

Evidence and Partnerships to Guide Cities' Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence

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- Partnership with police, prosecutors, public health.
- Mission: Reduce violence and improve police-community relations
- Evaluate violence reduction strategies
- Promote data-driven policy and management
- Improve efforts to get citizens help to solve crimes
- Reduce barriers to recruitment from affected communities.
- Enhance foot patrol, crisis intervention, gun strategy, outreach.

Increasing odds illegal gun use punished - gun carrying suppression

- Places and times of greatest risk - “hot spots”
- Focus on “hot people” with history of gun violence
- Special units trained to identify concealed gun cues, sometimes aided with intel on gun offenders
- Can be done legally, fairly, effectively or not. Should not increase arrests broadly, but deter illegal gun carrying and shootings.

Effects of Illegal Gun Carrying Suppression Interventions

Kansas City: shootings down 49% in target area. No displacement and no change in comparison area.

Indianapolis: Homicides reduced from 11 to 1 in two intervention areas. Shootings down 29% in one.

Pittsburgh: 71% fewer GSW treated at hospitals. Bounced back when intervention stopped.

New York: Unclear whether broad stop and frisk reduced violence. Broad application harmed police-community relations.

“Pulling Levers” Focused Deterrence

Braga & Weisburd, 2012, 2015

- Increase risks faced by key offenders. “Levers” that can be pulled if violence occurs:
 - Heightened surveillance
 - Serve outstanding warrants
 - Enforcement parole and probation conditions
 - Disrupt gang’s drug market
 - Seize drug assets
 - Stiffer plea bargains, bail recommendations
 - Federal investigation and prosecution of drug and gun offenses

“Pulling Levers” Focused Deterrence

Braga & Weisburd, 2012, 2015

- Communicate risks directly to small number of specifically identified targets.
- Moral voices of community - informal social controls.
- Offer services - employment assistance, vocational training, substance abuse treatment, housing.
- Demonstrate fairness of the initiative to illicit positive behavioral response.

“Pulling Levers” Focused Deterrence

Braga & Weisburd, 2012

- 7 of 8 interventions focused on gang/gun violence reduced serious violence – mod.-large effect size.
- **Drug market interventions reviewed did not significantly affect violence.**
- **High Point DMI: -12% in violent crime** (Corsaro et al., 2012)

