Plan Overview

*Title:* Racial Equity Tools to Prevent Youth Violence and to Reduce Racially Inequitable Youth Outcomes (Racial Equity Project, REP) in Worcester, MA.

*Creator:* Laurie Ross

*Affiliation:* Clark University (clarku.edu)

*Funder:* National Institutes of Health (nih.gov)

*Funding opportunity number:* RFA-CE-23-004

*Template:* NIH-Default DMSP

**Project abstract:**

**Long-term objectives:** The Racial Equity Project (REP) is a research-practice partnership between Clark University, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, and the city of Worcester’s Youth Violence Prevention Initiative with three long-term objectives: 1) to prevent gun and knife perpetration, victimization, and witnessing by young people ages 10-24; 2) to reduce racial inequity in the trauma burden experienced by Black and Latinx youth associated with gun and knife violence; 3) to establish racial equity tools as an efficacious structural intervention to prevent gun and knife violence and to reduce racially inequitable impacts.

**Specific aims:** 1) Develop and administer a racial equity tool training protocol for municipal leaders and local funders specific to youth violence prevention; 2) Monitor and evaluate leaders’ and funders’ utilization of racial equity tools in funding, program, and policy decision-making; 3) Conduct summative evaluation of the impact of racial equity tools on preventing youth violence and reducing inequity; 4) Disseminate findings to contribute to the research and practice fields on youth violence prevention.

**Research design and methods:** This project employs a mixed-methods design to evaluate: 1) the extent to which training on the use of equity tools affects REP stakeholders’ knowledge, capacity, and motivation to make decisions through a racial equity lens; 2) the extent to which there are shifts in funded programs, target populations served, and outputs and outcomes achieved by comparing outcomes of racial equity tool decision-making to seven years of data on funded youth violence prevention programming prior to the adoption of racial equity tools; 3) the extent to which gun and knife incidents and racial inequity decrease by using police data to measure reductions in gun and knife incidents each year and to employ Relative Rate Index analysis to measure changes in inequity; 4) the extent to which the racial equity tools were responsible for the reduction in inequity by using Comparative Short Interrupted Time Series (C-SITS).
Relevance of research to public health: Youth violence is a racialized, wicked problem and therefore requires new organizational and system change practices to resolve. Racial equity tools have the potential to be an efficacious system level intervention that resources innovative policy and practices that address the structural conditions that contribute to community violence at the city level.

Start date: 09-30-2023

End date: 09-29-2026

Last modified: 05-10-2023

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Racial Equity Tools to Prevent Youth Violence and to Reduce Racially Inequitable Youth Outcomes (Racial Equity Project, REP) in Worcester, MA.

Data Type

Types and amount of scientific data expected to be generated in the project: **Summarize the types and estimated amount of scientific data expected to be generated in the project.**

Describe data in general terms that address the type and amount/size of scientific data expected to be collected and used in the project (e.g., 256-channel EEG data and fMRI images from ~50 research participants). Descriptions may indicate the data modality (e.g., imaging, genomic, mobile, survey), level of aggregation (e.g., individual, aggregated, summarized), and/or the degree of data processing that has occurred (i.e., how raw or processed the data will be)

This project will produce: Racial Equity Tool Training pre-post data from 35 members of the Worcester Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (WYVPI); Racial Equity Tool implementation fidelity data from over 100 meetings with WYVPI Leadership and Operations teams; and a database of two years of funding decisions made using racial equity tools. Publicly available data on youth gun and knife incidents will be used as part of the project's summative evaluation; data accessed from https://ma.beyond2020.com/ma_tops. The following data files will be used or produced in the course of the project: .doc and .csv. Raw data will be transformed by latent growth curve modeling (LGCM) and Comparative Short Interrupted Time Series (C-SIT). To protect research participant identities summarized data will be made available for sharing.

**Scientific data that will be preserved and shared, and the rationale for doing so: Describe which scientific data from the project will be preserved and shared and provide the rationale for this decision.**

Data used for C-SIT is already publicly accessible. The raw data from Racial Equity Tool training, the implementation fidelity data, and the funding database are contextually specific and likely do not have utility to a larger scientific audience. That said, the entire project will be documented and an Implementation Manual will be produced that will illustrate how we conducted all steps of the project. In this way, other communities could replicate our process.

