



Violent Crime Reduction Plan

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT



Welcome

Eddie Garcia

CHIEF OF POLICE

Photo: cbsdfw.com

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to present to you our 2021 Violent Crime Reduction Plan. The plan is a culmination of collaborating with criminologists, hearing from other departments within the City, and, most importantly, listening to our neighborhoods most impacted by violent crime.

While Dallas Police Department is committed to combating violent crime, our officers cannot do this alone and it requires a multi-faceted approach. Examples include the steps already underway in long-term, non-enforcement strategies critical to any holistic violent crime reduction plan. Among these are: R.E.A.L. Change – policing that is Responsible, Equitable, Accountable, and Legitimate; expansion of the RIGHT CARE program; forming a mobile crisis response team; establishing violence interrupters; creating the Office of Community Police Oversight; reintroducing the Youth Support Services Division; founding the Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions to mitigate circumstances that contribute to violent crime and embracing the recommendations set forth by the Mayor's Taskforce on Safe Communities.

The approach above, coupled with proven, evidence-based policing strategies included in this presentation, will help strengthen our City. Our ultimate goal is the reduction of crime, with an increase in community trust. We will strive for both, as these concepts are not mutually exclusive. Our men and women will continue to partner with our community and strive to achieve a safer Dallas.

Let us get to work...together.

Where we are now.

Dallas is inhabited by 1.3 million+ people and policed by a force of nearly 3,100 officers

Violent crime is concentrated in a small number of areas in the city

In the past three years, violent crime in Dallas is on the rise

Up 19% overall

Murder
Non-negligent manslaughter
Robbery
Aggravated Assault

Up 22%



Goals & Objectives



Reverse the Trend

In partnership with other city agencies and the community, reverse the increasing trend in reported violent crime



Amplify Trust

Increase community trust and engagement with the Dallas Police Department to facilitate solving crimes of violence and successfully prosecuting violent offenders



Fewer Victims

Reduce the annual number of victims of violent crime



Improve Conditions

Improve place-based conditions that contribute to violence in coordination with the Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions and other stakeholders

A multi-faceted violence reduction strategy based on the best available science



Introduction



Hot Spots Policing



Place Network Investigations



Focused Deterrence,
Urban Blight & Disorder
Abatement

Near-Term Strategy: Hot Spots Policing

01

Evidence:

A small number of areas generate the majority of violent crime

“Hot spots policing strategies that focus on increased police visibility and repeat offenders in high crime micro-areas have been shown to reduce crime in and around the targeted areas. These strategies are among the most-studied interventions in policing and consistently show crime reduction effects across jurisdictions.”

Michael R. Smith, J.D., Ph. D.

University of Texas at San Antonio



Hot Spots Policing

With 25+ years of research, we know this:
Most violent crime happens in a small number of areas in the city

Rapid Implementation

Violent crime can be reduced by 10-50%, with no spread to adjacent areas



Contained

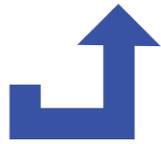
Hot spot grids are divided into 330' x 330' areas

The City of Dallas contains approximately 101,000 grids

Targeted

The focus will be on the 5.6% of grids where there was a victim of violent crime in 2020

Hot Spots Policing



Higher Impact

Meta-analysis found problem-oriented strategies generated higher impacts than increasing police presence alone



Visibility Works

Lighted patrol cars reduce violent crime in hot spots

Foot patrols have greater impact on property crime



Offender Focused

Strategies based on good quality intelligence about a small number of repeat offenders

Hot Spots Policing: Key Factors



Sufficient Resources For Measurable Impact

Number of hotspots

Amount of time devoted there



Visibility for Maximum Impact

Marked Cars with Lights On

Offender-Focused Tactics



Police Behavior For Maximum Impact

Focus on Procedural Justice

Viewed as Legitimate by Public

Hot Spots Policing In Dallas

A 3-Step Approach

Developed in consultation with criminologists at The University of Texas at San Antonio

