



Violence  
Reduction  
Center

# Examining Community Violence Problem Analysis: Past, Present, and Future



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## VRC

With an emphasis on community violence perpetrated with firearms, the VRC gathers the most rigorous research, synthesizes it, and then makes it available to all in accessible, easy-to-use formats. It also provides practical instruction to federal, state, and especially local leaders on how to choose, apply, and align the right combination of anti-violence strategies for their jurisdiction. The VRC is part of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland.

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## Introduction

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Community violence happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022, para. 1). The Department of Justice describes community violence as “generally happening outside the home in public spaces” (Department of Justice, 2022, para. 1).

So defined, community violence accounts for the large majority of homicides in the United States each year (Crifasi et al., 2018). The costs of this violence to impacted individuals, families, communities, and the country as a whole are staggering. Frequently-cited studies estimate the average total social cost of a single homicide to be \$10 million dollars or more (Cohen et al., 2004; DeLisi et al., 2010). The human costs of such violence are unquantifiable.

A massive body of social scientific research demonstrates that community violence clusters around small groups of people, places, and behaviors (Abt, 2019). In the United States and elsewhere, fatal and nonfatal shootings concentrate in and among small networks of individuals and groups, leading to cascading effects of retaliatory violence (Papachristos et al., 2015). Crime and violence also converge in and around small numbers of locations (Herold, 2023). Finally, certain risky behaviors such as illegal gun carrying are closely associated with gun violence (Hureau and Wilson, 2021).

Strategies identifying and addressing these clusters of community violence have demonstrated success in stopping such violence and saving lives. The effectiveness of people-based strategies like focused deterrence, place-based approaches such as hot spots policing, and behavior-based interventions such as cognitive behavioral therapy are all supported by dozens of studies employing multiple methods, many of which are summarized in systematic reviews (Braga et al., 2019; Braga et al., 2019; Lipsey et al., 2007). An emerging body of evidence also supports non-punitive, community-led strategies known collectively as community violence intervention (CVI) (John Jay Advisory Group on Preventing Community Violence, 2020). CVI programs use a wide range of methodologies, but most seek to engage those at the highest risk for violence and provide some form of treatment, support, or services to interrupt ongoing cycles of violence.

Identifying the key people, places, and behaviors most likely to be involved in violence in a certain jurisdiction is an essential first step for implementing many of these anti-violence approaches. Identifying them also helps local leaders better understand how community violence operates in their jurisdictions and improves their ability to decide strategy, allocate resources, coordinate efforts, manage performance, facilitate evaluation, and other important functions.

Unfortunately, there are numerous obstacles to gathering such information. While community violence is concentrated, knowledge about such violence is diffuse, spread among many. Technological limitations often impair law enforcement’s ability to gather crucial data. Political agendas, mistrust, and administrative regulations can limit the sharing of information once

collected. Community stakeholders often possess a wealth of knowledge concerning violence but may be unwilling to share such information due to gaps in the perceived legitimacy of governmental officials.

In any city suffering from high levels of community violence, a critically-needed capacity is the ability to overcome these obstacles and “identify people and networks involved in recent violence and at the highest risk of future violence, the context and motives behind those incidents, and the micro-places where violence is most likely to occur” (CPSC, 2024).

For decades, local governments have engaged researchers and technical assistance organizations to help them better understand their crime and violence challenges. Expertise has come largely from the fields of criminal justice and public health. Since the 1980s, problem-oriented policing strategies have utilized the SARA (scanning, analysis, response, assessment) framework to better identify, understand, and address crime problems. (Goldstein, 1990; Eck and Spelman, 1987). At approximately the same time, violence emerged as a legitimate issue in public health, ultimately resulting in a similar 4-step “public health approach” to violence (monitor the problem, identify risk and protective factors, test strategies, promote effective ones) (Dalhberg & Mercy, 2009).

In the field of community violence reduction, these efforts have evolved over time to include shooting reviews, homicide reviews, group audits, social network analysis, and various forms of crime mapping, among others. Sometimes called “problem analyses,” these efforts are instrumental in directing local attention, energy, and resources towards the anti-violence strategies with the strongest likelihood of success. Importantly, they can assist law enforcement agencies in narrowing their focus to the individuals most likely to become involved in violence, thereby reducing reliance on aggressive, unfocused enforcement tactics that generate little public safety benefit but cause significant community harm (Bitran et al., 2024). Here, we refer to these efforts as “community violence problem analyses” (CVPAs) to distinguish them from analyses of other crime and violence challenges. Examples of such analyses can be found in Appendix A.

