

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN): Research Foundation

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Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Research Foundation¹

Project Description

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun and gang crime in the United States at the local level. The core of PSN involves the funding of local programs coupled with increased federal prosecution of illegal gun use and possession. Since its inception in 2001, over \$2 billion has been committed to this initiative. This funding is being used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, deter juvenile gun crime, and develop and promote community outreach efforts, as well as to support other gun crime and gang violence reduction strategies.²

Each year, the 94 U.S. Attorney districts are eligible to apply for PSN grants to develop and sustain the 5 core elements of PSN. This includes partnerships with local and state agencies, strategic planning with a research partner, training on laws or crime trends, community outreach and public awareness campaigns, and accountability through progress reports.

CrimeSolutions.gov Ratings:

Effective (7)

Promising (13)

No Effect (2)

Insufficient Evidence (1)

Partners and Professional Organizations:

- ✓ Michigan State University
- ✓ International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- ✓ American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)
- ✓ National Gang Center
- ✓ National Network for Safe Communities

Note: The summaries of evaluations that follow include not only evaluations of PSN but also evaluations of programs similar to PSN that have been developed at a local or state level³. All the listed programs share the goal of gun crime or gang violence reduction and have core elements similar to PSN. The evaluations fitting these criteria have been selected from CrimeSolutions.gov, publicly available reports, and academic journals.⁴ The organizations listed above are part of the network of training and technical assistance providers supporting PSN (see websites at end of document).

¹ This report follows the format of reports prepared by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in fiscal years 2015 and 2016. It is updated periodically, including a review of CrimeSolutions.gov in an effort to include the most recent information on evidence-based practices. Consequently, the number of studies cited from CrimeSolutions.gov differs from prior reports.

² More information on Project Safe Neighborhoods can be found at the following link:
https://www.bja.gov/programdetails.aspx?program_id=74

³ The full report for each evaluation or article can be found using the link provided. All links were verified and tested on August 15, 2017. Changes in documents, websites and browser type may affect functionality.

⁴ CrimeSolutions.gov program and practice areas are discussed in the articles and reports cited for each program or practice. In some cases, one article may have multiple ratings or multiple articles may be used to determine a single rating. Therefore, the number of reports or articles given a CrimeSolutions.gov rating in this report may not match what is found by searching CrimeSolutions.gov.

Research Findings from PSN Studies

Highlighted Findings from the PSN National Evaluation

McGarrell, E.F., Corsaro, N. Hipple, N.K., & Bynum, T.S. (2010). “Project Safe Neighborhoods and Violent Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Assessing Violent Crime Impact.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 26: 165–90.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This article presents the results of the national evaluation of Project Safe Neighborhoods. The findings indicate that PSN target cities experienced significant reductions in violent crime compared to other U.S. cities that were not the focus of PSN interventions. The results were most pronounced where PSN was implemented with the most intensity and fidelity to the core PSN principles.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=253426>

McGarrell, E. F., Hipple, N. K., et al. (2009). *Project Safe Neighborhoods—A National Program to Reduce Gun Crime: Final Project Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This report examines the PSN Program on a national level by evaluating implementation and outcomes. Implementation was successful when the U.S. Attorney’s Office took a leadership role; resources were focused on high gun-crime areas; and crime data were readily available. To determine outcomes, two research methodologies were used. First, several case studies were conducted (detailed below). Second, an analysis of violent crime in cities with populations larger than 100,000 was conducted. This analysis showed that as the level of PSN intervention increased, a greater decrease in crime occurred.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226686.pdf>

Office of Justice Programs Research and Evaluations – PSN Case Studies

Hipple, N.K., Corsaro, N., & McGarrell, E.F. (2010). *The High Point Drug Market Initiative: A Process and Impact Assessment, Project Safe Neighborhoods Case Study 12*. East Lansing, Michigan: Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. 

This report details the PSN and Drug Market Initiative (DMI) Programs in High Point, North Carolina. The DMI Program focuses deterrence strategies on specific open-air drug markets and the related violence. Results of the study show a decrease in violent crime of over 7 percent and a decrease in drug and nuisance crimes by over 5 percent.

http://www.psnmsu.com/documents/PSN_CaseStudy12.pdf

Hipple, N. K., Frabutt, J. M., et al. (2007). *Middle District of North Carolina: Case Study 11*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report details the PSN Program in the middle district of North Carolina (Durham/Greensboro/ Winston-Salem/Salisbury area). A series of task forces were used in each city, coordinated by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The program had two components: a deterrence-based strategy and access to services and resources. The results show that total gun crime declined in all four cities studied, though this decline was only significant in two of the cities.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/241729.pdf>

Hipple, N. K., O'Shea, T., et al. (2007). *Southern District of Alabama: Case Study 10*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report details the PSN Program in the southern district of Alabama (around Mobile). This program did not use a traditional task force, but instead it had officials stay within their agencies while working together. It relied on increased federal prosecution and a media campaign of deterrence messages. The analysis shows a significant decrease in total gun crime, violent gun crime, armed robberies, and assaults with a gun. There was no significant change in gun homicides.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/241728.pdf>

