



St. Louis Region

Practicum on Partnership- Based Violence Reduction

December 4-8, 2023



Practicum Recap and Report out

Practicum Recap

- Monday morning
 - Brought together large group of diverse stakeholders
 - Discussed regional approach with elected officials
 - Unveiled regional homicide analysis
 - Discussed first principles for violence reduction
 - Answered questions from audience
- Morning afternoon – Thursday
 - Broke into small group (30 participants) for working sessions
 - Learned about key anti-violence strategies from leading experts
 - Put together practical “plan to plan” for action
- This morning
 - Reporting out on “plan to plan,” discussing next steps

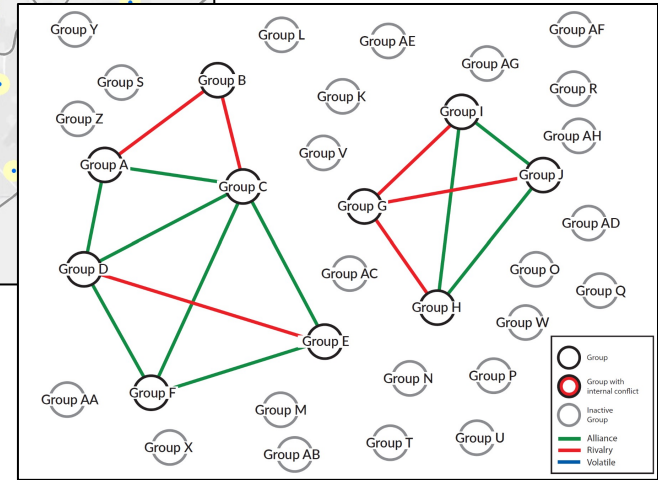
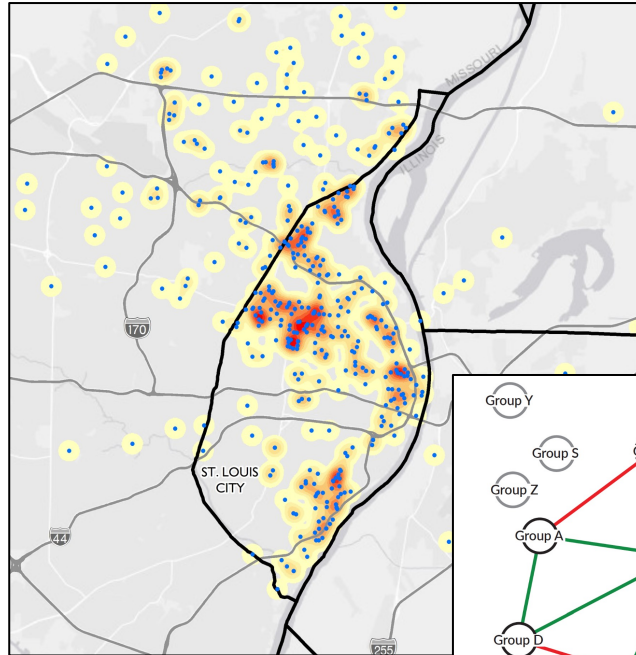
Practicum Recap

● Working session participants

- Sara Baker, St. Louis Mayor's Office
- Nicolle Barton, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Mike Bradley, US Attorney's Office
- Tim Brinker, Franklin County
- Pastor Rodrick Burton, New Northside Missionary Baptist Church
- James Clark, Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Lt. Col. Juan Cox, SLCPD
- Steve Ehlmann, St. Charles County
- Fred Evans, Behavioral Health Network
- Gabe Gore, St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office
- Andrea Harrington, St. Louis County Circuit Attorney's Office
- Lt. Elbert Jennings, Illinois State Police
- Adam Kazda, GSL, Inc.
- Pat Kelly, Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Mark Kern, St. Clair County
- Lt. Col Renee Kriesmann, SLMPD
- Lt. Col Eric Larson, SLMPD
- Dan Lewis, St. Clair County Circuit Attorney's Office
- Annissa McCaskill, Forward through Ferguson
- Jessica Meyers, St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission
- Serena Muhammad, St. Louis Mental Health Board
- Beth Orwick, St. Louis County
- Wilford Pinkney, Office of Violence Prevention, St. Louis Mayor's Office
- Dr. LJ Punch, Bullet Related Injury Clinic
- Lee Slocum, UMSL
- Captain David Tiefenbrunn, St. Charles County Police
- Austin Walker, Regional Business Council
- Lt. Col. Tim Whitney, Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept.
- Jim Wild, EWGCOG
- Erica Wiley, VPCC - Belleville Area Cluster

