Maryland Project Safe Neighborhoods 2017

Final Report

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Acknowledgements

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This report was prepared by the Institute for Governmental Service and Research (IGSR), University of Maryland, College Park. The evaluation was conducted by IGSR through a partnership with the Prince George's County Police Department; Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office; the Division of Parole and Probation in the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Maryland District of the U.S. Attorney's Office; and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In its role as research partner, IGSR used the Program Development and Evaluation (PDE) method, developed by Drs. Gary and Denise Gottfredson. The PDE method is a general method created to assist organizations in developing, implementing, and improving any type of program and is expected to increase both fidelity of implementation and eventual success at achieving stated goals. The PDE method incorporates nine steps that strengthen the relationship between practitioner and researcher by creating a shared vision, a problem-solving orientation, and a definition of roles and responsibilities and by ensuring ongoing communication. Collaboration is crucial to the PDE method – none of these steps can be conducted in absentia by either the researcher or practitioner – from goals to objectives to theory to implementation – all require active participation from all parties to establish and periodically revise the evaluation plan.

Executive Summary

Project Description

The Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative in Prince George's County, Maryland, was a cooperative effort of local, state, and federal agencies to reduce gun crime in the county. The partner agencies were the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD); Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office (SAO); the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) in the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS); Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS); Maryland District of the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO); and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Service and Research (IGSR) was the project's research partner. This federal, state, local collaboration was funded by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding among the partner agencies. Implementation spanned the period January 2018 through September 2020. This report presents process and outcome evaluations of the initiative.

The project's goal, objectives, interventions, and evaluation standards were established by the partner agencies at the beginning of the project through a collective process facilitated by IGSR researchers using the Program Development Evaluation (PDE) method developed by Drs. Gary and Denise Gottfredson. The resulting PDE plan was updated regularly during project implementation and forms the basis of this evaluation.

The overall goal of the PSN initiative, as articulated in the PDE plan, was to reduce gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods in Prince George's County. Those neighborhoods were selected based on PGPD's review of incident data for the previous five years. The target neighborhoods encompassed four patrol beats in PGPD District 3 and three patrol beats in PGPD District 4. During the course of the initiative, a new District 8 was created from a part of District 3 that encompassed the four target patrol beats. While the specified beats were of primary interest with respect to the overall project goal, the PSN interventions were implemented throughout Districts 3 and 4, including the part of District 3 that became District 8.

The PSN partner agencies identified the following four objectives to pursue in order to accomplish the overall goal of reducing gun crime in the most violent neighborhoods:

1. Reduce illegal possession of guns in the target neighborhoods;
2. Remove from the community Priority Repeat Gun Offenders;
3. Improve the quality of cases against gun offenders; and
4. Improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods.

For the overall goal and each of these objectives, the PDE plan specified how success would be measured.

The PDE plan identified the following eight interventions to be implemented by the partner agencies and specified measurement standards for their implementation:

1. Hire a firearms technician to expedite NIBIN entry and case connections
2. Hire an Assistant State's Attorney to focus on gun-related cases
3. Provide overtime for police to increase violence reduction efforts in the target neighborhood(s)
4. Provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers)
5. Enhance DNA processing/analysis
6. Facilitate continuous information sharing and coordination among agencies
7. Use training and technical assistance to determine and execute appropriate investigative and enforcement strategies
8. Conduct outreach and community engagement that guides stabilization and revitalization

The funding provided by BJA covered the hiring of the firearms technician and Assistant State's Attorney, police overtime pay, additional officer training, and the activities of the research partner to evaluate the efforts. During the course of the initiative, interventions 4 and 5 were eliminated, and those resources were shifted to interventions 3 and 7.

Evaluation

The PDE plan specified standards for the overall goal and each objective and intervention. These standards guided the IGSR research team in evaluating the initiative. The research team conducted both a process evaluation focusing on implementation of the interventions and an outcome evaluation focusing on achievement of the overall goal and the four objectives.

This evaluation involved the review and/or incorporation of 15 different data sources. The type and quantity of the data varied greatly – from data extractions from record management systems to data collection tools developed for this project, such as operational tracking spreadsheets, to file reviews and community and team member surveys. The data were provided by all of the state and local partners – PGPD, DPSCS, DPP, GOCPYVS, SAO, and IGSR – an indicator of the strong level of collaboration in this project.

Process Evaluation

The IGSR research team conducted a process evaluation to determine whether the interventions proceeded as intended. As noted above, interventions 4 and 5 were dropped. Pursuit of gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers at gun shows) was eliminated early in the project due to changed priorities at the federal level. Enhanced DNA processing was eliminated later in the project when PSN partners identified potential negative effects of the intervention on prosecution of cases.

Among the six interventions pursued throughout the project, performance against the measurement standards varied. Two interventions, training and community engagement, met all of their measurement standards. Training on topics specified by the PSN team at the start of the

initiative was completed, other training topics were identified by the PSN team, and additional training was conducted. Both District 3 and 4 had the desired number of planned community information exchange sessions, although 2 of the District 3 meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19. The meetings were attended by PSN partners.

There were mixed results for the four other interventions, which involved firearms processing, screening of cases by the designated PSN attorney, police overtime, and information sharing and coordination. With firearms processing, compared to the specified goal of 100% compliance, all (100%) of the 526 recovered weapons over this period were turned into FEU. Of those 526, only 40% were turned in within the 96 hours of recovery. However, once the weapons were received by FEU, the process adhered more closely to designated standards. Over 73% of NIBIN leads were followed up within 96 hours, and 98% of hits were reported within 7 days. Vertical screening of gun-related cases by the PSN attorney was implemented for select cases as the volume of cases in the target districts made it impossible to vertically screen all gun-related cases. The intended portion of police overtime hours was spent on community engagement in the target neighborhoods, but not as many hours as intended were spent on investigative operational support in those neighborhoods. Collaboration among PSN team members and agency support for and alignment with PSN goals received high ratings, but information sharing among agencies received more mixed reviews. PSN team members rated their own agency's information sharing higher after 18 months of the initiative but did not view other agency's sharing of information more favorably.

The process evaluation revealed varied achievement of the measurement standards for the PSN interventions. But the standards helped focus team members' attention on implementation of the interventions. The researchers believe that articulation of the standards and regular discussion of performance at PSN team meetings helped partners identify aspects of the interventions that were and were not working well and make adjustments.

The researchers recommend that PGPD continue to monitor the firearms processing standards, specifically focused on identifying solutions to ensure adherence to the designated 96-hour time frame for providing recovered weapons to FEU for firearms processing. PGPD should also update and monitor standards for community engagement and fill in gaps in engagement where they arise. All the partner agencies should continue to work together to identify and overcome obstacles to information sharing.

Outcome Evaluation

The outcome evaluation focused on the overall goal of reducing gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods in the county and the four related objectives. The standard set for achievement of the overall goal was a reduction in the number of reported crimes involving the use of guns in the most violent neighborhoods by 5% during the first 18 months of the PSN intervention compared to an 18-month period prior to the start of PSN. The overall goal was achieved as gun-related crime decreased by 10.4% in the target beats and 11.7% in the target districts during the PSN intervention. At the same time, gun-related crime in Prince George's County declined by 3.8%.

The researchers used the difference-in-differences statistical method to determine whether the PSN initiative led to the decrease in gun-related crime in the target neighborhoods. The results showed that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant change in gun-related crime. The researchers caution that the statistical analysis was hampered by problems that may have biased the results. The dataset was missing a substantial number of cases, the target districts were reorganized during the course of the intervention, and the target beats are very different from the control beats to which they were compared. In addition, the trends may be driven by external factors, such as very local economic conditions.

Objective 1 was to a reduce illegal possession of firearms in the target neighborhoods. The first standard set for achievement of this objective (Objective 1a) was an increase in recovery of illegal firearms linked to target neighborhoods and to priority offenders by 5% during the first 18 months of the intervention compared to an 18-month period prior to the start of PSN. This standard was not met. Gun recoveries actually declined by 8.0% in the target beats, 17.5% in the target districts, and 4.5% in the county as a whole. This result may be due in part to the decrease in gun-related crime described above.

Again, the researchers used the difference-in-differences statistical method and found that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant change in gun recoveries. The same drawbacks described for the gun-related crime analysis apply to the gun recovery analysis and may have biased the results.

Objectives 1b and 1c focused on prosecution efforts. In Objective 1b, the project sought to indict 3% more repeat violent offenders for gun possession compared to the pre-intervention period. In Objective 1c, the standard was to increase gun related cases that were resolved in a guilty plea or went to trial during the intervention period by 3%. In both cases, the objectives were not met. There were fewer defendants indicted (81% to 47%) and also fewer resolved in a conviction or trial (65% vs. 47%) in the post-intervention period. While the results improved when federally prosecuted cases were excluded from the analysis, these objectives were not met. One important limitation with these measures was that the data utilized (Criminal Justice Information System) may not have been optimal for fully capturing these outcomes because it was difficult to match the specific events contained in the PGPD arrest files to the arrest dates in CJIS.

Objective 2 was to remove from the community individuals who had been identified as Priority Repeat Gun Offenders. Within a year of the start of the PSN initiative, PGPD reported that 17 of the 25 individuals identified in this group were no longer in the community, including 15 who were incarcerated or serving sentences and 2 who were deceased; 4 others were on supervised probation; and 4 were no longer persons of interest as they had not engaged in criminal behavior. This last group demonstrated that removal from the community is not the only measure of success with respect to repeat offenders.

Objective 3 was to improve the quality of cases against gun offenders. The assessment was to be made by reviewing samples of cases from before and during the PSN initiative. The researchers were unable to develop a single measure of case quality that could be used to rate the pre- and post-implementation case samples. Nonetheless, the researchers did find evidence of improvement in cases during the PSN intervention period. The most noteworthy difference in the

case results was that nine of the sample cases were transferred for Federal prosecution during the PSN intervention compared to only one during the pre-intervention period. Comparing the post-implementation to the pre-implementation sample, there was also an increase in the number of charges per case, a decrease in the percentage of charges that were resolved by nolle prosequi, and an increase in the percentage of cases in which a firearms test fire certificate was found in the case file. In the post-intervention period, prosecutors were more likely to obtain favorable results with cases in which the defendant had prior convictions than cases in which the defendant had not been convicted previously. This may reflect the PSN initiative's focus on repeat offenders.

Objective 4 was to improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods. Achievement of this objective was to be assessed through a survey of county residents before (September 2018) and after (September 2019) the PSN initiative was operationalized. The results should be viewed with caution as only about 100 residents of the target neighborhoods and 300 residents of the rest of the county were surveyed each year. The results are both interesting and a little perplexing.

- With respect to the frequency of crime, the perceptions of county residents outside the target neighborhoods who responded in 2019 were very similar to the perceptions of residents in the non-target neighborhoods who responded in 2018. These respondents generally perceived lower levels of crime than did respondents from the target neighborhoods. The perceptions of residents of the target neighborhoods with respect to frequency of crime were more changeable. The 2018 respondents from the target neighborhoods were more likely to report a medium level of crime, whereas fewer of the 2019 respondents from the target neighborhoods reported a medium level of crime, and more reported a low or high level of crime than did the 2018 group.

- In 2018, respondents from target and non-target neighborhoods rated their feelings of safety the same, with 62% saying their feelings of safety had not changed during the previous year. In 2019, the group saying their feelings had not changed was smaller for residents of both the target and non-target neighborhoods. For the target neighborhoods, more 2019 respondents (21%) than 2018 respondents (17%) said their feelings of safety improved over the past year. Paradoxically, more 2019 respondents (27%) than 2018 respondents (21%) from the target neighborhoods said their feelings of safety decreased over the past year. These changes in feelings of safety among respondents residing in the target neighborhoods were more favorable than the changes among respondents residing in the non-target neighborhoods. More 2019 respondents (27%) than 2018 respondents (21%) from the non-target neighborhoods reported that their feelings of safety had decreased, and fewer 2019 respondents (14%) than 2018 respondents (17%) from the non-target neighborhoods said their feelings of safety had improved.

- With respect to victimization, in 2019, roughly one in six respondents from both the target and non-target neighborhoods reported that they or a household member had experienced a violent crime during the previous year. This was more than double the rate of victimization reported by the 2018 respondents. Given the degree of change in this measure, it is surprising that perceptions of frequency of crime and feelings of safety did not decline dramatically

between 2018 and 2019 among respondents from both the target and non-target neighborhoods.

PSN Team Recommendations

This report was reviewed by the PSN Team, and the following are recommendations for future efforts:

- PGPD should consider assigning a unique identification number to each firearm at the time of seizure. Assigning a specific ID number for each weapon and standardizing the capture of gun information in specific fields would improve the ability to track a specific firearm through the process. In addition, the use of dropdown list fields in datasets could include the make, model/caliber, and type (e.g., revolver, semi vs. fully automatic, rifle etc.), which would ensure uniformity in entering the information.

- Another data challenge was the 1,091 missing cases from the Record Management System (RMS) data extraction report. While our examination did not find systematic differences between the data received and the data missing, however, it remains a limitation to this study. PGPD may wish to determine why these cases are missing cases from this report, particularly if this report is routinely utilized.

- PGPD general order states that guns seized by officers are to be submitted to the Firearms Examination Unit within 96 hours. While all guns in these data were turned into FEU, only 40% were turned in in this time frame. PGPD may wish to review the policy and/or training to ensure more timely processing of firearms within the department.

Conclusions

While the PSN project overall did not meet all of the goals and objectives, there were successes and important lessons learned from this effort. The most clear success was the increased collaboration between the agencies involved. Based on data from the PSN team collaboration survey, the increased number of cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and observations during meetings, these agencies are working more effectively and collaborating successfully.

Lessons learned include the difficulty in tracking firearms across data systems, as well as the need to ensure timely submission of all firearms in accordance with PGPD polices.

Project Overview and Methodology

This report presents process and outcome evaluations of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative in Prince George's County, Maryland, which was operational from January 2018 through September 2020. The PSN initiative in Prince George's County built on already established collaborative problem-solving efforts to reduce crime in the most violent neighborhoods in Prince George's County.

The initiative expanded and enhanced collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies, including the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD); Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office (SAO); the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) in the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS); Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS); Maryland District of the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO); and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Service and Research (IGSR) was the project's research partner. A Memorandum of Understanding was executed among these agencies documenting their respective roles in the initiative.

As the research partner, IGSR facilitated a series of workshops using the Program Development and Evaluation (PDE) method, developed by Drs. Gary and Denise Gottfredson, to create a plan for implementing and evaluating the PSN initiative. Through these workshops, which were held from January 2018 to July 2018, an initial PDE plan was finalized in July 2018. The PDE plan includes an overall goal and objectives of the PSN initiative and a set of interventions designed to achieve the goal and objectives. The PDE plan also includes measures to evaluate progress on the interventions and achievement of the goal and objectives. The information contained in the PDE plan was incorporated into a Strategic Action Plan, which was submitted to and accepted by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which provided funding for the PSN initiative.

Like most real-world operations, the PSN initiative needed to adapt to changing circumstances. By continuing to meet and talk about the challenges and following the PDE process, the PSN partners were able to address issues as they arose. Due to the collaborative approach of the PDE, evaluation was not an abstract exercise imposed by researchers at the conclusion of the project, but rather an ongoing activity in which the PSN partners were engaged. The interventions and measurements of objectives contained in the PDE were revised as warranted, including in response to an interim process evaluation conducted after four months of implementation.

Clarifications and refinements to the PDE plan were made through September 2020. The final version is presented in **Appendix A** of this report.

Project Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the PSN initiative was to reduce gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods in Prince George's County.

The following objectives were pursued to accomplish the overall goal:

1. Reduce illegal possession of guns in the target neighborhoods
2. Remove from the community Priority Repeat Gun Offenders
3. Improve the quality of cases against gun offenders
4. Improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods

Target Population

With respect to the overall goal of the project, based on review of incident data covering the previous five years, the most violent neighborhoods in the county were initially defined as four beats in the "Henry" Sector of District 3 (Beats H1, H4, H5, and H7) and three beats in the "King" Sector of District 4 (Beats K1, K2, and K3). On July 1, 2019, a new PGPD District 8 was created, encompassing most of the Henry Sector of District 3. Beat boundaries and names were also changed.[1] The new beats that most closely matched the original District 3 target beats were District 8 beats H1, H2, H4, and H6. These were considered the target beats after July 1, 2019. No changes were made to District 4, so the target beats remained K1, K2, and K3 throughout the project.

While the specified beats were of primary interest with respect to the overall project goal, the PSN interventions were implemented throughout Districts 3 and 4, including the part of District 3 that became District 8. Thus, for the four objectives, the target population encompasses all of Districts 3,4, and 8.

Program Description

The funding provided by BJA, which was awarded by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, covered the hiring of an additional technician in the PGPD Firearms Examination Unit and an additional attorney at the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office. The grant also funded overtime pay for PGPD officers to increase violence reduction efforts in the targeted neighborhoods, additional officer training, and the activities of the research partner. In addition, under the PSN initiative, the partnering agencies used existing resources to improve information sharing, provide officer training, and offer gun-crime-related information at community events in the target areas.

[1] The Henry Sector of District 3, except for part of beat H2, was placed in the new District 8. The Henry Sector was also expanded to encompass an area outside the Capital Beltway that had been part of District 2, beat E4. Also, in the "George" Sector of District 3, beat G7 was merged into beat G5, and beat G5 was expanded to include the area of the City of Glenarden outside the Capital Beltway, which had been part of District 2, beat E2, so that all of Glenarden is now contained in District 3. Also, a new beat G7 was created in District 3, containing part of the old beat G4 and much of the old beat H2.

The initial plan was for the partner agencies to use these enhanced and existing resources to implement the following interventions:

1. Hire a firearms technician to expedite NIBIN entry and case connections
2. Hire an Assistant State's Attorney to focus on gun-related cases
3. Provide overtime for police to increase violence reduction efforts in the target neighborhood(s)
4. Provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers)
5. Enhance DNA processing/analysis
6. Facilitate continuous information sharing and coordination among agencies
7. Use training and technical assistance to determine and execute appropriate investigative and enforcement strategies
8. Conduct outreach and community engagement that guides stabilization and revitalization

During the course of the project, interventions 4 and 5 were eliminated, and those resources were shifted to interventions 3 and 7.

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation of the PSN initiative comprises two components: (1) an implementation (or process) assessment of the PSN initiative focusing on measures of progress on the interventions identified in the PDE plan and (2) an outcome evaluation that measures achievement of the overall goal and objectives of the initiative based on the measures identified in the PDE plan.

Data Sources

There were multiple data sets utilized to complete this report. Table 1 shows the specific datasets that were used grouped by the partner agency that provided the data. All the state and local agency partners contributed data to the analysis.

For the process analysis, data on firearms processing came from two sources: the PGPD Gun Intel Unit and the Firearms Examination Unit (FEU). to measure performance on firearms processing. Data on use of overtime hours and attendance at community meetings and training were obtained from Overtime and Activity Logs developed by the researchers and completed by PGPD. Data on information sharing and coordination among agencies was obtained from a team collaboration survey conducted by IGSR.