Hipple, N. K., Perez, H. A., et al. (2007). *District of Nebraska: Case Study 9*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report discusses the PSN Program in Nebraska. The main focus of this program was a task force in the city of Omaha. The task force, made up of federal, state, and local authorities, used a strategic problem-solving approach with regular incident reviews. Data show a significant 20-percent reduction in firearms offenses after the start of the PSN intervention.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/241727.pdf>

Decker, S. H., McGarrell, E. F., et al. (2007). *Strategic Problem-Solving Responses to Gang Crime and Gang Problems: Case Study 8*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report examines gang-focused strategies as part of the PSN Program. It references Operation Cease Fire, which offers three successful strategies to reduce gang violence. First, the intervention must be based on local police data. Second, data must be continually collected and used to refine the intervention as needed. Third, the intervention must combine local, state, and federal efforts.

https://www.bja.gov/Publications/Strategic_Prob_Solving.pdf

Decker, S. H., Huebner, B. M., et al. (2007). *Eastern District of Missouri: Case Study 7*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report discusses the PSN Program in the eastern district (St. Louis area) of Missouri. The program identified areas of high gun crime, then focused enforcement and prosecution on these areas. Implementation data show an increase in information sharing and federal prosecutions for gun crimes. Violent gun crime in the target areas decreased significantly, though it is not clear if the PSN Program caused the decrease.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/ED-Missouri.pdf>

McDevitt, J., Braga, A. A., et al. (2007). *Lowell, District of Massachusetts: Case Study 6*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report takes a look at the PSN Program in Lowell, Massachusetts. This program focused on identifying and prosecuting serious chronic offenders. Outcome data show a significant reduction in assaults with a firearm but no reduction in armed robberies or gun-related calls for service. The reduction in firearm assaults was sustained for over 2 years.

https://www.bja.gov/Publications/Lowell_MA.pdf

McGarrell, E. F., Hipple, N. K., et al. (2007). *Middle District of Alabama: Case Study 5*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report examines the PSN Program in middle Alabama (the area around Montgomery). Implementation data show an increase in the number of federal prosecutions for gun crimes, with a focus on those with extensive criminal histories. Outcome data show a significant decrease in assault with a firearm and a marginal decrease in homicide.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/MD-Alabama.pdf>

Bynum, T., & Decker, S. H. (2006). *Chronic Violent Offenders Lists: Case Study 4*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report discusses chronic violent offender lists, which include those offenders who are wanted or are involved in multiple gun crimes. The goal is for the lists to increase awareness of these offenders throughout the criminal justice system, coordinate information sharing, and enhance deterrence through enforcement and prosecution of repeat offenders. An evaluation of chronic offender lists has not been done, but data suggest that it could be an effective tool leading to the arrest of chronic offenders.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/Chronic-Violent-Offenders.pdf>

Klofas, J., & Hipple, N. K. (2006). *Crime Incident Reviews: Case Study 3*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report examines crime incident reviews, a way to share detailed crime-related information among local agencies to help in solving crime problems. Success requires good cooperation and collaboration, sound analysis and quality research, and demonstrating linkages between incidents and strategic interventions. The goal of the crime incident review is to develop focused deterrent strategies to reduce gun violence. No evaluation of its effectiveness is presented.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/Crime-Incident-Reviews.pdf>

McDevitt, J., Decker, S. H., et al. (2006). *Offender Notification Meetings: Case Study 2*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report looks at offender notification meetings, a program developed during Operation Cease Fire. The meetings focused on communicating a deterrent message, promising an aggressive response to gun violence, and offering support services to those on the verge of violence. Showing a causal connection between notification meetings and a decrease in violence is difficult, but the evaluation shows that the meetings were effective at getting the message across.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/Offender-Notification-Meetings.pdf>

Decker, S. H., & McDevitt, J. (2006). *Gun Prosecution Case Screening: Case Study 1*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report describes the screening process for possible PSN cases. This includes keeping the case in state court, sending it to federal court, or using state court with federal backing. Results show that a review system of cases led to better information sharing, increased federal prosecution, and enhanced public safety.

https://www.bja.gov/publications/gun_prosecution_case_screening.pdf

PSN Local Level Studies

McGarrell, E.F., G. Circo, and J. Rydberg. (2015). Detroit Project Safe Neighborhoods: Final Project Report. East Lansing, MI: Report prepared by the Michigan Justice Statistics Center.

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of Detroit's PSN initiative. The findings suggest a decline in overall gun crime and particularly in robbery. The findings also suggest the importance of implementation as the crime declines occurred following a period where full implementation was rolled out incrementally due to resource constraints experienced in the police department and related services.

http://cj.msu.edu/assets/Detroit_PSN-Final_Report.pdf

Bynum, T. S., Grommon, E., et al. (2014). Evaluation of a Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Gun Violence in Detroit. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report examines the PSN Program in Detroit, Michigan. The Detroit program followed the standard PSN model with mixed-agency task forces and case reviews. The process evaluation found a significant increase in the number of charges for carrying a concealed weapon. The outcome evaluation found a significant decrease in the number of fatal and non-fatal shootings in the target areas.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/244866.pdf>

Radtke, T., Sousa, W., et al. (2008). Operation Ceasefire in Clark County, Nevada: Evaluating a Cross-jurisdictional Approach to Reducing Gun Violence. Las Vegas, NV: University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Center for the Analysis of Crime Statistics. Bureau of Justice Statistics Sponsored.