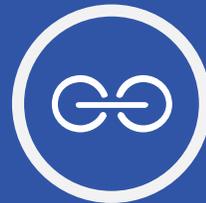
Based on review of current evidence for effectiveness of various strategies



Examine the Data

Focus on grids where violent crimes have occurred in most recent 3-6 months

Identify and rank the grids that produce half the violent crime



Evaluate & Adjust

Locations and boundaries adjusted as needed every 90 days based on contextual needs and intelligence



Visibility

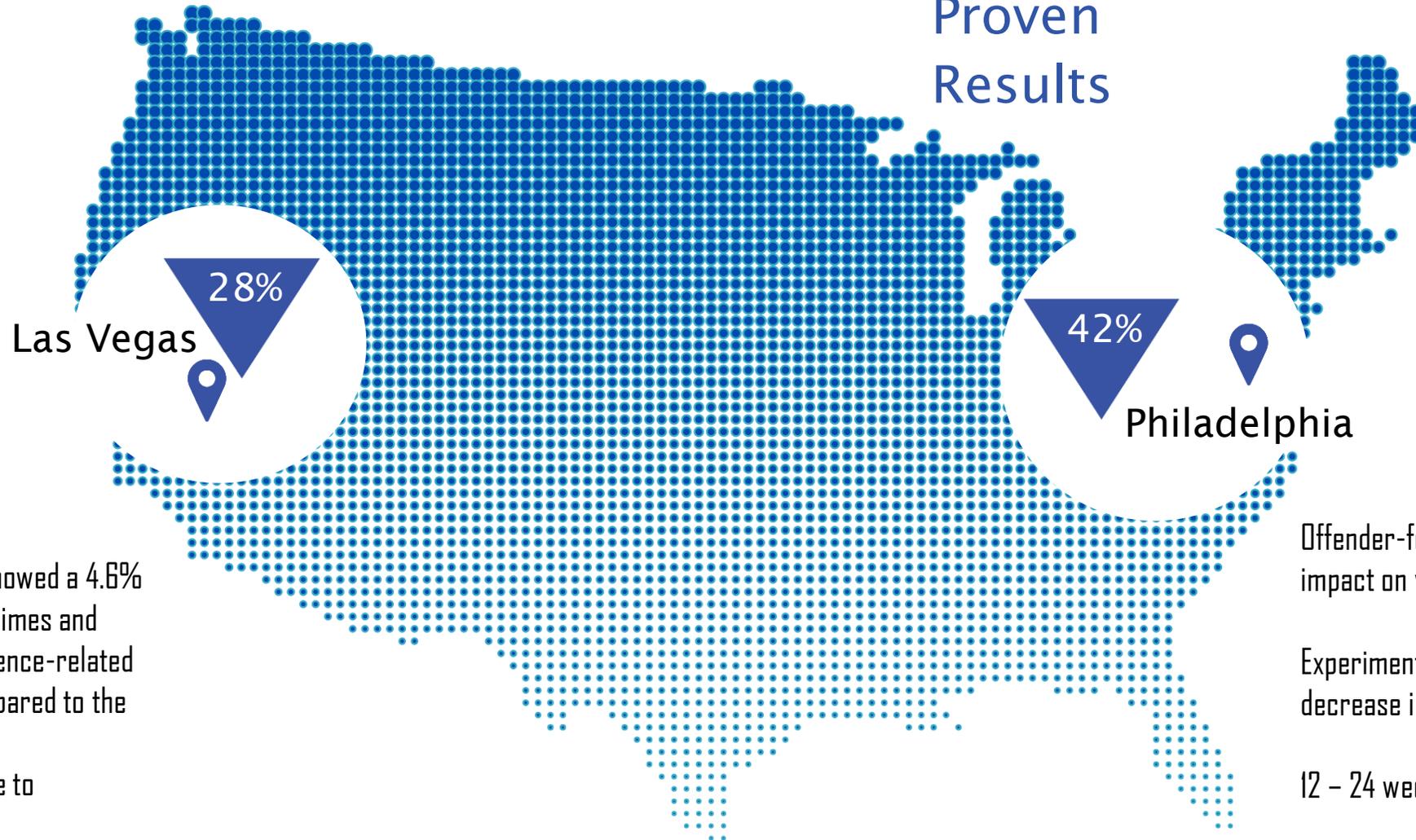
High visibility of patrol cars

or

Offender focused in the hot spot area

6-month timeframe

Proven Results



Lighted patrol cars showed a 4.6% decrease in violent crimes and 28% decrease in violence-related calls for service compared to the control areas with no displacement of crime to surrounding areas

