

University/PSN Partnership



Overview of PSN Rowan Violent Crime Dynamic

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NORTH CAROLINA NETWORK FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES
RESEARCH AND T/TA TEAM

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Training and Technical Assistance



UNCG works in partnership with the USAO and is involved in the implementation of strategies with new sites in NC and across the country, including sustainability of strategies within existing sites, ensuring fidelity in the process.

- Violent Incident Review/Group Audits (data collection)
- Community & Law Enforcement Training (strategy)
- Call-in Rehearsals/Preparation/Debriefing/Feedback (fidelity)
- Longitudinal data collection (evaluation)



Overview of Focused Deterrence Strategy



- A violence reduction strategy
- Based on “focused deterrence” theory
- A small number of offenders commit the majority of all violent crimes
- Most violent, active offenders can be identified using available data
- These members are brought into a “notification” or “call-in”
- Educated by law enforcement and the community that agencies and community are partnering together and violence will no longer be tolerated; resources available
- In a gang/group call-in, individuals are asked to: “Take the message back to your group”



Data Analysis

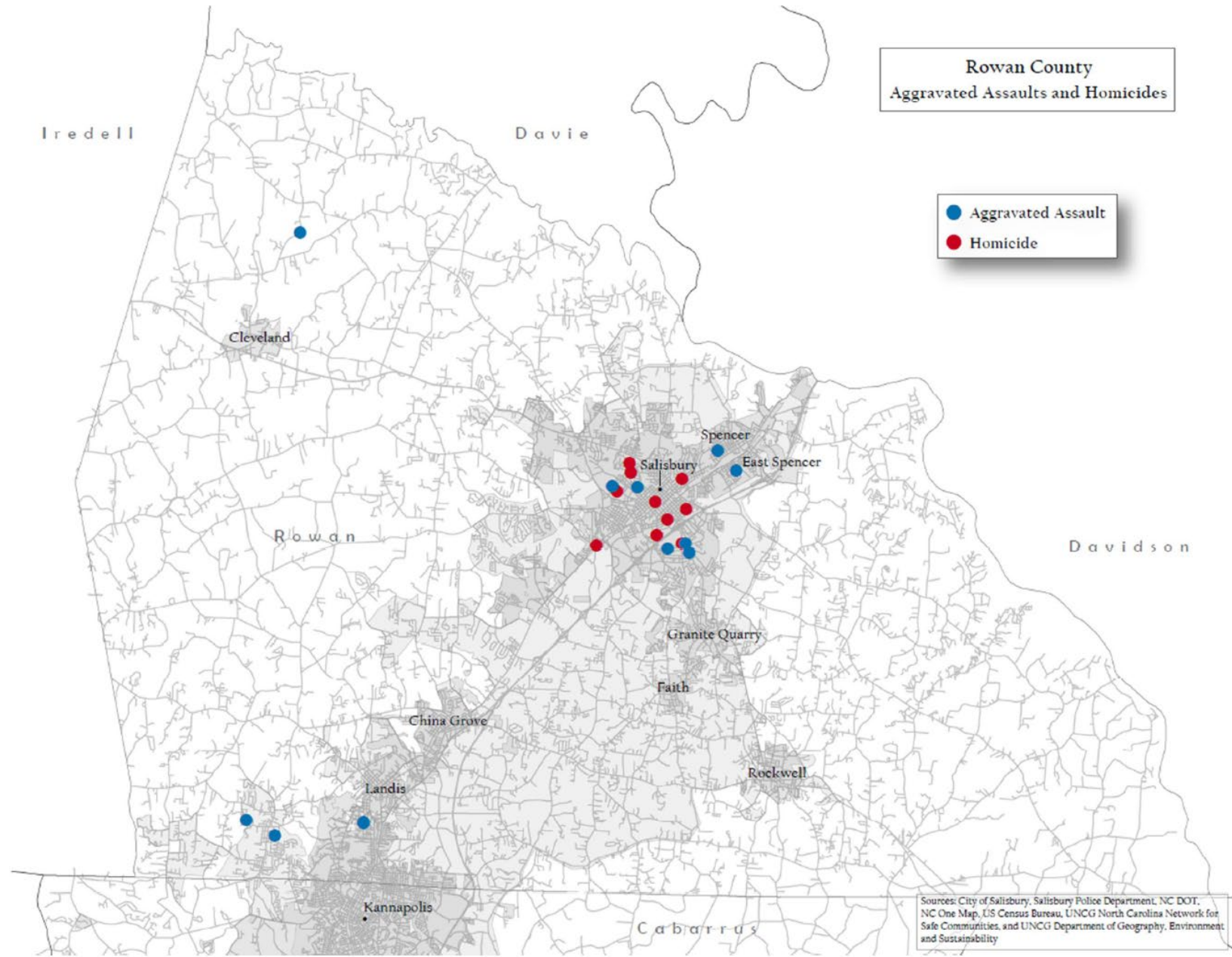


- Inform strategy selection through a Frontline Survey, Violent Incident Review (VIR), and Gang/Group Audit:
 - **Frontline survey:** used to gather information from LE, Prosecutors, and Probation partners
 - **VIR:** Structured incident/case review process with LE, Prosecutors, and Probation partners; Guided protocol to discuss the last 3 years of homicides and the last 18 months of aggravated assaults with a firearm.
 - **Gang/Group Audit:** Identification of violent gangs/groups in jurisdiction; gather data on leadership/members, level of organization, activity, and violence
 - **Report/Strategy Recommendations:** Detailed analysis of crime trends, crime dynamics, and strategy recommendations submitted to site leadership



Rowan County
Aggravated Assaults and Homicides

- Aggravated Assault
- Homicide



Sources: City of Salisbury, Salisbury Police Department, NC DOT, NC One Map, US Census Bureau, UNGC North Carolina Network for Safe Communities, and UNGC Department of Geography, Environment and Sustainability