This report examines the Safe Village Initiative (SVI) Program in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is a replication of Boston's Operation Ceasefire and focuses on collaboration and community mobilization to decrease gun crime. The report examined calls for service from 1 year before and 1 year after the program. Results show a significant decrease in all calls for service, person-with-a-gun calls, assaults with a gun, and illegal shootings.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Timothy_Hart/publication/237336335_Operation_Ceasefire_in_Clark_County_Nevada_Evaluating_a_cross-jurisdictional_approach_to_reducing_gun_violence_FINAL_TECHNICAL_REPORT/links/54ada31c0cf24aca1c6f694c/Operation-Ceasefire-in-Clark-County-Nevada-Evaluating-a-cross-jurisdictional-approach-to-reducing-gun-violence-FINAL-TECHNICAL-REPORT.pdf

(Note: This article will need to be cut and pasted into your browser)

Kellermann, A. L., Fuqua-Whitley, D., et al. (2006). Reducing Gun Violence: Community Problem Solving in Atlanta. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report evaluates a program in Atlanta, Georgia, aimed at reducing youth gun violence. The program focused on reducing the supply of illegal firearms, strengthening enforcement of illegal carrying, and rehabilitating youth gun offenders. While homicides fell, this was part of a continuing trend also seen in non-program areas. The authors conclude the program did not have an effect. It has since been rolled into PSN.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/209800.pdf>

MacDonald, J. M., Wilson, J. M., et al. (2005). *Data-Driven Homicide Prevention: An Examination of Five Project Safe Neighborhoods Target Areas*. Washington, DC: RAND.

This research examines the PSN Program in California by examining five target areas. The research provides four suggestions for enhancing PSN projects to combat youth homicide. First, patrols should be directed to specific places and times based on data analysis. Second, enforcement of firearms laws should be increased by using federal prosecutions. Third, entire gangs should be held responsible for the actions of their members by pulling levers against gangs. Finally, education and treatment should be provided.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/working_papers/2005/RAND-WR284.pdf

Tita, G. E., Riley, K. J., et al. (2005). *Operation Ceasefire in Los Angeles*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report discusses the Los Angeles Ceasefire program in California. The program borrowed heavily from Boston's Operation Ceasefire in Massachusetts, including work groups that included police, researchers, and community groups; various sanctions and rewards; and stepped-up patrols. The program saw a 37 percent decrease in violent crime and smaller decreases in gun- and gang-related crime.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/192378.pdf>

Gang Crime Reduction Studies

McGarrell, E.F., Corsaro, N., et al. (2011). *An Assessment of the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative: Final Project Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This report presents the findings of a national evaluation of the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI). CAGI involved comprehensive strategies aimed at reducing gang violence through enforcement, intervention, re-entry, and prevention. The evaluation finds that when these comprehensive strategies were implemented with sufficient intensity, the levels of violence declined in comparison to similar U.S. cities that were not part of the CAGI effort.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/240757.pdf>

Cahill, M., Coggeshall, M. B., et al. (2008). *Community Collaboratives Addressing Youth Gangs: Interim Findings from the Gang Reduction Program*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) sponsored.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as having no effect in one  location (Richmond, Virginia) and promising in another (Los Angeles). 

This research evaluates the Gang Reduction Program (GRP), an OJJDP-sponsored program to reduce youth street gang crime in four cities. Results from two cities are discussed on CrimeSolutions.gov. In Los Angeles, the GRP provided prevention, reentry, and suppression services to combat youth gangs. Results show a significant decrease in shots-fired calls and gang-related incidents. In Richmond, Virginia, many of the same services were offered. Results show an increase in drug incidents, serious violent incidents, and gang-related incidents.

<http://www.urban.org/research/publication/community-collaboratives-addressing-youth-gangs-interim-findings-gang-reduction-program>

PSN Related Studies

Saunders, J., Ober, A.J., Kilmer, B. & Greathouse, S.M. (2016). “A Community-Based, Focused-Deterrence Approach to Closing Overt Drug Markets A Process and Fidelity Evaluation of Seven Sites.” Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

This research report presents the findings of a process evaluation of the implementation of the Drug Market Intervention (DMI) in seven communities. The results suggest the participating jurisdictions had difficulty implementing the strategy with fidelity and intensity and indicate the importance to implementation planning and carry through (see section on Drug Market Intervention in this document).

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1001.html

Kennedy, D.M. & Friedrich, M.A. (2014). *Custom Notifications: Individualized Communication in the Group Violence Intervention.* Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Custom notifications have emerged as a tool for communicating a focused deterrence message to at-risk individuals. Similar in concept to call-in offender notification meetings, custom notifications allow for rapid intervention for violence prevention. This guide book explains the rationale behind custom notifications and step-by-step implementation support.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-p304-pub.pdf>

Matz, A.K., & Mowatt, M.A. (2014). *PSN Update: Gang Members in Small-Town and Rural Communities.* New York: Council of State Governments.