Offender-focused tactics had an impact on violent crime

Experiment showed a 42% decrease in all violent crimes

12 - 24 weeks in targeted area

Evaluation

Violent Crime Counts
Reviewed Weekly

Intensive Strategic
Review by Chief's Office
Every
Six Months

High-Visibility vs.
Offender-Focus Will Be
Expanded or
Discontinued Based on
Best Results

02

Mid-Term Strategy: Place Network Investigations

Location, location, location

*An intelligence-driven,
community-based
approach*

“Among the most promising new place-based crime control strategies, Place Network Investigations utilize criminological theory, intelligence, and analysis to identify and target networks of connected places that facilitate crime. This strategy uses multidisciplinary, problem-oriented interventions designed to reduce the conditions favorable to crime in networks of crime-prone places.”

Michael R. Smith, J.D., Ph.D.

The University of Texas at San Antonio



New Tools

Based on the latest data and academic theories



Place Network Investigations

Strategy to identify and disrupt networks of criminogenic places

4 Realities

Crime is concentrated among a small number of offenders, victims and places

A small number of places account for most crime in any city

Strategies that target criminal networks can reduce crime

Criminogenic places are networked

Place Network Investigations



Convergent Settings

Public places where offenders often meet



Comfort Spaces

Private locations used to plan or facilitate crime



Corrupting Spots

Associated locations that encourage criminal activity

Uncovering Networks

Using Intelligence



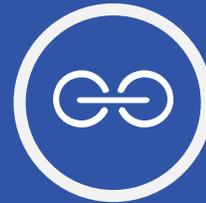
