



City of Dallas

Violent Crime Reduction Plan Update

**Public Safety Committee
September 13, 2021**



Eddie Garcia, Chief of Police
Dallas Police Department
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Background on Violent Crime in Dallas
- Violent Crime Reduction Strategic Plan
- Evidence-Based Strategies
- Three Complementary Strategies
- Dallas Violent Crime Evaluation



Background on Violent Crime in Dallas



- Chief Eddie Garcia was appointed in February 2021
- Chief Garcia, in consultation with experienced UTSA criminologists, developed a violent crime strategy
- Dallas is the nation's ninth largest city (1.3 million)
- DPD sworn strength is approximately 3,100 officers



Violent Crime in Dallas



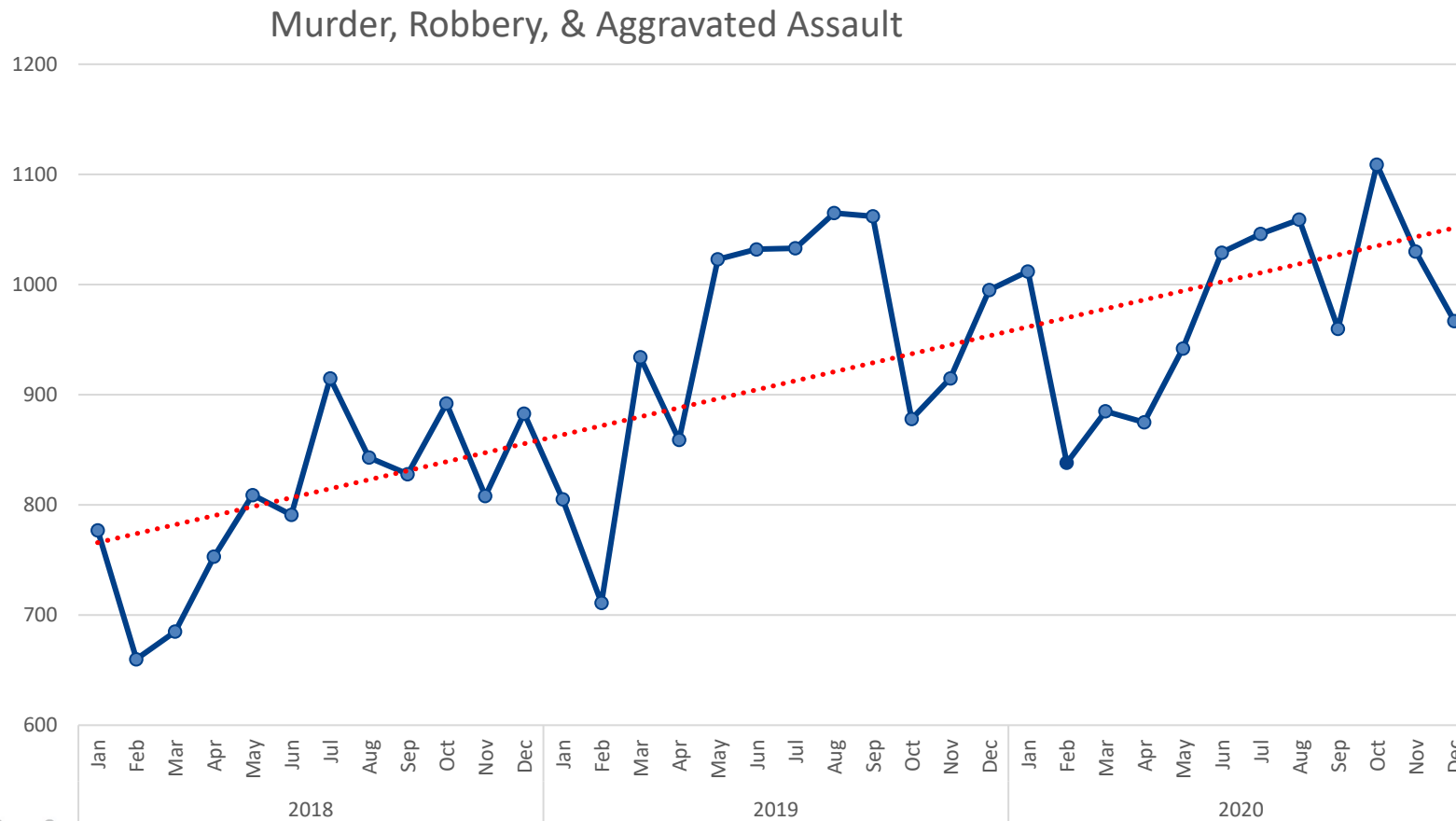
Overall Violent Crime Trend, 2018-2020



Violent Crime in Dallas Cont'd



Street-Violence Trend, 2018-2020



Violent Crime Reduction Strategic Plan



- By April 2021, DPD had a nearly completed draft of a new strategic plan to address violent crime in Dallas
 - **Evidence-based**
 - Community-focused
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Not heavy-handed
 - Informed by science and UTSA partnership
- Violent Crime Strategy was presented to Dallas City Council on May 5, 2021
- Response was extremely positive from elected leaders, community, and media



Evidence-Based Strategies



- Plan was purposely built to bring together the best evidence for “what works” to reduce violent crime
- Components were staged to
 - Manage workload and available resources
 - Work synergistically to create near-term momentum with deeper impact in the mid- and long-term
- Careful thought and messaging went into not “over-policing”
 - Not “stop and frisk” or zero tolerance policing
 - Community stakeholder involvement
 - Multidisciplinary and multi-agency, including federal partnerships
- Constant and persistent real-time evaluation of *implementation* and *impact*
 - Flexibility to make immediate adjustments if needed



Three Complementary Strategies



Near Term

- Hot Spots Policing
 - 25 years of evidence demonstrates that most violent crime takes places in a relatively few, small, geographic areas
 - Police can drive down violent crime in and around targeted micro-areas often without displacing crime to surrounding areas
 - By impacting the most crime-prone areas, violent crime can be impacted within larger geographic areas (e.g., beats or divisions)



Three Complementary Strategies (Cont.)



Mid-Term

- Place Network Investigations