This report examines the literature surrounding gangs in small towns and rural areas. It finds that, historically, most youth gangs are concentrated in urban areas, and the differences between urban and rural gangs must be considered when examining the feasibility of an intervention program. The report concludes that rural gang issues have not been adequately studied and that programs in rural areas have not been sufficiently documented.

http://www.appa-net.org/Perspectives/Perspectives_V38_N1_P52.pdf

Matz, A.K., & Mowatt, M.A. (2013). *Research Brief: Feedback from APPA Membership on PSN T/TA.* New York: Council of State Governments.

This survey looked at American Probation and Parole Association members’ involvement in PSN and training and technical assistance (TTA) for PSN. It found that only 30 percent of members were involved in PSN, but 56 percent were interested in PSN TTA support. This high level of desire for TTA most likely comes from agencies involved in other collaborative programs such as Operation Ceasefire, in which 58 percent of respondents participated.

http://www.appa-net.org/psn/docs/PSN_TTA_Survey_Bulletin.pdf

McGarrell, E. F., Hipple, N. K., et al. (2013). *Promising Strategies for Violence Reduction: Lessons from Two Decades of Innovation.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This article examines several PSN-based programs—Operation Ceasefire, Cure Violence, PSN, and DMI. The authors conclude that all of these programs focus on establishing new partnerships and rely on a data-driven approach to addressing violent crime issues. They suggest jurisdictions tailor their programs based on specific needs, since each of these four programs has a slightly different focus.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/MSU-PromisingViolenceReductionInitiatives.pdf>

Azrael, D., Braga, A.A., and O'Brien, M. (2012). *Developing the Capacity to Understand and Prevent Homicide: An Evaluation of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. 

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission on violence reduction. The Commission conducts systematic reviews of homicides and non-fatal shootings in order to inform violence reduction and prevention strategies. The results suggest the Commission has resulted in reductions in homicide and gun-related violence. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/240814.pdf>

Skogan, W. G., Hartnett, S. M., et al. (2009). *Evaluation of Cease-Fire Chicago.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This report details Project Ceasefire in Chicago, Illinois. This program aims to identify those at risk of being the victim or offender of a shooting and using “interrupters” (specially trained workers with local knowledge) to prevent a shooting. The evaluation finds that shootings decreased and gun crime hot spots shrank after the program was implemented. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/227181.pdf>

Thornton, R. L., Burrell, W. D., et al. (2006). *Guns, Safety, and Proactive Supervision: Involving Probation and Parole in Project Safe Neighborhoods.* Lexington, KY: Council of State Governments, American Probation and Parole Association. BJA Sponsored.

This report details how probation and parole officers can be involved in PSN. First, officers can make unannounced home visits to high risk probationers to ensure they are complying with the conditions of their probation. Second, officers need to notify probationers of the enhanced penalties associated with carrying a firearm. Finally, officers should practice proactive supervision where they seek to uncover information about illegal firearms. <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/appa/pubs/GSPS.pdf>

Roehl, J., Rosenbaum, D. P., et al. (2005). *Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI) in 10 U.S. Cities: The Building Blocks for Project Safe Neighborhoods.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

This report examines the Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI), a precursor to PSN based on Boston’s Operation Ceasefire. The program took place in 10 mid-sized cities, all with violent crime rates much higher than average. It focused on collaboration, strategic planning, and pulling levers. The results show that both homicide and violent crime dropped in the 10 sites, while these measures rose in other cities. All sites have since been rolled into the PSN Program. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/212866.pdf>

Roman, C. G., Cahill, M., et al. (2005). *The Weed and Seed Initiative and Crime Displacement in South Florida: An Examination of Spatial Displacement Associated with Crime Control Initiatives and the Redevelopment of Public Housing.* Washington, DC: Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center. Community Capacity Development Office Sponsored.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as having no effect. 

This report details the Weed and Seed Program in Miami, Florida. This program sought to “weed” out the criminals and “seed” the community by revitalizing the neighborhood. In Miami, this program also runs the PSN Program, and efforts for both programs are focused on the same target areas. The results show no significant decrease in violence and an increase in drug offenses in the target areas.

<http://www.jrsa.org/ws-eval/studies-other/displacement-final-report.pdf>

Academic Articles

Gang- and Group-focused Strategies: Ceasefire/Focused Deterrence

Corsaro, N. & Engel, R.S. (2015). “Most Challenging of Contexts Assessing the Impact of Focused Deterrence on Serious Violence in New Orleans.” *Criminology & Public Policy* 14,3:1-35.

This research involved an evaluation of the New Orleans Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS). The GVRS utilized the Ceasefire pulling levers strategy with the study finding significant reductions in homicides. The largest reductions involved gang homicides involving young men consistent with the focus of the GVRS strategy.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-9133.12142/abstract>

Papachristos, A.V. & Kirk, D.S. (2015). “Changing the Street Dynamic: Evaluating Chicago’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy. *Criminology & Public Policy* 14,3:525-558.

This article presents the findings of an evaluation of Chicago’s Group Violence Reduction (VRS) based on focused deterrence and legitimacy messages delivered to gang-involved individuals in call-in meetings. The findings suggest a 23 percent reduction in gun crime and a 32 percent reduction in gunshot victimization.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-9133.12139/abstract>

Braga, A.A., Hureau, D.M., & Papachristos, A.V. (2014). “Deterring Gang-Involved Gun Violence: Measuring the Impact of Boston’s Operation Ceasefire on Street Gang Behavior.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 30:113–139.