Traditional Crime
Analysis



Surveillance



Informants

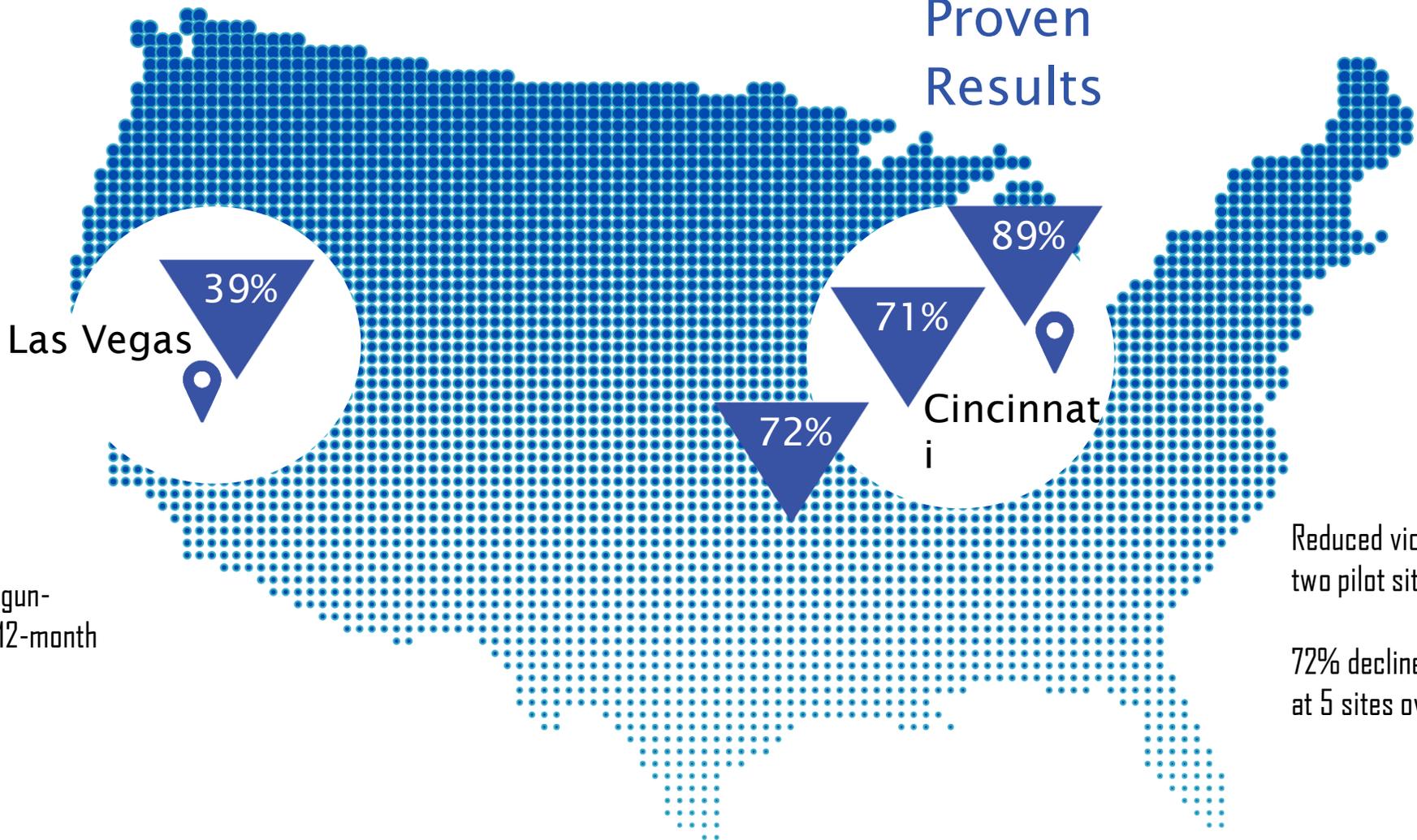


Offender
Interviews



Historical Data

Proven Results

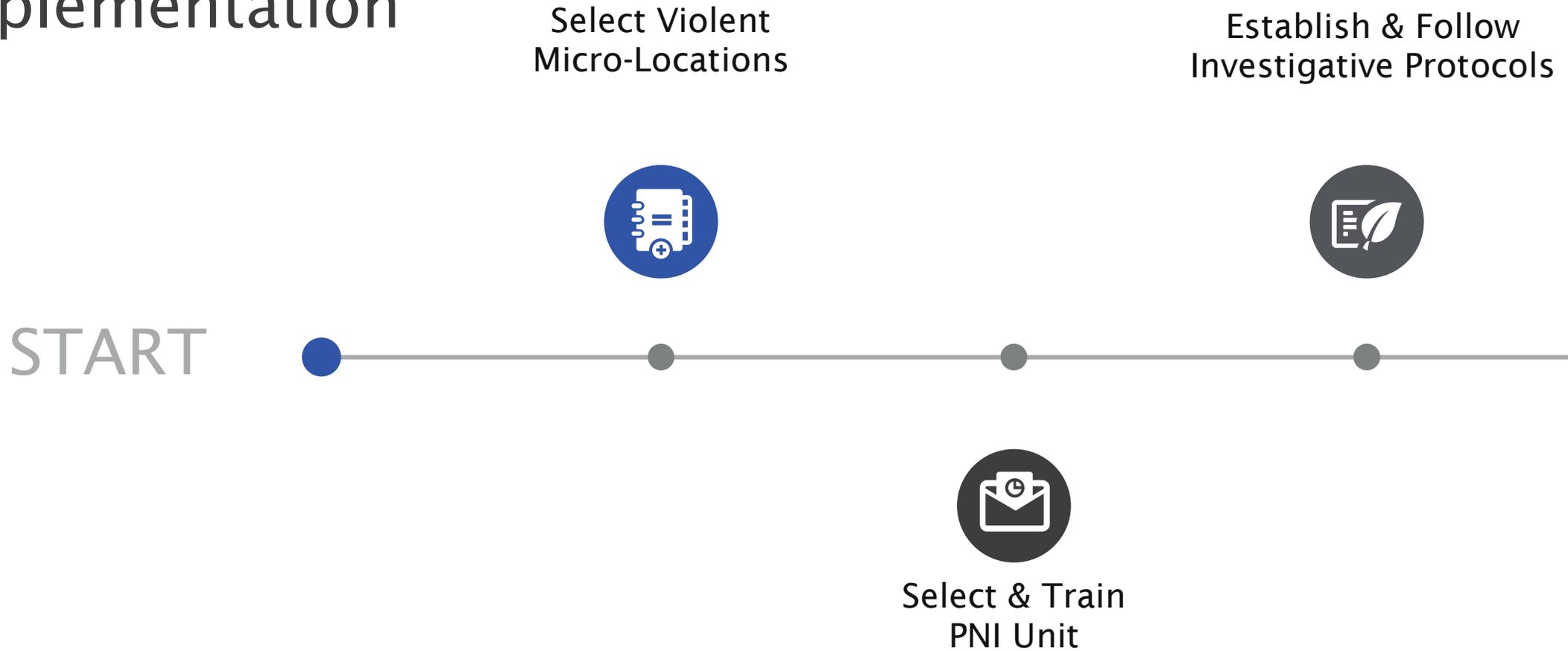


39% reduction in gun-related crimes in 12-month comparison

Reduced violent crime in the first two pilot sites by 89% and 71%

72% decline in shooting victims at 5 sites over 24 months

The PNI Process Implementation



Establish, Train
& Gain
Compliance
from PNI
Investigative
Board Members



Assess &
Establish
Intelligence
Systems



Collect
Community
Intelligence



Gather Pre-
Intelligence



Conduct Internal
Intelligence
Sessions



Present
Intelligence
Products to PNI
Investigative
Board



Disrupt
Offender &
Crime Place
Networks



Identify
Offender &
Crime Place
Networks



EVALUATION

Place Network Investigation Board Membership



Roles & Responsibilities

Police

- Lead PNI Board
- Gather intelligence
- Conduct investigations
- Make arrests
- Deter crime
- Analyze data

Integrated Public Safety Solutions

- Violence Interrupters
- Risk Terrain Modeling
- Nuisance Abatement

Fire

Identify / address fire hazards and fire code violations

Planning & Urban Design

Assess infrastructure changes to reduce opportunity for crime

Building Inspection

Address safety issues identified in buildings

Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization

Repair / code / housing related deficiencies

Public Works

Crime prevention through environmental design

City Attorney

Legal review of abatement/ intervention strategies

Risk Management

Review and provide input on risk mitigation strategies associated with interventions