Key Findings: VIR



- 85 violent incidents reviewed across multiple communities
 - 35% drug-involved/drug business
 - 18% domestic-related
 - 14% gang/group-related
 - 10% juvenile-involved
 - 3% mistaken identity/unintended victim
- Relationship
 - 43% acquaintances
 - 11% other family (non-married/dating)
 - 11% strangers
 - 7% dating/married
 - 7% drug dealer relationship
 - 4% same gang/group



Key Findings: VIR



- **Location**
 - 32% victim home; 32% public space
 - 16% other residence
 - 11% offender home; 11% commercial
- **Offender/Victim characteristics**
 - 39% offenders/32% victims previously known to law enforcement
 - ✦ Of known offenders/victims:
 - 55%/63% in a gang/group
 - 31%/50% drug dealer
 - 28%/13% substance use/abuse issues
 - 38%/25% on DPS supervision (probation/parole)



Summary: VIR



- Both victims and offenders were often known to law enforcement prior to the incident; likely to have existing levers to pull in a focused deterrence strategy due to past history of involvement in crime.
 - Messaging to chronic offenders during notification should emphasize the high likelihood of victimization.
- Drug involvement is high in violent incidents. Drug dealers are at high risk for victimization, including being shot and killed.
 - Use this finding in messaging targeted at known drug dealers during notification.



Summary: VIR



- Most violent incidents reviewed occurred between victims and offenders who knew one another as acquaintances, again with a drug dealer/drug buyer nexus being common.
- In many violent incidents that were preceded by violence, the violence was a result of vigilante-style responses to a prior theft or robbery which could be viewed as retaliatory. This was especially true for aggravated assaults.



Summary: VIR



- Many offenders and victims in the violent incidents were on active probation/supervision at the time of the incident.
 - Individuals under supervision would be group for messaging that should include information that being involved in a criminal lifestyle also increases risk for victimization.
- While many offenders and victims involved in the violent incidents were involved in a gang/group, there were no incidents which were due to gang/group beef or involving rival group members.
 - Within group conflict involving members of the same group was more common.