Cure Violence Strategy: Public Health Approach

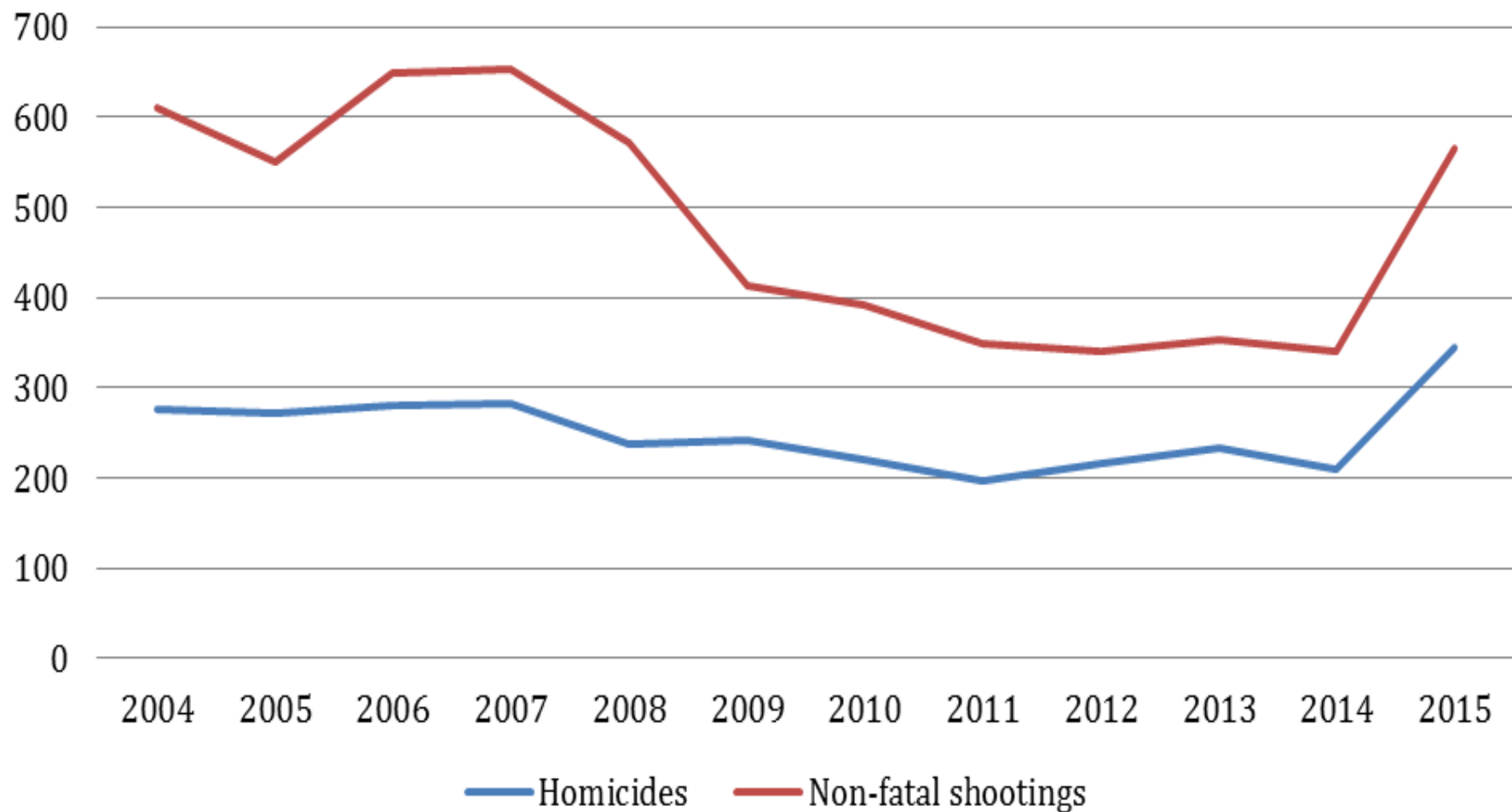
- Outreach to high risk youth with credible messengers
- Promote nonviolent responses conflicts
- Conflict mediation
- Community mobilization
- Promising results, but inconsistent



Baltimore's Initiatives to Reduce Gun Violence

- Safe Streets: 6 sites from 2007 to 2016.
- Hot spot detective deployment: Violent Crime Impact Section (VCIS) work hot zones and offenders. Abuses in 1 unit led to law suits, discord with communities. Shut down in 2012.
- Gun Offender Registry Ordinance: 2008- present
- Ceasefire: Focused deterrence program started in Western District June 2014 and on-going in Eastern District.
- War Room/Trigger Pullers: July 2015. Use intel from BPD, federal and state law enforcement to identify drivers of gun violence and put them behind bars.