Transportation

Evaluate traffic management, signs, signals or safety issues related to sites

Code Compliance

- Address code violations
- Issue citations

Parks & Recreation

- Address design or re-development of parks as needed
- Repair or remove dilapidated equipment or structures

Zoning

Review applicable zoning regulations and recommend / implement changes as needed

Place Network Investigations Key Factors



Requires buy-in from multiple stakeholders



Board review of intelligence and site selection



Data-driven process to identify and investigate hotspots



Data-driven disruption of offenders and networks



Functional process for intelligence analysis



Metrics - Tracking & Evaluation

Place Network Investigation In Dallas

Address Violence
By Complementing the
Hot Spots Strategies

Present Investigative
Findings to the Board



Evaluation

DPD and UTSA will
evaluate impact and
strategy

Board and UTSA will
identify key metrics



Longer-Term Strategies:

Focused Deterrence

Urban Blight & Disorder Abatement

03

Effective collaboration
across jurisdictions,
agencies and
neighborhoods

*A proven track record of success
in cities across the United States*

"Much more than just traditional law enforcement, focused deterrence is a longer-term strategy designed to address violence by targeted groups through the use of moral voices in the community and deterrence messaging to change offender trajectories. Focused deterrence will be combined with proven, evidence-based strategies for improving vacant lots, abandoned and neglected housing, lighting, and other signs of urban disorder to reduce violence in Dallas."