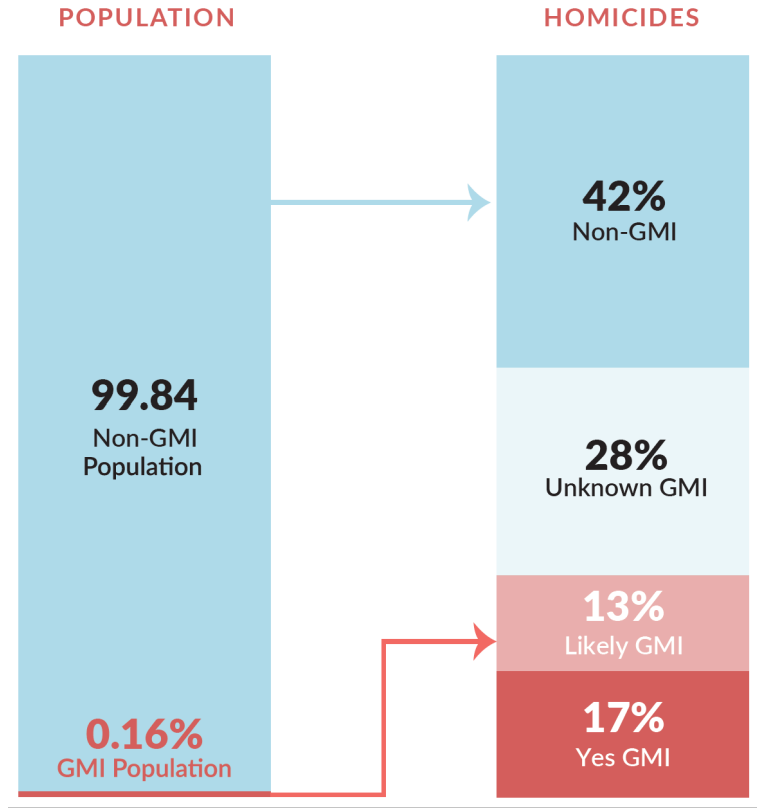
What we learned

- Homicides in St. Louis region are concentrated in micro-locations known as “hot spots,” and among small numbers of individuals and groups



What we learned

- A small number of “group-involved” individuals contribute disproportionately to violence



What we learned

- Both suspects and victims of homicides are older and more embedded in criminal justice system than some expected

Age	Victims (n=223)	Suspects (n=193)	Victims & Suspects (n=416)	Dec (n=18)	Victims & Suspects (n=263)
17 & Under	14%	11%	13%		
18 to 24	24%	30%	27%		
25 to 34	27%	30%	28%		
35 to 44	17%	14%	15%		
45 to 54	8%	9%	8%		
55 & Older	10%	6%	8%		3.3
Average Age	31	31	31		1.7
		offenses			
		Drug offenses	3.4	2.9	3.1
		Property offenses	4.2	3.2	3.7
		Total average offenses	14.6	11.5	13.0

What we learned

- A small set of evidence-informed strategies can make a difference when implemented properly

	Prevention	Intervention	Enforcement
People		Focused deterrence Street outreach CBT HVIPs	Focused deterrence Shooting investigations
Places	Environmental crime prevention	Environmental crime prevention	Place-based policing
Behaviors		Focused deterrence Street outreach CBT	Focused deterrence

What we recommend

- The Practicum working group recommends a new strategy for addressing the most serious violence in the region; the group also recommends creating a new collaborative effort to drive the strategy forward
- **Mission**: To save lives across the St. Louis region by reducing homicides and shootings by 20 percent over three years.
- **Vision**: Engage those at the highest risk for violence, working to keep them alive, safe, and free while holding those who shoot and kill fully accountable.