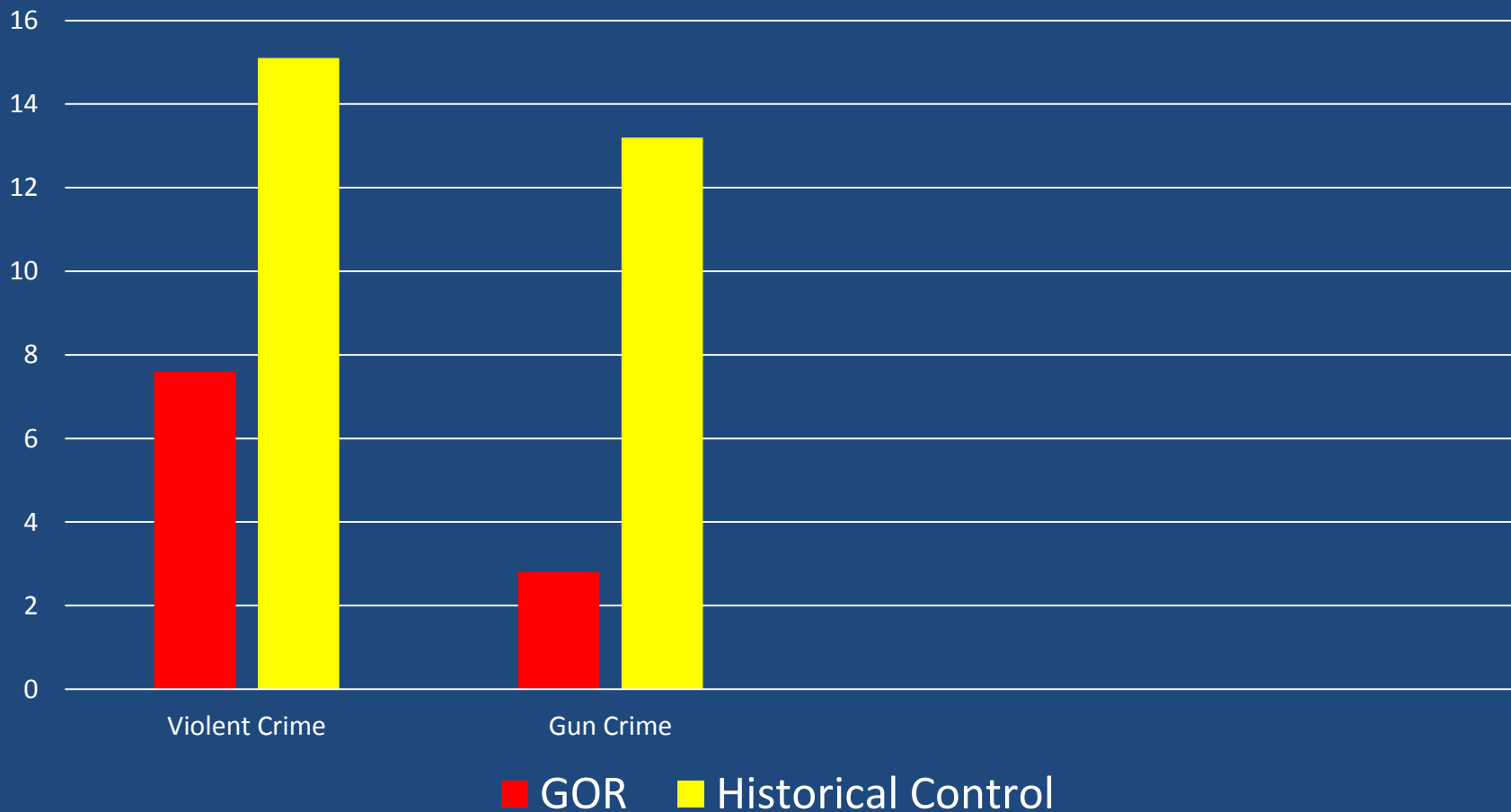
Figure 1. Annual Number of Homicides and Non-fatal Shootings, Baltimore City 2004-2015



Noteworthy findings from Baltimore

- PC Bealefeld tenure: -19% homicides and -24% shootings. PC Davis tenure: -23% shootings.
- Safe Streets: Shootings -27%, homicide effects mixed. Made gun violence less acceptable (Webster et al., 2012; Milam et al., 2016).
- VCIS: Shootings -20%.
- Drug Enforcement: surge in drug sales arrests increased shootings over 3 months. Major busts of violent gangs suppressed shootings 6 months.
- Ceasefire: shootings +30%, no change in homicides.

Percent reoffending: Gun Offender Registry vs. Historical Control



Looking Ahead

- Increase certainty of consequences of gun crimes – crime tips, strategic use of ballistics, surveillance, and intelligence to close shootings.
- Risk-focused, fair, deterrence-oriented policing on guns.
- Harm-reduction orientation to drug laws
- Effective mobilization and messaging from community and credible messengers on gun violence