Michael R. Smith, J.D., Ph.D.

University of Texas at San Antonio



Strategy 1 Focused Deterrence

Pulling Levers

Focused deterrence strategies
save lives



Goal

Change behavior of high-risk
offenders through deterrence,
incapacitation, community involvement
and alternatives to violence

Communication

Clearly communicate the risks
associated with continued criminal
activity and available alternatives



Focused Deterrence Components



Strategies

- Problem-oriented
- Tailored to specific crimes
- Interagency law enforcement teams



Legal Remedies

- Arrest & prosecution
- Gang injunctions
- Location closures



Communications

- Call-ins
- Offender notifications meetings
- Messaging from officials, community leaders, former gang members



Targets

- Gangs and violent criminal groups
- Drug market groups
- Repeat offenders

Focused Deterrence In Dallas

Holistic, resource-intensive process involving multiple law enforcement and community partners



DPD will lead problem-based strategies tailored to particular violent crime problems or neighborhoods, identified by partnering with academic experts.

Disruption

Following the recommendation from the Mayor’s Task Force on Safe Communities, the Dallas strategy will use “violence interrupters”

Strategy

Plans drafted with clearly identified roles and commitments from partner organizations, well-defined timelines and metrics, and detailed evaluation methods

Partners

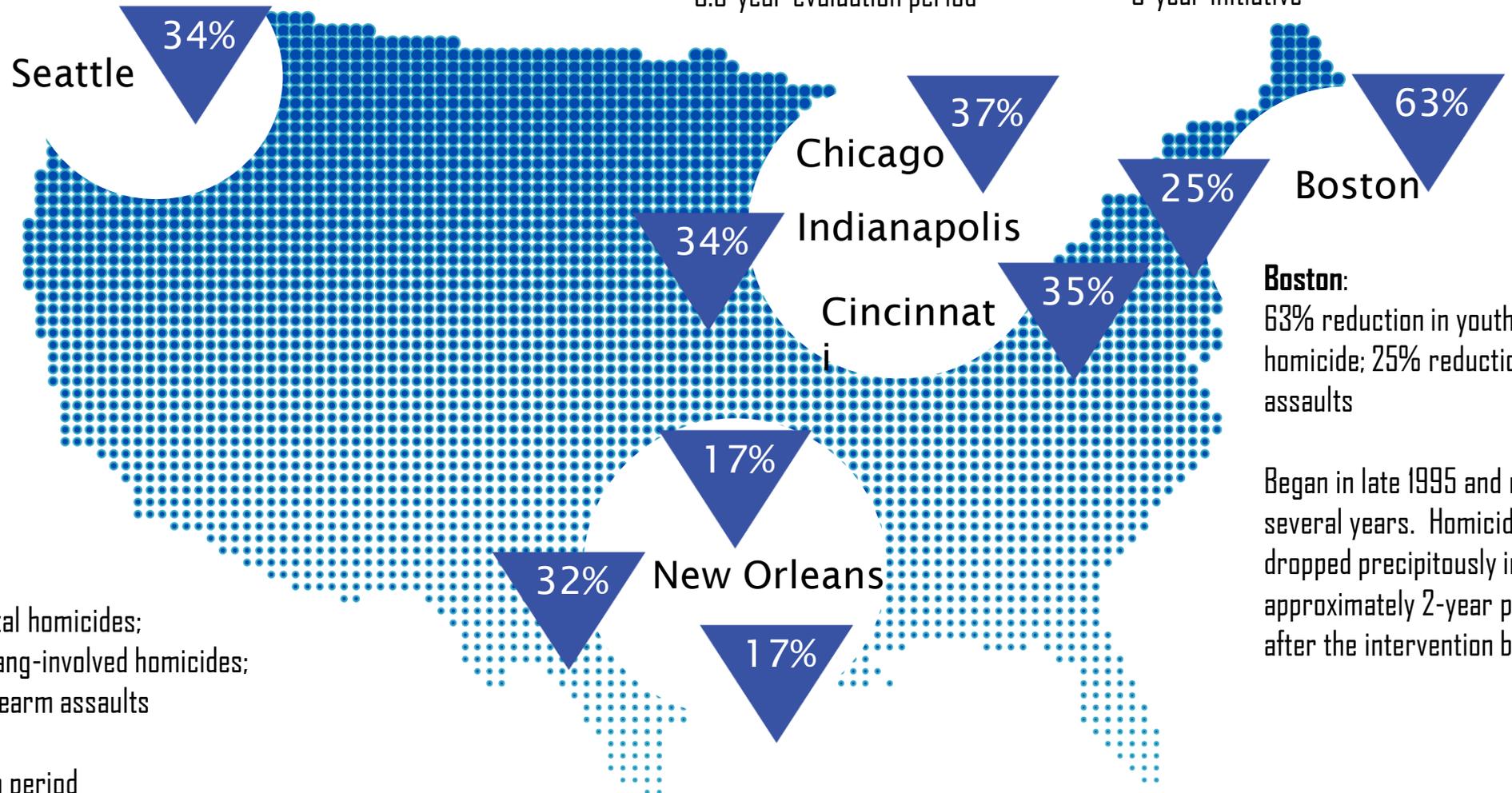
DPD will partner with academics, city leadership and stakeholders plus law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels

Seattle:
34% reduction in violent crime in 12 months

Indianapolis:
34% reduction in homicide

Cincinnati:
35% reduction in gang-involved homicides

Chicago:
37% reduction in homicides



3.5-year evaluation period

3-year initiative

Proven Results

New Orleans:
17% reduction in total homicides;
32% reduction in gang-involved homicides;
17% reduction in firearm assaults

16-month evaluation period

Boston:
63% reduction in youth homicide; 25% reduction in gun assaults

Began in late 1995 and ran for several years. Homicides dropped precipitously in the approximately 2-year period after the intervention began

Focused Deterrence: Implementation



Timeline

Planning underway and expect to be fully implemented by Spring 2022



Impact

At implementation, the impact of short- and mid-term strategies will have been measured



Synergy

The long-term strategy will build on the success of earlier violent crime reduction plan components and prepare for long-term change



Strategy 2 Urban Blight & Disorder Abatement

Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities identified Philadelphia's experience as a model practice for Dallas

"Broken Windows" Theory:

Documented association between
urban blight and crime



Methods

375 lots were selected at random for treatment through a vacant land ordinance

Workers removed debris, graded the land, planted trees and grass, installed low fences and encouraged use as neighborhood microparks

First step will be to remediate blighted buildings and abandoned lots in high-violence locations

Engage with various stakeholders to identify problem complexes, evaluate regulatory compliance and investigate need for additional ordinances



Measurement & Evaluation



Evaluation Plan

Will require a well-designed evaluation plan with rigorous quasi-experimental design to gauge impact of abatement efforts on:

- Violent crime
- Resident perceptions of crime and safety
- Calls for service



Independent Evaluation

DPD will coordinate an objective evaluation of the city's urban blight abatement efforts and effects on violent crime and related measures

