

Summary of PSN Research Findings
Project Safe Neighborhoods
Research Findings Summary
Michigan State University
2013

The School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University (MSU) has provided research-based training and technical assistance to PSN task forces as well as having conducted evaluation research of the overall initiative, a series of case studies, and of the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI). MSU's research indicate that PSN's targeted and focused approach to reducing violent crime has been associated with reduced levels of violence. The greatest impact has been observed in those jurisdictions with greater levels of implementation intensity and fidelity.

Key Findings from PSN Research

- Overall, there was evidence that PSN target cities experienced reduced levels of violence when compared to non-PSN target cities as well as to PSN target cities in PSN districts with lower levels of implementation. The first comparison was based on level of federal prosecution for gun crime. Specifically, in U.S. cities with populations greater than 100,000, a high rate of PSN prosecutions was associated with a 13.1 percent **decrease** in violent crime. Comparison cities with a low rate of PSN prosecutions experienced a 7.8 percent **increase** in violent crime.
- The second comparison was based on a measure of PSN implementation that included the integration of research, the number of partnerships established, and the level of prosecution. Including a variety of controls known to be associated with levels of violent crime, PSN target cities in districts with higher levels of implementation experienced more significant declines in violent crime than did non-target cities and cities in low implementation districts. Specifically, controlling for a variety of factors associated with violent crime (e.g., police resources, incarceration rates, socioeconomic disadvantage, population density), PSN treatment cities experienced a 4.1 percent decrease in violent crime compared to a 0.9 percent decrease in non-treatment cities.
- These analyses were complemented by an assessment in the trend in firearms homicides limited to those cities reporting to the FBI's Supplemental Homicide Reports and having sufficient numbers of homicides to support the analysis. This part of the research indicated that high dosage sites experienced the greatest reduction in firearm related homicides (-10.5%). Comparatively, medium dosage sites experienced no change over this same period (i.e., a less than .1% change), while low dosage and non-treatment cities experienced increases in firearm homicides (14.0 and 11.1%, respectively).

These overall patterns were supported in a series of case studies.

- As part of Alabama's PSN Operation ICE, both Mobile (SD Ala.) and Montgomery (MD Ala.) experienced significant declines. In Montgomery, post-PSN gun assaults were reduced by an average of three incidents per month. In Mobile, total gun crime decreased by an average of 26 incidents per month. These findings were supported by reductions in trauma center admissions for gunshot wounds.

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- In Omaha, Nebraska, firearms offenses were reduced by 20 percent from their pre-PSN level.
- In the Middle District of North Carolina, total gun offenses were reduced in Durham, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. In two locations, Winston-Salem and Greensboro, the reductions were statistically significant.
- In Lowell, Massachusetts, PSN was focused on gun assaults involving Asian gangs. Following implementation, Lowell experienced a 28 percent decrease in gun assault cases.
- Chicago experienced a 37 percent reduction in homicides in the PSN target communities. This was statistically significant when compared to other parts of the city.
- Stockton, California's PSN task force utilized a focused deterrence approach to gang violence and witnesses a 42 percent reduction in gun homicides.
- The analysis of the impact of the PSN, Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI) demonstrated similar findings. Specifically, when controlling for levels of implementation, there was an 11-12% decline in firearms homicides.

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City	Total Gun Crime	Homicides with Gun	Gun Assaults	Armed Robbery	Homicides (not limited to guns)	Weapons Offenses	Total violent crime w/ gun	Gunshot trauma admissions	Statistically Significant	Type of Comparison
Chicago					-37%				Yes	Other Chicago comparison neighborhoods & citywide
Durham	-10.2%								No	Pre/post intervention ³
Greensboro	-18.4%								Yes	Pre/post intervention ³
Lowell			-28%						Yes	Other Massachusetts cities
Mobile	-29.5% ¹		-2.9%	-9.7%			-12% ²	-2.3%	Yes	Pre/post intervention ³ ; Property Crimes
Montgomery			-12.6%		-22.7%				Yes	Pre/post intervention ³ ; Property Crimes
Omaha	-20%								Yes	Pre/post intervention ³ ; Property Crimes
St. Louis			-6.6%	-16%	-21%	-34%			Yes	Other St. Louis comparison neighborhoods & citywide (decline seen everywhere)
Stockton		-42%							Yes	Other California cities
Winston-Salem	-18.3%								Yes	Pre/post intervention ³

¹ Assault with a gun, discharging a firearm, ex-felon in possession of a firearm, homicide with a gun, menacing with a gun, no pistol permit, sex crimes (rape and sodomy) with a gun, robbery with a gun, and shooting into a car or residence.

² Assault with a gun, homicide with a gun, sex crimes with a gun, and robbery with a gun.

³i.e. time series analysis.

NOTE – The selection of outcome measures were determined by the local PSN research partner working with the police department. The MSU team requested as many of the outcome measures as were available in monthly format to allow pre-post comparisons.

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