Despite their value, only a relatively small number of jurisdictions have used CVPAs to inform their anti-violence efforts. CVPAs and other forms of problem analyses are the “weakest and most overlooked phase of the action research cycle” (Ross & Arsenault, 2017).

The importance of expanding access to these analyses is difficult to overstate. As noted by the University of Pennsylvania Crime and Justice Lab and the California Partnership for Safe Communities (2023):

The first and most basic challenge is that cities attempt to reduce violence by making assumptions about the nature of the problem that are not informed by facts, data, and research. Problem analyses of gun violence in dozens of cities across the US repeatedly confirm the basic principle of crime concentration: that a remarkably small number of people commit and are the victims of the vast majority of violent crime, including shootings and homicides, in any city.

Contrary to popular belief, the very highest risk population are primarily adult (often older adult) men of color, with extensive justice system histories, using violence to resolve a variety of disputes, and who are often drawn into cycles of retaliation... A city strategy that misses this core strategic focus will not be successful.

For these reasons, with the support of the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund and the Joyce Foundation, the Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction (the VRC) held a Symposium on Community Violence Analysis on April 30th, 2024 on the University of Maryland, College Park campus. The symposium's goal was to identify best practices and develop strategies for increasing capacity to deliver this invaluable anti-violence service. More than thirty national experts and other stakeholders from community-based violence intervention organizations, government, and academia participated in the day-long session exploring how best to identify the specific drivers of community gun violence in local jurisdictions. A list of names and organizations can be found at Appendix B.

This white paper documents discussions that occurred at the symposium, provides an overview of CVPAs, identifies practical considerations and explores challenges associated with CVPA, then ultimately concludes with recommendations from the VRC for carefully expanding capacity to conduct these much-needed analyses.

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## Elements of a CVPA: Incidents, People, and Places

Most CVPAs share some elements but diverge on others. By definition, these analyses focus on serious forms of community violence, usually measured in terms of homicides and nonfatal shootings. Most include basic crime trend data, tracking such crime over the past year, three years, five years, or longer. Many CVPAs also compare local crime rates to statewide and national averages, and sometimes to jurisdictions with similar demographic or socioeconomic characteristics.

CVPAs often diverge from one another at this point. CVPAs are customized to the unique needs and circumstances of each jurisdiction they serve. They also vary in terms of focus and methodology. Some focus on community violence incidents,



“Beyond the methodologies, we should ask ourselves the key questions, like how we use this information and how we build processes with cities so we can actually work with them? How can we use the resources that every city has to guide and inform the work that we’re doing?”

— Marina Gonzalez, CPSC

others focus on people or places, but few CVPAs emphasize all three equally. These three elements of a CVPA are examined below.

### **Incident-Based Analysis**

As the name suggests, incident reviews begin by analyzing incidents of violence, i.e. homicides or nonfatal shootings. Currently, there are two main forms of such analysis.

**Violence Reduction Councils.** The first, often called violence reduction councils or homicide reviews, take an interdisciplinary approach to violence reduction (Crifasi & O'Brien, 2023). Using an individual case-study approach, law enforcement agencies evaluate sensitive information about the victim, perpetrator, and/or the location the violence occurred to identify weaknesses in policies. Representatives from public health and social service agencies, community-based organizations, and others examine the broader context of violence to understand any gaps in intervention or prevention.

The first of these efforts started in Milwaukee. Established in 2004, Milwaukee's Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) used in-depth incident reviews to develop innovative homicide prevention and intervention strategies (Azrael et al., 2013). Over an eight-year period, evaluators found that MHRC interventions were associated with a statistically significant 52% decrease in homicides.

**Incident reviews.** Another method of incident review involves analyzing all homicide and nonfatal shooting incidents within a prescribed period (typically 2-5 years) to understand the context, motives and connections between incidents. By interviewing police investigators about each incident, researchers tap into the deep frontline knowledge that systems actors have but that may not be captured in formal systems. This information is anonymized, coded, and then aggregated to present a clear picture of serious violence within the jurisdiction during the time period.