For the outcome evaluation, analyses of gun crime levels, gun recoveries, and results of gun-related cases relied on data from the Gun Intel Unit's Records Management System (RMS), the FEU FoxPro database, the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)[2], and DPP case tracking. Analyses of case quality utilized data from SAO electronic databases, CJIS, the Client Legal Utility Engine (CLUE) (provided by GOCPYVS), and Maryland Judiciary Case Search, an online court database that was searched manually by IGSR team members. Analyses of

[2] CJIS data were provided to the IGSR researchers for this project through an agreement executed between DPSCS and the University of Maryland.

community perceptions of crime and safety were based on responses to a community survey conducted by IGSR.

Some of the datasets are organized by case, while others are organized by arrests (persons), guns, and one (FEU-NIBIN data) by lead. (Each item processed through NIBIN is a different lead, and the dataset breaks down each item and the correlation result.)

The researchers removed cases from the data that were not within the parameters of the project. For example, the raw data from RMS included cases out of the time range of interest and/or beyond the target districts 3/8 and 4. We also dropped cases where there were notes that the case had been expunged. Because this project excludes arrestees who are juveniles at the time of arrest, we removed juvenile records from the datasets. The RMS data also excluded homicides.

There were additional cases that were not included in the analysis because they could not be matched to the primary PGPD Gun Intel Unit data (Database #1). There were 1,091 cases included in spreadsheets maintained by the Gun Intel Unit that were not included in the RMS data. We could find no patterns in the missing cases to suggest why the cases were not included in RMS, so the issue of missing records still needs to be resolved.

In addition, a review of the serial numbers and descriptions of the weapons among the various data sets revealed variations in descriptions of guns (e.g., Smith and Wesson vs. SW) as well as differences in serial numbers (typos as well as formatting differences such as sometimes including a hyphen and sometimes not). These differences make automatic matching unreliable.

Table 1: Data Sources

Data Source	PSN Partner	Description
Record Management System (RMS) Gun Intel Grant Data Report	PGPD Gun Intel Unit	**Cases Reported by Arrests** Excel spreadsheet from Record Management System (RMS). Includes Case Report Number (CCN), incident type, arrest date, location of arrest, name of arrestee, demographics, and description of weapon seized, and beat number.
RMS Daily Incident Gun Crime Reports		**Reported Crimes** Excel spreadsheet from Record Management System (RMS). Includes CCN, incident type (e.g., Domestic, Fraud, Traffic Stop), offense type (e.g., Carjacking, Weapons), date reported, report location, and beat number.
Gun Intel Unit Gun Recoveries – FEU Comparison		**Cases Reported by Guns** Reported Gun Recoveries FEU Comparison Worksheet. Includes CCN, date, district number, address, weapon description and serial number, type of weapon (e.g., Revolver, Handgun), where recovered (on person, vehicle, search warrant), # of arrests.
PGPD Activity Logs		**Community Meeting Log** Meeting date, type (e.g., PAL, CAC, Coffee Roundtable); district related; number of community members present, topic, and PSN Team and other meeting attendees
		Training Log Date of training, topic, number of officers trained, participation type (voluntary, rollcall other), and Notes
PGPD Overtime Log		**Operations Conducted with Overtime** Includes date, activity type (e.g., search warrant, violent crime area saturation, community meetings), Operation name, location and district of activity, subject of interest and hours expended.
EXILE Case List		**EXILE Cases Referred to U.S. Attorney's Office** Cases referred to USAO for prosecution. Includes defendant name, date of referral to USAO, pursual authorized or declined, charge code, and judicial status.
FEU FoxPro Database	PGPD Firearms Examination Unit (FEU)	**Cases Reported by Guns** Extract from FEU database in Excel, date recovered; includes CCN, FEU ID number, date/time submitted, weapon description, serial number, and status (e.g., Test Fire).
FEU – NIBIN Data		**Cases Reported by Lead** Includes CCN, FEU ID, recovery date, Item ID, Acquisition, Correlation, and Dissemination Dates.

Data Source	PSN Partner	Description
Client Legal Utility Engine (CLUE)	GOCPYVS	**Maryland Judiciary Case Search** Data scraped by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. GOCPYVS provided CLUE data downloads for District and Circuit Courts; includes case number, charges, disposition, and pretrial release status.
Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)	DPSCS	**Criminal History** Upon executed research memorandum with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), State Identification (SID) and names for all persons captured in the RMS data download were submitted to obtain full criminal history. Data included dates of arrest, charges, disposition, and sentence.
DPP Case Tracking	DPP	**Department of Parole and Probation Case Tracking** DPP agent case tracking spreadsheet includes CCN, supervision status, DPP actions (e.g., warrant, summons) outcome of case and VOP, and SID
SAO Case Management	SAO and IGSR	**Prince George's State's Attorney Case Files** SAO case files in the JD District Court and JD Circuit Court electronic databases contain basic case data as well as photocopies of police arrest reports, witness statements, charging documents, attorney correspondence and other documents. They also contain the prosecuting attorney's notes on case progress.
Maryland Judiciary Case Search	IGSR	**Maryland Case Information** http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch/ Online portal to criminal cases in Maryland District and Circuit courts. Searches conducted using docket numbers and/or individual names to complete data missing from other data sources (e.g., case disposition).
Community Survey		**Prince George's Community Survey** PSN feelings of safety, perceived crime levels, and prior victimization questions added to survey conducted by Dr. Richard Engstrom; community survey respondents from targeted zip codes.
Team Collaboration Survey		**PSN Team Member Feedback** PSN team members completed anonymous survey in 2018 and 2020. Questions include interest in overall PSN goals, level of support, cooperation and communication among team members and agencies; how recruited to the team; and years of experience.

Process Evaluation

The process evaluation examines the extent to which the interventions were conducted as planned using implementation standards developed by the PSN partners as part of the PDE process. Although the interventions were planned to extend through September 2020, to avoid any effects the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) may have had on the activities and results, the researchers evaluated the interventions from September 2018 through February 2020.

Process Evaluation Results

Eight interventions were designed to achieve the project's goal and objectives. This section begins with Table 2, which summarizes the results of the implementation standards analysis for all eight interventions. This is followed by a description of the interventions, the associated implementation standards, and results.

Table 2: Process Evaluation Results

Implementation Standard	**Standard Met? Yes, No and/or Explanation**
Intervention #1	
1.Firearms evaluation - 100% of weapons seized for gun related crimes committed in District 3 and District 4 will be received for examination by FEU within 96 hours of recovery of the weapon. The firearms will be processed into intake, test fired, and serial number examination will be conducted in this time period.	**Submitted to FEU** Yes – 100% (526 of 526) **Received in 96 hours** No – 40% (209 of 526) **Test fired:** No – 93% (491 of 526) **Serial number recorded:** Yes – 100% (526 of 526)
2. Expedited entry to NIBIN - 100% of eligible weapons received for processing by FEU will be NIBIN tested within 96 hours of gun taken in for processing.	No – 731 (347 of 478 *Leads*)
3. Expedited notification on NIBIN leads, report on NIBIN hits - 100% of cases with a NIBIN hit within Prince George's County will have a report completed within 7 days of date of correlation.	Yes – 98% (63 of 64)
Intervention #2	
1. Number of Priority Repeat Gun Offenders vertically screened by the SAO.	N/A – All Priority Offenders Arrested prior to implementation of vertical screening

Implementation Standard	Standard Met? Yes, No and/or Explanation
2. Number of other (Non-Priority) Gun Offenders from Districts 3 and 4 vertically screened by the SAO.	N/A - intervention not fully implemented given case volume
Intervention #3	
1. At least 90% of PSN overtime hours will be devoted to investigative operational support in target neighborhood(s).	No - 86% (2,205 of 2,564)
2. At least 10% of PSN overtime hours will be devoted to community engagement in target neighborhood(s).	Yes - 12% (305 of 2,564)
Intervention #4	
1. Overtime hours - $30,000 of the PSN budget for overtime hours will be devoted to Gun Show Operations 2. Gun show surveillance - PGPD in partnership with ATF will conduct surveillance at one gun show during the project period	N/A - intervention eliminated
Intervention #5	
1. The Gun Arrest Checklist will be completed and placed in the case file for 100% of gun arrest cases in Districts 3 and 4.	N/A – intervention eliminated
2. DNA processing (swabbing for DNA evidence) will be conducted on 100% of guns recovered in Districts 3 and 4 except guns recovered on persons.	N/A - intervention eliminated
3. 100% of guns in Districts 3 and 4 eligible for DNA processing (i.e., not recovered on persons) will be submitted to FEU within 96 hours of recovery/arrest.	N/A - intervention eliminated
Intervention #6	
1. Collaboration and cooperation among PSN team members;	Yes – At least 90% Agreement
2. Agency support for PSN activities; alignment of agency and PSN goals; and	Yes – 70% or more Agree on
3. Information sharing among agencies.	Mixed - "Your Own Agency" Shares Information Sharing increased; "Other Agencies" No Change.

Implementation Standard	Standard Met? Yes, No and/or Explanation
Intervention #7	
1. PGPD will conduct refresher training on timely submission of firearms and lawful searches and training on identification of the true gun possessor during arrests by July 20, 2018.	Yes - Number Trained: 70 (Subsequently Trained 92 More) Total Trained: 162
2. PGPD will conduct training on the Gun Arrest Checklist for all District 3 and 4 officers by August 31, 2018	Yes - Number Trained: 74
3. The PSN team will identify other training needs.	Yes – 2 Additional Topics Identified
4. PGPD will conduct training on additional topics identified at PSN Team meetings	Yes – 2 Training Sessions on Characteristics of Armed Persons Number Trained: 91
Intervention #8	
1. During the PSN project period, PGPD will conduct 8 community-based information exchange sessions in Districts 3 and 4 (4 sessions per district) attended by at least one member of the PGPD PSN team, representatives of COPS and, if possible, the District Commander, the PSN State's Attorney or designee and a representative of Parole and Probation.	Yes- While 2 PSN Information Exchange Sessions conducted in District 3, 2 more were scheduled for March/April 2020 and were canceled due to COVID-19; 5 sessions in District 4; Yes - All Sessions attended by identified representatives.

Intervention 1 – Firearms Processing

The first intervention was for the Firearms Evaluation Unit (FEU) to hire a Firearms Technician to expedite NIBIN entry and case connections. By April 2019, the Firearms Technician was hired. The data to assess this measure is from September 1, 2018 through February 29, 2020.

The first standard measures the timeliness of the submission and initial examination of recovered firearms. As indicated in Table 2, the standard of 100% of firearms received and examined by the FEU within 96 hours (4 days) was not met. Of the 526 unique guns reported in gun-related crimes committed in Districts 3 (later District 8) and 4, all 526 (100%) were captured in the FEU FoxPro Intake database. However, of those 526 guns, 209 (40%) were received by FEU within 96 hours. The number of days to submit firearms to the FEU ranged from within 24 hours to 67 days, with an average of 7.6 days.

In terms of processing the weapons the FEU came close to meeting or met the standards. With respect to test fires, of the 526 weapons, 491 (or 93%) were tested. Note that PGPD FEU advised that all guns are test fired (except for those that are inoperable). We also reviewed whether a serial number was logged in the data, and here the standard was met at 100%. Of the 526 guns, 463 (88%) had a serial number recorded; 32 (6%) serial numbers were noted as "obliterated", and the remaining 31 (6%) were weapons that did not have a serial number.

The second standard measures the timeliness of testing of firearms submitted to the FEU for evaluation, specifying that 100% of weapons will undergo NIBIN testing within 96 hours (4 days). We are reporting this standard by the leads – not weapons – as the NIBIN data set provided for this standard did not contain the weapon serial number. (Thus we were unable to easily identify unique weapons tested.) Of the 478 leads processed, 347 or 73% were tested within 96 hours.[3] The average number of days from FEU receipt of firearms to NIBIN lead testing was 4 days, ranging from less than 1 day to 38 days (with 44% of leads tested within 1 day of receipt of the firearm).

The third standard tracks the timeliness of FEU reporting of NIBIN hits, specifying that 100% of cases with a NIBIN hit will have a report completed within 7 days of the date of correlation; this standard was met. Of the 64 cases with a NIBIN lead hit, a report was completed within 7 days of the hit for 63 (or 98%) of the leads. The average number of days from the date of correlation to completion of the report was less than one day.

Intervention 2 – State's Attorney's Office

Under the second intervention, the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County would hire an Assistant State's Attorney to focus on gun-related cases. The standard measures originally developed for this intervention addressed the extent to which gun-related cases in the target districts were vertically screened. Vertical screening refers to a case being screened for indictment and prosecuted at the trial level by one attorney, rather than one attorney screening the case for indictment and another attorney being assigned the case for trial. At the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, a Grand Jury unit handles general Circuit Court indictments for the Major Crimes and Guns and Drugs units, while specialty units like Homicide and Special Victims and Family Violence operate fully vertically. Prior to the PSN grant, all cases of the sort assigned to the PSN attorney would have been screened and indicted by the Grand Jury Unit. The PSN program intended to provide for vertical screening of all gun-related cases in the target districts for the duration of the program.

Vertical screening has several advantages. If the trial attorney is the screening attorney, they can prepare the indictment according to their personal preferences, rather than according to a generalized standard. Attorneys may differ on what to charge and how exactly to word those charges, and vertical screening allows the trial attorney to charge a case exactly as he or she would like. Further, vertical screening allows the trial attorney to make requests for all evidence they think may be relevant from the genesis of the case, rather than weeks or months later when

[3] PGPD FEU advised that the NIBIN system was down between 35 and 40 times in the evaluation period (personal email communication, Joseph Young, October 19, 2020).

the case is assigned to him or her for trial, at which point some evidence may be lost or harder to obtain.

Early on in the PSN grant, it was decided that the volume of gun cases in the target districts made vertical screening of all cases by the PSN attorney impossible. Even with some of the gun-related cases from the target districts being assigned to other attorneys, the PSN attorney had between 60 and 80 gun cases assigned for trial and, in addition to that workload, could not screen and indict all new gun cases in the target districts. Instead, the PSN attorney was available to vertically screen on a case-by-case basis. Cases of particular significance were prioritized for vertical screening. Beyond particularly significant cases, certain officers who had developed close working relationships with the PSN attorney routinely requested vertical screening, which the PSN attorney always obliged.

It is the opinion of the PSN attorney that, all things being equal, vertical screening is preferable for the reasons outlined above. However, to test the effectiveness of vertically screening gun cases in a high-volume jurisdiction like Prince George's County would require: (1) significantly more trial attorneys to share that workload, (2) a smaller target area, and/or (3) focus on particular gun-related crimes, for example possession of a regulated firearm by a person previously convicted of a crime of violence.

Intervention 3 – Overtime

Under intervention 3, the PSN initiative provided overtime for police to increase violence reduction efforts in the target neighborhood(s). The first standard for this intervention specified that at least 90% of PSN overtime hours would be devoted to investigative operational support in target neighborhoods.

The Prince George's County Police Department submitted overtime logs beginning in August of 2018 and up until mid-June of 2020. During the time period of interest, a total of 2,564 hours were logged for PSN overtime. Overtime hours involved a variety of activities including but not limited to surveillance and field observations, training preparation, firearm processing, and the service of search warrants. Each activity was reviewed to delineate between investigative operational support in target neighborhoods or other activities in other localities. Ultimately, the following four types of activities were omitted since they did not fall under investigative operational support: 1) community engagement, 2) data pulls, 3) case closure summaries, and 4) administrative tasks.

For this process standard to be met (i.e., at least 90%), a total of 2,308 of the 2,564 hours must be devoted to investigative operational support in District 3 (and later 8) and District 4. Table 3 below summarizes the total hours logged, hours spent on investigate operational support, and omitted hours spent on other types of activities. Ultimately, eighty-six percent (86%) of PSN overtime hours were devoted to investigative operations and support; thus the standard of 90% focused hours in target neighborhoods was not met.

Table 3: Breakdown of PSN Overtime Hours for Research Period

Description	Hours	Percentage
Total Non-Investigative Operational Support Hours Logged	359	14%
Community Engagement	305	
Other Activities	54	
Total Investigative Operational Support Hours Logged	2,205	86%
Total PSN Overtime Hours Logged	2,564	

The second standard specified that at least 10% of PSN overtime hours would be devoted to community engagement in the target neighborhoods. Of the 359 non-investigative operational support hours, 54 (2%) were devoted to data pulls, case closure summaries and other administrative tasks. Returning to Table 3 above, note that 305 hours were spent on community engagement including activities like PAL events and community meetings. Therefore, the standard was met as 305 of the total 2,564 (or 12%) of PSN overtime hours were focused on community engagement over the project period.

Intervention 4 – Gun Show Operations

As originally envisioned, intervention 4 was designed to provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers) through gun show surveillance; execution of undercover purchases from gun show exhibitors when illegal activity is identified; and investigative stops/interviews where reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause exists. Due to changes in ATF priorities, this intervention did not take place. With the approval of BJA, the overtime funds were designated for training as part of intervention 7.

Intervention 5 – DNA Processing

Intervention 5 involved implementation of a Gun Arrest Checklist for completion by patrol officers and placement in case files in the State's Attorney's Office. In addition, under this intervention, two investigators were to collect and process guns recovered in Districts 3 and 4 for DNA. The standards for this measure addressed completion of the Gun Arrest Checklists and placement in the case files; the extent to which DNA processing of guns was conducted; and the timeliness of submission to the FEU of guns eligible for DNA processing.

In June and July 2018, PGPD trained 40 officers on the Gun Arrest Checklist. In October 2019, the PSN Team was advised that the PGPD RMS system could not be adapted to reflect the use of the checklist or its inclusion in the case file.
The enhanced efforts to collect and process guns for DNA processing began, but prosecutors (particularly for Federal partners) began raising concerns that obtaining the DNA sample, but then not conducting the actual DNA analysis, was a possible hindrance to prosecution because it raised questions of why the DNA was not tested. DNA analysis is expensive, and processing DNA for all the eligible firearms seized would have far exceeded the project budget. As a result, intervention 5 was halted.

Intervention 6 – Information Sharing

The sixth intervention was designed to facilitate information sharing and coordination among the partner agencies. Under this intervention, the partner agencies were to establish data-sharing protocols, the UMD-IGSR research partner would design data collection tools to track project activities, and law enforcement partners would implement deconfliction methods that follow best practices.

The extent of information sharing and coordination among partner agencies would be measured through a survey conducted at the beginning and completion of the PSN initiative. The survey would address the following:

1) collaboration and cooperation among members of the PSN team;
2) agency support for PSN activities and alignment of agency and PSN goals; and
3) information sharing among agencies.

Over the span of two years, 45 PSN team members were invited to the monthly meetings.[4] These team members represented a variety of agencies whom work within the boundaries of Prince George's County in some capacity for the betterment of gun crime prevention.