What we recommend

- **Values**: This collaborative effort should be regionally-focused, informed by evidence and data, and humanity-centered.
 - Being regionally-focused means working collectively as a region to drive down violence where it is most concentrated.
 - Being evidence- and data- informed means that decisions should be informed by sound evidence and data.
 - Being humanity-centered means reaffirming the humanity of those most impacted by violence.

What we recommend

- **Strategy**: the Practicum working group recommends a **regional focused deterrence** strategy.

“Findings from this review support the growing use of focused deterrence as a proactive crime reduction strategy. Practitioners and policy-makers should continue to implement focused deterrence programs to address serious crime problems.” Campbell Systematic Reviews. 2019.

“Focused deterrence programs generate statistically significant crime reduction impacts.” National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018.

“Focused deterrence...has the largest direct impact on crime and violence, of any intervention in this report.” United States Agency for International Development. 2016.

What we recommend

- Core elements of the focused deterrence strategy:
 - Mobilize moral voice of the community
 - Provide clear information about risk
 - Offer unconditional support
 - Direct, sustained outreach with high-risk individuals and groups
 - Prioritize legitimacy and procedural justice
 - Follow up: keep promises of support and accountability
 - Assess and evaluate

What we recommend

- Focused deterrence **is**:
 - A collaborative violence reduction strategy
 - that features relentless support and outreach,
 - as well as strategic and legitimate law enforcement,
 - and leverages the moral voice and leadership of the community.
- Focused deterrence is **not**:
 - A police-led strategy
 - that only involves arrest, prosecution, incarceration.

What we recommend

- The Practicum working group also recommends supplementing the focused deterrence strategy with **robust supports and services** fully informed by **cognitive behavioral theory** and other behavior modification strategies

“CBT is supported by a strong base of evidence that includes multiple studies using the most rigorous study designs as well as systematic reviews... Of the anti-violence interventions not involving law enforcement, CBT appears to have the strongest track record of success.” Violent Crime Working Group, Council on Criminal Justice. 2021.

“CBT can reduce criminal behavior among both at-risk youth and criminally engaged men, likely by helping them focus more on the future, change their self-perceptions, and/or slow their decision-making.” J-PAL Poverty Action Lab. 2018.

What we recommend

- The Practicum working group also recommends employing **street outreach workers** to ensure that supports and services reach those who need them most.

“[These] program models have been used to reduce gun violence through outreach by credible messengers to individuals at highest risk, mediation of disputes that could potentially lead to shootings, promotion of nonviolent responses to conflicts, assistance with social services, and life coaching.” Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. 2023.

“Evaluations of street outreach programs from across the county credit this type of work with double-digit reductions in violence in cities large and small.” Giffords Center for Violence Intervention. 2023.

What we recommend

- The Practicum working group acknowledges that place-based strategies to improve neighborhood conditions and increase police visibility are another important component of anti-violence work
- The group hopes to align with and support such efforts around the region in the future

What we recommend

- The Practicum working group recommends creating a new collaborative effort to support the recommended strategies
- This effort should bring together key stakeholders from inside and outside government, and especially impacted community members, to push this work forward
- The East-West Gateway Council of Governments has agreed to seek approval from its board to help start this collaborative
- Greater St. Louis Inc., the Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis, and the Regional Business Council have all agreed to provide early financial support
- The VRC will continue to provide guidance and support as well

What we recommend

- Initially, the collaborative effort will provide key technical and logistical support to ensure plan development and implementation moving forward, including:
 - Convening regular meetings of stakeholders
 - Ensuring consistent communication between stakeholders
 - Engaging experts to provide training and technical assistance
 - Tracking, analyzing, and sharing key data
- Additional activities will be added as necessary

Next steps

- These are just recommendations. Additional action is necessary to turn these recommendations into reality
- Next steps:
 - Memorialize the mission, vision, values, and strategies in a draft “plan to plan” (December 2023)
 - Share “plan to plan” broadly, engaging and receiving feedback from additional stakeholders (January 2024)
 - Draft formal plan for review and approval (February 2024)
 - Review and approve plan at first meeting of the regional collaborative steering committee, beginning implementation immediately (March 2024)

Let's discuss!