This form of assessment, as well as the other people-based analyses below, is typically associated with focused deterrence, a well-known anti-violence strategy that began in Boston during the 1990s. Since then, the strategy has been replicated numerous times. In Boston, the strategy reduced youth homicide by 63% (Braga et al., 2001), and a systematic review of the strategy reported favorable results in 22 of 24 studies (Braga et al., 2019).

Violence reduction councils and incident review are easily confused with one another, but the two have distinctly different methodologies, with the first emphasizing a case-by-case approach and the second assessing large numbers of cases simultaneously.

### **People-Based Analysis**

As the name suggests, people-based analyses begin by examining the people involved in serious violence. There are three main forms.



**Demographic and Criminal History Reviews.** Building on the incident reviews described above, demographic and criminal history reviews analyze the demographic characteristics and criminal justice histories of victims and suspects involved in homicides and shootings. Basic demographic components such as the age, gender, and race are included. Criminal histories of both victims and suspects are anonymized, coded, and aggregated, revealing a clear picture of who is involved in serious violence during the prescribed time period.

**Group Audits.** Group audits gather information on active criminal groups, approximate number of members, activities, conflicts, rivals, allies, and territory, among other key characteristics. The goal is to understand which groups, if any, are driving violence within the jurisdiction.

To learn about groups, researchers interview front-line law enforcement officials to centralize knowledge within a given jurisdiction. They are asked questions such as what groups are active in a city, where they are located, how many members they have, what is their relationship to other groups, and how many violent acts the group has committed. This information is anonymized, coded, and aggregated. Confidential versions of these analyses may include actual group names, but when released to the public these names are removed (O'Donnell & Aviles, 2017).

**Social network analysis.** Social network analysis (SNA) refers to a set of tools used to observe and model relationships between individuals and groups (Sierra-Arevalo & Papachristos, 2017). In this context, they help researchers understand how social relationships impact violence. Because violence concentrates in social networks, SNA can show how someone directly or indirectly tied to a victim (or victims) is at an elevated risk of victimization compared with someone who is not. It can also demonstrate how group membership and violent victimization are connected.

What's a group? The term "group" refers to any group of individuals who commit violent crimes together. Groups include organized national gangs but also loose neighborhood associations with little hierarchy. "Gangs," "posses," "sets," "crews," "blocs," are other names for groups (NNSC, 2024).

For example, in Chicago the Street Outreach Analytics Response (SOAR) initiative integrates network science into the practice of community violence intervention to assist outreach workers and victim advocates in their rapid, coordinated response to gun violence (CORNERS, 2024). SOAR leverages academic expertise in network analytics and local expertise in conflict dynamics to collaboratively develop resources to reach those at greatest risk for experiencing community violence.

**Place-Based Analysis.** As the name suggests, place-based CVPAs identify the locations where crime and violence concentrate. Using geographic information systems (GIS) software, researchers can create multilayered, interactive graphics that often include point and heat mapping. These maps can integrate other types of data – socio-economic indicators, for example – to better understand crime and violence. There are three main forms of such analysis.



**Hot spot mapping.** Hot spot mapping is a well-established technique used to visually identify “hot spots” where crime concentrates, aiding decision-making that determines where to target and deploy resources (Eck et al., 2007).

In Dallas, with the help of researchers from the University of Texas, San Antonio, police used grid-based mapping to identify the .05% of the city’s geography where crime concentrated the most, then deployed a “high visibility” strategy (frequently visiting area with all emergency lights illuminated, conducting foot patrols) that reduced violent crime by 11% while reducing arrests at the same time (Smith et al., 2024). More generally, a systematic review of hot spots policing demonstrated “small but meaningful” crime control gains across 65 studies with little to no crime displacement (Braga et al., 2019). Studies indicate that these strategies are most effective when police use problem-oriented, community-engaged approaches and avoid aggressive, indiscriminate enforcement.

**Risk terrain modeling.** Building on hotspot mapping, risk terrain modeling (RTM) environmental features that connect with crime patterns. The process begins by selecting and weighting factors that are geographically related to crime incidents, then producing a model indicating where crime is statistically most likely to occur.

The Newark Public Safety Collaborative (NPSC) uses RTM and other place-based analyses to mobilize community knowledge and resources to address Newark’s most pressing crime issues. The NPSC empowers community organizations to become co-producers of public safety by soliciting and valuing the input of those who understand the local context and have the resources to create sustainable solutions (NPSC, 2024). In 2019, the NPSC identified specific areas of Newark with the highest risk of criminal behavior during the night, then prioritized these areas for street light upgrades, resulting in 35% decrease in violent crime incidents (NPSC, 2024).