Table 4 and Table 5 below describes the team members by agency and the average monthly meeting attendance. The total number of PSN team member attendees per month ranged from 11 to 17 members between January of 2018 and February of 2020 (n=11 meetings in total). All[5] PSN team member attendees attended at least one meeting and 3 members attended all 11 meetings.

Table 4: Description by Agency of Monthly Meeting Invitees

Agency	No. of PSN Team Members
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS)	2
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS)	3
United States Attorney's Office (USAO)	4
Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office (PG SAO)	7
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)	8
Institute of Governmental Science and Research (UMD-IGSR)	9
Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD)	12
Total:	45

[4] It should be noted that 8 PSN team members were not invited to all monthly meetings due to changes in employment, reassignments, or joining the PSN team at a later date. Therefore, depending on the month, the group invited to the meeting ranged in size from 37 to 45 total team members.

[5] 'All' refers to those that were part of the PSN team during at least one month wherein a meeting was held. For example, one member of the initial PSN team was reassigned before the first monthly meeting took place and thus, did not attend any meetings.

Table 5: Monthly Meeting Attendance

Month of Meeting	Agency Representation	No. of PSN Team Members
January 2018	All Represented	17
February 2018	All Represented	16
March 2018	All Represented	15
July 2018	All Represented	16
October 2018	DPSCS, USAO, PG SAO, ATF, IGSR & PGPD	11
December 2018	DPSCS, USAO, PG SAO, GOCPYVS, IGSR & PGPD	12
February 2019	DPSCS, USAO, PG SAO, GOCPYVS, IGSR & PGPD	16
May 2019	DPSCS, USAO, PG SAO, GOCPYVS, IGSR & PGPD	16
October 2019	All Represented	12
December 2019	All Represented	12
February 2020	All Represented	11

Survey Methodology

At the start of PSN's implementation in October 2018 and again in June 2020, meeting attendees were invited to complete an online survey that was designed to obtain their perspectives on information sharing and coordination amongst PSN partner agencies.

For each cohort, a link to the survey was provided to all active PSN team members. Therefore, those that were transferred, re-assigned, or no longer part of the project for other reasons, did not receive an invitation to complete the survey. The invitation for the survey was sent to 26 individuals on October 8, 2018, and a reminder email was sent a week later. A total of 14 team members responded to the survey, and the answers of this cohort serve as a 'pre-test' or baseline data for the purposes of comparison in the following analyses.

For the 2020 survey cohort, the survey invitation was emailed to 35 PSN team members on May 27, 2020, and reminders were sent on two occasions in June. As a result, thirteen (13) PSN team members responded to the 2020 survey. Their responses serve as 'post-test' data for comparison to the 2018 responses.

Due to the small number of survey respondents, only descriptive analyses are presented in the next section.

Descriptives

The following analyses are derived from a total of 27 survey responses representing a combination of 14 pre-test surveys and 13 post-test surveys. Table 6 below describes both cohorts of respondents in detail.

Within the 2018 cohort, on average, respondents spent approximately 14 years (14.42 years) in the field[6] and had professional interests which aligned with the goals and activities of the PSN project (n=10 of 14). The majority of those that participated in the 2020 survey were part of the PSN team for at least 12 months (n=12 of 13) at the time of the follow-up survey, worked in the field an average of approximately 16 years (16.1 years), and had a professional interest in PSN's goals and activities (n=10 of 13).

In 2018, of the 11 team members responding to the question about agency affiliation, 5 (46%) reported working for PGPD. In 2020, of the 13 respondents, 4 (31%) reported working for PGPD.

Overall, many of the 2018 cohort survey responses are not as complete as those taken in 2020. For example, in 2018, 3 of 14 respondents did not review the survey in its entirety, and some questions were ultimately completed by only 9 of the 14 cohort members.

Respondents were asked to identify how many of the PSN team members they knew prior to joining and working on the PSN project. The purpose of this question is to identify pre-existing rapport that may impact responses to survey questions focusing on team strengths and weaknesses, obstacles experienced during the project, and greater agency management and group climate. Both cohorts experienced similar familiarity with other team members and on average, knew between 2-3 people prior to joining PSN.

[6] One of the nine respondents to the question about years of experience reported 77 years. The researchers assumed that this response was a typographical error and did not include it in the range or the calculation of the mean.

Table 6: Full Descriptives – PSN Team Collaboration Survey Respondents by Cohort

	2018 Cohort (N=14)					2020 Cohort (N=13)				
	N[7]	Freq.	Percent	Range	Mean(SD)[8]	N	Freq.	Percent	Range	Mean(SD)
How Joined PSN	14					13				
Job Duties		7	50%				5	38%		
Assigned		7	50%				6	46%		
Recruited		0	0%				1	8%		
Volunteered		0	0%				1	8%		
Know Before Joining	11					13				
None		1	9%				0	0%		
1 person		1	9%				1	8%		
2-3 people		5	46%				7	54%		
4-7 people		3	27%				3	23%		
8-12 people		1	9%				0	0%		
13 or more		0	0%				2	15%		
Interest in PSN	13					13				
Align w/ Profession		10	77%				3	23%		
Does Not Align		3	23%				10	77%		
Experience	-					-				
Years in Field	9			6.08 - 18.5	14.42(4.4)	13			4.17 - 41.42	16.1(9.8)
Years in Org.	8			2.83 - 18.5	12.26(6.4)	11			3.08 - 29.25	14.6(8.2)
PG Police Dept.	11	5	46%			13	4	31%		

[7] N=Number of those with data available to assess.

[8] SD= "Standard Deviation" indicates variation in the data. A larger SD more variation, smaller SD more consistency.

Results

Given the small number of respondents across both cohorts (n=27), results should be considered anecdotal. Additionally, for simplification of presentation, the responses are consolidated into two categories (either 'agree' or 'disagree') rather than reporting the full 5-point scale that ranged from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'.

The results in Table 7 are both informative and encouraging. With each survey item, responses improved in 2020 when compared to those taken in 2018, and several responses received perfect agreement from the 2020 survey cohort. For example, all respondents in 2020 agree with the existence of good relationships between PSN team members, with the statement that team members listen to one another and give a fair hearing, as well as look after each other's interest(s).

Although respondents expressed improvements in communication between the two survey periods, two themes emerged and sustained with regard to communication challenges. First, 4 respondents outlined the difficulty in tracking gun crime arrests through the prosecutorial process. For example, one respondent noted:

- *Keeping each entity updated as to the gun crime arrests [are prosecuted] is a challenge. Often, once an arrest proceeds to prosecution the PD is left behind…Often, people are repeat offenders, and it would be good practice for each entity to keep tabs on these individuals.*

The second emerging theme related to communication obstacles is the existence of operational challenges that exist outside the control of the PSN team members. When looking at both cohorts combined, five respondents provided examples challenges including the turnover of personnel (n=3) and urgent matters diverting resources away from the PSN program (n=2). Both scenarios exemplify ways in which communication can breakdown.

The only two questions that did not reach 90% agreement or better in the 2020 survey results concern agency support for PSN. Nonetheless, 75% of the 2020 respondents said that agency management supports the PSN team members, and 73% stated that the overall agency climate supports PSN team activities. These represent substantial improvements over the 42% of 2018 respondents reporting that agency management and climate supported PSN team members and activities. Overall, the results from the survey suggest that obstacles were effectively managed during the 2018 to 2020 project period, and the PSN team grew stronger together overtime across several domains including but not limited to cooperation, communication, and support for each other as well as for the PSN project.

Table 7: Survey Responses by Cohort

	2018 Cohort (n=14)			2020 Cohort (n=13)		
Obstacles	**N**	**% Agree**	**% Disagree**	**N**	**% Agree**	**% Disagree**
Level of Support[9]	9	54%	46%	13	92%	8%
Good Relationships[10]	13	54%	46%	13	100%	0%
Listen & Fair[11]	13	54%	46%	13	100%	0%
Strength/Weakness	**N**	**% Agree**	**% Disagree**	**N**	**% Agree**	**% Disagree**
Look After Interests[12]	12	42%	58%	12	100%	0%
No Let Down[13]	9	22%	78%	12	92%	8%
Know Roles[14]	14	50%	50%	12	92%	8%
Cooperate[15]	14	50%	50%	13	92%	8%
Communication[16]	14	43%	57%	13	92%	8%
Management Support[17]	12	42%	58%	12	75%	25%
Agency Support[18]	12	42%	58%	11	73%	27%
PDE Goals[19]	14	43%	57%	12	100%	0%
Goal Fit[20]	13	46%	54%	13	100%	0%
Expectations[21]	14	43%	57%	13	92%	8%

The next section of the survey focuses on sharing information with other agencies and vice versa. Table 8 below summarizes the responses from PSN team members when asked the efficacy of their information sharing with other agencies, as well as how well other agencies share with them. At the time of the initial survey, on average, respondents viewed other agencies as more effective at sharing information than their own agency (i.e., a mean score of 6.3 versus 5.6).

At the time of the 2020 follow-up, average responses improved only for individual perceptions of their own agency's performance. What stands out is that respondents gave a greater average score to their own agency in 2020 than in 2018 (i.e., a mean score of 6.8 versus 5.6), but this improvement did not carry over into the performance of sharing information by others. Alternatively, perceptions towards other agencies slightly diminished by 0.2 points, but this minor of a change within such a small sample is likely not concerning.

[9] *There is a high level of mutual trust and support among PSN team members.*
[10] *There are good relationships between PSN team members.*
[11] *PSN team members listen to each other to give others fair hearing.*
[12] *PSN team members look after each other's interests.*
[13] *PSN team members try not to let each other down.*
[14] *PSN team members are aware of each other's roles and skills.*
[15] *PSN team members cooperate to complete team activities.*
[16] *Regular, open and direct communications are a feature of the PSN team.*
[17] *There is management support in my agency for the PSN team and its members.*
[18] *The overall organizational climate in my agency supports PSN team activities.*
[19] *The PSN team goals and objectives in the PDE are aligned with my agency goals and objectives.*
[20] *The PSN team is aware of how its goals and objectives fit with those of my agency.*
[21] *The PSN team members know what is required of them.*

Table 8: Survey Results – Efficacy of Information Sharing

	2018 Cohort (n=14)			2020 Cohort (n=13)		
	N	**Range**	**Mean (SD)**	**N**	**Range**	**Mean (SD)**
They Share[22]	7	0 to 10	6.3 (3.9)	13	0 to 9	6.1 (2.5)
You Share[23]	7	0 to 8	5.6 (3.3)	13	0 to 10	6.8 (2.9)

Overall, the comparison of surveys conducted in October 2018 and May/June 2020 allows for a better understanding of the facilitation of continuous information sharing and coordination among agencies across 3 domains (i.e., Intervention No. 6):

1) collaboration and cooperation among members of the PSN team;
2) agency support for PSN activities; alignment of agency and PSN goals; and
3) information sharing among agencies.

The survey results are promising for future collaboration among partner agencies, as the first 2 domains show significant improvement between the two cohorts (see Table 7), but there remain areas for improvement in terms of communication and information sharing, as well as overall agency climate and support (see Table 7 and Table 8).

Examples of Cooperation

In addition to the survey results, the researchers directly observed an example of the value of collaboration/cooperation among PSN partners during our December 3, 2019, PSN Team meeting. During this meeting, the representative from DPP advised that in updating case information related to his caseload, he noted that charges were nolle prosed, and he was unable to determine if cases had been federally prosecuted. The USAO representative advised that if the DPP representative could submit a list, USAO could check. In addition, the SAO representative advised that he would also request that all the Assistant State's Attorneys, when sending an email to the USAO for prosecution, also copy DPP, so that probation officers know about the action in time for the Violation of Probation (VOP) hearing. In short, the problem was that DPP officials were uncertain of the result of gun cases on their caseload; the cases appeared abandoned. The solution was two points of contact (USAO and SAO) agreeing to ongoing communication related to these cases. The result: more accurate information provided for handling of VOPs.

A second significant example of interagency cooperation is related to cases that are considered for Federal prosecution from the Prince George's County SAO. A list of 73 EXILE cases that were authorized to proceed to Federal prosecution was provided to IGSR. Available outcomes of these 73 cases include that 36 (49%) pled or were found guilty, and 33 were sentenced. Among those sentenced, data was available for 28 defendants – of which 27 were sentenced to an average of 63.5 months in the Bureau of Prisons (ranging from 6 to 180 months). In terms of probation, 23 defendants were placed on probation for a term from 3 to 156 months, averaging

[22] *On a scale of 0 to 10 (i.e., 10 being completely effective), how well do other agencies share information with your agency to facilitate arrest and/or prosecution of gun offenders in Prince George's County?*

[23] *On a scale of 0 to 10 (i.e., 10 being completely effective), how well does your agency share information with other agencies to facilitate arrest and/or prosecution of gun offenders in Prince George's County?*

45.6 months. Looking more closely at the impact of the PSN project on these cases, it appears that a higher percentage of cases were authorized to proceed to Federal prosecution following implementation of the PSN project -- 42 cases (or 58%) compared to 31 (or 42%) before the intervention.

Intervention 7 – Training and Technical Assistance

Under intervention 7, the partner agencies identified training needs during development of the PDE and strategic plan and made plans to deliver the training. The topics identified for refresher or initial training were submission of firearms for testing, lawful searches, identifying the true gun possessor, and the Gun Arrest Checklist.

The first process standard for Intervention #7, states that PGPD will conduct a refresher training on timely submission of firearms and lawful searches and training on identification of the true gun possessor during arrests by July 20, 2018. On June 22, 2018, a training was held by PGPD on the topic of firearms submission, lawful searches, and true gun possessor. Participation in the training was department wide with voluntary sign-ups, and a total of 70 officers were trained. Therefore, the standard for the training deadline was met. Additionally, two later trainings focused on this topic in March of 2019, and the two additional trainings covered another 92 officers.

For standard 2 of intervention 7, PGPD needed to conduct training on the Gun Arrest Checklist for all District 3 and 4 officers by August 31, 2018. Two trainings on this topic took place on June 15, 2018 and July 20, 2018, and combined, a total of 74 officers were trained.

The third standard tracks whether the partner agencies identified other training needs. This standard was met. The PSN partners identified characteristics of armed persons and case development (e.g., fourth amendment issues) as potential training topics.

The fourth standard tracks whether training was conducted to meet the additional training needs identified by the partner agencies. Standard 4 was met as PGPD conducted trainings on additional topics identified at PSN Team meetings. From June of 2018 through September of 2019, a total of seven trainings were held. Two trainings were held—one in May of 2019 and the other in September of 2019—training 91 officers on the characteristics of armed persons.

Intervention 8 – Community Engagement

Intervention 8 involves outreach to the community. As part of the PSN initiative, members of the PSN team are expected to attend community meetings held by PGPD. The standard for this intervention provides that, during the PSN project period, PGPD will conduct eight community-based information exchange sessions in Districts 3 and 4 (four sessions per district). These sessions were to be attended by at least one member of the PGPD PSN team, representatives of COPS and, if possible, the District Commander, the PSN State's Attorney or designee, and a representative of Parole and Probation.

During the research period, 34 community engagement events were conducted by PGPD. Community engagement events included community-based information exchange sessions, PAL events, and other youth activities. A total of seven community-based information exchange sessions took place, but only two of these meetings related to District 3. PSN team members were present at each of the seven community-based exchanges, a COPS Unit representative and PGPD Commander attended six of the seven meetings, a representative from the State's Attorney's Office was present at two of these meetings, and Probation and Parole was present at only one of the meetings.

Table 9 below lists the date of each community-based information exchange session, the district in which it took place, total community members present, and agency attendance. Ultimately, this standard was partially met – as a total of eight sessions did not take place and only two sessions occurred in District 3. However, two sessions scheduled for March and April 2020 in District 3 were canceled due to COVID-19. As a result, we are indicating this standard as met. Also, the required designated representatives attended all sessions. In addition to meeting the standard for community-based information sessions, PGPD was actively involved in the community through its many other events.

Table 9: Description of Community-Based Information Exchange Sessions

	Session Date	District	Community Members	Prescribed Agency Attendance
1.	9/29/18	3	25	COPS only
2.	1/09/19	3	43	Commander/COPS only
3.	3/18/19	4	12	Commander/COPS only
4.	3/27/19	4	35	Commander/COPS only
5.	5/02/19	4	70	Commander/COPS only
6.	5/08/19	4	100	Commander/COPS/SAO only
7.	6/03/19	4	25	Commander/SAO/DPP only

Process Evaluation Conclusions and Recommendations

The PDE plan identified eight interventions and specified standards for measuring implementation of the interventions. One of the interventions, gun show operations, was eliminated early in the project due to changed priorities at the federal level. Another intervention, enhanced DNA processing, was eliminated later in the project when PSN partners identified potential negative effects of the intervention on prosecution of cases.

Among the six interventions pursued throughout the project, performance against the measurement standards varied. Two interventions, training and community engagement, met all of its measurement standards. Training on topics specified by the PSN team at the start of the initiative was completed, other training topics were identified by the PSN team, and additional training was conducted. In terms of community involvement, all meetings were attended by the required PSN partners. While there were fewer meetings in District 3 – this was a result of the cancellation of two meetings due to COVID-19.

There were mixed results for the four other interventions, which involved firearms processing, screening of cases by the designated PSN attorney, police overtime, and information sharing and coordination. With firearms processing, compared to the specified goal of 100% compliance, all (100%) of the 526 recovered weapons over this period were turned into FEU. Of those 526, only 40% were turned in within 96 hours of recovery. However, once the weapons were received by FEU, the process adhered more closely to designated standards. Over 73% of NIBIN leads were followed up within 96 hours and 98% of hits were reported within 7 days.

Vertical screening of gun-related cases by the PSN attorney was implemented for select cases as the volume of cases in the target districts made it impossible to vertically screen all gun-related cases. The intended portion of police overtime hours was spent on community engagement in the target neighborhoods, but not as many hours as intended was spent on investigative operational support in those neighborhoods. Collaboration among PSN team members and agency support for and alignment with PSN goals received high ratings, but information sharing among agencies received more mixed reviews. PSN team members rated their own agency's information sharing higher after 18 months of the initiative but did not view other agency's sharing of information more favorably.

The process evaluation revealed varied achievement of the measurement standards for the PSN interventions. But the standards helped focus team members' attention on implementation of the interventions. The researchers believe that articulation of the standards and regular discussion of performance at PSN team meetings helped partners identify aspects of the interventions that were and were not working well and make adjustments.

The researchers recommend that PGPD continue to monitor the firearms processing standards, specifically focused on identifying solutions to ensure more consistency in providing weapons to FEU within the designated 96-hour time frame. All the partner agencies should continue to work together to identify and overcome obstacles to information sharing.

Outcome Evaluation

An overall goal of reducing gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods of the county and four objectives were identified at the outset of the PSN initiative. Measures of achievement were specified for the overall goal and each objective. The outcome evaluation examines the initiative's performance on these measures.

Overall Goal and Objective 1

The overall goal of the PSN initiative was to reduce gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods in the county. These neighborhoods were initially defined as four beats in the "Henry" Sector of District 3 (Beats H1, H4, H5, and H7) and three beats in the "King" Sector of District 4 (Beats K1, K2, and K3). As described earlier, due to reconfiguration of districts and renaming of beats, beginning July 1, 2019, the target neighborhoods were defined as beats H1, H2, H4, and H6 in District 8 and Beats K1, K2, and K3 in District 4.

The measure of achievement of this goal was established as a reduction in the number of reported crimes involving the use of guns in the most violent neighborhoods by 5% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018.

The first objective of the PSN initiative was to reduce illegal possession of guns in the target neighborhoods, defined as Districts 3, 4, and 8. The following measures of achievement were identified for this objective:

a. Increase recovery of illegal firearms linked to target neighborhoods and to priority offenders by 5% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018;

b. Increase number of repeat violent offenders indicted for illegal gun possession by 3% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018; and

c. Increase number of gun-related cases with a guilty plea or going to trial by 3% during September 2018 to August 2019 compared to September 2017 to August 2018.[24]

Data Sources

There are two primary sources of data for evaluating the overall goal and Objective 1: (1) the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) criminal history data provided by DPSCS and (2) the PGPD RMS gun intelligence reports. The PGPD reports were provided in two Excel spreadsheets, one including reported crimes and the other arrests in all PGPD districts for the period from September 1, 2016 through February 29, 2020. We extracted data from this dataset for two time periods, an 18-month pre-intervention period spanning September 2016 through February 2018 and an 18-month intervention period spanning September 2018 through February 2020. This enabled us to compare activities and outcomes during the PSN intervention to activities and outcomes during an equivalent time period prior to the intervention. Data for the time period of March 2018 through August 2018, when PSN planning was taking place, were excluded from the dataset of cases analyzed by IGSR.

As noted earlier, the RMS data for the pre-PSN and PSN periods lacked 1,091 unique cases that were known to the Gun Intel Unit. Of the total 1,091 cases missing from RMS, 606 cases were from the pre-intervention period and 485 cases were from the PSN intervention period. Our analysis of the missing data found statistically significant differences between the missing cases and the data that were provided for nearly all districts, all offense types, and all firearm types. We would be more concerned if there were statistically significant differences for *only* the intervention districts or for a particular firearm type. We are unable to explain the reason for the missing cases, but it is important to acknowledge that the cases represent a substantial portion of those occurring during the time periods of interest. Consequently, we refer to the dataset on which much of our analysis is based as a sample.

[24] The pre- and post-intervention timeframes for the third measure was only 12 months to allow time for the post-intervention cases to process through the court system.

Descriptive statistics

The combined sample of both arrest and non-arrest incidents in all PGPD districts is presented in Table 10. Ignoring missing data, and after eliminating 7 cases without beat data, a total of 5,311 incidents took place during the two research periods (pre-PSN and PSN).

These incidents comprised 3,978 unique cases; 1,968 unique persons were arrested. Overall, the sample of arrestees is majority male (94%), African American/Black (92%), and on average 28 years old. More than half of the unique cases (58%) and unique arrestees (64%) were located in the intervention districts (i.e., District 3/8 and District 4).

Table 10: Full Descriptives for All Cases for Research Periods (n=5,311)

	N[7]	Freq	Percent
Cases			
Total Unique Cases	*3,978*		
District 3/8[25]		1,323	33%
District 4		996	25%
Persons Arrested			
Total Unique Persons	*1,968*		
District 3/8		719	36%
District 4		542	27%
Total Arrests	*2,081*		
District 3/8		766	37%
District 4		572	27%
Gender (Unique Persons)	1,968		
Male		1,848	94%
Female		116	6%
Race (Unique Persons)	1,959		
White		138	7%
African American/Black		1,804	92%
Other		17	<1%
		Range	**Mean (SD)**
Age (Unique Persons)	1,959	18 to 70.5 years	28.04 (8.61)

[25] The counts contained in this table for Districts 3/8 and 4 are based on the re-organization of districts and beats. For a full discussion, please see Appendix B.

A total of 2,358 unique gun-related cases arising from 2,667 total incidents within the sample did not end in arrest. Table 11 and Table 12 summarizes the offense characteristics of non-arrest cases by district and beat, respectively. Within the unique cases that did not result in an arrest, the most common offense type is carjacking (897 unique cases), followed by aggravated assault (621 cases). Across all offense types, at least 20% of unique cases occurred in the target districts.

Additionally, for aggravated assault, carjacking, kidnapping, robbery, sex offenses, and weapons violations, more than half of the total unique cases occurred in the intervention districts.

Of note, a total of 223 unique cases involved a weapons-related violation, with a total of 82 unique cases occurring in District 3/8 and 56 unique cases occurring in District 4 (i.e., a combined total of 138 cases). Additionally, the breakdown of unique offenses between the intervention and non-intervention beats shows more than 20% of all offenses occurred in the intervention beats (see Table 12).

Table 11: Full Descriptives – District Comparisons for Non-Arrest Cases (n=2,358)

Reported Crimes	N[7]	Intervention District 3/8, 4[25]		Non-Intervention Districts		Total All Districts	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Total Unique Cases	**2,358**	1,312	56%	1,046	44%	2,358	100%
Total # of Offenses By Unique Cases	**2,357**						
Only One		1,142	48%	928	39%	2,070	88%
Two		164	7%	112	5%	276	11%
Three		6	<1%	6	<1%	12	<1%
Total Offenses	**2,358**						
Aggravated Assault		364	15%	257	11%	621	26%
Carjacking		475	20%	422	18%	897	38%
Kidnapping		2	0%	1	0%	3	<1%
Robbery		322	14%	265	11%	587	25%
Sex Offense		9	0%	8	0%	17	1%
Threats		3	0%	7	0%	10	<1%
Weapons Violation		138	6%	85	4%	223	9%
Totals:		**1313**	**56%**	**1045**	**44%**	**2,358**	**100%**

Table 12: Full Descriptives – Beat Comparisons for Non-Arrest Cases (n=2,358)

Reported Crimes	N	Intervention Beats		Non-Intervention Beats		Total All Beats	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Persons Arrested	**2,358**	1,312	56%	1,046	44%	2,358	100%
Total # of Offenses By Unique Cases	**2,357**						
Only One		434	18%	1,636	69%	2070	87%
Two		66	3%	209	9%	275	12%
Three		2	>1%	10	>1%	12	>1%
Total Offenses	**2,358**						
Aggravated Assault		115	5%	506	21%	621	26%
Carjacking		208	9%	689	29 %	897	38%
Kidnapping		2	>1%	1	>1%	3	<1%
Robbery		126	5%	461	19%	587	25%
Sex Offense		3	>1%	14	>1%	17	<1%
Threats		0	0%	10	>1%	10	<1%
Weapons Violation		48	2.%	175	7%	223	9%
Totals:		**502**	**21%**	**1,856**	**79%**	**2,358**	**100%**

Table 13 and Table 14 describe the arrest incidents leveraged in the following analyses. In total, there are 2,644 arrest incidents. As more than one person can be arrested in a case, 1,968 unique persons were arrested. However, unique persons can also be arrested more than one time, thus, we calculated the number of unique persons *by* unique arrest –finding 2,081 individuals were arrested over the research time period.

Within these unique reported incidents, a total of 1,576 unique firearms were recovered during the research periods. These firearms included a majority of handguns (86% of firearms recovered), followed by long guns (8%), and revolvers (3%).

When evaluating the firearms recovered by district, more than half (63%) occurred in the intervention districts (versus 37% of unique firearms recovered in non-intervention districts). Additionally, when evaluating the firearms recovered by intervention versus non-intervention beats, those recovered in intervention beats made up over 20-percent of the sample.

Table 13: Full Descriptives – District Comparisons for Arrest Incidents (n=2,644)

Arrest Incidents	N	Intervention District 3/8, 4		Non-Intervention Districts		Arrests All Districts	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Arrests Made	**2,644**						
Total Unique Persons		1,261	64%	707	36%	1,968	100%
Total Arrests		1,338	64%	743	36%	2,081	100%
Type of Firearm (Unique)	**1,576**						
Handgun		862	55%	498	32%	1,360	86%
Handgun - Automatic		12	>1%	6	>1	18	1%
Revolver		33	2%	21	1%	54	3%
Long Gun		63	4%	55	3%	118	8%
Other Firearms		20	2%	6	>1%	26	2%
Totals:		**990**	**63%**	**586**	**37%**	**1,576**	**100%**

Table 14: Full Descriptives – Beat Comparisons for Arrest Incidents (n=2,644)

Reported Crimes	N	Intervention Beats		Non-Intervention Beats		Arrests All Beats	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Persons Arrested	**2,644**						
Total Unique Persons		400	20%	1,568	80%	1,968	100%
Total Arrests		430	21%	1,651	79%	2,081	100%
Type of Firearm (Unique)	**1,576**						
Handgun		281	18%	1,079	68%	1,360	86%
Handgun - Automatic		4	>1%	14	>1%	18	1%
Revolver		12	>1%	42	3%	54	3%
Long Gun		31	2%	87	5%	118	8%
Other Firearms		6	>1%	20	1%	26	2%
Totals:		**334**	**21%**	**1,242**	**79%**	**1,576**	**100%**

Methodology

The next portion of the document provides our initial count analysis of the overall goal and Objective 1a by looking at changes in gun crimes and gun recoveries between the pre- and post-intervention periods. Then we explore these findings more in depth by looking at the data using a difference-in-difference approach.

To be able to implement the in-depth evaluation, we first defined the unit of analysis and the outcomes of interest, based on the definitions for the overall goal and Objective 1 in the PDE.

The main unit of analysis will be the beat, as that is the geographical level at which the intervention was defined. In additional analyses we also consider the district as the unit of analysis. For each beat, we focus then on three key outcomes: gun crimes per month, total arrests per month, and unique guns recovered per month. The beats targeted by the intervention are considered the "*treatment beats*", while the remaining ones are considered to be the "*control beats*". The "*intervention period*" is defined as September 2018 through February 2020, while the "*pre-intervention period*" goes from September 2016 through February 2018.

To assess the effect of the interventions associated with PSN, we followed a difference-in-differences approach. In practice, this means that we are estimating the effect of the PSN intervention by considering the evolution, over time, of the outcomes of interest in the targeted beats, while also accounting for the trends that are present in the county as a whole during that time period. Appendix B provides a more detailed and technical description of the methodology we are using.

Results

The standard set for achievement of the overall goal was a reduction in the number of reported crimes involving the use of guns in the most violent neighborhoods by 5% during 18 months of the PSN intervention (September 2018 through February 2020) compared to an 18-month period prior to the start of PSN (September 2016 through F.

As illustrated in Table 15, based on a count of unique cases, the overall goal was achieved as gun-related crime decreased by 10.4% in the target beats and 11.7% in the target districts during the PSN intervention. At the same time, gun-related crime in Prince George's County declined by 3.8%.

The standard for achievement of Objective 1a was an increase of 5% in recovery of firearms in the target neighborhoods and from priority offenders. Looking at gun recoveries, we note these declined by 8.0% in the target beats, 17.5% in the target districts, and 4.5% in the county as a whole. This result may be due in part to the decrease in gun-related crime described above.

A more in-depth analysis of trends in crime and gun recovery within and outside the target beats follows. That analysis suggests that the changes shown in Table 15 may not be related to the PSN initiative.

Table 15: Changes in Gun-related Crime and Gun Recoveries

Gun Related Crime				
Geographic Area	Number of Gun-related Crimes		Decrease in Gun-related Crimes	% Decrease in Gun-related Crimes
	Pre-PSN	PSN		
Prince George's County	2,031	1,954	77	3.8%
Target districts	1,056	932	124	11.7%
Target beats	444	398	46	10.4%
Guns Recovered				
Geographic Area	Number of Guns Recovered		Change in Guns Recovered	% Change in Guns Recovered
	Pre-PSN	PSN		
Prince George's County	806	770	-36	-4.5%
Target districts	462	381	-81	-17.5%
Target beats	174	160	-14	-8.0%

Monthly Averages in the Outcomes of Interest

Before presenting the formal results of the difference-in-difference analysis, it is useful to plot the data for each of the outcomes of interest. In the graphs below, we aggregate the outcomes by month and by type of beat (i.e., treatment vs. control).

The following figures (*see* Figure 1; Figure 2; and Figure 3) display the monthly average number of gun crimes, arrests, and unique guns recovered, respectively, for both control and treatment beats.

Overall, there does not seem to be a clear trend in either treatment or control beats during either the pre- or the post-intervention period. The two more striking aspects are the wide month-to-month variability observed in the data in both types of beats and the very clear differences in crime incidents between treatment and control beats.

Figure 1: Monthly Average Number of Gun Crimes for Control and Treatment Beats

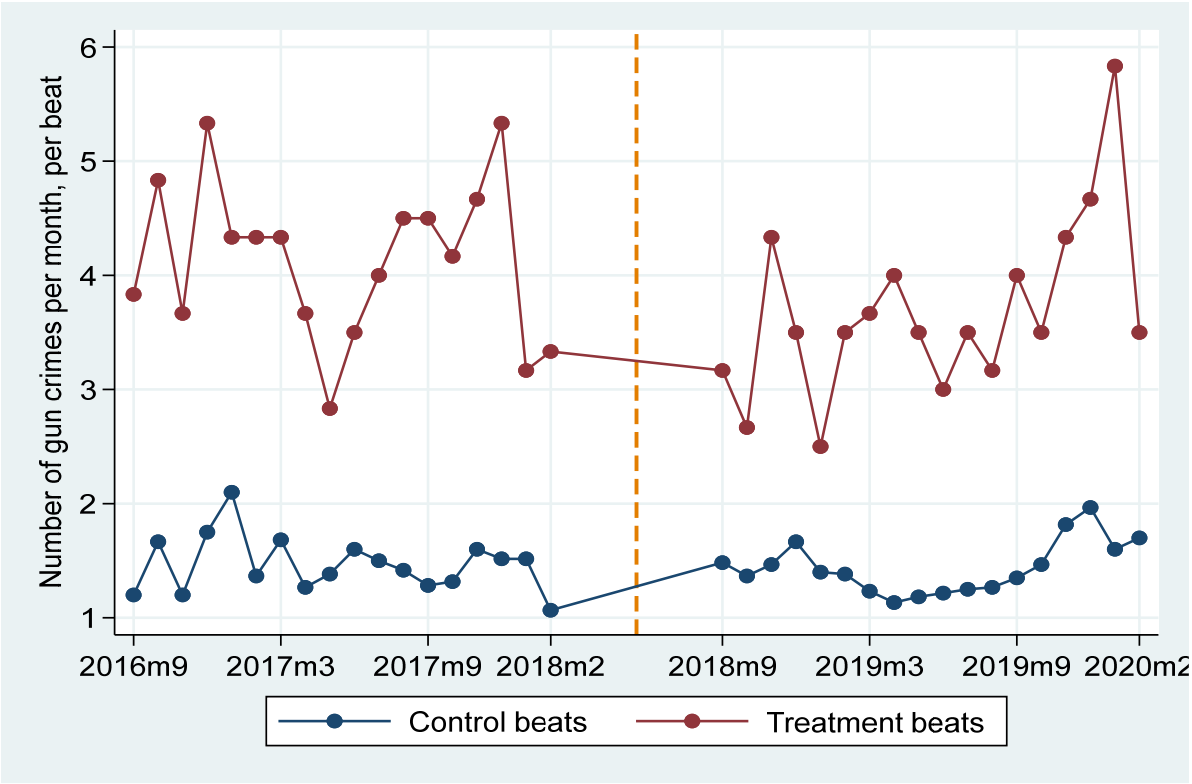


Figure 2: Monthly Average Number of Arrests for Control and Treatment Beats

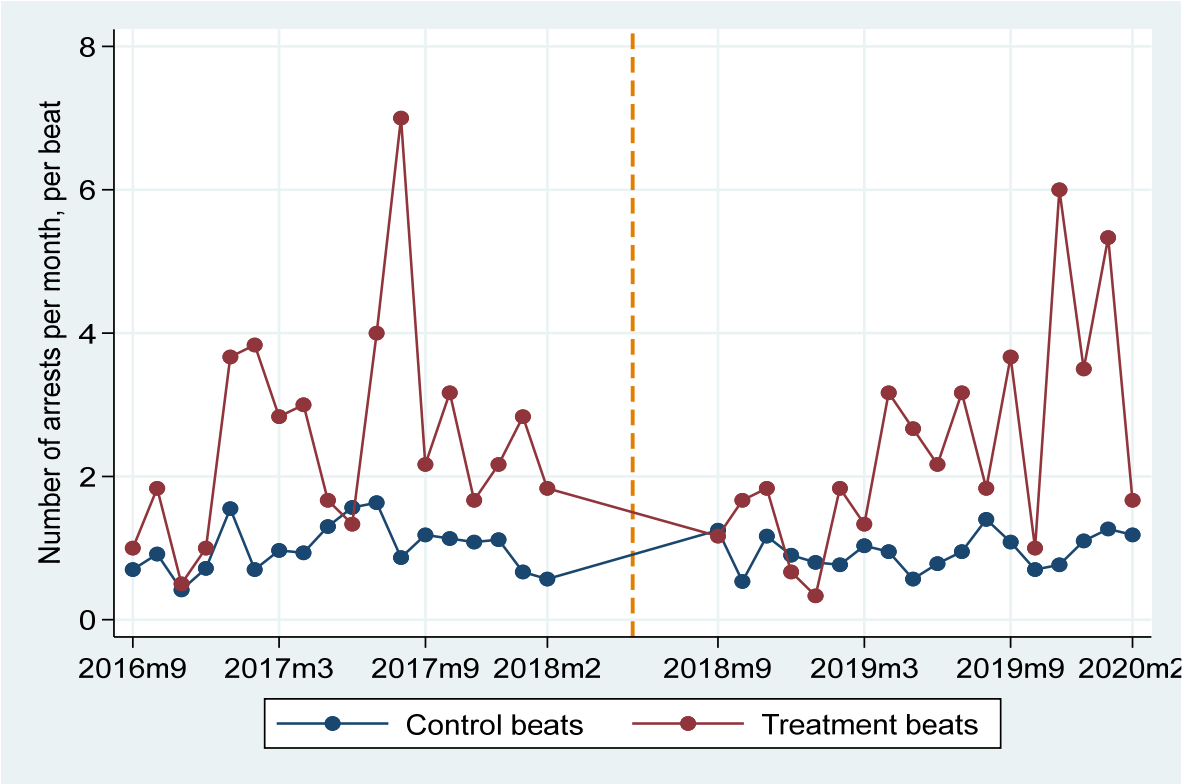
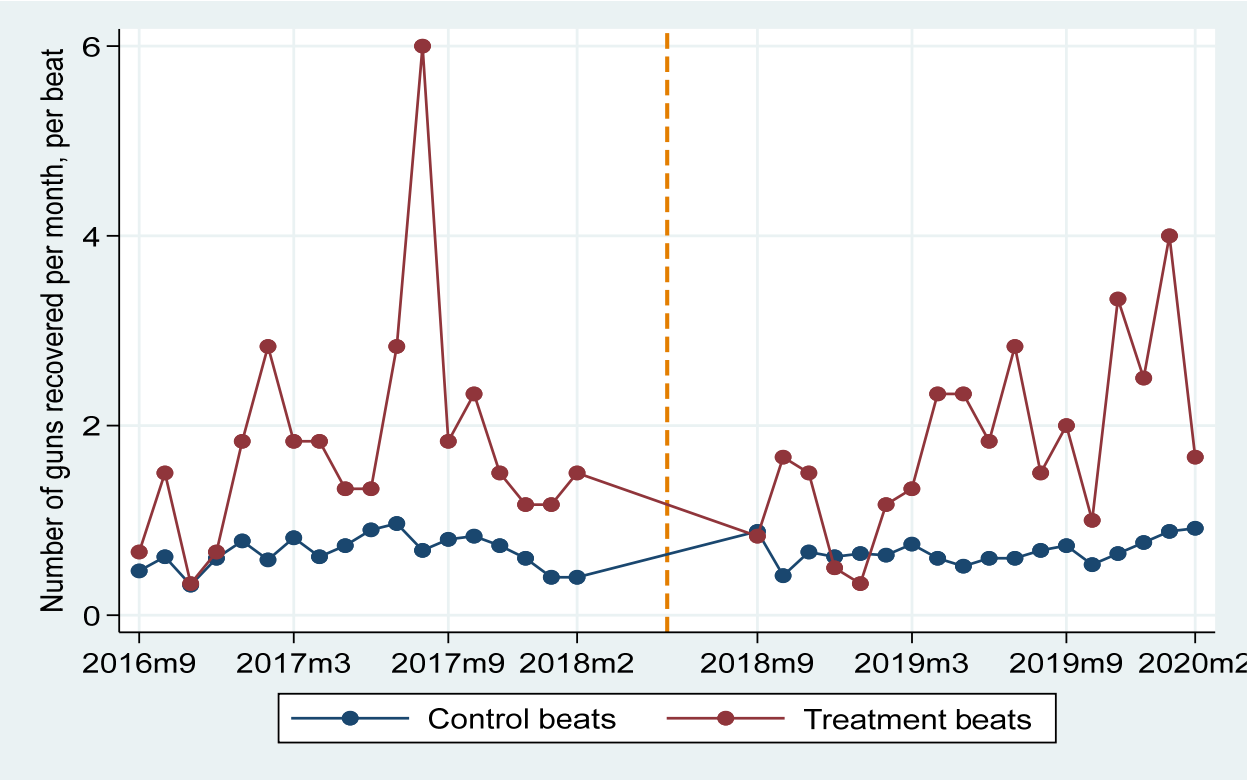


Figure 3: Monthly Average Recovered (Unique) Guns for Control and Treatment Beats



Results from Difference-in-Differences Estimates

In this section, we present the results of the formal statistical analysis, in accordance with the methodology described above and the more technical details outlined in Appendix B.

Table 16 shows the results for the first outcome of interest, gun crimes per month, when the analysis is conducted at the beat level. The key variable of interest to assess the effect of PSN on the outcome is the interaction between the target beats and the post-intervention period (3rd row). Columns (1) to (3) present the results for different regressions, where we progressively add more controls; Column (4) presents the results under an alternative estimation method that is typically used when the outcome of interest cannot take negative values.

The results are similar across all columns and suggest that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant decrease in gun crimes per month. However, as we detail below, there are many factors and data limitations that can potentially bias our results.

Table 16: Results for Gun Crimes Per Month

Variables	(1) Gun crimes per month	(2) Gun crimes per month	(3) Gun crimes per month	(4) Gun crimes per month (Tobit)
Target beat	2.661***	2.661***	2.153***	2.313***
	(0.223)	(0.222)	(0.462)	(0.493)
Intervention period	-0.027	0.462	0.462**	0.679**
	(0.087)	(0.336)	(0.205)	(0.305)
(Target beat)*(Intervention period)	-0.418	-0.418	-0.418	-0.421
	(0.319)	(0.317)	(0.276)	(0.283)
Observations	2,376	2,376	2,376	2,376
R-squared	0.107	0.120	0.613	
Month-year fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beat fixed effects	No	No	Yes	Yes

Robust standard errors in parentheses.
*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1

Table 17 shows the results for monthly arrests. As with gun crimes, the results for the interaction term in row 3 suggest that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant decrease in this outcome, with the results being very similar across all columns.

Table 17: Results for Arrests Per Month

	(1) Arrests per month	(2) Arrests per month	(3) Arrests per month	(4) Arrests per month (Tobit)
Target beat	1.527***	1.527***	1.713***	3.221***
	(0.342)	(0.339)	(0.607)	(0.957)
Intervention period	-0.045	0.509	0.509*	1.967***
	(0.100)	(0.365)	(0.303)	(0.709)
(Target beat)*(Intervention period)	-0.094	-0.094	-0.094	-0.172
	(0.448)	(0.442)	(0.435)	(0.568)
Observations	2,376	2,376	2,376	2,376
R-squared	0.030	0.047	0.300	
Month-year fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beat fixed effects	No	No	Yes	Yes

Robust standard errors in parentheses.
*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1

Table 18 shows the results for monthly recoveries of unique guns. As with the previous outcomes, the results in row 3 suggest that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant change in this outcome, and results are again similar across all columns.

Table 18: Results for Unique Guns Recovered Per Month

	(1) Guns recovered per month	(2) Guns recovered per month	(3) Guns recovered per month	(4) Guns recovered per month (Tobit)
Target beat	1.147***	1.147***	1.280***	2.205***
	(0.257)	(0.252)	(0.405)	(0.640)
Intervention period	0.014	0.500**	0.500**	1.545***
	(0.058)	(0.247)	(0.200)	(0.469)
(Target beat)*(Intervention period)	-0.005	-0.005	-0.005	-0.133
	(0.318)	(0.312)	(0.307)	(0.397)
Observations	2,376	2,376	2,376	2,376
R-squared	0.048	0.065	0.343	
Month-year fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beat fixed effects	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Robust standard errors in parentheses.
*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1

The results we obtain differ when the statistical analysis uses the monthly averages at the district level as the unit of observation (rather the beat level). However, as outlined in Appendix B, the analysis at the district level is particularly problematic, as one of the key methodological assumptions is violated, and therefore the resulting estimates are unreliable.

Limitations

The estimates presented in the previous section suffer from multiple limitations that are very likely to bias the results we obtain, which should therefore be taken, at most, as merely weakly suggestive. The limitations come from four main factors:

1. The sample we are using is missing 1,091 cases. This is a very large number of missing data points, given that the sample we use for the graphs and the regressions presented in earlier sections include fewer than 4,000 unique cases. Unless the missing cases are completely random, this would bias the results we obtain.

2. The district reorganization in July 2019 led to substantial boundary changes at the beat level (and, to a lesser degree, also at the district level). These changes meant that we had to make a series of assumptions (outlined in Appendix B) which are also likely to introduce biases into the data, which in turn would then bias our estimates.

3. The fact that treatment and control beats are so different in baseline outcomes (as illustrated by the monthly graphs in Figures 1 to 3) is a significant concern, as the key assumption of an impact evaluation is that we have an appropriate counterfactual to rely on.[26] This, too, is likely to bias our estimates.

4. During the presentation of this draft report, PGPD clarified that ultimately, the intervention overall was less focused on the specific target beats, but on diffusion of efforts throughout the target districts.

5. Finally, it is also plausible that the trends we observe are being influenced by external factors, such as very local economic conditions.

The results of the two remaining subsections of Objective 1 (b and c) are detailed below.

b. Increase number of repeat violent offenders indicted for illegal gun possession by 3% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018; and

c. Increase number of gun-related cases with a guilty plea or going to trial by 3% during September 2018 to August 2019 compared to September 2017 to August 2018.

In order to assess these two objectives, we selected cases in the intervention districts (3, 4 and 8) in which there was an arrest and the individual was included in the CJIS data. Then for objective 1b, we selected cases that included a possession charge and involved an individual that had been previously convicted of a violent offense. This reduced the sample down to 225 cases.

As noted in Table 19 below, the PSN project did not meet the desired objective of increasing the number of repeat violent offenders indicted for illegal gun possession in Circuit Court by 3%. We reviewed the results in two ways. The results indicate that the number of cases where the defendant was indicted declined from pre- to post-intervention – from 81% to 47%. Given this finding, we excluded the cases pursued by the USAO's office from the analysis as these charges are generally nolle prosed at the District Court level. Here we see the cases indicted post-intervention is now at 54% compared to 83% in the pre-intervention period.

[26] A related point is that the beats targeted by the intervention were not random, which further increases the likelihood that the control group will not be able to provide an appropriate counterfactual to what would have happened in the absence of an intervention.

Table 19: Results for Repeat Violent Offenders Indicted for Gun Possession (n=225)

Status	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Indicted in Circuit Court	95	81%	51	47%
Not Indicted in Circuit Court	22	18%	57	53%
Total:	117	100%	108	100%
Excluding USAO Cases (N=208)				
Indicted in Circuit Court	95	83%	51	54%
Not Indicted in Circuit Court	19	17%	43	46%
Total:	114	100%	94	100%

Objective 1c seeks to increase the number of gun-related cases with a guilty plea or going to trial by 3% during the post-intervention period.[27] We selected cases where the charge included a possession or other gun charge, and whether the defendant plead or was found guilty and/or that the case was resolved or pending in Circuit Court within the pre-and post-intervention periods. This resulted in a sample of 441 cases.

For this measure, if all charges were nolle prosed, or if the case was resolved at the District Court level without a conviction, then the objective was not met. If there was a guilty (or PBJ or STET) verdict on any charge contained within a gun related case and/or the case proceeded to Circuit Court, then that was noted as meeting the objective.

As noted in Table 20 below, the PSN project did not meet the objective. Again, we reviewed the results in two ways including and excluding cases pursued by the USAO. The results indicate that the number of cases where the defendant pled guilty or went to trial declined from pre- to post-intervention – from 65% to 47%. Excluding the USAO cases, the difference of cases meeting the objective post-intervention is now at 55% compared to 68% in the pre-intervention period.

[27] The pre- and post-intervention periods were for 1 year only -- from September 2017 to August 2018 and from September 2018 through August 2019, respectively; this shorter period was to accommodate the time needed for cases to resolve.

Table 20: Results for Gun-Related Cases Resolved Guilty Plea Or Went to Trial (n=441)

Status	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pled Guilty or Went To Trial in Circuit Court	97	65%	138	47%
All Charges Nolle Prosed or Remained in District Court	53	35%	153	53%
Total:	150	100%	291	100%
Excluding USAO Cases (N=391)				
Pled Guilty or Went To Trial in Circuit Court	97	68%	138	55%
All Charges Nolle Prosed or Remained in District Court	45	32%	111	45%
Total:	142	100%	249	100%

One of the primary limitations to these findings is the data source utilized for this objective. Initially we had hoped to obtain data from the SAO's case management database, but unfortunately, that data was not readily available. So we used CJIS data for these results. Unfortunately, when comparing the PGPD arrest data – specifically dates of arrest – with CJIS dates of arrest -- there is often disagreement. It was a challenge to identify the specific event we were interested in in the CJIS data, even after we added 7 days before and after the PGPD arrest date to try to capture the event in the CJIS data. However, after we reviewed the data more fully, we realized that it appears that sometimes the CJIS dates of arrest change to reflect later events – such as an appeal or warrant dates, rather than retaining the original arrest dates. To ensure that we had the correct event, we reviewed the cases that did not have any event identified in the CJIS data, and then looked up the case or cases in Maryland Judiciary Case Search. It is possible that some cases were not identified in this process.

Objective 2

The second PSN objective was to remove from the community Priority Repeat Gun Offenders. The following measures of achievement were identified for this objective:

a. By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), arrest/charge all repeat gun offenders identified as priority at the beginning of the intervention (September 2018)

b. By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), obtain a guilty plea or go to trial for each Priority Repeat Gun Offender who is arrested/charged

c. By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), achieve incarceration of each Priority Repeat Gun Offender who is arrested/charged

At the beginning of the initiative, PGPD had identified 25 individuals as Priority Repeat Gun Offenders. Because these offenders' past contributions to violent crime and repeated gun offenses, the thinking at the start of the project was that reductions in gun violence would be

achieved only if all 25 were rearrested, convicted, and re-incarcerated. As the initiative progressed, PGPD determined that some of these individuals were exhibiting changed behavior and could remain in the community.

As documented in the PGPD report contained in **Appendix C**, all 25 individuals were fully investigated. As of December 2018, 17 of the 25 Priority Repeat Gun Offenders were no longer in the community, including 15 who were serving sentences or incarcerated awaiting trial and 2 who were deceased; 4 were on supervised probation; and 4 were no longer persons of interest as they had not engaged in criminal behavior. The last group included one individual whom PGPD believed to be fully rehabilitated. Thus, although the original measures were not achieved, the initiative was considered successful.

Objective 3

The third objective of the PSN initiative was to improve the quality of cases against gun offenders. The measure of achievement of this objective was a targeted 15% increase in gun-related cases rated as high quality among those prepared during the intervention compared to those prepared prior to the intervention.

Process

The researchers could find no prior studies of the quality of criminal court cases. As described in the report contained in **Appendix D**, a panel comprising representatives of PGPD, the State's Attorney's Office, and the research team was formed to identify indicators of case quality. Potential indicators were identified, and the researchers collected data from electronic case files in the State's Attorney's Office to test whether the indicators shed light on case quality. A pilot test was conducted on a random sample of 25 gun-related cases handled in Districts 3 and 4 between September 2016 and September 2017, prior to the PSN project. Based on the pilot test, the data elements to be considered were revised and expanded. The researchers then collected data on a random sample of 75 gun-related cases handled in Districts 3 and 4 between September 2016 and September 2017.

The researchers reviewed the data to identify case characteristics that were associated with favorable results for the prosecution. The defendant entering a guilty plea, being found guilty at trial, or receiving probation before judgement or the case being forwarded for federal prosecution were considered to be favorable prosecution results.

Based on the report in **Appendix D**, which used preliminary data for the 75 pre-intervention cases, the following types of cases were thought to be more likely to have a favorable result: cases with many charges, cases with a test fire certificate in the case file, cases in which the gun was found on the defendant, and cases in which plea deals were offered were offered. On the other hand, cases in which all the charges were for illegal possession of a firearm or ammunition were associated with a lower likelihood of favorable results than cases in which other crimes were also charged.

Because the researchers had not consistently collected data on pre-trial release from the electronic case files in the State's Attorney's Office, they turned to the Maryland Judiciary's public online database, Maryland Judiciary Case Search, to obtain this information. Through that effort, the researchers determined that the charge data that had been collected from the electronic case files at the State's Attorney's Office sometimes did not match the final charges filed with the courts. This discovery occurred shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic, which precluded the researchers from returning to the State's Attorney's Office to collect data on either the 75 pre-intervention cases or the random sample of 75 cases that were handled during the PSN initiative. The solution was for the researchers to obtain as much case data as possible for both the pre-intervention and post-intervention cases from other sources, such as Maryland Judiciary Case Search, PGPD and CJIS. Table 21 shows the source(s) for each data element collected for the case quality review.

Table 21: Sources for Case Quality Review Data Elements

Data Element	Data Source	
	Pre-intervention cases	**Post-intervention cases**
Arrest date	PGPD	PGPD
Total number of charges Number of charges by type of gun crime Number of charges for other crimes Number of charges resolved by type of resolution Case resolution date	CJIS; CLUE	CJIS; CLUE; Maryland Judiciary Case Search
Pretrial release status Pretrial release date	CLUE	CLUE; Maryland Judiciary Case Search
Does defendant have a criminal history?	CJIS; Maryland Judiciary Case Search	CJIS
Number of prior convictions Number of prior gun crime convictions		Maryland Judiciary Case Search
Test fire certificate in file? Gun found on person? Plea deal offered?	SAO cases files	SAO cases files

Arrest date was available for all cases from PGPD files. Data on charges and resolution of charges was available for most cases from CJIS. The second source of charge and charge resolution data was CLUE. If the data were not available from either of these sources, a manual search was made using Maryland Judiciary Case Search. Note that two cases in the pre-intervention sample were expunged prior to collection of data on charges and charge resolution and were not included in the final analysis.

Data on pretrial release were obtained from CLUE for the pre-intervention cases and a few of the post-intervention cases. Pretrial release data for most of the post-intervention cases were looked up in Maryland Judiciary Case Search.

Data on prior convictions were obtained primarily from CJIS. Prior conviction data for eight and ten pre- and post-intervention cases, respectively, were collected manually from Maryland Judiciary Case Search.

For pre-intervention cases, data on test fire certificates, whether the gun was found physically on the person, or whether a plea deal was offered was collected by the IGSR researchers from the State's Attorney's electronic case files. For post-intervention cases, the PSN attorney in the State's Attorney's Office compiled these data from the electronic case files.

Although the information had been sought for the pre-intervention cases, the researchers decided to forego collecting the following data elements for the post-intervention cases: numbers of victims and witnesses; numbers of victim and witness statements; victim and witness demographics; test fire certificate date; gun swabbed and tested for DNA?; date plea deal offered; plea deal accepted?; date pled guilty; plea deal sentence offered. These elements were dropped for several reasons. Few cases had victims or witnesses, and numbers of victims or witnesses and victim or witness statements did not appear to have much bearing on case resolution. Likewise dates of test fire certificates and plea deals did not shed light on the case results. Data on victim and witness demographics, whether DNA swabbing or testing occurred, and what sentence was offered by the plea deal often could not be found in the electronic case file. Whether the case yielded a guilty plea was viewed as a good proxy for whether a plea deal was accepted, and the case resolution date was essentially equivalent to the date of the guilty plea.

Comparison of Pre- and Post-intervention Samples

For the case quality review, the pre-intervention sample was randomly selected from all gun-related arrests between September 1, 2016, and September 1, 2017.[28] The post-intervention sample was randomly selected from all gun-related arrests between September 1, 2018, and September 1, 2019. The post-intervention sampling yielded more cases charged only in District Court and fewer cases that moved to Circuit Court than did the pre-intervention sampling (see Table 22), but the difference was not statistically significant (X^2=1.80, d.f.=1, p > 0.05). This means that the differences in where the cases were charged could have occurred by chance and do not represent a difference in the pre- and post-intervention population of cases from which the samples were taken.

Table 22: Highest Prince George's County Court Sample Cases Charged

Court	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
District	25	33.3%	33	44.0%
Circuit	50	66.7%	42	56.0%
Total:	75	100.0%	75	100.0%

[28] The analysis revealed that several of the arrests in the pre-intervention sample had actually taken place earlier in 2016, with the earliest occurring in March. The researchers included the cases in the analysis because they do not believe that the earlier cases will bias the results.

The researchers also compared two characteristics of cases that could potentially affect their outcomes. These characteristics are the extent to which defendants have prior convictions and whether the crime was one in which a gun was found physically on the defendant or was recovered elsewhere, such as in the trunk or on the floorboard of a vehicle (or not at all). The researchers reasoned that cases in which a defendant has prior convictions and cases in which a gun was found physically on them may be more likely to have a resolution favorable to the prosecution.

Table 23 compares prior convictions between the pre- and post-intervention samples. The table shows the number of cases in which the defendant had no prior convictions, prior conviction(s) for only non-gun crime(s), and prior conviction(s) for gun crime(s). The data for the two samples are very similar. About two-thirds of defendants had no prior convictions. Each sample included 25 defendants with prior convictions. Among those with convictions, the pre-intervention sample has three more defendants with prior convictions for gun crimes and three fewer defendants with prior convictions for only non-gun crimes. Once again, this difference is not statistically significant (X^2=1.80, d.f.=1, p > 0.05), which means that it could have occurred by chance and does not necessarily represent a difference between the pre-intervention and post-intervention case populations from which the samples were drawn.

Table 23: Prior Convictions Among Pre- and Post-Intervention Defendants

Prior Conviction Status	Cases with Specified Prior Conviction Status			
	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
No prior convictions	48	65.8%	50	66.7%
Prior conviction(s) for only non-gun crime(s)	15	20.5%	18	24.0%
Prior conviction(s) for gun crime(s)	10	13.7%	7	9.3%
Total:	73	100.0%	75	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases

Table 24 compares whether a gun was found physically on the defendant in the pre- and post-intervention sample cases. More of the post-intervention cases involved a gun found physically on the defendant, but the difference was not statistically significant (X^2=3.48, d.f.=1, p > 0.05).

Table 24: Gun Recovery in Pre- and Post-Intervention Sample Cases

Gun Recovery	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
Gun found on defendant	12	16.4%	22	29.3%
Gun not found on defendant	61	83.6%	53	70.7%
Total:	73	100.0%	75	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases

Overall, it appears that the samples are similar in terms of where cases were charged, prior convictions of defendants, and whether a gun was found on the defendant. It seems that these case characteristics are unlikely to explain any differences in results between the pre- and post-intervention cases that are revealed by the analysis.

Case Status, Charges, and Charge Resolution

For the pre-intervention sample, 92.0% of the cases had been resolved in either District Court or Circuit Court in Prince George's County prior to data collection for this report (see Table 25). One case had been transferred to federal court, in one case the defendant had died, and two cases were still active. Two of the pre-intervention cases were expunged prior to data collection. For the post-intervention cases, only 69.3% had been resolved in a Prince George's County Court prior to data collection for this report. Nine of the post-intervention cases had been transferred to federal court, while 13 were still active. In one post-intervention case, the defendant had died. Note that several of the post-intervention cases that are still open are appeals.

Table 25: Status of Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases

Status	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Resolved in Prince George's Court	69	92.0%	52	69.3%
Transferred to Federal Court	1	1.3%	9	12.0%
Defendant died prior to resolution	1	1.3%	1	1.3%
Still active	2	2.7%	13	17.3%
Expunged	2	2.7%	0	0.0%
Total:	75	100.0%	75	100.0%

Data on charges were available for all the pre-intervention cases except the two expunged cases and for all the post-intervention cases. Among the 73 pre-intervention cases for which charge data were available, a total of 331 charges were filed, which is an average of 4.5 charges per case. Among the 75 post-intervention cases, 387 charges were filed, which is an average of 5.2 charges per case. Table 26 shows how the charges were distributed across cases.

For both the pre-intervention and post-intervention groups, very few cases involved only 1 charge or more than 10 charges. For both groups, roughly 9 out of 10 cases had between 2 and 10 charges filed. For the pre-intervention group, 24.7% of cases involved more than 5 charges (19.2% + 5.5%). For the post-intervention group, that percentage grew to 38.7% (34.7% + 4.0%).

Table 26: Total Number of Charges in Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases

Number of Charges	Cases with Specified Number of Charges			
	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
1	5	6.8%	3	4.0%
2 to 10	64	87.7%	69	92.0%
2 to 5	50	68.5%	43	57.3%
6 to10	14	19.2%	26	34.7%
>10	4	5.5%	3	4.0%
Total:	73	100.0%	75	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases

The researchers divided charges filed among the sample cases into three categories: (1) possession of illegal firearms and ammunition, (2) other gun crimes, and (3) non-gun crimes. Table 27 shows the firearms-related charges classified by the researchers as possession of illegal firearms/ammunition. Table 28 and Table 29 show the charges classified as other gun crimes and non-gun crimes, respectively. Six of the listed charges are felonies, including one of the possession charges, four of the other gun crimes, and one of the non-gun crimes. Any charge encountered by the researchers that is not included in these tables of firearms-related charges was classified as a non-gun crime. Most commonly these other charges involved illegal drugs.

Table 27: Firearm-Related Charges Classified Possession of Illegal Firearms/Ammunition

Article*	Section	Description of Charge**
CR	4-102	Possession of a firearm on school property
CR	4-203	Wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun
CR	4-303	Possession/transport of an assault weapon
CR	4-405	Possession/use of a machine gun for an aggressive purpose
CR	5-622[29]	Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (FELONY)
PS	5-133	Possession of a regulated firearm by specified prohibited persons
PS	5-138[30]	Possession/sale of a stolen firearm
PS	5-143	Possession of an unregistered regulated firearm
PS	5-144	Illegal sale of a regulated firearm
PS	5-203	Illegal possession of a short-barreled rifle or shotgun
PS	5-205	Possession of a rifle/shotgun by specified prohibited persons
PS	5-206	Possession of a rifle/shotgun by a person convicted of a violent crime or certain other specified crimes
PS	5-314	Wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun while under the influence of alcohol or drugs

*CR = Criminal Law; PS = Public Safety; NR = Natural Resources
**Charges followed by (FELONY) are felonies; all other charges listed are misdemeanors.

Table 28: Charges Classified as Other Gun Crimes

Article*	Section	Description of Charge**
CR	3-403	Robbery with a deadly weapon (FELONY)
CR	3-405(c)	Armed carjacking (FELONY)
CR	4-103	Removal of a firearm from a law enforcement officer (FELONY)
CR	4-104	Leaving a loaded firearm accessible to a child
CR	4-204	Use of a firearm in a felony or crime of violence
CR	4-305	Manufacture/sale etc. of a detachable magazine
CR	4-306	Use of an assault weapon in a felony or crime of violence
CR	5-621	Possession/use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime (FELONY)
CR	6-306	Removal, defacing or obliterating a firearm serial number
PS	5-142	Obliterating, removing, changing, or altering a firearm manufacturer's identification mark

*CR = Criminal Law; PS = Public Safety; NR = Natural Resources
**Charges followed by (FELONY) are felonies; all other charges listed are misdemeanors.

[29] Formerly Article 27 §291A
[30] Formerly Article 27 §446

Table 29: Charges Classified as Non-Gun Crimes

Article*	Section	Description of Charge**
CR	3-405(b)	Carjacking
CR	4-101	Wearing/carrying a dangerous weapon other than gun
CR	4-106	Wearing bulletproof body armor during a violent or drug crime
CR	4-107	Use, possession, or purchase of bulletproof body armor by a prohibited person
CR	4-503	Manufacture, sale, or possession of explosive, incendiary, or toxic material with intent to create a destructive device (FELONY)
CR	9-412	Delivering contraband to a place of confinement (e.g., prison or jail)
NR	10-410	Illegal hunting on Sunday

*CR = Criminal Law; PS = Public Safety; NR = Natural Resources
**Charges followed by (FELONY) are felonies; all other charges listed are misdemeanors.

The researchers examined how charges were distributed across the three categories. (Table 30). The distribution shows that, on average, post-intervention cases had more charges for possession of illegal firearms and ammunition and fewer charges for other gun crimes and non-gun crimes than did the pre-intervention cases.

Table 30: Distribution of Charges Across Charge Categories Pre-Post-Intervention Cases

Charge Category	Charges in Specified Charge Category Pre-Intervention (73 cases*)		Post-Intervention (75 cases)	
	Number of Charges	Average Number of Charges per Case	Number of Charges	Average Number of Charges per Case
Illegal firearm/ammo possession	179	2.45	274	3.65
Other gun crimes	34	0.47	28	0.37
Non-gun crimes	118	1.62	85	1.13
Total	331	4.53	387	5.16

*Excludes 2 expunged cases

Table 31 provides a comparison of pre- and post-intervention cases by the combinations of charges levied. For the pre-intervention group, the most common combination of charges was illegal firearms/ammunition possession combined with non-gun crimes. This combination of charges was found for 30 of the pre-intervention cases (41.1%). For the post-intervention group, 20 cases (26.7%) had that combination of charges, but for a greater percentage of the post-intervention group (35 cases or 46.7%), the only charges in a case were for possession illegal firearm/ammunition.

Note that for one pre-intervention case and three post-intervention, the only charges were for non-gun crimes. While both samples were selected from cases identified by PGPD as gun-related cases, the firearms charges for these four cases were apparently dropped before the cases got to the courts in which the case was decided.

Table 31: Combinations of Charges by Types in Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases

Categories of Charges	Number of Cases with Specified Categories of Charges			
	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
Illegal firearm/ammo possession and non-gun crimes	30	41.1%	20	26.7%
Illegal firearm/ammo possession, only	23	31.5%	35	46.7%
Illegal firearm/ammo possession, other gun crimes, and non-gun crimes	12	16.4%	14	18.7%
Other gun crimes and non-gun crimes	4	5.5%	2	2.7%
Illegal firearm/ammo possession and other gun crimes	3	4.1%	1	1.3%
Non-gun crimes, only	1	1.4%	3	4.0%
Other gun crimes, only	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total:	73	100.0%	75	100.0%

*Excludes expunged cases

Table 32 shows the resolution of charges for cases that are not still active. For both the pre- and post-intervention groups, the most common type of resolution of charges was nolle prosequi not due to Federal prosecution. While guilty plea was the next most common resolution of charges for the pre-intervention group, this resolution was not as common for the post-intervention group. The second most common resolution of charges for the post-intervention group was nolle prosequi due to transfer for Federal prosecution. In the pre-intervention group, the five charges with the disposition of nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution are associated with one case that was transferred. The 49 charges in the post-intervention group with the disposition of nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution are associated with nine cases that were transferred, which is a substantial increase.

The distribution of charge resolutions may change, especially for the post-intervention group, once the still active cases are decided. But even if all 74 of the still-active charges in the post-intervention group were to be resolved by nolle prosequi not due to Federal prosecution, the post-intervention group would still have a lower rate of dispositions of nolle prosequi not due to Federal prosecution than the pre-intervention group.

Table 32: Resolution of Charges in Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases

Type of Disposition	Number of Charges with Specified Type of Resolution			
	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number**	Percent
Nolle prosequi not due to Federal prosecution	250	79.1%	215	68.7%
Guilty Plea	45	14.2%	25	8.0%
Death	5	1.6%	4	1.3%
Stet	5	1.6%	15	4.8%
Nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution	4	1.3%	49	15.7%
Dismissal	3	0.9%	0	0.0%
Found guilty at trial	2	0.6%	4	1.3%
Acquittal	1	0.3%	1	0.3%
Probation before judgement	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Total:	316	100.0%	313	100.0%

*Excludes 15 charges associated with the 2 pre-intervention cases that are still active
**Excludes 74 charges associated with the 13 post-intervention cases that are still active

Case Results

While Table 32 presents information on each of the charges associated with the sample cases under analysis, the table does not reveal the results for each case. For that, cases were assigned a result of favorable or unfavorable to the prosecution. Cases that were expunged, cases in which the defendant had died, and cases that were still active were excluded from the analysis.
A case result was considered favorable to the prosecution if any charge in the case had a disposition of "guilty plea", "found guilty at trial", "probation before judgement", or "nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution". All other case results were considered to be unfavorable to the prosecution.[31]

Table 33 shows the distribution of case results using these criteria. Note that the expunged cases, cases in which the defendant died, and cases that are still active were excluded from the analysis. These exclusions resulted in the inclusion of 70 pre-intervention and 61 post-intervention cases in the analysis of case results.

A little over half of the pre-intervention and post-intervention cases had results that were favorable to the prosecution. The differences between the two groups are not statistically significant (X^2=0.02, d.f.=1, p > 0.05). The distribution of results is subject to change, particularly for the post-intervention cases, once the still-active cases are decided.

[31] Unfavorable case results included cases in which all charges had the resolution of nolle prosequi (not due to Federal prosecution) as well as cases in which any charge had the resolution "acquittal" or "dismissal" or "stet" and no charge had the resolution "guilty plea", "found guilty at trial", or "probation before judgement".

Table 33: Results of Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases

Status	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number**	Percent
Favorable to Prosecution	37	52.9%	33	54.1%
Unfavorable to Prosecution	33	47.1%	28	45.9%
Total:	70	100.0%	61	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases, 1 case in which the defendant died, and 1 case that is still active
**Excludes 1 case in which the defendant died and 13 cases that are still active

The researchers also looked at results separately for District and Circuit Court cases. Table 34 shows the court in which cases were resolved. (This corresponds to the highest Prince George's court in which the case was charged. For cases transferred for Federal prosecution, they were considered to be resolved in whichever court, District or Circuit, was the last to handle the case in Prince George's County.)

Table 34: Highest Prince George's County Court Where Cases Were Resolved

Court	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
District	23	32.9%	29	52.5%
Circuit	47	67.1%	32	47.5%
Total:	70	100.0%	61	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases, 1 case in which the defendant died, and 1 case that is still active
**Excludes 1 case in which the defendant died and 13 cases that are still active

The results of cases resolved in District Court are shown in Table 35. For both the pre-intervention and post-intervention groups, favorable resolutions were less common in District Court than in Circuit Court. For the pre-intervention cases, the only favorable resolution in District Court was the one case that was transferred for Federal prosecution. The rate of favorable results in District Court is much higher for the post-intervention group than for the pre-intervention group, and the result is statistically significant.[32]

Table 35: Results Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases Resolved in District Court

Status	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Favorable to Prosecution	1	4.3%	10	34.5%
Unfavorable to Prosecution	22	95.7%	19	65.5%
Total:	23	100.0%	29	100.0%

The results of cases resolved in Circuit Court are shown in Table 36. The rates of favorable resolution of cases in Circuit Court was much higher than the rates in District Court for both the pre- and post-intervention cases. The rate for post-intervention cases was slightly lower than for pre-intervention cases, but the difference is not statistically significant (X^2=0.22, d.f.=1, p > 0.05).

[32] Because one of the expected cell values was less than 5, Fisher's exact test was used. The Fisher exact test statistic value is 0.0143. The result is significant at p < .05.

Table 36: Results Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases Resolved in Circuit Court

Status	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Favorable to Prosecution	36	76.6%	23	71.9%
Unfavorable to Prosecution	11	23.4%	9	28.1%
Total:	47	100.0%	32	100.0%

As discussed earlier, the researchers believed that cases in which the defendant had a prior conviction and cases in which a gun was found physically on the defendant may be more likely to have results favorable to the prosecution. These possibilities were examined for the pre- and post-intervention cases with results.

Table 37 shows the number and percentage of cases in which the defendant had prior convictions for the pre- and post-intervention cases, excluding cases that were expunged, are still active, or in which the defendant died. [33]

Table 37: Prior Convictions of Defendants in Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases with Results

Prior Conviction Status	Cases with Specified Prior Conviction Status			
	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
No prior convictions	47	67.1%	42	68.9%
Prior conviction(s) for only non-gun crime(s)	13	18.6%	14	23.0%
Prior conviction(s) for gun crime(s)	10	14.3%	5	8.2%
Total:	70	100.0%	61	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases, 1 case in which the defendant died, and 1 case that is still active
**Excludes 1 case in which the defendant died and 13 cases that are still active

For pre-intervention cases, the rate of results favorable to the prosecution for cases in which the defendant had a prior conviction (52.2%) is nearly identical to the rate for all pre-intervention cases presented earlier (52.9%). For post-intervention cases, however, a result favorable to the prosecution was obtained in 63.2% of cases in which the defendant had a prior conviction, compared to 54.1% for all the post-intervention cases with results (see Table 38).

Table 38: Case Results for Cases in Which the Defendant Had a Prior Conviction

Case Result	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Favorable to prosecution	12	52.2%	12	63.2%
Unfavorable to prosecution	11	47.8%	7	36.8%
Total:	23	100.0%	19	100.0%

[33] The table on prior convictions earlier in this report included all cases, except the two that were expunged.

Another case characteristic that may affect case resolution is whether a gun was found on the defendant. Table 39 shows the number and percentage of cases in which the gun was found on the person for the pre- and post-intervention cases, excluding cases that were expunged, are still active, or in which the defendant died.[34]

Table 39: Gun Recovery in Pre- and Post-Intervention Cases with Results

Gun Recovery	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Gun found on defendant	11	15.7%	19	31.1%
Gun not found on defendant	59	84.3%	42	68.9%
Total:	70	100.0%	61	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases, 1 case in which the defendant died, and 1 case that is still active
**Excludes 1 case in which the defendant died and 13 cases that are still active

Table q shows that 72.7% of pre-intervention cases in which a gun was found on the defendant had a result favorable to the prosecution. This is much higher than the 52.9% of all pre-intervention cases that had a result favorable to the prosecution. Post-intervention cases in which a gun was found on the defendant had a result favorable to the prosecution 57.9% of the time, which is only slightly higher than the rate of 54.1% of all post-intervention cases.

Table 40: Case Result for Cases in Which a Gun Was Found on the Defendant

Case Result	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Favorable to prosecution	8	72.7%	11	57.9%
Unfavorable to prosecution	3	27.3%	8	42.1%
Total:	11	100.0%	19	100.0%

Indicators of Case Quality

Whether a defendant has prior convictions or the firearm was found physically on the person are characteristics of the case. In contrast, whether a firearm test fire certificate is found in the case file reflects on the quality of the case in two respects. First, the Assistant State's Attorney assigned to a case may not pursue obtaining a test fire certificate from the police if the case is viewed as weak from the start and there is likely to be a decision not to prosecute. Second, if a test fire certificate is in the case file, it reflects thoroughness on the part of both the police and the attorney.[35] The preliminary analysis of case results for the pre-intervention sample presented in Appendix D showed that cases with a test fire certificate in the file were more likely to result in an outcome favorable to the prosecution.

As shown in Table 41, the proportion of cases for which a test fire certificate was found in the case file was significantly higher for the post-intervention cases than for the pre-intervention cases (X^2=9.92, d.f.=1, $p < 0.01$). (Note this table includes all cases in the two samples, except

[34]The table on gun recovery earlier in this report included still-active cases.