 - PNI targets networks of violence-prone places through a multidisciplinary strategy that involves CPTED principles *and* intelligence-led targeting of violence-prone offenders who make use of place networks to facilitate crime

Long-Term

- Focused Deterrence
 - Goal is to change the behavior of high-risk offenders through a combination of deterrence, incapacitation, community involvement, and alternatives to a violent lifestyle
- Urban Blight and Disorder Abatement
 - Growing body of literature has documented an association between urban blight and violent crime



Hot Spots Strategy Details



- Implementation of the Dallas Violent Crime Reduction Plan began with a soft roll-out of the near-term hot spots strategy on May 7, 2021, with full implementation about ten days later
- Hot spots strategy made use of an existing DPD map layer
 - 101,402 grids within the City of Dallas
 - 330' x 330' grids
- UTSA researchers analyzed one year of violent street crime data (murders, robberies, aggravated assaults) by grid and found
 - Only 5.9% of grids accounted for all reported violent street crime in Dallas in 2020
 - In the first quarter of 2021, just 1.6% of grids accounted for all violent street crime incidents, and 59 grids (.06%) accounted for 10.3% of these incidents in the entire city
 - The hot spots strategy began in these grids, eventually focusing on 47 of those producing the highest levels of street-level violent crime
- Two approaches
 - High visibility (18 grids) – lighted patrol cars on grids for 15 minutes during peak crime hours
 - Offender-focused (29 grids) – intelligence-led targeting of repeat offenders, known violent offenders, and those with outstanding warrants by specialized community response teams (CRTs)



Hot Spots Evaluation Design



- By design, the Dallas Violent Crime Plan relies on relentless evaluation through its partnership with UTSA
- Process evaluation
 - Patrol officers are dispatched to their 15-minute high visibility assignments within targeted grids
 - CRT officers mark out on CAD whenever they are operating within targeted offender-focused grids
 - DPD commanders check CAD assignments against the operational plan to ensure fidelity – officers are in place in target grids during identified peak crime times
 - 95% compliance to date
- Impact evaluation
 - UTSA researchers receive monthly data from DPD crime analysis unit
 - Reported violent crimes
 - Violence-related calls for service
 - Arrests
 - Data are evaluated monthly and fully analyzed every 90 days for evidence of impact within targeted grids, catchment areas surrounding each grid to check for displacement, divisions, and city-wide



90 Day Evaluation Methodology

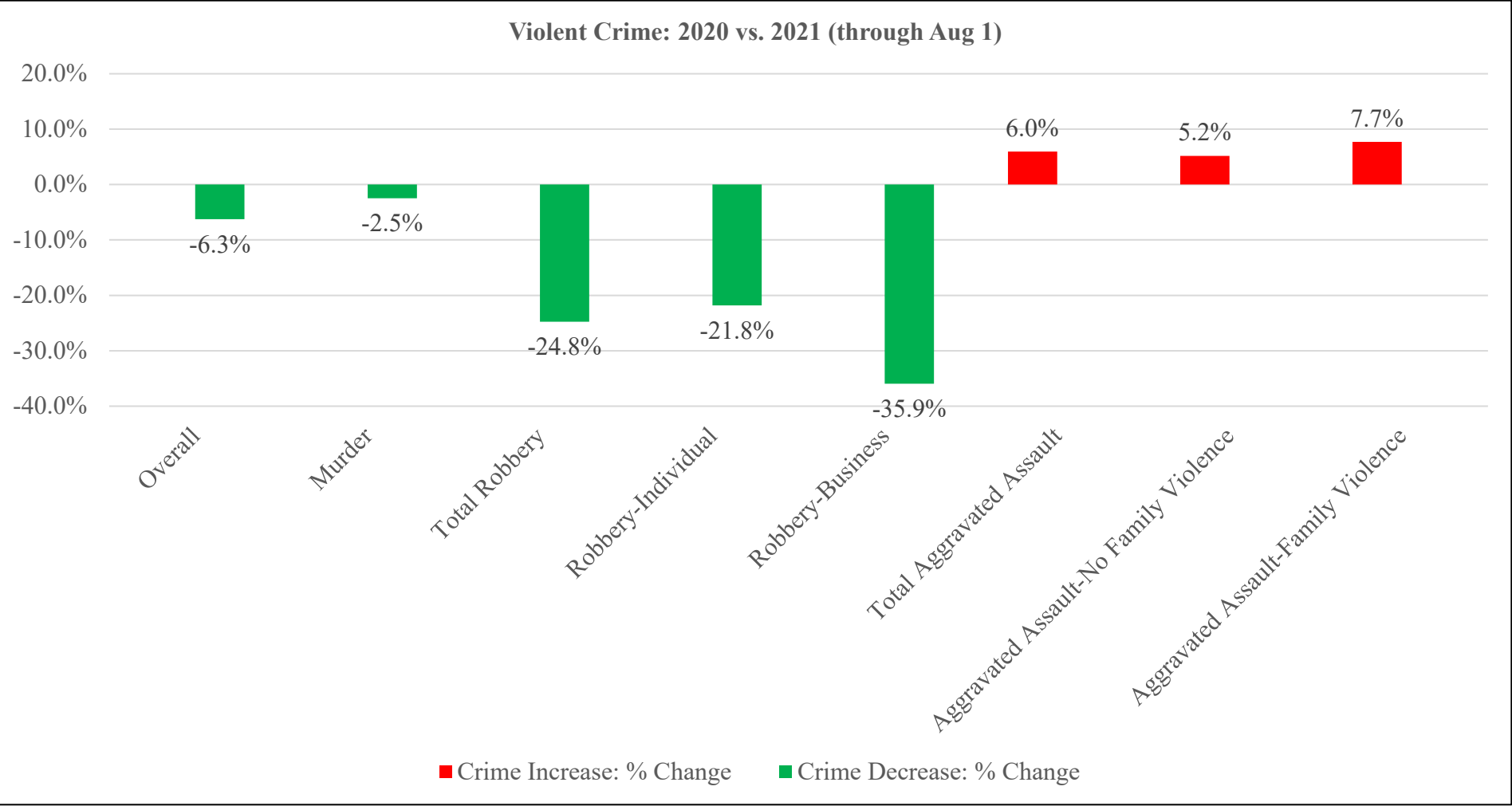


Several different lenses are used to gauge the impact of the initial hot spots strategy

