

Community Violence in the County of St. Louis: Recommendations and Funding Opportunities

- St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission -

April 28th, 2023

**GIFFORDS CENTER FOR
VIOLENCE INTERVENTION**





Select a state on the map or in the table to view that state's in

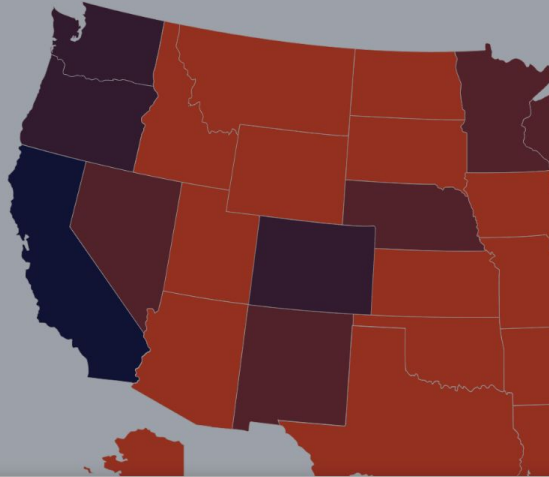
GRADE



MAP

TABLE

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F



^ EVERY STATE, RANKED

ANNUAL GUN LAW SCORECARD



MISSOURI

F

GUN SAFETY STRENGTH RANK **47** out of 50

GUN DEATH RATE RANK **4** out of 50

GUN DEATHS PER 100K **23.9**

% DIFFERENCE FROM NATIONAL AVERAGE **↑75%**

WHAT CHANGED THIS YEAR

Made police officers personally liable for a

“Community violence” is defined by the World Health Organization as “violence between individuals who are unrelated, and who may or may not know each other, generally taking place outside the home.” This includes shootings, homicides, stabbings, physical assaults, and the unnecessary use of force by law enforcement.



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Mission and Goals

- Identify and scale evidence-based solutions across the country
- Series of reports: Healing Communities in Crisis, Investing in Intervention, A Case Study in Hope, St. Louis City Report
- Direct advocacy and coalition building – CalVIP (\$200M), VA, PA, etc.
- Strategically targeting states – opportunity and politics
- Assist localities



Addressing Community Violence in the City of St. Louis

Existing Strategies, Gaps, and Funding Opportunities

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FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Process Overview

- Interviews with 100+ county stakeholders - focus on North County

- Mayors
- VPC
- Community-based Organizations
- SLCPD and municipal LE Departments
- Department of Health
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- County Council Members

- Huge Thank You to North County, Inc.!

- Review of prior analysis

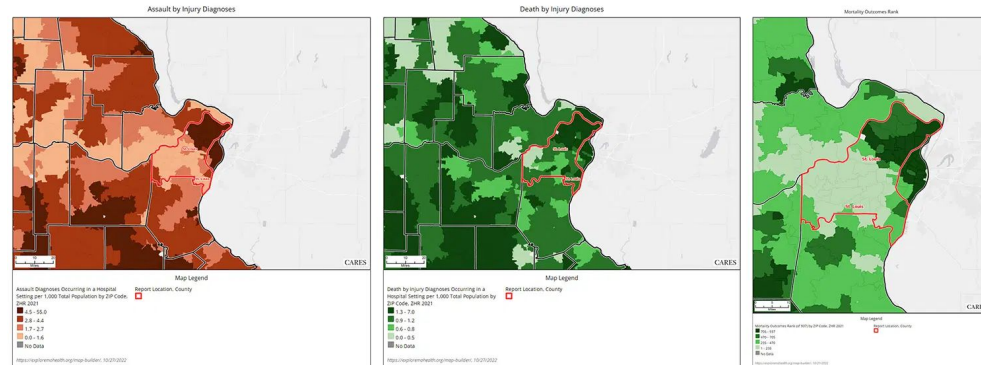
- YVPP Strategic Plan
- Teneo Report

- Pro bono law firm provided review of local and state budgets and funding opportunities



Community Violence in St. Louis

- Average 160 homicides per year
 - Homicide rate nearly **3x higher** than the national average
- 90% committed with a gun
- 90% of homicide victims are Black
- Violence correlates directly to levels of poverty, racial segregation, and divestment
- Concentration in North County, especially city/county border
- Only 7% of victims under age 17
- Economic cost: \$1M per homicide, \$500k per injury shooting
- Homicide in 2020 alone cost the County more than \$192 million in healthcare, law enforcement, lost wages, and other related expenses.