This article asserts that the original evaluation of Boston’s Ceasefire Program had a relatively weak design, leading to uncertainty about the results. To remedy this, this revised study used a more rigorous design to find that the total number of shootings involving Boston gangs dropped by 31 percent when subjected to Operation Ceasefire. This result helps to bolster the findings in previous studies.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10940-013-9198-x>

Braga, A. A., Apel, R., et al. (2013). “The Spillover Effects of Focused Deterrence on Gang Violence.” *Evaluation Review*, 37(3/4): 314–342.

This article examines the diffusion of benefits from a focused deterrence program such as PSN. The article finds that when certain gangs are targeted for enforcement, other gangs take notice and can be deterred as well. Total shootings went down for both targeted gangs and those targeted vicariously (allies and rivals of targeted gangs).

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24569771>

Engel, R.S., Tillyer, M.S., & Corsaro, N. (2013). “Reducing Gang Violence Using Focused Deterrence: Evaluating the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV).” *Justice Quarterly* 30,3: 403–439.

This article presents the findings of the evaluation of the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV). The article describes the nature of the initiative and reports significant declines in group/gang member-involved homicides and violent firearm incidents.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07418825.2011.619559>

Braga, A. A., & Weisburd, D. L. (2012). “The Effects of Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Empirical Evidence. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 49: 323–358.

See also Braga, A. A., & Weisburd, D. L. (2012). “The Effects of ‘Pulling Levers’ Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime.” *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 8(6).

This practice was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This study examines focused deterrence or “pulling levers,” a strategy used in Operation Ceasefire and at the heart of PSN. Focused deterrence relies on targeting chronic offenders and informing them of heightened penalties if they do not stop. It is usually backed up by crackdowns on those who continue committing crimes. This meta-analysis found a significant, medium-size crime reduction from these strategies.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0022427811419368>

<http://campbellcollaboration.org/lib/project/96/>

Boyle, D. J., Lanterman, J. L., et al. (2010). “The Impact of Newark’s Operation Ceasefire on Trauma Center Gunshot Wound Admissions.” *Justice Research and Policy*, 12(2): 105–123.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as having insufficient evidence.

This article evaluates Operation Ceasefire in Newark, New Jersey, by examining hospital admissions for gunshot wounds. The results showed no significant decrease in the rate of gunshot wounds after the program began. This was rated as insufficient evidence due to limited or inconsistent outcome evidence.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3818/JRP.12.2.2010.105>

Corsaro, N., & McGarrell, E.F. (2010). “Reducing Homicide Risk in Indianapolis between 1997 and 2000.” *Journal of Urban Health* 87, 5: 851–64.

This article analyzes the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership from the perspective of homicide risk reduction. The findings indicate that the focused deterrence strategy produced the highest reduction in gun homicides among the populations at highest risk of victimization.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11524-010-9459-z>

Corsaro, N., & McGarrell, E. (2009). “Testing a Promising Homicide Reduction Strategy: Reassessing the Impact of the Indianapolis ‘Pulling Levers’ Intervention.” *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 5(1):63–82.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This article evaluates the Indianapolis “Pulling Levers” program, modeled after Boston’s Operation Ceasefire. The program focused on reducing gang homicides by targeting chronic offenders. The results show an overall decrease in homicides; however, when the data are disaggregated, the authors show that the program had a greater effect on gang homicides than on non-gang homicides. This supports the proposition that the program caused the decrease.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/publications/abstract.aspx?ID=248740>

Kennedy, D.M. (2009). *Deterrence and Crime Prevention: Reconsidering the Prospect of Sanction*. New York: Routledge.

Written by the research partner in the original Boston Ceasefire initiative, his book presents the theoretical foundation and development of the Ceasefire focused deterrence strategy.

https://books.google.com/books/about/Deterrence_and_Crime_Prevention.html?id=jhcpAQAIAAJ

Braga A.A. (2008). “Pulling Levers Focused Deterrence Strategies and the Prevention of Gun Homicide.” *Journal of Criminal Justice* 36: 332–343.

This article presents the results of an evaluation of Stockton, California’s Operation Peacekeeper. This initiative involved the focused deterrence “pulling levers” strategy to address gang member gun violence. The results indicated significant declines in gun homicide.


<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=245874>

Braga, A.A., Pierce, G.L., McDevitt, J., Bond, B.J., & Cronin, S. (2008). “The Strategic Prevention of Gun Violence among Gang-Involved Offenders.” *Justice Quarterly*, 25: 132–162.