Metadata, other relevant data, and associated documentation: Briefly list the metadata, other relevant data, and any associated documentation (e.g., study protocols and data collection instruments) that will be made accessible to facilitate interpretation of the scientific data.

The Implementation Manual will contain the entire Racial Equity Tools training protocol, the pre-post test instrument, and the coding sheet. The Manual will also contain the implementation fidelity checklist. The Manual will contain instructions on how to access the publicly accessible data used in the project, including the specific variables and timeframes used in the REP project.

**Related Tools, Software and/or Code**

State whether specialized tools, software, and/or code are needed to access or manipulate shared scientific data, and if so, provide the name(s) of the needed tool(s) and software and specify how they can be
Standards

State what common data standards will be applied to the scientific data and associated metadata to enable interoperability of datasets and resources, and provide the name(s) of the data standards that will be applied and describe how these data standards will be applied to the scientific data generated by the research proposed in this project. If applicable, indicate that no consensus standards exist.

NA

Data Preservation, Access, and Associated Timelines

Repository where scientific data and metadata will be archived: Provide the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and metadata arising from the project will be archived; see Selecting a Data Repository.

This project will not archive scientific data and metadata. The Implementation Manual will be archived on Clark University's Digital Commons, using Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial CC BY-NC license.

How scientific data will be findable and identifiable: Describe how the scientific data will be findable and identifiable, i.e., via a persistent unique identifier or other standard indexing tools.

Clark Digital Commons is a full-text, multi-media, online depository that provides access to the diverse array of scholarly and creative works produced or housed at Clark University. It is a service of the Goddard Library and Information Technology Services (ITS) at Clark University. The content of the repository is discoverable by Google, Google Scholar, and other search engines, which makes it easy to share and collaborate with anyone connected to the Internet. The content is available to be used responsibly under fair use for personal and educational purposes or with the permission of the authors or copyright holders.

When and how long the scientific data will be made available: Describe when the scientific data will be made available to other users (i.e., no later than time of an associated publication or end of the performance period, whichever comes first) and for how long data will be available.

The Implementation Manual will be made available upon completion. There is not end date of availability.

Access, Distribution, or Reuse Considerations

Factors affecting subsequent access, distribution, or reuse of scientific data: NIH expects that in drafting
Plans, researchers maximize the appropriate sharing of scientific data. Describe and justify any applicable factors or data use limitations affecting subsequent access, distribution, or reuse of scientific data related to informed consent, privacy and confidentiality protections, and any other considerations that may limit the extent of data sharing. See Frequently Asked Questions for examples of justifiable reasons for limiting sharing of data.

The Implementation Manual will be shared. Individual level data from Racial Equity Tools training will have Human Subjects protection; aggregate data will be shared.

Whether access to scientific data will be controlled: State whether access to the scientific data will be controlled (i.e., made available by a data repository only after approval).

Implementation Manual will be freely available on Digital Commons.

Protections for privacy, rights, and confidentiality of human research participants:
If generating scientific data derived from humans, describe how the privacy, rights, and confidentiality of human research participants will be protected (e.g., through de-identification, Certificates of Confidentiality, and other protective measures).

Upon receiving funding, REP Principal Investigator will develop a Human Subjects proposal to Clark University's Institutional Review Board that will include procedures for participant recruitment, informed consent, maintaining confidentiality of data, and how findings will be shared.

Oversight of Data Management and Sharing

Describe how compliance with this Plan will be monitored and managed, frequency of oversight, and by whom at your institution (e.g., titles, roles).

Dr. Ross, the Principal Investigator, will ensure compliance on a day-to-day basis. Clark University's Dean of Research and the Institutional Review Board will monitor the plan on an annual basis.
Planned Research Outputs

Implementation manual - "Racial Equity Tools for Youth Violence Prevention Implementation Manual"

REP will create an implementation manual that includes the training curriculum and evaluation protocol; the fidelity checklist; and lessons learned about implementing racial equity tools for violence prevention.

Data paper - "Racial Equity Tool Training"

Results of racial equity tool training

Data paper - "Racial Equity Tool Monitoring"

Data paper - "Racial Equity Tool Impact"

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Planned research output details

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