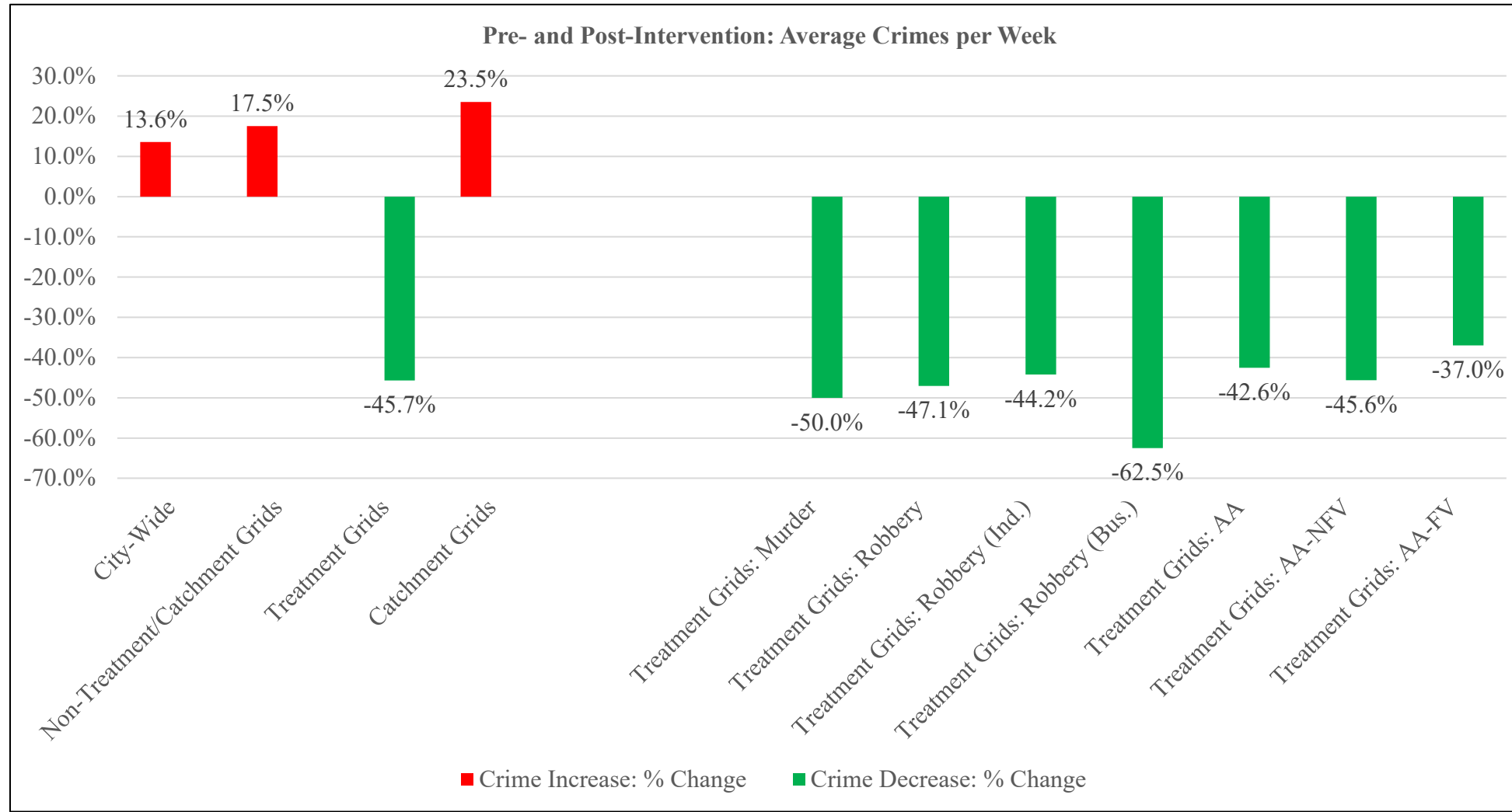
- Temporal
 - Year-to-year comparisons (2021 vs. 2020)
 - Weekly pre-post intervention comparisons (Jan 4-May 9, 2021 vs. May 10-Aug 1, 2021)
- Geographic
 - City-wide
 - Hot spots
 - Catchment areas – grids surrounding each targeted grid where crime displacement is most likely to occur
 - Patrol divisions



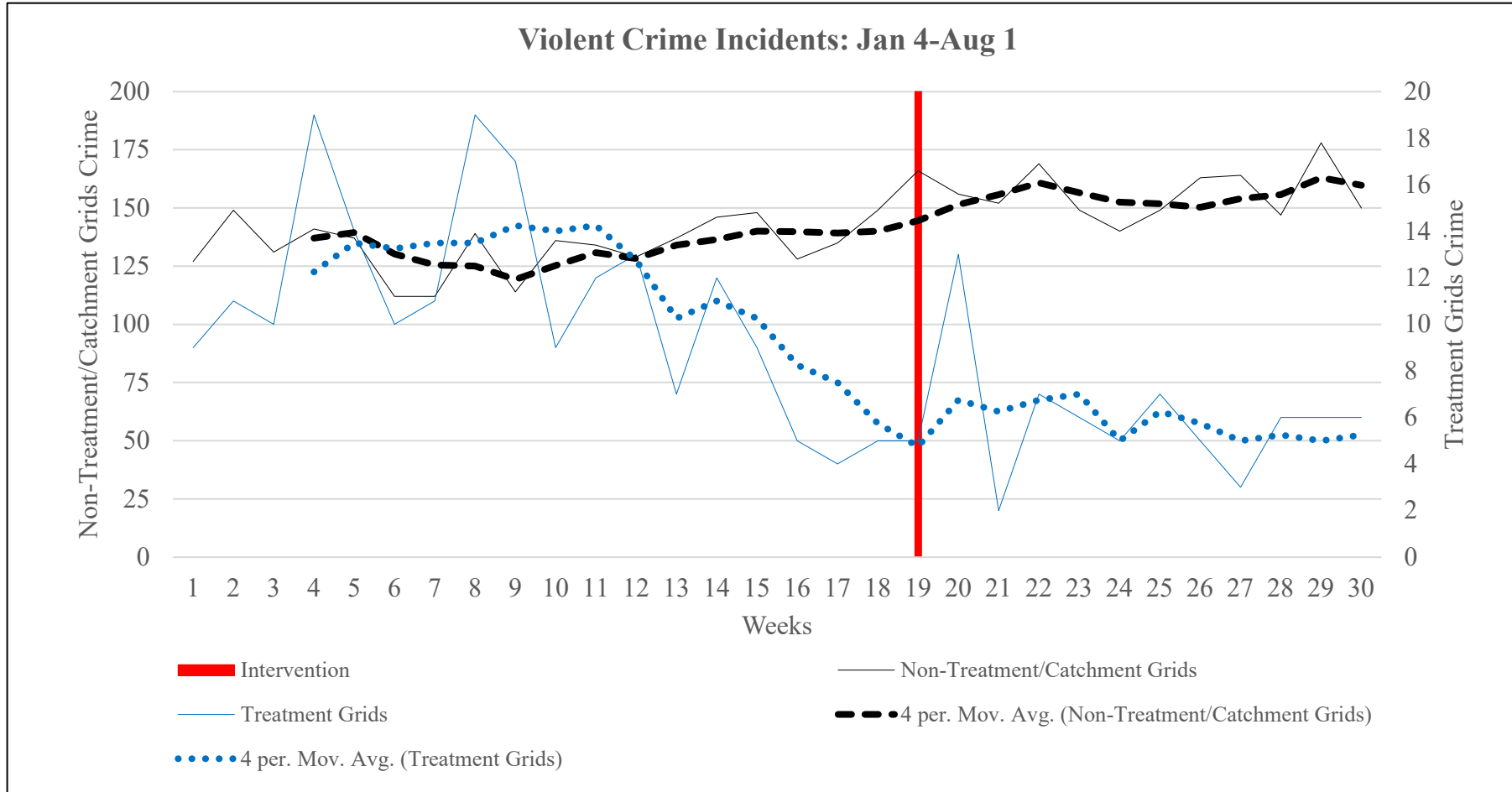
Violent Crime Results



Grid Impact by Crime Type



City-Wide v. Grid Impacts



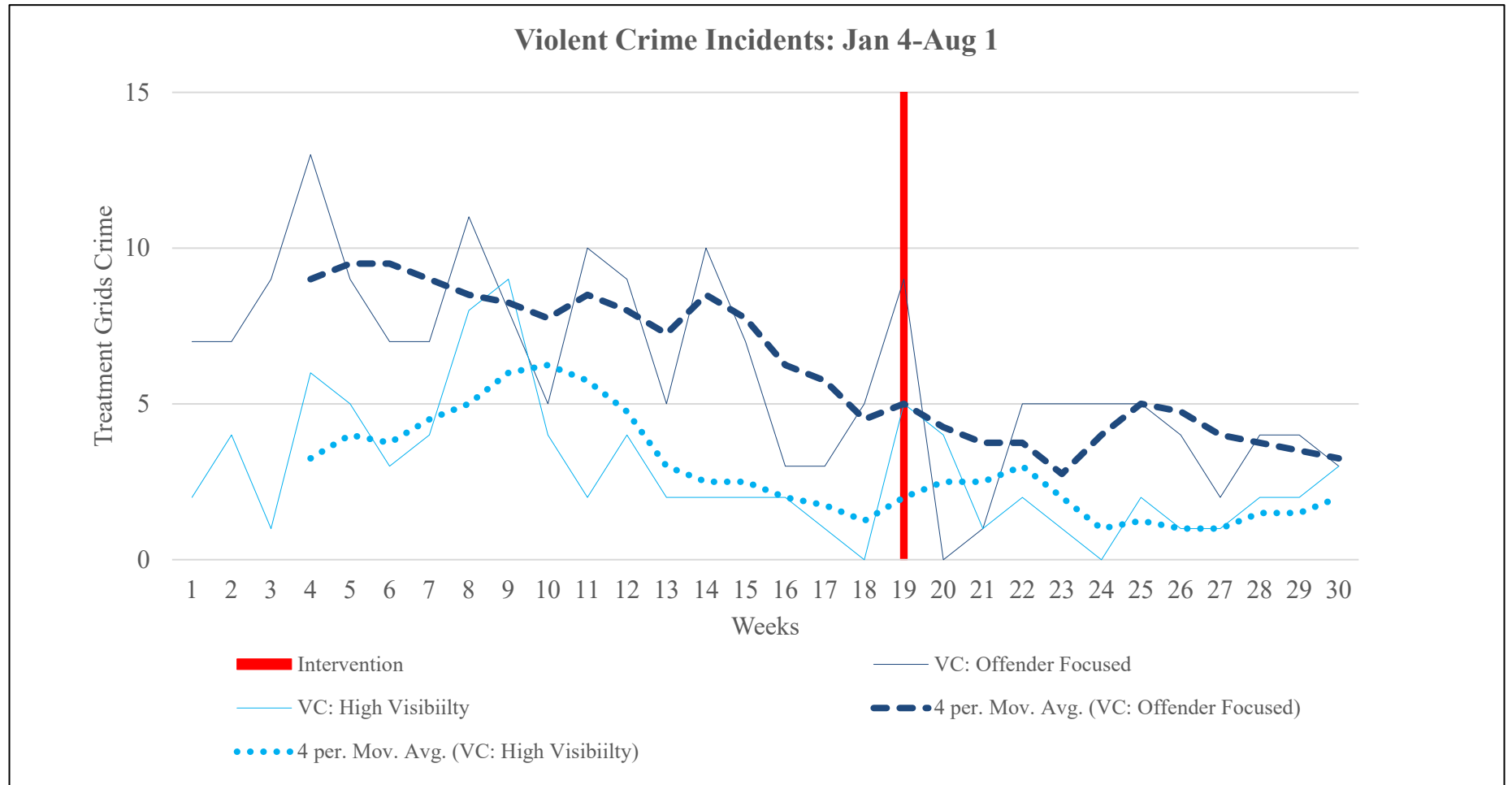
Violent crime increased somewhat in areas outside the treatment and catchment grids post-intervention (black lines), but it decreased substantially in the treatment grids even before the treatment went into effect and then continued to decrease further post-intervention (blue lines).