This study presents the findings of a pulling levers strategy for reducing gang-related violence in Lowell, Massachusetts. The research found a statistically significant reduction in gun homicides and aggravated assaults with a gun.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07418820801954613>

Papachristos, A. V., Meares, T. L., et al. (2007). “Attention Felons: Evaluating Project Safe Neighborhoods in Chicago.” *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 4(2): 223–272.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This research evaluated four interventions associated with the PSN Program in Chicago, Illinois. The authors found a significant decline in homicides between the PSN areas and comparison areas. The greatest decline in homicides was attributed to the offender notification meetings. However, the PSN areas also received attention from Operation Ceasefire, so it is possible that this caused some of the decrease.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=860685

McGarrell, E.F., Chermak, S., Wilson, J.M., & Corsaro, N. (2006). “Reducing Homicide Through a “Lever-Pulling” Strategy.” *Justice Quarterly*, 23: 214–231.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

The Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership represents one of the first replications of Boston’s Operation Ceasefire. Problem analyses revealed that much of the gun violence in Indianapolis involved individuals involved in gangs and groups of chronic offenders. The pulling levers strategy was utilized, and the results indicate a significant reduction in homicides.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=236020>

Braga A.A., McDevitt J., & Pierce G.L. (2006). “Understanding and Preventing Gang Violence: Problem Analysis and Response Development in Lowell, Massachusetts.” *Police Quarterly* 9: 20–46

This article reports results from a Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in Lowell, Massachusetts. The problem analysis revealed that gun violence was concentrated among 19 active street gangs. This led to a focused deterrence strategy combined with outreach and support. This article provides an excellent example of a collaborative problem-solving model and systematic problem analysis and presents promising findings from the intervention.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=237093>

Chermak, S., & McGarrell, E.F. (2004). “Problem Solving Approaches to Homicide: An Evaluation of the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership.” *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 15(2):161–192.

This article presents findings from an evaluation of the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership (IVRP), one of the first attempts to extend Boston Ceasefire to another jurisdiction. The evaluation found a significant reduction in homicides. This article presents data from interviews with arrestees as a way of assessing the use of Ceasefire call-in meetings. The results showed that arrestees perceived a greater likelihood of arrest and prosecution consistent with the call-in message. The study did not find an effect on re-offending among probationers and parolees attending the meetings. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=205739>

Braga, A. A., Kennedy, D. M., et al. (2001). "Problem-Oriented Policing, Deterrence, and Youth Violence: An Evaluation of Boston's Operation Ceasefire." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 38(3): 195–225.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. 

This research evaluated Boston's Operation Ceasefire, a PSN-type program that focused attention on chronic, gang-involved offenders who were responsible for much of the youth homicide in Boston. Results show that the program was associated with significant reductions in youth homicide, shots-fired calls, and firearm assaults.

https://www.innovations.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Braga_problem_oriented%20policing_deterrence.pdf

Comprehensive Anti-gang Initiative

McGarrell, E.F., Corsaro, N. Melde, C., Hipple, N.K., Bynum, T., & Cobbina, J. (2013). "Attempting to Reduce Firearms Violence Through a Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI): An Evaluation of Process and Impact." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 41:33–43.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This article presents the results of an evaluation of the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI). The results do not indicate a consistent impact on gang violence but rather reductions in violent crime were limited to those jurisdictions that were able to successfully implement the enforcement components of the strategy. Suggestions for addressing implementation challenges are presented.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=264734>

Melde, C., Gavazzi, S., McGarrell, E.F., & Bynum, T. (2011). "On the Efficacy of Targeted Gang Interventions: Can We Identify Those Most At Risk?" *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 9:279–294.

Research indicates that the most effective gang prevention interventions are those that are targeted to youths most at risk for gang involvement. This study finds that gang prevention and intervention strategies were being delivered to youths with high needs but that missed those youths at highest risk for gang involvement. Suggestions are offered for better linking evidence-based strategies to the highest risk youths.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1541204011399934>

Place-based Strategies

NOTE – The Drug Market Intervention and some of the hot spots policing interventions combine place-based and people- or group-based strategies. These strategies should be based on local level problem analyses that combine geospatial analyses with other research, crime analysis, and street-level intelligence on what is generating violence at micro-places.

Drug Market Intervention

Corsaro, Nicholas. (2013). **The High Point drug market intervention: Examining impact across target areas and offense types.** *Victims & Offenders*, 8: 1–31.

This article reports an extension of the evaluation of the High Point Drug Market intervention (see Corsaro et al., 2012 in this document). The findings demonstrate there were differential effects of the strategy on different neighborhood contexts and over time. The findings suggest the importance of continuous monitoring of violence reduction strategies.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15564886.2013.814613>

Corsaro, N., Brunson, R., & McGarrell, E.F. (2013). “Problem-Oriented Policing and Open-Air Drug Markets: Examining the Pulling Levers Deterrence Strategy in Rockford, Illinois.” *Crime and Delinquency*.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This article presents the results of the Drug Market Intervention (DMI) strategy conducted in Rockford, Illinois. The results indicate a significant reduction in crime, drug, and nuisance offenses in the DMI neighborhood.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=267149>

Corsaro, N., Hunt, E. D., et al. (2012). “The Impact of Drug Market Pulling Levers Policing on Neighborhood Violence: An Evaluation of the High Point Drug Market Intervention.” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 11(2):167–199.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. 

This report details the Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Program in High Point, North Carolina, that concentrated resources on problem areas and chronic offenders involved in the drug market. The program focused on identifying these areas, notifying offenders of the harsh sanctions, and offering community resources. Areas targeted by the program saw an almost 8-percent drop in violence, while a comparison area had a similar increase in violence.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-9133.2012.00798.x/abstract>

Corsaro, N., Brunson, R.K., & McGarrell, E.F. (2010). “Evaluating a Policing Strategy Intended to Disrupt an Illicit Street-Level Drug Market.” *Evaluation Review* 34,6: 513–548.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This study examines the implementation of the Drug Market Intervention (DMI) Program in a neighborhood in Nashville, Tennessee, that had long experienced open air drug dealing. The results indicate a significant reduction in drug and narcotics incidents and reports of large improvement in the perceived quality of neighborhood life.