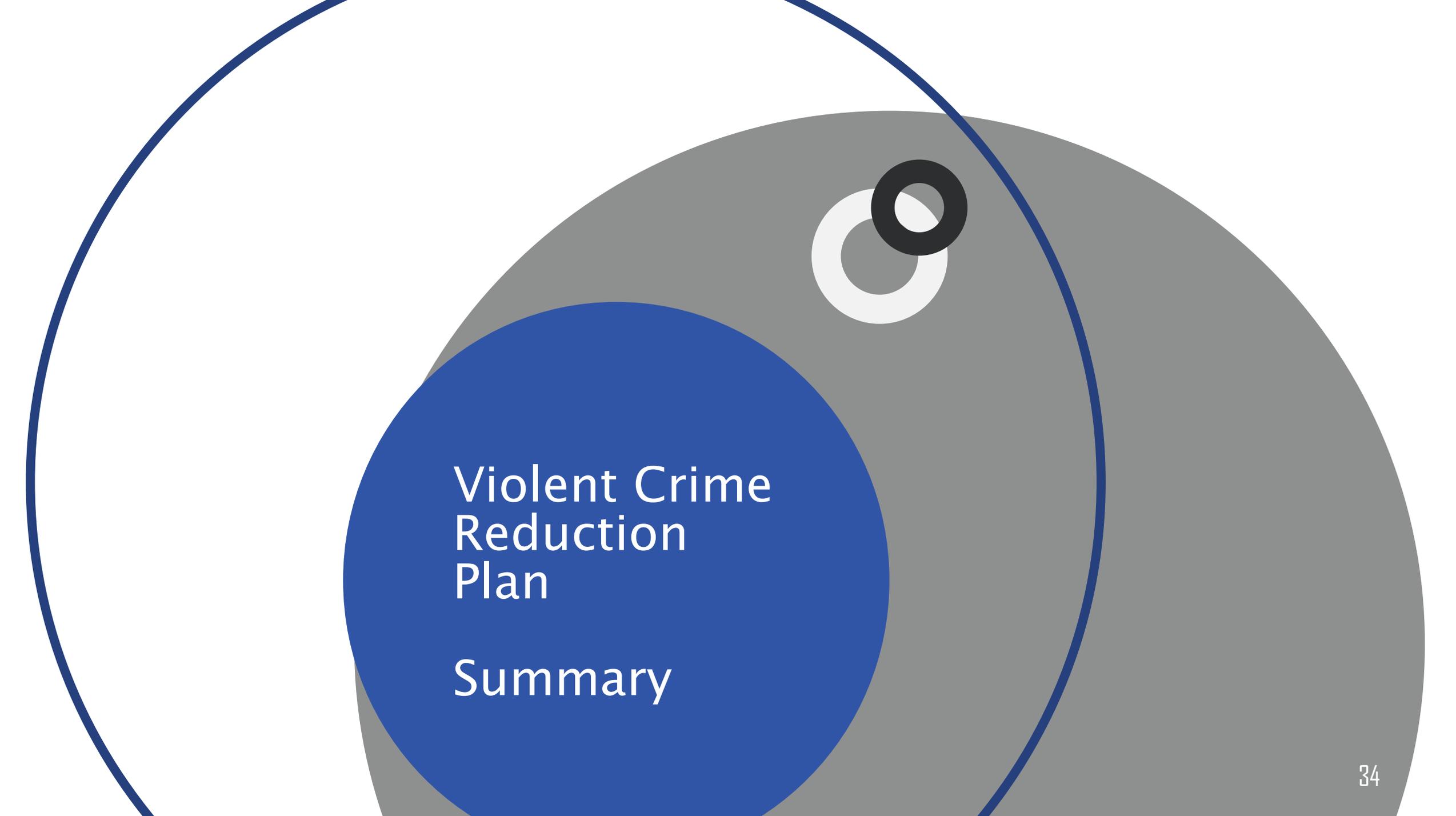
Evaluation

Independent evaluation by research partners

DPD will work with city leadership to find philanthropic partners for cost underwriting

“It is critical to know whether evidence-based strategies are being implemented as outlined in research and if public investments are yielding results.”

Mayor’s Task Force on Safe Communities

The graphic features a large grey semi-circle on the right side, partially enclosed by a dark blue arc that spans across the top and left. In the center-left, there is a solid blue circle containing white text. To the right of this blue circle, within the grey area, are two overlapping circles: a larger white one and a smaller black one.

Violent Crime
Reduction
Plan

Summary

A large, stylized question mark graphic in blue and white, with a black ring at the top. The text "QUESTIONS & ANSWERS" is centered within the blue area of the question mark.

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS