Dr. Robin S. Engel, Professor
University of Cincinnati
Director, UC/IACP Center for Police Research & Policy

Dr. Tamara D. Herold, Associate Professor
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Webinar
June 17, 2012
Our Mission: Bring Science to the Streets

- Provide police agencies with access to cutting-edge research, translated into actionable recommendations
- Conduct and facilitate police research; foster collaborative relationships between researchers and police agencies
  - Answer urgent policing issues
  - Drive sound policy
  - Translate existing research
  - Generate new evidence through large-scale studies
Defining Violence

Seeking to reduce *urban violence*

**Urban Violence** – physical force occurring on the street or other public spaces in cities or towns that results (or could result) in serious injury or death

- Most frequently referring to firearm violence among young (age 24 and under) men
- Not referring to nonlethal violence, sexual violence, or violence between intimate partners and family members

Approaches to Violence Reduction

**Community-Led**
- Founded on public health model; violence as “disease”
- Encourages multi-faceted approach for violence prevention
- Mobilizes community stakeholders for response
- Less evidence regarding effectiveness; fewer rigorous studies; less demonstrated impact

**Police-Led**
- Strategies driven by LE activities and partnerships
- Primarily based on problem-solving framework
- Includes offender-based, place-based, and community-based approaches
- More studies; mixed findings regarding effectiveness; unintended consequences
Key Elements of Successful Initiatives

- Highly focused
- Evidence-based Strategies
- Strong investigations / intelligence
- Advanced analytics incorporated from the beginning (e.g., problem analysis); build in testing components
- Effective partnerships
- Robust program management / accountability
- Community support
Funding: Arnold Ventures

Participating Jurisdictions:

- Baton Rouge, LA
- Denver, CO
- Harris County, TX
- Las Vegas, NV
- Philadelphia, PA
- Tucson, AZ
- Wichita, KS

Services Provided: Technical assistance, training, resource & tool development, peer exchange, robust implementation and outcome evaluation
How can we shift our thinking and approach to public safety?

How can we lessen reliance on traditional justice system?

How can we produce sustained gun crime reductions?
Enforcement in Historically Violent Crime Sites

- Drives down crime (momentarily)
- Generates large numbers of (costly) arrests
- If aggressive and sustained, damages police-community relations
- Continually places officers at-risk for injury and negative public interactions
- Over time, creates substantial racial disparities in justice-related outcomes
- Leaves place-based dynamics intact
P.N.I. Evidence-Base

Places and Crime

- Crime is concentrated across places, offenders, victims
  - 80-20 Rule
- Most violent crime, across any city, occurs in small, identifiable micro-locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Crime</th>
<th>Most Crime</th>
<th>No Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A few have most of the crime</td>
<td>Some have a modest amount of crime</td>
<td>Most places have little or no crime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cincinnati, OH 2015

23 Persistent Violent Micro-Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Square Miles</th>
<th>Part I Crimes</th>
<th>P1 Violent Crimes</th>
<th>Shooting Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Officer Safety

Micro Hotspots 2012-2015

- Same locations
- 67 of 460 officer injuries
- 1,516 of 6,315 non-compliant behaviors
  - obstruction of official business
  - resisting arrest
  - assaults on police officers
P.N.I.
Place Network Investigations

Why do the same places remain violent?

New Question
Dynamics that sustain violent hotspots over time

Hotspots
Persistent - Durable - Systemic - Historical
What makes violence “stick” in particular places?

• Offenders, victims, and crime places are networked.

• Persistent crime hotspots result from overlapping networks.
Place-based Crime Infrastructures
4 Types of Crime Places
(Madensen & Eck, 2013)

Crime Places are Networked

- **Crime Sites**
  - What we see on crime maps

- **Convergent Settings**
  - What is unseen without systematic investigations

- **Comfort Spaces**
  - Hammer, 2011

- **Corrupting Spots**
  - Felson, 2013
Place-Based Investigation Example

Poinciana Apartments
3522 Reading Road
Place Network Investigation

Crime Site – Most violent proprietary location in Avondale neighborhood

Convergent Settings – Lincoln Statue, Lexington Supermarket

Comfort Spaces – Specific apt. units, Nearby residences

Corrupting Spots – Nearby businesses (some facilitators)

Open-air drug market

*Approximate locations
P.N.I.
Place Network Investigations

What should we do about crime place networks, and why?