<http://erx.sagepub.com/content/early/2010/12/15/0193841X10389136.abstract>

Hot Spots Policing

Groff, E.R., Ratcliffe, J.H., Haberman, C.P., Sorg, E.T., Joyce, N.M., & Taylor, R.B. (2015). “Does What Police Do at Hot Spots Matter? The Philadelphia Policing Tactics Experiment.” *Criminology* 53,1:23–53.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. 

The Philadelphia Police Department’s Tactics Experiment compared three strategies aimed at reducing crime at hot spots. The strategies included foot patrol, problem-oriented policing, and offender-focused policing. The offender-focused strategy resulted in 42 percent reductions in violent crime and 50 percent reductions when compared to control areas.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-9125.12055/abstract>

Uchida, C.D., & Swatt, M.L. (2013). “Operation LASER and the Effectiveness of Hotspot Patrol: A Panel Analysis.” *Police Quarterly* 16,3:287–304.

Los Angeles Police Department’s Operation LASER is based on combining a focus on violent crime hotspots with chronic violent offender intelligence. This article presents the results of an evaluation of Operation LASER that finds this combined place- and people-based strategy resulted in significant reductions in violent crime.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=265667>

Braga, A.A., Papachristos, A.V., & Hureau, D.M. (2012). “The Effects of Hot Spots Policing on Crime: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.” *Justice Quarterly*

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. ✓

This article reports on a meta-analysis of research studies of hot spots policing. The findings indicate that policing strategies focused on small geographic hot spots of crime can be effective in reducing crime. The studies cover a variety of policing tactics, including problem solving, directed police patrol, foot patrols, illegally possessed gun seizures, and crackdowns at small areas. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07418825.2012.673632>

PSN and Re-entry

Bender, K., Cobbina, J., & McGarrell, E.F. (2016). “Reentry Programming for High-Risk Offenders: Insights from Participants.” *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 60(13) 1479–1508

This study presents the results of findings about high risk individuals participating in a Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative re-entry program. The results indicate that these returning former inmates were influenced by both the way they were treated by program officials as well as the linkages provided to housing, employment, and other social supports.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0306624X15578204>

Wallace, D., Papachristos, A.V., Meares, T., & Fagan, J. (2015). “Desistance and Legitimacy: The Impact of Offender Notification Meetings on Recidivism among High Risk Offenders.” *Justice Quarterly* 33,7:1237–1264.

Chicago’s PSN Program has included parolee forums with high risk offenders returning to the community as a key component of its overall violence reduction strategy. This study presents the results of an evaluation of the forums and finds significant reductions in re-offending among the parolees attending the forums.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2015.1081262>

Braga, A.A., Piehl, A.M., & Hureau, D. (2009). “Controlling Violent Offenders Released to the Community: An Evaluation of the Boston Reentry Initiative.” *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 46:411–436.

This article reports the results of a study on the use of parolee call-in forums by parolees with prior histories of violence. The results indicate a significant reduction in re-offending among parolees attending the forums.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/AbstractDB/AbstractDBDetails.aspx?id=250579>

McGarrell, E.F., Hipple, N., & Banks, D. (2003) “Community Meetings as a Tool in Inmate Re-entry.” *Justice Research and Policy* 5,2:5–32.

This article reports on a pilot project to hold offender notification meetings with individuals recently released from prison. Although there was some evidence that those attending meetings had a longer period before re-offending, overall there was no observed impact on re-offending.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3818/JRP.5.2.2003.5?journalCode=jrxa>

Incident Reviews and Implementation Capacity

Hipple, N.K., McGarrell, E.F., O'Brien, M., & Huebner, B. (2017). "Gun Crime Incident Reviews as a Strategy for Enhancing Problem Solving and Information Sharing." *Journal of Crime and Justice* 40,1:50–67.

One of the promising strategies that was utilized in many PSN initiatives is the systematic incident review. This article presents findings from three jurisdictions (Detroit, Milwaukee, and St. Louis) that are using systematic incident reviews of gun crime incidents to develop intelligence and inform gun violence prevention strategies.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0735648X.2016.1155303>

Hipple, N.K., & McGarrell, E.F. (2014). "Research in Brief: Supporting Effective Implementation of Strategic Crime Reduction Efforts." *The Police Chief* 81 (September): 14–15.

Research from Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative found that focused strategies could reduce violent crime but that effective implementation was a challenge for many communities. This Research-in-Brief discusses these implementation challenges and reviews the Violence Reduction Assessment Tool (VRAT) that was developed to assist PSN and similar crime reduction efforts to assess implementation capacity and address implementation gaps.

<http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/research-in-brief-supporting-effective-implementation-of-strategic-crime-reduction-efforts/>

McGarrell, E.F., & Hipple, N.K. (2014). "Developing Evidence-Based Crime Prevention Practice: The Dimensions of Effective Implementation." *RKK (Revija za kriminalistiko in kriminologijo) Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology* 65,4:249–258.