CV Risk Factors

Community Risk Factors

- Residential instability
- Crowded housing
- Density of alcohol-related businesses
- Poor economic growth or stability
- Unemployment
- Concentrated poverty
- Neighborhood violence and crime



Individual Risk Factors

- Prior exposure to violence
- Exposure to criminal legal system
- Social networks
- Substance use/abuse
- Untreated trauma
- Economic insecurity

Risk factors specific to St. Louis

- One of the highest rates of vacant lots/property in the nation
- One of the most segregated cities in the nation
- SLMPD: more per capita police killings than any other department in the country

Protective Factors

- Healthy social, problem-solving, and emotional regulation skills
- Recognizing and healing trauma
- Academic achievement, life skills development
- Positive peer and adult mentoring relationships
- Supportive social networks
- Access to mental and behavioral health services
- Steady employment
- Physical environment
 - OJP Diagnostic showed difference between two high-poverty neighborhoods with differing levels of violence were differences in the built environment (fewer vacancies, etc.)
- Substance abuse treatment



Existing Efforts in St. Louis County

1) Coordination

- VPC

2) Services for High-Risk Individuals

- Life Outside of Violence
- The BRIC and The T
- Alive & Well Communities
- Crime Victim Center
- RELINK
- Pathways to Progress



3) Law Enforcement

- North County Police Cooperative
- SLCPD Victim Advocate Program
- County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Victim Services Division

Clearest Gaps at the County Level

- No countywide strategic plan to address community violence
- No coordinating entity (Office of Violence Prevention)
- No identified street outreach efforts
- Data issues and no problem analysis or shooting review process
- Lack of coordination between city/county

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Model County Responses to Community Violence

Allegheny County, PA

- \$10M per year for 5 years
- Conducted detailed problem analysis
- Grants focused on building capacity and implementing menu of evidence-based strategies in areas of county most impacted

Los Angeles County, CA

- Office of Violence Prevention - \$14M - started with 5-year countywide strategic plan
- Trauma Prevention Initiative
- Regional coalition building

Harris County, TX

- Division of Community Health and Violence Prevention Services (CHVPS), and the Community Violence Interruption Program (CVIP) - \$9M

12 Recommendations

- ❖ 1) Create a Countywide Office of Violence Prevention
 - Coordinate work and investments in areas most impacted
 - Create countywide strategic plan
- ❖ 2) Problem Analysis and Shooting Review
 - Deep understanding of violence dynamics
 - Ongoing updates and sharing of data
- ❖ 3) Direct Funding for CVI Strategies
 - Street Outreach, in particular
 - HVIP and Victim Services
 - Group Violence Intervention

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Recommendations

- ❖ 4) Regional Response to Community Violence
 - Coordination between City and County stakeholders
 - Regular meetings and forums for problem solving
 - Formal process for data sharing

- ❖ 5) Expand Support for CBOs serving High-Risk Population
 - Focus on the risk factors of violence
 - Direct county agencies to incorporate CVI into existing grants
 - Housing, Employment, Education, Mental Health, etc.

