including areas of focus, data collection methods, deliverables, and timeline. Wilder staff also summarized the work completed to date and helped clarify the role of the Advisory Committee and Evaluation Subcommittee.
- **Evaluation Subcommittee: February 4, 2021** - Wilder Research co-facilitated the first meeting with the Evaluation Subcommittee, comprised of community members (including a community member who is also a member of the Brooklyn Park Human Rights Commission), a city councilmember, police officers, and City staff. Several key decisions were made at this meeting.
 - **Develop methods to promote the interview opportunity to community.** The group declined to offer names of people who may be interested, and instead decided that the City and Wilder Research should widely promote the interview opportunity through City communications and social media channels, and through distributing fliers in communities missed by the listening sessions. The group was also interested in protecting the anonymity of those interested in the interview. Wilder Research agreed to create, maintain, and anonymize the interview sign up list.
 - **Determine eligibility for interviews.** The group decided to limit participation to Brooklyn Park residents, and exclude those who own rental property or businesses in Brooklyn Park but do not reside there. The group imposed this limit because of the limited number of community interviews (30-40) and because they highly prioritize interviewing people missed by the listening sessions, including young people, BIPOC people, and people who live in neighborhoods with greater police presence.
 - **Develop method for Evaluation Subcommittee feedback on interview questions.** The group agreed to read through the interview questions on a shared drive and provide feedback within a week.
- **Evaluation Subcommittee: February 19, 2021** - Wilder Research co-facilitated the second meeting with the Evaluation Subcommittee. The key action was:
 - **Refine the interview protocol.** To shorten the duration of the interview, the group was asked to prioritize three “equity in safety” questions. The group prioritized asking interviewees about economic stability, positive connections for youth, and neighborhood connections and not education, health care, or community engagement. Reasons given included areas where the City is positioned to have an impact, and this group’s perceptions of where there may be equity or inequities.

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Next steps

- **Conduct interviews.** Wilder Research will begin scheduling interviews the first week of March, aiming to have all community and city employee interviews completed by the submission of the next progress report.
- **Conduct focus group (new task).** In February, Wilder Research committed to facilitating a youth focus group as an additional method of data collection. Staff will refine the interview questions so that they are appropriate for young people, develop caregiver consent forms and track responses, and facilitate and record answers from the focus group by submission of the next progress report.
- **Draft police scorecard.** Wilder Research will continue to analyze and synthesize the literature on indicators of adherence to policing best practices and present a draft of the police scorecard to the Evaluation Subcommittee by the submission of the next progress report.
- **Analyze community indicators.** Wilder Research will continue to analyze and synthesize the literature on community indicators, and analyze Brooklyn Park community metrics and outcomes related to systemic inequities, public safety, and attitudes for law enforcement.
- **Begin analysis of interviews.** In late March, Wilder Research will begin analysis of the interviews, including identifying emerging themes, and tracking close-ended responses.

Evaluation contact information

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For more information

For more information about this evaluation, contact Julie Atella (julie.atella@wilder.org).

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