**Place Network Investigation.** Place network investigation involves a two-step process for addressing place-based networks that form when certain factors (crime-prone areas, nearby comfort spaces, illicit businesses) coalesce. First, police identify and investigate these networks. Second, city leaders find ways to stop potential offenders from using network locations, relying on alternatives to arrest including civil law remedies, remedying blight, improving street lighting, altering traffic patterns, and requiring new management practices. In Las Vegas, a PNI effort reduced gun-related offenses by 39% in one year (Herold et al. 2020; see also Tate et al., 2013).

**“We absolutely need the buy-in of communities to get the information that they can provide, but communities may not trust us enough to engage fully, and so we have to give ourselves time to build relationships to help bring the community along.”**

— LaKenya Middlebrook, City of Knoxville

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## Practical Considerations for CVPA

During the symposium, participants discussed a wide variety of practical considerations for the CVPA.

First, many stressed the need for close collaboration, first with the law enforcement agencies who collect much of the data necessary for a CVPA, but also with stakeholders outside of law enforcement such as CVI groups.

Second, participants emphasized the importance of using both quantitative and qualitative data for CVPA. Many important questions related to community violence cannot be answered only by referencing one or the other. Also, using both creates feedback loops where differences between the quantitative and qualitative data can be used to verify the accuracy of both.

Third, participants discussed the differences in people- and place-based risk dynamics. People-based dynamics are constantly evolving. Who is “at risk” for violence can change quickly. This means that people-based CVPAs, aside from general demographic and criminal history profiles, need to be constantly updated to be accurate.

Place-based dynamics are more stable over time than people-based dynamics. Many high-crime locations have been so for decades. In fact, it is important to remain focused on such locations even when crime temporarily declines in those areas.

With people-based strategies, actors must be nimble, responding quickly to changed circumstances. With place-based strategies, they must be patient, remaining focused on a few discrete areas even if crime appears to be on the decline.

Fourth, participants discussed the importance of defining “high risk” narrowly for both people and places to ensure sufficient resources for intensive interventions, a concept in the field known as dosage. When CVPAs become overbroad, they lose effectiveness and can even cause harm by serving as a justification for excessive enforcement action. People-based CVPAs, when properly conducted, point policymakers to the small numbers of individuals and groups who are disproportionately responsible for violence in the community. Place-based CVPAs do the same for the small numbers of micro-locations generating the most crime.

Fifth, participants recognized the need for and importance of all forms of CVPAs: incident-,

“Risk is dynamic. It’s a dimmer switch, not an on and off one. If you create a static list, by the time you finish it, it’s already outdated. This has to be more of an ongoing process.”

— Andrew Papachristos, CORNERS

“If you go into any urban environment, and you ask a police officer, take me to where the shootings are, they will know exactly where to take you, exactly what block, and then, you’ll ask, how long has it been like this, and they will say, ‘my entire career, forever.’”

— Robin Engel, Ohio State University

people-, and place-based. They noted the overlap between these categories and recommended that policymakers include all three when performing these analyses.

Sixth, a frequently discussed issue was the need to “democratize” CVPAs, allowing more stakeholders - especially CVI groups - to use and benefit from the information originating within police agencies. Relatedly, participants discussed the need to engage the people and places identified by a CVPA with supports and services, not just punishments. As modeled by the SOAR Initiative happening in Chicago, some raised the possibility of CVPAs conducted by and for CVI groups independently from law enforcement. Finally, participants discussed the possibility of including CVI groups in the CVPA process, allowing them to contribute and verify information. Privacy, security, and other concerns were noted as potential obstacles that needed to be addressed before such sharing would be possible, however.

Seventh, participants discussed other forms of analysis that are important and relevant to violence reduction work. NICJR and CBPSC, for instance, perform landscape analyses to map the local resources available for anti-violence work. CBPSC also performs strength-based assessments of CVI groups, examining groups’ data systems, operations, and management to help them professionalize their operations.

Eighth, certain types of CVPAs are almost exclusively associated with certain strategies. As noted above, incident reviews, criminal history reviews, and group audits are associated with focused deterrence, while crime mapping is connected with hot spots policing. If the purpose of a CVPA is to facilitate the choosing of appropriate strategies based on sound data and information, then policymakers should not prejudge their approach before an analysis is conducted. Making CVPA available independently of specific approaches was discussed as an important means of increasing access.