Gang/Group Activity



- 21 groups were identified and discussed, representing an estimated total of approximately 392 individuals
 - Certain key members appear to be active across several sets
 - ✦ Impact players who can be targeted with enforcement and used as examples during notification, or can be prime candidates for notification messaging, which if he heeds the message, could possibly decrease violence across multiple groups.
 - Overall, most groups in the Rowan County were perceived to be very organized (52%)



Call-In Messaging



- **Law enforcement, service providers, and community members represent a united front to deliver one basic message, “*The violence must stop.*”**
 - Each representative delivers that message in a different, but authentic way
- **Law Enforcement**
 - “The rules have changed. From now on, when you or anyone you run with shoot someone, law enforcement will focus all of their energy on not only that individual but their entire group.”
 - “If you violate these violent prohibited offenses, you and your group will be dealt with swiftly and severely.” (group enforcement action)
- **Resource Providers**
 - “We accept you but not your behavior. We are not going to tolerate the violence any longer. We are here to offer you help.”
- **Community Moral Voices**
 - “The community needs and wants the violence to stop.”
 - “You are valuable and important to us. Please accept the help being offered.”
 - “Violence has harmful consequences to the community and me personally.... Here is my story.”
 - “I was once in your shoes as an offender. I turned my life around... Here is my story.”
 - “The ideas of the street code are false.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtgJMMJS6yA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoPT107IJC>



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Increase Risk to Decrease Offending

Traditionally, perceived risk associated with offending has been low



- The call-in messaging, display, and enforcement increases risk by affecting offenders' perceptions of:

Likelihood of Offending

Perceived Risk

← Certainty of sanctions:

- ✦ “We can’t put everyone in jail, but we can focus on the 10 of you.”
- ✦ Presence of US Marshalls, other federal agencies, state and local law enforcement partners and resources– “We will find you. You cannot run.”
- ✦ Offender names are now flagged in communications system and shared across agency databases

Swiftiness

- ### ←
- ✦ Fast tracking of cases for notified offenders who reoffend
 - ✦ After first group commits prohibited offense, enforcement action against all members of that group will happen immediately

Severity

- ### ←
- ✦ Messaging of how federal system is harsh
 - ✦ Notified offenders who reoffend will be sent through the system (state or federal) that will get offender the most time
 - ✦ Examples of offenders who have been sentenced given during call-in & communication back with notified offenders of subsequent reoffenders



Deterrence, Not Enforcement



- We want compliance, not arrests and sentences (This is a violence reduction strategy)
- When something drastic is about to happen, it's in both our and their interest to avoid it
- Goal: make the stove hot enough, obviously enough, that nobody wants to touch it
- Effective law enforcement without incarceration



Moral Engagement with Offenders



- Offenders can and will choose (most are rational); should be treated as responsible human beings
- There's right, there's wrong, no gray area (hate the sin, love the sinner – “We (community) are against what you are doing, but we are for you.”)
- Activates agency: offender is now in control
- Treats offender with respect: procedural justice
- Enhances law enforcement legitimacy
- Mobilizes community partners



Offender Ideas Matter the Most



- ~80 percent of violence, usually, not about business; it most often revolved around vendettas, boy/girl, respect
- We're really dealing with the street code
- Disrespect requires violence
- We're not afraid of death or prison
- The enemy of my friend is my enemy
- The cops are against us
- These ideas drive the violence; changing these ideas / beliefs / myths really matters



The Moral Voice of the Community



- Clear, direct, community stand
- Respected local figures
- Parents
- Ministers, mothers, activists
- “Do you want your mother standing here?”
- “We need you, you’re better than this.”
- Offenders and ex-offenders
- “Who helped your mother last time you were locked up?”
- “How long before one of your boys sleeps with your girlfriend?”
- “Who thinks it’s OK for little kids to get killed?”



Help is a Moral and Practical Obligation



- Some will take it
- Changes moral narratives
- Has to be honest
- “We will do everything we can,” not “We will fix your life”
- Limited resources and effectiveness don’t change the core fact that the violence is completely unacceptable
- “It is wrong, it has to stop. And we’d like to help you.”



Defining Success of the Strategy



- Should not be judged on how many offenders “turn their lives around”
- This is a VIOLENCE REDUCTION strategy
- Success depends on keeping promises and following through with the message delivered at notification
- Enforcement action against reoffenders
- Tracking of current group membership and pulling levers
- Changes in offender narratives
- Changes in community narratives
- Resets relationships between law enforcement and communities



Contact Information



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