Grid Intervention Treatment Types



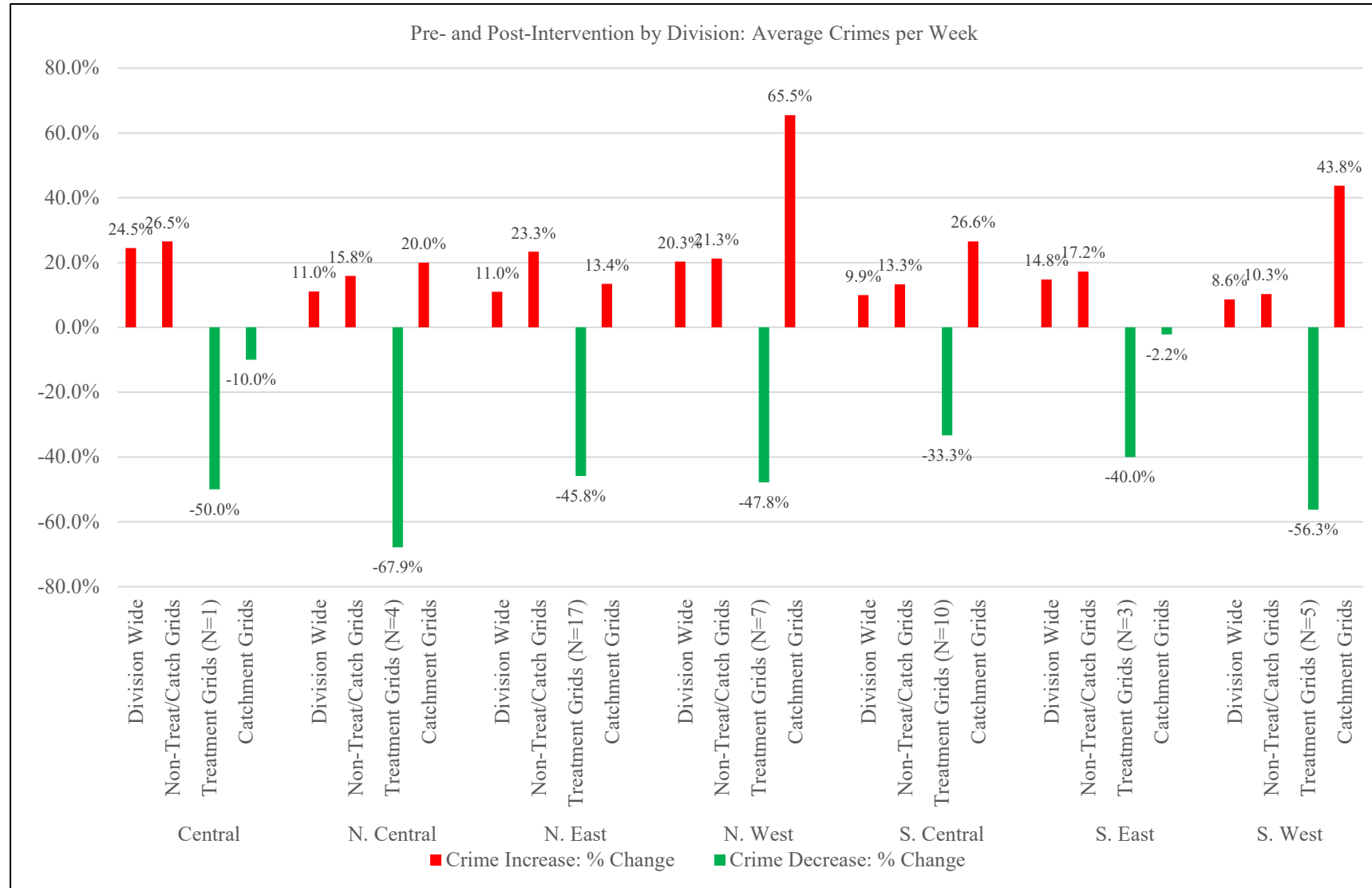
Across both the high visibility (blue dashed line) and offender-focused (black dashed line) interventions, crime has gone down in the treated grids, and those decreases have been maintained post-intervention.