“If I contrast what we do versus how some other cities do it, we treat hot spots, not warm areas. If you look where hot spots policing doesn’t work, it’s where the police are treating warm areas, not hot spots, and the dosage level is just not enough.”

— Mike Smith, UT San Antonio

“I definitely see place-based analysis as important, but we should not separate place-based from people-based work. They are not mutually exclusive. These places are used by people.”

— Alejandro Giménez Santana, Rutgers

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## Challenges Associated with CVPA

Participants also discussed a number of challenges associated with CVPAs.

First, several participants observed that CVPAs had sometimes been misused in the past to support aggressive law enforcement action that was neither effective in reducing violence nor perceived as legitimate by impacted community members.

Second, some participants observed challenges with data quality, especially with regard to nonfatal shootings. Relatedly, others noted that cities often lack the infrastructure to conduct a CVPA. Police data can be challenging because it is collected for investigative and administrative purposes, not policy analysis. Overcoming this problem requires upfront investments in better data systems (CJP & CPSC, 2023; Braga and Kennedy, 2021).

Third, some participants noted the absence of sufficient funding for non-enforcement strategies to engage the people and places identified by a CVPA.

In a concept note written for the symposium, Kerry Mulligan and participant Daniela Gilbert from the Vera Institute of Justice observe that incorporating social structural and public health measures into CVPA can illuminate the types of investments and changes required for sustainable violence reduction. CVPAs also often reveal complex challenges that are not directly related to community violence, including other forms of violence such as gender-based violence and violence associated with economic or housing insecurity (Mulligan and Gilbert, 2024). Mulligan and Gilbert argue that



“I’m interested in how we’re starting to overlay resources to help those who are identified and not necessarily reenacting the same crime-centric approach. That approach isn’t wrong, it’s just incomplete.”

— Greg Jackson, WHOGVP

“My big concern is that the practitioners get left behind in these types of efforts. We forget about the community and the role that they have to play. They have to be able to absorb this or none of this stuff works.”

— Aqeela Sherrills, CBPSC

“The technology deficit is real. Be aware that when you’re thinking about data quality challenges, a lot of times it’s not for lack of trying, it’s often literally that the infrastructure isn’t there.”

— Christopher Fisher, PERF





municipalities have a moral and civic imperative to develop interventions for each form of violence that a CVPA reveals, and addressing these challenges requires efforts beyond law enforcement and the criminal justice system. They called for an expanded approach to CVPA, housing the process in civilian-led local government agencies, community-based organizations, or local academic institutions committed to long-term partnerships and capacity building. This approach would ensure civilian leadership over violence and victimization data and could address long-standing disparities in the resources available for civilian-led approaches. The full concept note can be found at Appendix C.

Fourth, some participants noted that while a CVPA helped localities focus on the highest risk people and places, a broader approach addressing the structural causes of violence was also necessary.

“We tell them, do not make this a gang list. Please do not do this. And then we see a news article talking about a gang list, and we’re like, we specifically told you not to do that.”

— Talib Hudson, NNSC

“I think the stigma of problem analysis is that it develops a hit list, and that that list is going to be used for the purpose of enforcement. We don’t really do lists, but even to the degree that our process could create a list, I think it’s important to say that, without proof and prosecution, this is a list of people who should be saved. They need an intervention to move them away from the violence that is either going to lead to their incarceration or their death. It is not a list to say, we’ll now focus all our attention on trying to find something they’ve done.”

— Sasha Cotton, NNSC

**“We can recognize what we must do today to keep individuals and communities and families safe now, but it doesn’t mean that we can’t think about these things in a broader way of where we want to go.”**

— Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins University



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## Scaling Carefully: VRC Recommendations for Capacity-Building

Participants agreed on the need to make CVPAs more accessible to more jurisdictions, while addressing the concerns described in previous sections. That said, participants did not come to consensus on recommendations for scaling CVPAs. The VRC believes that not offering recommendations concerning CVPAs would represent a missed opportunity, especially given that others could fill the void with less considered approaches. Therefore, the VRC offers the following recommendations for carefully and deliberately scaling CVPAs. These recommendations represent the views of the VRC, not the participants of the symposium more generally.

