

VIOLENT CRIME AND GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

UNDERSTANDING THE
CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS
TO URBAN VIOLENCE



RECORD BREAKING VIOLENCE

▷ Since the 1960s, the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD), and the city and county police departments that preceded it, typically investigated fewer than 70 homicides annually. Just ten years ago LMPD investigated 48 homicides over the course of the year. By early April of this year, LMPD had already investigated 48 homicides. If left uninterrupted, 2021 will be the deadliest year in Louisville's history – the third time that record has been broken in the last six years.

173

HOMICIDES
IN 2020 WAS
NEW RECORD

92%

INCREASE
FROM 2019

585

NON-FATAL
SHOOTINGS

The five-year period from 2016 through 2020 was the deadliest five-year period in Louisville's history and was bookended by two deadliest years on record. During that period, 562 Louisvillians were killed.

Scholars estimate that each homicide co-victimizes anywhere from 6 to 10 family members, meaning that somewhere between 3,372 and 5,620 individuals have been directly impacted by homicide in Louisville just since 2016. If Louisville is to reverse this trend, bold action is needed. A national model for understanding violence could provide the answer.



GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

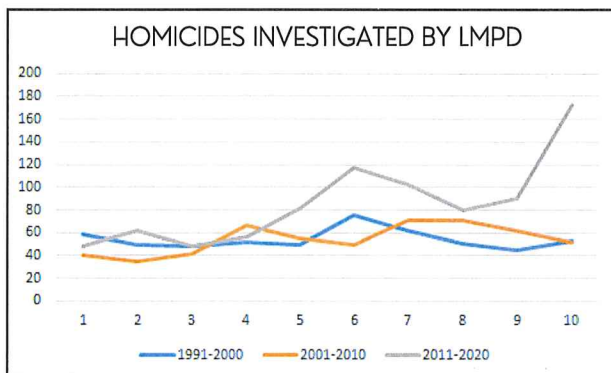
A SOLUTION FOR THE BLOODSHED

The Group Violence Intervention (GVI) reduces homicide and gun violence, minimizes harm to communities by replacing enforcement with deterrence, and fosters stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve. The executive director of the National Network for Safe Communities, David Kennedy, pioneered the group violence intervention with "Operation Ceasefire" in Boston in the 1990s. The goal of the program was simple: reduce homicide and gun violence, minimize harm to communities by replacing enforcement with deterrence, and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve.

The program was an incredible success. Cities across America have seen unprecedented declines in violent crime after implementation of GVI. **Boston, MA: 63% reduction in youth homicide; Stockton, CA: 42% reduction in gun homicide; New Orleans, LA: 32% decrease in group member-involved homicides; Cincinnati, OH: 41% reduction in group member-involved homicides; New Haven, CT: 73% monthly average reduction in shootings.**

IMPLIMENTING GVI

GVI brings together a partnership of law enforcement, community members, and social service providers with a common goal but distinct roles. Together, these partnerships guide the intervention based on frontline knowledge and real-time data on violence and the people who face the greatest risk. The three critical steps to GVI include: First, law enforcement officials at all levels explaining the consequences of continued criminal activity to members of violent groups. Next, social service organizations describe what services are available, as part of the important acknowledgment that these group members are among the most vulnerable in our community, and we as a city have not done enough to protect and support them. Community members with moral authority over group members must be clear and direct about the effects of violence in their own neighborhoods. Finally, a genuine offer of help and a way out is extended to those who want it.



Even in communities with high rates of violence, very few people are involved in homicides and shootings. They are connected to each other through groups.

Group members typically make up around half a percent of a city's population but are involved in as much as 70 percent of its homicide and gun violence.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

FIND MORE INFO AT: nnscommunities.org

THE IMPORTANCE OF GROUPS

According to the National Network for Safe Communities group members typically make up around half a percent of a city's population but are involved in as much as 70 percent of its homicide and gun violence. The FBI's 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment report found that gang activity accounts for an average of 48% of the violence in most jurisdictions. This is in part because the dynamics of groups allow bad behavior to build on itself and encourage misdeeds for the good of the group. GVI flips this dynamic on its head and used the group dynamic to discourage bad behavior and specifically homicides.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GVI AND VIOLENCE IN LOUISVILLE REACH OUT TO CONTACT@PEGASUSKENTUCKY.ORG