POLICING INNOVATIONS AT A GLANCE:
Successful Gun Violence Reduction Strategies

Gun violence brings devastating injuries and loss of life, a heavy burden on community quality of life, and heavy costs to the justice system. The most common forms of gun violence—involving gang members, violent conflicts, and other forms of violent crime—occur daily, and local police are the most immediate and relied-upon response to curb and prevent such violence. Bureau of Justice Assistance Strategies for Policing Innovation (SPI) sites test innovative strategies aimed at addressing chronic and pervasive gun violence.

SUCCESSFUL GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGIES
- Conduct advanced problem analysis to identify hot spots/people.
- Target persistent gun violence hot spots.
- Target prolific crime-involved individuals in persistent hot spots.
- Employ new technologies and advanced crime analysis.
- Engage a wide range of collaborative partners.

Boston, MA

The Boston SPI addressed violent crime, especially robberies and assaults committed with guns, using community policing and problem-oriented policing Safe Streets Teams (SSTs).
- Completed 28-year longitudinal analysis of violent crime to identify 13 chronic hot spots.
- Targeted SSTs, consisting of a sergeant and six patrol officers, in hot spots.
- Deployed nearly 400 different situational/environmental, enforcement, and community/social service techniques to identify and address recurring problems.

Research design: a quasi-experimental design with propensity score matching (statistically based matching of target sites to control/comparison sites).

More than 17% reduction in violent crime.
More than 15% reduction in aggravated assaults.
More than 19% reduction in robberies.

Kansas City, MO

The Kansas City SPI addressed violent crime, particularly gun violence, using a model called the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA).
- Used social network analysis and group audits to identify violent offender groups (and their frequent associates).
- Implemented a full range of interventions (e.g., offender notification sessions, enhanced monitoring by patrol officers, strategic federal prosecution, intensive probation and parole supervision, social services).
- Collaborated with numerous criminal justice stakeholders.

Research design: bivariate analysis and interrupted time series analysis to assess the impact of the focused deterrence pulling levers strategy.

40% reduction in homicide.
19% reduction in gun-related aggravated assaults.

Los Angeles, CA

The Los Angeles SPI addressed gun-related violence using Operation LASER (Los Angeles' Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program).
- Targeted violent repeat offenders and gang members who commit crimes in target areas.
- Used intelligence-driven location- and offender-based tactics.
- Implemented a Crime Intelligence Detail, composed of sworn officers and a local crime analyst, to create proactive, real-time intelligence briefs called Chronic Offender Bulletins.
- Directed patrol, specific missions, and enhanced surveillance.

Research design (ongoing): interrupted time-series analysis, which assesses whether the interventions in target areas had an effect on crime while controlling for previous trends.

22.6% reduction in homicides per month in the target division.
5.2% reduction in gun crimes per month in each reporting district of the target division.

New Haven, CT

The New Haven SPI addressed rising violent crime and local shooting incidents in a persistently violent neighborhood in the city.
- Modeled risk terrain to determine areas with the highest risk of violent crime.
- Had 13 weeks of supplementary, focused foot patrols.
- Increased use of data-driven decision making (e.g., daily "flash sheets" with maps, crime data, and other data).
- Engaged community, particularly specific block groups.
- Modified problem-oriented policing techniques (e.g., patrol officers identified issues such as street lighting and neglected properties, and supervisors implemented responses).

Research design: pre-intervention, intervention, and post-intervention analysis in target and control areas.

During intervention, 19% reduction in violent crime at the neighborhood-level and 36% reduction in violent crime in high-risk areas.

13 weeks following the intervention, 41% violent crime reduction at the neighborhood level and 56% reduction in the high-risk areas.

Rochester, NY

The Rochester SPI intervened in retaliatory gun violence.
- Developed a formal process to document, analyze, and disseminate information about potentially violent retaliatory disputes (including shooting incident data and conducting focus groups).
- Created an on-scene dispute assessment tool to characterize incidents by retaliation risk.
- Deployed investigative, place-based, and offender-based interventions for high-risk violent-retaliatory disputes.

Research design: examination of descriptive statistics, correlation coefficients, and logistic regression models.

The evaluation validated the risk assessment tool as a predictive device: for every one-point increase in the assessment tool score that a dispute received, the odds of violence occurring in that dispute over time increase by 29%.

Strategies for Policing Innovation

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