[35] For a few gun charges, it is not necessary for the prosecution to show that the gun is operable, so there may be a legitimate reason for a test fire certificate to be missing from the case file. The researchers did not attempt to determine how many cases involved only gun charges for which a test fire certificate is required.

the two pre-intervention cases that were expunged.) The portion of cases with test fire certificates in the files was less than half for pre-intervention cases and nearly three-quarters for post-intervention cases.

Table 41: Test Fire Certificate in Case File

Test Fire Certificate	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number	Percent
Found in case file	34	46.6%	54	72.0%
Not found in case file	39	53.4%	21	28.0%
Total:	73	100.0%	75	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases

Table 42 shows the same data for the cases that have results, and Table 43 examines the relationship between the presence of Test Fire Certificates in the file and case results.

Table 42: Test Fire Certificate in Case File of Cases with Results

Test Fire Certificate	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number**	Percent
Found in case file	33	47.1%	42	68.9%
Not found in case file	37	52.9%	19	31.1%
Total:	70	100%	61	100%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases, 1 case in which the defendant died, and 1 case that is still active
**Excludes 1 case in which the defendant died and 13 cases that are still active

As presented earlier in this report, overall results were favorable to the prosecution in 52.9% of pre-intervention cases and 54.1% of post-intervention cases. As shown in Table 43, for cases with test fire certificates in the case file, the percentages increase to 69.7% and 59.5%, respectively. These data appear to confirm the findings of the preliminary analysis of pre-intervention cases. While the presence of a test fire certificate does not guarantee a favorable result for the prosecution, it appears to be associated with a stronger case.

Table 43: Case Results for Cases with Test Fire Certificate in Case File

Case Result	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Favorable to prosecution	23	69.7%	25	59.5%
Unfavorable to prosecution	10	30.3%	17	40.5%
Total:	33	100.0%	42	100.0%

The preliminary analysis of case results for the pre-intervention sample contained in Appendix D also showed that cases with documentation in the case files of a plea deal being offered were more likely to result in an outcome favorable to the prosecution. In comparing plea deal offers for pre-intervention and post-intervention cases, in addition to excluding cases that were expunged, cases in which the defendant died, and cases still active in Prince George's courts, the researchers excluded cases referred to Federal court because plea deals in Prince George's County would not have been offered in these cases. Table 44 shows the comparison for the remaining 69 pre-intervention cases and 52 post-intervention cases.

Table 44: Documentation of Plea Deal Offer in Case File

Documentation of Plea Deal Offer	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number*	Percent	Number**	Percent
Found in case file	38	55.1%	28	53.8%
Not found in case file	31	44.9%	24	46.2%
Total:	69	100.0%	52	100.0%

*Excludes 2 expunged cases, 1 case in which the defendant died, 1 case that is still active, and 1 case transferred to Federal court

**Excludes 1 case in which the defendant died, 13 cases that are still active, and 9 cases transferred to Federal court

The percentage of sample cases for which documentation of a plea deal offer was found in the case file is slightly lower for the post-intervention group compared to the pre-intervention group, but the difference is not statistically significant (X^2=0.02, d.f.=1, p >0.05)[36].

Table 45 examines the relationship between the documentation of a plea deal offer in the case file and case results. Again, while overall results were favorable to the prosecution in 52.9% of pre-intervention cases and 54.1% of post-intervention cases overall, for cases with documentation of a plea deal offer in the case file, the percentages increased to 92.1% and 78.6%, respectively. While the existence of a plea deal offer does not guarantee a favorable result for the prosecution, it appears to provide evidence of a stronger case.

Table 45: Case Result for Cases with Documentation of Plea Deal Offer in Case File

Case Result	Pre-Intervention		Post-Intervention	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Favorable to prosecution	35	92.1%	22	78.6%
Unfavorable to prosecution	3	7.9%	6	21.4%
Total:	38	100.0%	28	100.0%

Conclusions

The researchers were unable to develop a single measure of case quality that could be used to rate the pre- and post-intervention case samples. Consequently, they could not compute whether a 15% improvement in case quality occurred. The overall case results did not differ between the pre- and post-intervention samples. Nonetheless, the researchers did find evidence of improvement in case quality during the PSN intervention period.

The most noteworthy difference in the case results was that nine of the sample cases were transferred for Federal prosecution during the PSN intervention compared to only one during the pre-intervention period. Similarly, a greater percentage of charges were resolved through transfer to Federal prosecution for the post-intervention sample (12.7%) than for the pre-intervention sample (1.2%).

[36] It was thought that documentation of plea deal offers might not be as complete for District Court cases and cases that reached Circuit Court through jury trial prayers. The researchers repeated the analysis with these cases excluded and obtained similar results.

The post-intervention sample had more charges per case (5.2) than the pre-intervention sample (4.5), and a lower percentage of post-intervention charges (68.7%) than pre-intervention charges (79.1%) were resolved by nolle prosequi not due to Federal prosecution.

In the post-intervention period, prosecutors were more likely to obtain favorable results with cases in which the defendant had prior convictions than cases in which the defendant had not been convicted previously. This may reflect the PSN initiative's focus on repeat offenders. Nearly three-quarters of the post-intervention cases in the sample had test fire certificates in the case files compared to fewer than half for pre-intervention cases. Test fire certificates appear to be associated with case results favorable to the prosecution and may be considered an indicator of case quality.

Objective 4

The fourth objective of the PSN initiative was to improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods. The following measures of achievement were established for this objective:

a. Feelings of safety after the intervention will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County

b. Perceptions of the frequency of crime will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County

c. Number of respondents reporting gun crime victimization will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County

Methodology

A Community Survey of Prince George's County residents was conducted to determine whether this objective was achieved. The Community Survey was administered first in 2018 to establish a baseline and again in 2019. Specifically, this survey asked members of the community about four items related to crime and safety:

- *How would you rate the crime frequency in your neighborhood?* (5-point scale from 'Very High' to 'Very Low');

- *Over the last 12 months, to what extent have your feelings of safety in your neighborhood increased, decreased, or stayed the same?* (5-point scale from '…feelings of safety have decreased a lot' to 'feelings of safety have increased a lot');

- *Over the last year, have you or anyone in your household been a victim of crime in your neighborhood?* (Yes or No);

- *If yes, did that crime involve loss of property, a known offender, EMS or Fire Dept. response, a gun, and/or multiple offenders?* (Select All That Apply);

In both 2018 and 2019, the survey was administered to samples of Prince George's County residents. The IGSR researchers identified the Prince George's County zip codes that most closely matched the target beats, and those zip codes were oversampled to collect 100 respondents from those locations. Therefore, the first two days of the survey focused on zip codes 20743, 20746, 20747, and 20748. After this was achieved, the remaining zip codes in Prince George's County were surveyed.

The first round (baseline or pre-test) of the survey was conducted online from late August to mid-September 2018 and yielded a total of 420 responses. The second round of the survey took place in September 2019. A total of 420 residents participated in post-test survey, as well. Both surveys were administered using Qualtrics' online survey software

Descriptives

Between the pre- and post-test surveys, a total of 838 unique individuals responded to the questions about crime and safety in Prince George's County. Two individuals answered the pre-test survey twice. There duplicate responses were removed prior to data analysis. Table 46 below summarizes the demographic characteristics for both groups.

At the time of the survey, pre-test respondents were 39.7 years old, on average, ranging from 18 to 83 years of age, majority female (229 of 418 or ~55%), more than half were African American (62.6%), and most were not of Latino ethnicity (90.4%). Similarly,[37] respondents in the post-test group ranged in age from 18 to 80 years old (average of 37.4 years old), majority female (57.2%), more than half were African American (62.6%), and not of Latino ethnicity (86.7%). Within both samples, total family income fell above the per capita income in Prince George's County and more than 35% of both groups had a bachelor's degree education or higher (38.5% of pre-test respondents and 35.9% of post-test respondents).

Based on these demographic analyses, the sample is not completely representative of the demographic characteristics of Prince George's County as a whole. One potential approach to address this issue is to account for these differences with the application of probability weights across demographic indicators like race, education, age, and gender. However, the Census's estimates from the American Community Survey have not been released for 2019,[38] and the post-test survey was administered then.

[37] Independent sample t-tests were performed on the demographic variables of interest. There is no statistically significant difference between the two samples of survey respondents for ethnicity, gender, race, education, or family income. However, those in the post-test sample were significantly younger by two years (i.e., significance at $p<.05$).

[38] The data necessary for the appropriating weighting scheme is not expected to be released until October 15, 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2019/release-schedule.html).

Therefore, we considered the following methodological options:

1) eight only the 2018 responses and compare those to the raw 2019 response values,
2) weight both the 2018 and 2019 responses with estimates from 2018, and
3) weight neither sets of responses, and analyze the results understanding the limitation that the samples are not reflective of Prince George's County as a whole.

Ultimately, the last of the three options was selected since the other choices may impose unnecessary error. For these reasons, the probability weights were not applied and the raw data values are presented in the following tables and figures. Table 47 outlines those raw, unweighted results.

Table 46: Full Descriptives – Pre- and Post-Test Community Survey Respondents (n=838)

	Pre-Test Respondents (N=418)					Post-Test Respondents (N=420)				
	N[39]	Freq.	Percent	Range	Mean(SD)[40]	N	Freq.	Percent	Range	Mean(SD)
Gender	418					420				
Male		189	45.2%				174	41.4%		
Female		229	54.8%				240	57.2%		
Other		0	0%				6	1.4%		
Age in Years	417			18-83	39.7 (16.9)	420			18-80	37.4 (15.2)
Race	417					420				
African American		261	62.6%				263	62.6%		
White		106	25.4%				98	23.3%		
Asian		19	4.5%				16	3.8%		
American Indian		1	0.3%				7	1.7%		
Other		30	7.2%				36	8.6%		
Ethnicity	417					420				
Latino		40	9.6%				56	13.3%		
Not Latino		377	90.4%				364	86.7%		
Education	417					420				
Graduate Degree		65	15.5%				57	13.6%		
Bachelor's Degree		95	22.6%				94	22.3%		
Associate Degree		33	7.7%				47	11.2%		
Some College		90	21.4%				93	22.1%		
High School/GED		106	25.3%				113	27.0%		
Some High School		19	5.8%				14	3.4%		
6th, 7th, or 8th Grade		8	1.7%				2	0.4%		
Prefer Not to Say		1	0.1%				0	0%		

[39] N=Number of those with data available to assess.

[40] SD= "Standard Deviation" indicates variation in the data. A larger SD more variation, smaller SD more consistency.

	Pre-Test Respondents (N=418)					Post-Test Respondents (N=420)				
	N[39]	**Freq.**	**Percent**	**Range**	**Mean(SD)**[40]	**N**	**Freq.**	**Percent**	**Range**	**Mean(SD)**
Family Income	418					420				
$100,000 or more		101	24.2%				77	18.3%		
$40,000 to $99,999		141	33.7%				156	37.1%		
$0.00 to $39,999		130	31.1%				143	34.1%		
Prefer Not to Say		46	11.0%				44	10.5%		
Employment Status	417					420				
Full Time		201	48.2%				219	52.1%		
Part Time		51	12.2%				56	13.3%		
Unemployed		34	8.2%				49	11.6%		
Other[41]		131	31.4%				96	22.9%		
Target Zip	418					420				
Yes		100	23.9%				103	24.5%		
No		318	76.1%				317	75.5%		

[41] The 'other' category includes the following responses: homemaker, disabled, student, and laid off.

Table 47: Unweighted Responses to Crime and Safety Questions

	Pre- Test Responses (N=418)			Post-Test Responses (N=420)		
	N	**Range**	**Mean (SD)**	**N**	**Range**	**Mean (SD)**
Crime Frequency	418	*Very Low* to *Very High* (1 to 5)	3.56 (1.06) (*Medium*)		*Very Low* to *Very High* (1 to 5)	3.52 (1.01) (*Medium)*
Feeling of Safety	418	*Decreased a Lot* to *Increased a Lot* (1 to 5)	2.96 (.89) (*Decreased Some)*		*Decreased a Lot* to *Increased a Lot* (1 to 5)	2.86 (.86) *(Decreased Some)*
	N	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**N**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Victim of Crime	418	*Yes* = 64	15.31	420	*Yes = 74*	17.62%
Did that Crime Involve?						
Loss of Property	*64*	*Yes = 33*	51.56%	74	*Yes* = 37	50.00%
Known Offender	64	*Yes* = 6	9.38%	74	*Yes* = 13	17.57%
EMS of FD Response	64	*Yes* = 6	9.38%	74	*Yes* = 10	13.51%
A Firearm	64	*Yes* = 12	18.75%	74	*Yes* = 16	21.62%
Multiple Offenders	64	*Yes* = 7	10.94%	74	*Yes* = 13	17.57%

Results

First, the responses to the four items related to crime and safety were reviewed. The figures below compare the community survey responses on perceptions of crime and safety by target versus non-target zip codes.

Crime Frequency

Respondents were first asked to rate the crime frequency in their neighborhood. When polled in 2018, a greater proportion of respondents in high gun crime areas or in the target zip codes rated the crime frequency as 'medium' (45% in target zip code respondents versus 30% in non-target zip code respondents) or 'high' (20% of target zip code respondents versus 15% of non-target zip code respondents).[42]

Alternatively, when polled in 2019, responses to the question of crime frequency somewhat improved for those in target zips codes while those in non-target zip codes remained relatively the same.

As shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 below, non-target zip code responses between 2018 and 2019 followed a similar trend (57-58% selected 'low'; 30-32% selected 'medium'; and 11-13% selected 'high'). A greater proportion of those in target zip codes stated the crime frequency is 'low' in their neighborhood (i.e., 35% in 2018 versus 45% in 2019) and a smaller proportion stated the crime frequency is 'medium' in their neighborhood.

Taken together, these responses signal some improvement to perceptions of crime frequency after the intervention. However, the high category did increase 5-percent between 2018 and 2019 (20% versus 25%) in the target neighborhoods, compared to a small decrease in the non-target neighborhoods (13% versus 11%).

[42] For the purposes of parsimony, the responses of 'very low' and 'low' were combined to a single category and the responses of 'high' to 'very high' were combined into a single category.

Figure 4: 2018 Pre-Test Respondents' Crime Frequency Ratings (n=418)

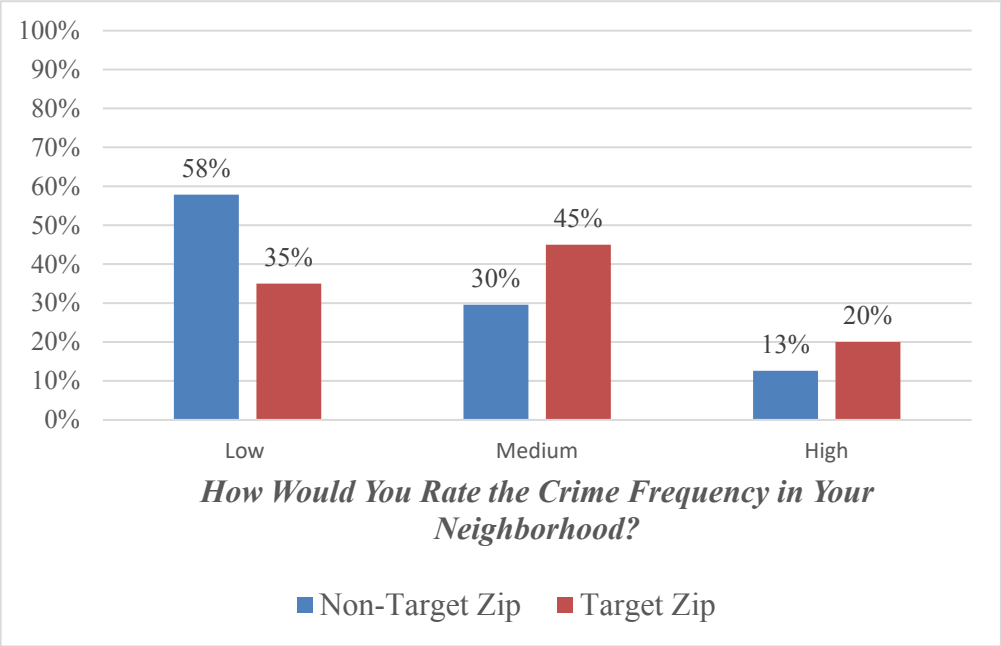
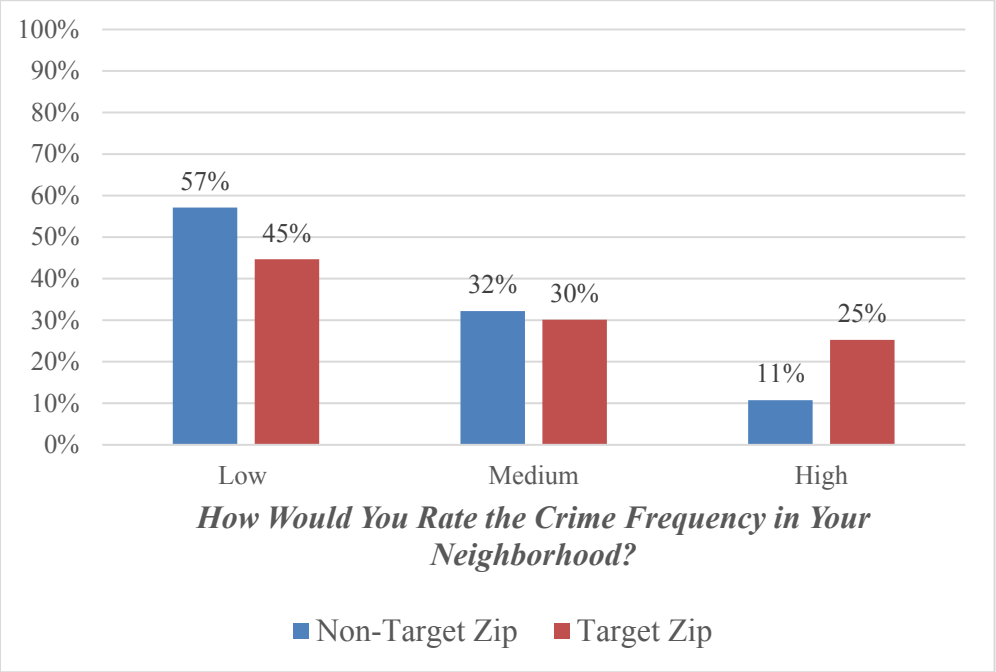


Figure 5: 2019 Post-Test Respondents' Crime Frequency Ratings (n=420)



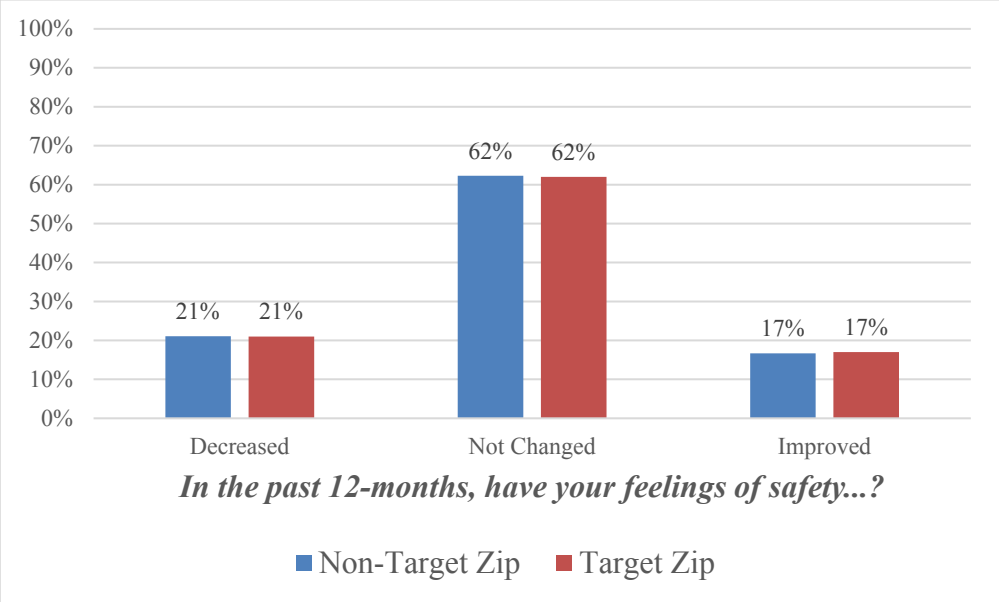
Feelings of Safety

When asked whether their feelings of safety had improved, decreased, or stayed the same over the last year, the vast majority of respondents in 2018 reported stasis regardless of their location.