Lessens reliance on justice system resources
P.N.I.
Place Network Investigations

1. Identify Locations
2. Places
3. Offenders
4. Disrupt Networks
5. Sustain Reductions

- Select long-standing systemically violent locations
- Investigate networks of chronic offenders and contributing places
- Disrupt these networks through a coordinated, city/county-wide effort
- Monitor and sustain crime reductions by building victim/resident/business resiliency
P.N.I. Board
(Holistic Governance)

Strategic action to:
• prioritize objectives and responsibilities to residents
• create effective systems to address community concerns
• eliminate silos to leverage and maximize impact of existing resources

Staffed with Department Heads

City Planning  Buildings & Inspections  Community & Economic Development  Health Department
Fire Department  Law Department  Environment & Sustainability  Public Services
Transportation & Engineering  Keep “City” Beautiful  Recreation Commission  Parks Department
Community Partnering Center  Port Authority  Community Development Corporations  Local Community Councils

City Mayor/Manager – County Commissioner

Accountable to City Leader/Champion
PNI Investigative/Response Process

**Police Investigations**
- Identify “crime place networks”
- Build cases against violent offenders AND negligent place managers

**PNI Board Interventions**
- Leverage partners to alter location dynamics conducive to violence
- Coordinate and prioritize city/county resources
## PNI Board Responses

### Intervention Points for Changing Location Dynamics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buildings &amp; Inspections</th>
<th>Zoning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Codes/standards, Demolitions</td>
<td>- Improper place usage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Department</th>
<th>Fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Spoiled/expired food, Licensing</td>
<td>- Ingress/egress, Occupant safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic and Engineering</th>
<th>Economic Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Parking restrictions, Barricades/redesign/calming</td>
<td>- Business recruitment following stabilization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal</th>
<th>Public Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Civil remedies (MOUs), Criminal cases against place owners</td>
<td>- Neighborhood clean-ups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Place Network Investigations

How is violence reduced and what are the long-term outcomes?

Produces sustained gun crime reductions
P.N.I. Pilot Sites

Cincinnati, Ohio

Las Vegas, Nevada

P.I.V.O.T.
Place-based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories
Dynamics of Opportunistic Violence

Poor Place Management

Illegal dice games
  - Unsecured dumpster

Accessible illegal guns
  - Unkept grass, Abandoned property

Non-resident Vehicles as Barricades
  - Lack of parking restrictions

Loitering/Intimidation
  - Unmanaged parking lots

Fire department
Buildings/Inspections
Traffic/Engineering
City Solicitor
Site #1:
East Westwood

Overall Trends
Rest of city = -8.7%
E. Westwood = -88.9%
Site #2: Westwood

Overall Trends

Rest of city = -7.9%
Westwood = -71.4%
Westwood
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Crimes</th>
<th>Assault w/Deadly Weapon</th>
<th>Battery (excluding misdemeanor)</th>
<th>Home Invasion</th>
<th>Murder (attempt)</th>
<th>Robbery (attempt)</th>
<th>Shooting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Post implementation evaluation period:
May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

39.13% Gun-related offenses
Lessons Learned

• We can achieve sustainable violence reductions in persistent and historically violent by changing crime place network dynamics

• A holistic governance approach is more effective (efficient and ethical) than enforcement alone, and garners strong community support

• P.N.I. offers a new way to approach public safety
  • Redefines the role of police
  • Maximizes the impact of local government resources
Place Network Investigations
A citywide chronic violence reduction initiative.

www.placenetworkinvestigations.com