Recommendations

- ❖ 6) 911 Diversion, Co-Responder and Models of Emergency Response
- ❖ 7) Expand On-Campus Mental and Behavioral Health Services
- ❖ 8) Expand Support for Survivors of Violence
- ❖ 9) Pilot a Gun Diversion Program
- ❖ 10) Implement Group Violence Intervention
- ❖ 11) Remediate Vacant Lots/Buildings in High-Violence Areas
- ❖ 12) Creation of a Statewide CVI Coalition

Funding Opportunities



Federal

- 30+ grants identified from DOJ, HHS, HUD, DOL, and DOE
- Some federal grants administered by states or locally, e.g., ARP
- CVIPI
 - \$100M program at DOJ to support CVI work
 - Currently open until May 18th

State

- 20 grants identified, but most are not great and more advocacy is needed (statewide CVI coalition)

Local

- Remaining ARPA funds
- Local funding measures

| | Grant Name | Agency | Purpose/Description | Eligible Entities | Prioritization | Funding Amount (FY 21) | Timing (2021) | Links | Most Relevant Recommendations |
|--------|--|--------|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1 2 | COPS Hiring Program | DOJ | The goal of the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. Anticipated outcomes of COPS Hiring Program awards include engagement in planned community partnerships, implementation of projects to analyze and assess problems, implementation of changes to personnel and agency management in support of community policing, and increased capacity of agency to engage in community policing activities. | City or township governments, County governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), State governments. | Violent Crime/Gun Violence – Applicant will employ community policing strategies to address a range of violent crime problems. <u>Community-Based approaches to combating gun violence that build trust in underserved communities suffering from high incidents of gun crime will receive additional consideration.</u> Applicants requesting additional consideration for gun violence issues will be asked to describe their holistic, community-based approach and may wish to review COPS Office publications such as Group Violence Intervention: An Implementation Guide, Drug Market Intervention: An Implementation Guide, and Crime Prevention Research Review No. 6: Pulling Levers Focused Deterrence Strategies to Prevent Crime for ideas on strategies. | \$140 million (200 total awards expected) | Open May 7, 2021; Applications Due June 22, 2021 | https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2021AwardDocs/chp/solicitation.pdf | 10 (Homicide and Nonfatal Shooting Clearance Rates); 11 (Group Violence Intervention); 12 (Problem Analysis and Shooting Review) |
| 3 | Second Chance Act: Adult Reentry Education, Employment, Treatment and Recovery Program | DOJ | The purpose of the program is to enhance corrections systems' ability to address the substance use treatment needs of offenders as well as expand education and employment programs that emphasize strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, education, workforce development, and reentry service providers. This will work to reduce recidivism, promote recovery, and enhance employment prospects for incarcerated adults reentering the workforce. These partnerships can support the establishment and improvement of academic and vocational education programs and career training programs available in prisons and jails. Overall these efforts will improve public safety and public health. Programs should be focused on the 3-year period before release, as well as upon transition and reentry into the community. | City or township governments, County governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, State governments, | OJP will give priority consideration, if applicable, to applicants that demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties | 27 awards of \$900,000 for a three-year performance period | Open May 3, 2021; Applications Due July 6, 2021 | https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2021-98001 | 6 (Reentry Services) |
| | Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program | DOJ | Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program. BCJI, formerly the Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction program, was designed to support data driven, comprehensive, and community-oriented strategies to reduce crime in neighborhoods with hot spots of serious and violent crime. Through a broad cross-sector partnership team, including neighborhood residents, BCJI grantees employ a wide range of crime prevention | | CVI: "The BCJI model is often used to support Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategies to reduce gun violence. CVI strategies like violence interruption programs deploy trusted messengers who work directly with individuals most likely to commit gun violence, intervene in conflicts, | 10 awards of \$1M over a three-year grant period for category 1 (larger cities) and 10 awards of \$800k for category 2 (smaller cities) | Open May 19, 2021; Applications Due July 6, 2021 | https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2021-94001 | 5 (Cure Violence); 6 (LOV); 8 (Support for Frontline Workers) |

Additional Considerations

- Missouri Foundation for Health MoCAP program - grant-writing assistance
- Private funders
- Giffords America at a Crossroads Report
 - How other states/localities have leveraged Byrne JAG, VOCA, and PSN
- National pool of strong TA providers

QUESTIONS?

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