Building on PSN and related research demonstrating the challenges of effectively implementing violence reduction strategies, this paper presents the findings of a study of the dimensions of implementation capacity. The findings suggest the critical role of governance and project management; partnerships; data and analysis; feedback; and awareness for effective implementation.

http://www.policija.si/eng/images/stories/Publications/JCIC/PDF/2014/04/JCIC2014-04_EdmundFMcGarrell_DevelopingEvidence-BasedCrimePrevention.pdf

Additional PSN-related Research

Picard-Fritsche, S., Swaner, R., & Lambson, S.H. (2014). *Deterrence and Legitimacy in Brownsville, Brooklyn*. New York: Center For Court Innovation.

This report details the implementation of the Brownsville anti-violence project, which is based on the Chicago PSN program. A major part of the Brownsville program is the use of offender call-in meetings. The report found that these meetings were mostly carried out with fidelity to the Chicago model, with three main exceptions: the lack of a strong anti-gun message from the New York Police Department, the infrequent representation of the ATF, and a lack of specificity surrounding the services being offered. Regardless, the study found adherence to the model to be moderately strong.

http://justideasonline.org/sites/default/files/documents/BAVP_Report.pdf

Webster, D., Whitehill, J., et al. (2013). “Effects of Baltimore's Safe Streets Program on Gun Violence: A Replication of Chicago’s Ceasefire Program.” *Journal of Urban Health*, 90(1): 27–40.

This research examines Baltimore’s Safe Streets program, a replication of the Ceasefire program in Chicago. The only major difference was the lack of “interrupters” in the Baltimore program. The program was implemented in four areas with high gun crime. Three of these areas had a significant decrease in one or more measures of gun violence. The authors estimate the program prevented about 35 shootings and 5 homicides over about 9 years.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3579298/>

Klofas, J., Hipple, N.K., & McGarrell, E.F. (2010). *The New Criminal Justice*. New York: Routledge.

This book summarizes the findings of the research on Project Safe Neighborhoods. Chapters include information about the foundations of the PSN model, strategic problem solving, and partnerships. Additional chapters present the results of case studies about PSN initiatives and about the lessons learned from establishing effective practitioner-researcher partnerships.

<https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415997287>

Braga, A. A., & Pierce, G. L. (2005). “Disrupting Illegal Firearms Markets in Boston: The Effects of Operation Ceasefire on the Supply of New Handguns to Criminals.” *Criminology & Public Policy*, 4(4): 717–748.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as effective. 

This research examines a second element of Operation Ceasefire in Boston: the crackdown on firearms traffickers who supplied youth with guns. This program brought the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Boston authorities together to crack down on those trafficking firearms commonly used by gang members—usually new, small caliber, low quality semiautomatic handguns. The study found that the program resulted in a significant decrease in the number of new handguns seized by the police. However, it appears that criminals simply used older handguns in response to the crackdown.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/publications/abstract.aspx?ID=233777>

Rosenfeld, R., Fornango, R., et al. (2005). “Did Ceasefire, Compstat, and Exile Reduce Homicide?” *Criminology & Public Policy*, 4(3): 419–449.

This program was rated on CrimeSolutions.gov as promising. 

This research examines three programs touted as reducing homicides in three cities. The analysis compares the claimed reductions with 95 other cities to determine what truly decreased crime. The authors find that Boston’s Operation Ceasefire did result in a drop in homicide, though not enough to reach a strong conclusion. Project Exile in Richmond, Virginia, had a significant drop in homicides consistent with the claims of the program.

<http://www2.gsu.edu/~crirxf/PPP%204-3%20Rosenfeld.pdf>

Holsinger, A.M., & Novak, K.J. (2004). “Felons in Possession: Examining the Impact of a Public Service Advertising Campaign and Sentence Enhancements.” *Justice Research and Policy* 6,2:25–44.

Public service advertising campaign to inform high risk individuals and the community about the federal enforcement focus on felons in possession of a firearm. This article presents the results of a survey of people under correctional supervision. The results indicate that the survey participants were very aware of the campaign, and the sentence enhancements increased their perception of the likelihood of criminal sanctions.

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3818/JRP.6.2.2004.25?journalCode=jrxa>

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. (2003). *Evaluation of the Virginia Exile Program*. Richmond, VA: Author.

This report details Virginia's Exile program, a series of grants to help localities enforce new state laws requiring mandatory minimums for certain gun crimes. It is based on Richmond's Project Exile and aims to reduce gun crime. Results showed an increase in most violent crimes after the program began. The report concludes that this could be because the program was simply not effective.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=202301>

Websites

American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)

<http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/>

BJA Center for Research Partnerships and Program Evaluation

<https://www.bja.gov/programs/crppe/>

CrimeSolutions.gov

<http://www.CrimeSolutions.gov/>

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

<http://www.iacp.org>

Michigan State University – Project Safe Neighborhoods

<http://psnmsu.com>

Michigan State University – Drug Market Intervention

<http://dmimsu.com>

National Gang Center

<http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov>

National Network for Safe Communities

<https://nnscommunities.org/>

Project Safe Neighborhoods (BJA website)

https://www.bja.gov/programdetails.aspx?program_id=74

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Note: This document is periodically updated. Suggestions for additional PSN and PSN-related research can be sent to Heather Perez.