First, at the federal and national levels, governmental and nongovernmental funders should invest in CVPA, but with guidelines to prevent misuse, encourage the participation of community-based and other nonenforcement groups, and address the other issues outlined above. These guidelines should include but not be limited to the following:

- **Accuracy.** Care must be taken to ensure the inputs and outputs of CVPA are reliably accurate.
- **Transparency.** The methodology of CVPA should not be a secret, it should be accessible for all to see and examine.
- **Shareability.** CVPA should be shareable, available not just to law enforcement actors but also those outside of law enforcement, including but not limited to CVI groups.

Second, investment should begin with expanding capacity within the research and technical assistance organizations that already provide high-quality CVPAs. A “train the trainer” model is recommended, with reputable organizations receiving funds to carefully teach



“I don’t agree with abolition. But we spend billions on policing - what about the other part of the equation: an independent, stably funded, properly dosed civilian architecture?”

— Teny Gross, Nonviolence Institute

“I agree that there needs to be focus here - people become overwhelmed and they think, if we have to solve all of these problems immediately, we’re just not going to have an impact. On the other hand, if we’re not acknowledging some of these other things we’ll be chasing our tail, with an endless supply of high-risk people needing an intervention.”

— Roseanna Ander, Chicago Crime Lab

their approach to CVPA to others. The ultimate goal would be to build capacity within governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations to do CVPAs themselves, but given the concerns outlined above, an intermediate step is warranted. CVPAs should represent the start of an ongoing strategic approach to the issue of community violence, so funding should also be structured to avoid “standalone” analyses that are not connected to ongoing anti-violence activities.

Third, funding should initially be made available in modest to moderate amounts. CVPA is not particularly expensive, and costs decrease rapidly each time CVPAs are repeated, making ongoing CVPA an affordable proposition. Funding should increase slowly thereafter, focusing on maintaining fidelity to best practices and ensuring quality control.

Fourth and finally, throughout the symposium participants pointed to several useful CVPA-adjacent investments. A key foundation for this work, historically and currently, are researcher-practitioner partnerships (Braga, 2016; Corsaro & Engel, 2015). Because traditional academic structures do not incentivize such partnerships, they must be supported externally. As noted by numerous

participants, CVI organizations provide critical balance to law enforcement efforts to reduce community violence and also deserve support. Addressing the technological deficits that prevent many law enforcement agencies from effectively conducting CVPAs is important as well. Finally, as noted by Mulligan and Gilbert, making the tools of a CVPA available to assess other problems related to public safety and public health is worthwhile. A promising example occurred in Woburn, Massachusetts, where a problem analysis identified early childhood trauma as a potential driver of adolescent and young adult violence, resulting in a police-community health worker co-responder model for children and families (Ross & Arsenault, 2017).



“It’s only going to get easier for people to have access to vast amounts of data that can be readily misused. So the folks in this room - the more ethical and conscientious actors - are in a race against a private sector that will gather up as much information as possible and sell it to the highest bidder.”

— Nick Suplina, Everytown for Gun Safety

“The larger question here is how we support a changing public safety ecosystem to do the most good and least harm and elevate the people that we have historically let down. As we grapple with that, these questions of how you assess and manage the work are really important.”

— Louisa Aviles, Joyce Foundation



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## Conclusion: An Ongoing Conversation

A CVPA is an important component of any local jurisdiction’s anti-violence efforts. Access to CVPAs should be expanded, but with guidelines to reduce the possibility of misuse. Additionally, CVPAs should be “democratized,” becoming more accessible to impacted community residents and CVI groups in particular. Finally, it is important to be mindful that a CVPA is situated within a broader effort to address violence while promoting legitimacy, and that the goal of a CVPA should be to do both simultaneously.

The VRC’s symposium marked the beginning of an important conversion within the violence reduction field about CVPA. This white paper is intended to stimulate further conversations, along with initial actions to begin the capacity-building process.