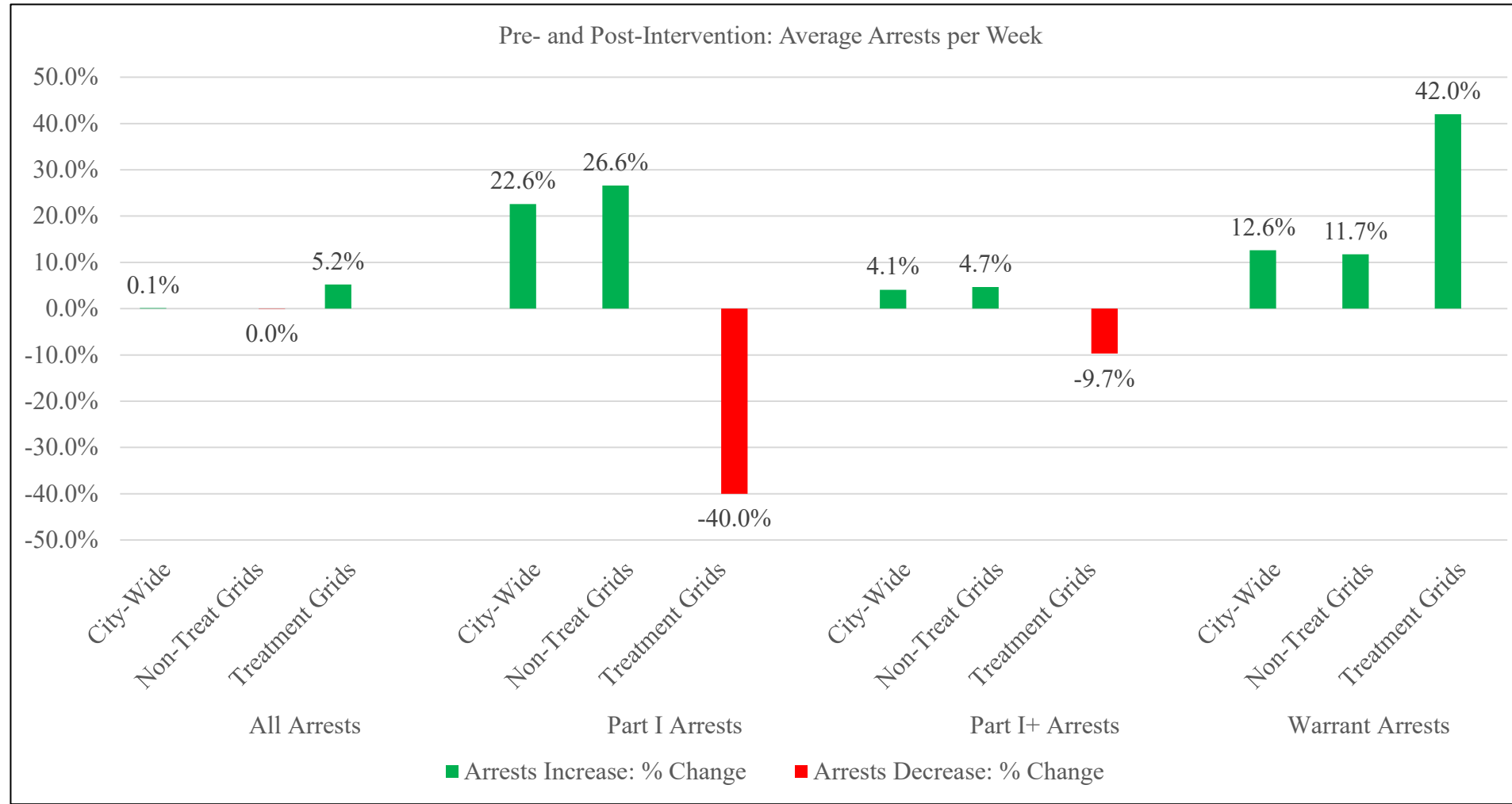
Post-Intervention by Patrol Division



There is some evidence of displacement especially in NW & SW division catchment areas, while Central and SE catchment areas show diffusion of benefits. Targeted grids will be expanded in next 90 days to help address displacement.



Pre- and Post-Intervention Arrests



Part I arrests decreased by 40% in the treatment grids even as violent crime fell almost 50%. Warrant-based arrests increased consistent with the strategy.



Summary



- Dallas experienced rising levels of violent crime during the first half of 2021 consistent with many other cities in the U.S.
 - **But violent crime was down -6.3% from January-August 2021 compared to the same period in 2020**
- The hot spots strategy played a significant role in keeping violent crime in check during the first 90 days of implementation
 - Violent crime was down almost -46% in the targeted grids compared to the 18-week pre-intervention period, which helped hold down violence within divisions and city-wide
- Part I arrests were down significantly in the targeted grids while warrant-based arrests increased as the strategy focused on clearing outstanding warrants in high crime areas
- Violence-related calls for service decreased by almost 15% in the treated grids compared to comparable increases in non-treated areas.
 - The hot spots strategy had a measurable impact on reducing violence-related calls to the police in the treatment grids during the first 90-day period.



Questions?



Dr. Michael R. Smith
University of Texas at San Antonio
m.r.smith@utsa.edu

Dr. Rob Tillyer
University of Texas at San Antonio
Rob.tillyer@utsa.edu





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