**“We’re talking about  
community violence  
problem analysis. The  
most important word  
there is community.”**

— Michael-Sean Spence, Everytown for Gun Safety

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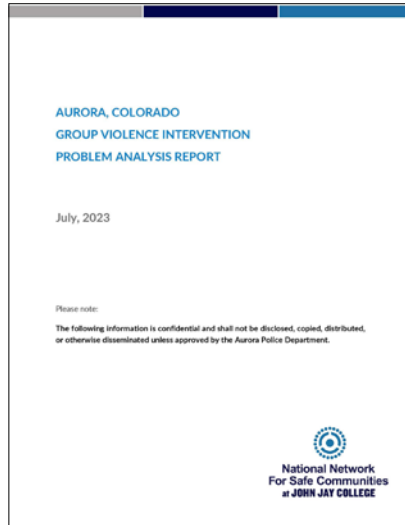


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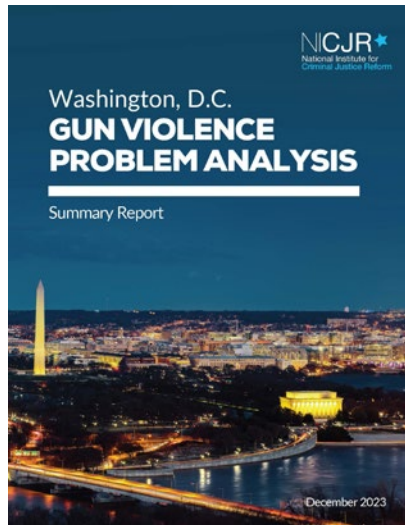


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## Appendix A



AURORA, COLORADO  
**Group Violence Intervention  
Problem Analysis Report**  
National Network For Safe  
Communities  
[Link](#)



WASHINGTON, DC  
**Gun Violence Problem Analysis  
Summary Report**  
NICJR  
[Link](#)

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## Appendix B

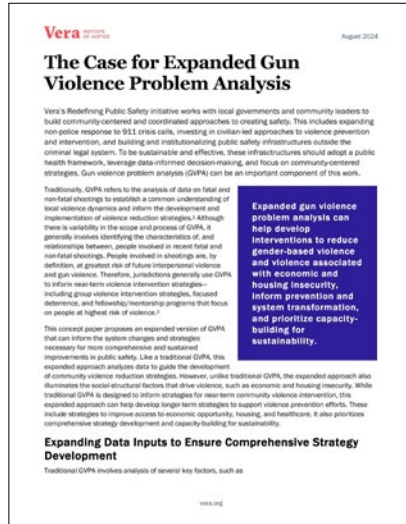
### Symposium Participants

Alexis Acevedo, Senior Research Advisor, National Network for Safe Communities  
Roseanna Ander, Executive Director, University of Chicago Crime Lab  
Sasha Cotton, Executive Director, National Network for Safe Communities  
Robin Engel, Senior Research Scientist, Ohio State University  
Chris Fisher, Director, Strategy & Implementation, Police Executive Research Forum  
Kirby Gaherty, Program Director, National League of Cities  
Daniela Gilbert, Director, Redefining Public Safety, Vera Institute of Justice  
Alejandro Gimenez Santana, Associate Professor, Rutgers University  
Marina Gonzalez, Senior Program Manager, California Partnership for Safe Communities  
Teny Gross, Executive Director, Institute for Nonviolence Chicago  
Talib Hudson, Director of Research, National Network for Safe Communities  
Gregory Jackson, Deputy Director, WH Office of Gun Violence Prevention  
Walter Katz, Senior Fellow, Council on Criminal Justice  
Alyssa Mendlein, Program Associate, UPenn Crime and Justice Policy Lab  
LaKenya Middlebrook, Director, City of Knoxville  
Andrew Papachristos, Professor, Northwestern University  
Mikaela Rabinowitz, Research Director, National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform  
Aqeela Sherrills, Co-Founder, Community Based Public Safety Collective  
Michael Smith, Professor, University of Texas, San Antonio  
Daniel Webster, Professor, Johns Hopkins University

### Symposium Observers

Louisa Aviles, Senior Program Officer, Joyce Foundation  
Angie Ballentine, District Office Administrator, U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey  
Bianca Bersani, Associate Professor, University of Maryland  
Rod Brunson, Professor, University of Maryland  
Josh Jackson, Manager, Arnold Ventures  
Ted Knight, Director, University of Maryland  
Bre Lamkin, Program Officer, Pew Charitable Trusts  
Lauren Porter, Associate Professor, University of Maryland  
Ruby Qazilbash, Deputy Director, BJA  
Vikrant Reddy, Senior Fellow, Stand Together  
Rachel Reese, Director, Criminal Justice Reform, Stand Together  
Michael-Sean Spence, Managing Director, Everytown for Gun Safety  
Nick Suplina, Deputy Director, Everytown for Gun Safety

# Appendix C



The Case for Expanded Gun Violence Problem Analysis  
Vera Institute of Justice  
[Link](#)