Additionally, the proportion of those in target zip codes versus those in non-target zip codes were the same for all three responses (i.e., decreased, not changed, and improved) (see Figure 6 below).

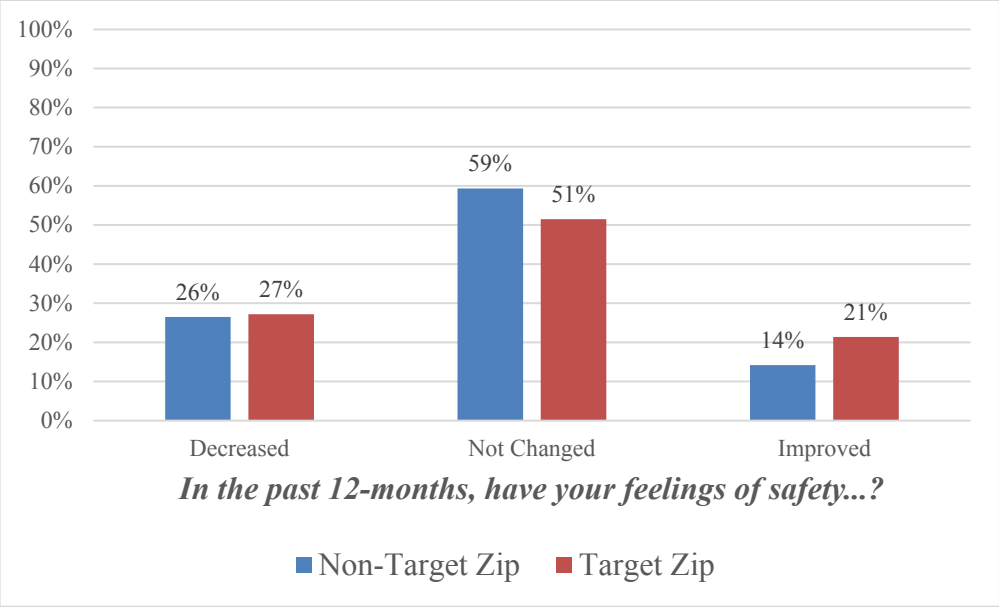
In the post-intervention time period, those living in target or high gun crime zip codes were more likely to say their feelings of safety improved over the past year (i.e., 21% of respondents living in high gun crime zip codes). Despite this improvement, those living in target zip codes also reported at a greater rate that their feelings of safety decreased in the 2019 poll (see Figure 7 below).

Figure 6: Pre-Test Respondents' Feelings of Safety Ratings (n=418)[43]



[43] The values contained in Figure 6 have been checked several times due to the peculiarity of the duplicate proportions in target and non-target zip codes. Therefore, it is important to recall that only 100 of the 418 observations in the pre-test fall within the target zip codes (i.e., only 21 respondents in target zip codes answered 'low' whereas 67 non-target respondents answered 'low').

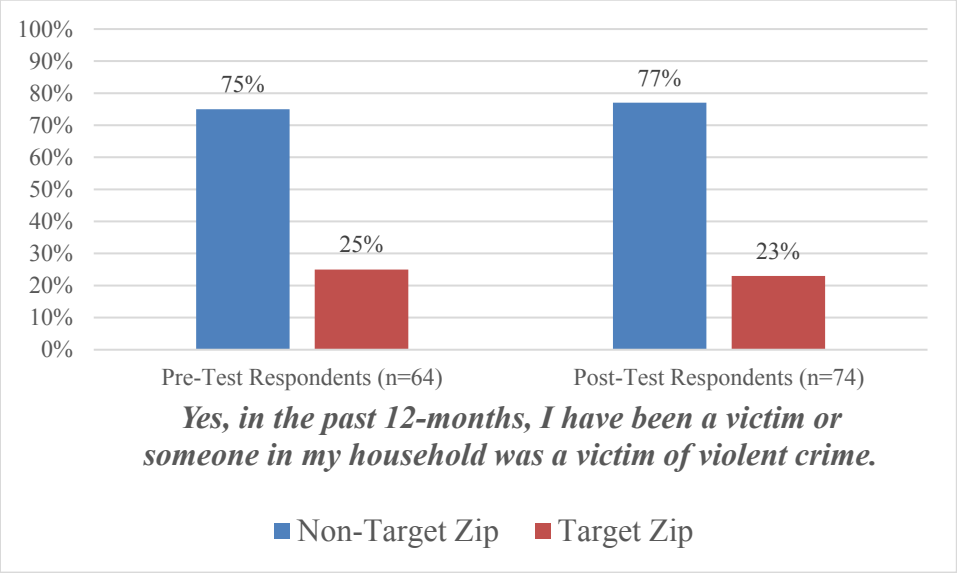
Figure 7: Post-Test Respondents' Feelings of Safety Ratings (n=420)



Violent Victimization.

The final questions addressed violent victimizations and gun crime experienced by respondents and members of their households. In 2018, 64 (or 15%) of 418 respondents reported that they or someone in their household had experienced a violent crime in the previous 12 months. In 2019, 74 (or 18%) of 420 respondents reported that they or a household member had experienced a violent crime in the previous 12 months. Comparing target to non-target areas, 25% of those in the target areas in the pre-test and 23% in the post-test reported being a victim of crime. Overall, the responses were worse in 2019 for respondents.

Figure 8: Pre- and Post-Test Victims of Crime by Target/ Non-Target Areas (n=138)



Only those who confirmed an experience with a violent victimization in the last 12 months were asked the following question:

Did the crime involve any of the following (select all that apply) [characteristics]:

1) a firearm,
2) loss of property,
3) EMS or Fire Department response,
4) a known offender, and/or
5) multiple offenders

In the 2018 pre-test cohort, 41 of the 64 violent victimizations involved at least one of these characteristics. Figure 9 below describes the crime characteristics for the crimes reported in the first round of the community survey. The loss of property is the most common characteristic for both target and non-target zip codes followed by the use of a firearm. But, ultimately, the use of a firearm in the act of the crimes recorded in this survey was relatively rare (i.e., only 12 respondents reported the use of a firearm out of the 64 respondents reporting a violent victimization).

In the 2019 post-test cohort, 48 of the 74 violent victimizations involved at least one of the crime characteristics and 15 respondents confirmed the crime involved 2 or more of the listed attributes. Similar to the 2018 poll, the loss of property was the most common regardless of zip code. But, importantly, the use of a firearm was a somewhat rare characteristic in the violent crimes captured by the 2019 community survey. Out of a total of 74 reported violent crime experiences, only 16 (or 21.6%) of those experiences involved the use of a gun.

Figure 9: Pre-Test Violent Crime Characteristics (n=64)

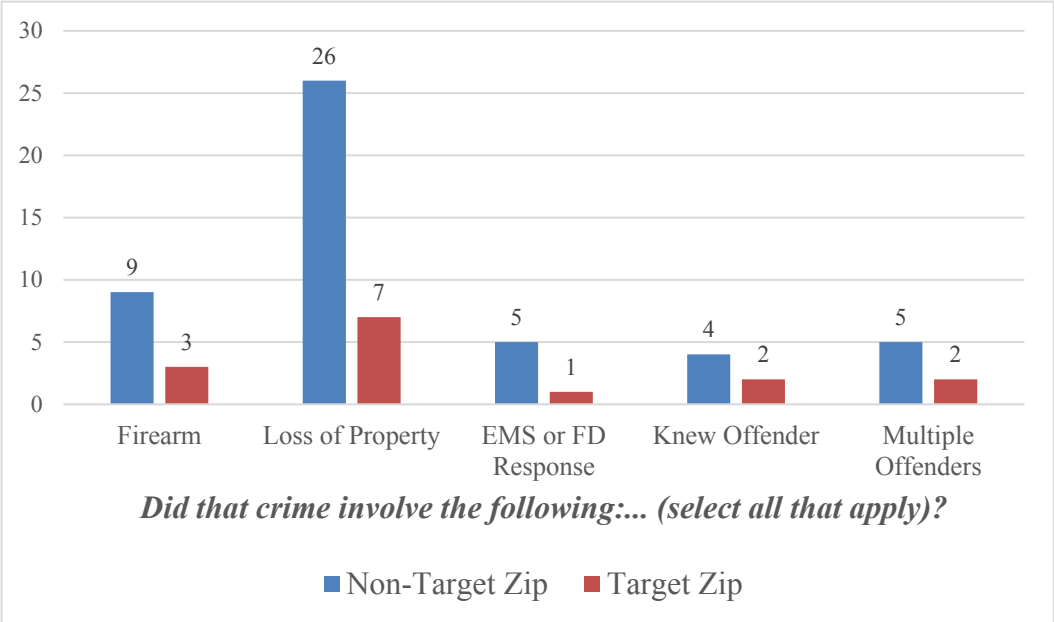
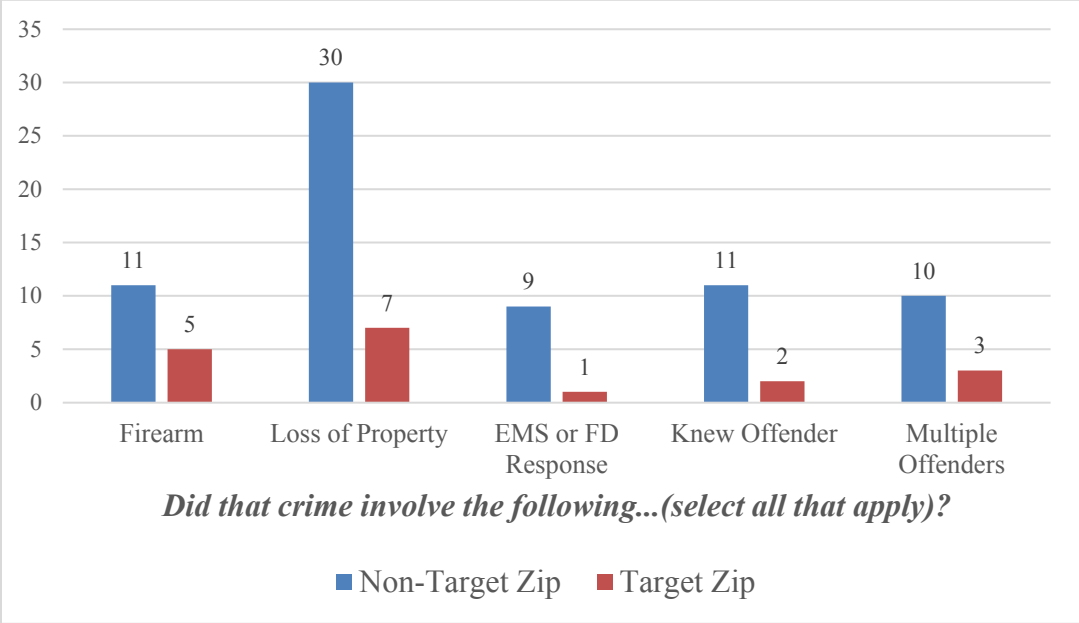


Figure 10: Post-Test Violent Crime Characteristics (n=74)



Summary

Three measures of community perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness were specified. The following summarizes the results from the 2018 and 2019 Community Survey across these three measures:

a. **Feelings of safety after the intervention will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County.** This measure was partially met. In the post-intervention time period, those living in target or high gun crime zip codes were more likely to say their feelings of safety improved over the past year (i.e., 21% of respondents living in high gun crime zip codes). Despite this improvement, those living in target zip codes also reported at a greater rate that their feelings of safety decreased in the 2019 poll.

b. Perceptions of the frequency of crime will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County. This measure was partially met . Ratings of low, medium, and high frequency of crime changed only a percent or two in the non-target neighborhoods between 2018 and 2019. In contrast, the percentage of target neighborhood respondents rating crime frequency as low increased by 10% (to 45%) from 2018 to 2019. On the other hand, the percentage of target neighborhood respondents rating crime frequency as high also increased between 2018 and 2019, from 20% to 25%.

c. **Number of respondents reporting gun crime victimization will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County.** This measure was not met. More respondents from both target and non-target neighborhoods reported that they or a member of their household had experienced a violent crime in the previous 12 months. Additionally, more respondents noted the use of a firearm in the 2019 survey results (i.e., 12 victimizations involved a firearm in 2018 survey results and 16 victimizations involved a firearm in 2019).

In concluding the review of the community survey, it is important to note the potential limitations with this data and how such limitations may be impacting the results or even potentially provide an explanation for some of the mixed findings. We should note that this portion of the project was part of a broader effort conducted by Dr. Richard Engstrom, thus we were limited in how much we could influence the design. While our expectations from the outset were modest, in hindsight, the inclusion of a relatively small number of subjects in the target zip codes/high crime areas were insufficient to discern more robust patterns. Specifically, the pre- and post-test cohorts are comprised of different respondents, and each group contains only 100 community members from target or high gun crime zip codes, which limits the results. For example, when reviewing Figure 4 and Figure 5 above with regard to the crime frequency ratings, there is change from 2018 to 2019 in target zip codes—a greater proportion of respondents in target zip codes rated the frequency of crime as 'low' in 2019 (i.e., 15% greater proportion than observed in 2018), but this translates to 15 people provided a more favorable score which is too few people to be representative of overall community views.

While these results are mixed, there are still important lessons that can be taken from the results of the community survey as a whole. First, the ongoing interventions likely had some sort of effect, and it appears that residents were noticing. Target zip codes' responses showed more observable change (although it was not consistently favorable change) between the two rounds of polling compared to the non-target zip codes. Second, less than 20-percent of respondents in both cohorts experienced a violent victimization; further, the use of a firearm was not the most common crime attribute. Additional efforts may be considered in the future to collect additional data from community members residing in Prince George's County to enable a better understanding of opinions and perceptions of law enforcement.

Outcome Evaluation Conclusions

The outcome evaluation focused on the overall goal of reducing gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods in the county and the four related objectives. The standard set for achievement of the overall goal was a reduction in the number of reported crimes involving the use of guns in the most violent neighborhoods by 5% during the first 18 months of the PSN intervention compared to an 18-month period prior to the start of PSN. The overall goal was achieved as gun-related crime decreased by 10.4% in the target beats and 11.7% in the target districts during the PSN intervention. At the same time, gun-related crime in Prince George's County declined by 3.8%.

The researchers used the difference-in-differences statistical method to determine whether the PSN initiative led to the decrease in gun-related crime in the target neighborhoods. The results showed that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant change in gun-related crime. The researchers caution that the statistical analysis was hampered by problems that may have biased the results. The dataset was missing a substantial number of cases, the target districts were reorganized during the course of the intervention, and the target beats are very different from the control beats to which they were compared. In addition, the trends may be driven by external factors, such as very local economic conditions.

Objective 1 was to a reduce illegal possession of firearms in the target neighborhoods. The first standard set for achievement of this objective was an increase in recovery of illegal firearms linked to target neighborhoods and to priority offenders by 5% during the first 18 months of the intervention compared to an 18-month period prior to the start of PSN (Objective 1a). This standard was not met. Gun recoveries actually declined by 8.0% in the target beats, 17.5% in the target districts, and 4.5% in the county as a whole. This result may be due in part to the decrease in gun-related crime described above.

Again, the researchers used the difference-in-differences statistical method and found that PSN did not lead to a statistically significant change in gun recoveries. The same drawbacks described for the gun-related crime analysis apply to the gun recovery analysis and may have biased the results.

Objective 1b and 1c focused on prosecution efforts. In Objective 1b, the project sought to indict 3% more repeat violent offenders for gun possession compared to the pre-intervention period. In Objective 1c, the standard was to increase gun related cases that were resolved in a guilty plea or went to trial intervention period by 3%. In both cases, the objectives were not met. There were fewer defendants indicted (81% to 47%); and also fewer resolved in a conviction or trial (65% vs. 47%) in the post-intervention period. While the results improved once USAO prosecuted cases were excluded from the analysis, these objectives were not met. One important limitation with these measures was the data utilized (CJIS) may not have been optimal for fully capturing these outcomes given the difficulty in matching the specific events contained in the PGPD arrest files to the arrest dates in CJIS.

Objective 2 was to remove from the community individuals who had been identified as Priority Repeat Gun Offenders. Within a year of the start of the PSN initiative, PGPD reported that 17 of the 25 individuals identified in this group were no longer in the community, including 15 who

were incarcerated or serving sentences and 2 who were deceased; 4 others were on supervised probation; and 4 were no longer persons of interest as they had not engaged in criminal behavior. This last group demonstrated that removal from the community is not the only measure of success with respect to repeat offenders.

Objective 3 was to improve the quality of cases against gun offenders. The assessment was to be made by reviewing samples of cases from before and during the PSN initiative. The researchers were unable to develop a single measure of case quality that could be used to rate the pre- and post-implementation case samples. Nonetheless, the researchers did find evidence of improvement in cases during the PSN intervention period. The most noteworthy difference in the case results was that nine of the sample cases were transferred for Federal prosecution during the PSN intervention compared to only one during the pre-intervention period. Comparing the post-implementation to the pre-implementation sample, there was also an increase in the number of charges per case, a decrease in the percentage of charges that were resolved by nolle prosequi (when cases nolle prosed due to transfer for Federal prosecution were excluded), and an increase in the percentage of cases in which a firearms test fire certificate was found in the case file. In the post-intervention period, prosecutors were more likely to obtain favorable results with cases in which the defendant had prior convictions than cases in which the defendant had not been convicted previously. This may reflect the PSN initiative's focus on repeat offenders.

Objective 4 was to improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods. Achievement of this objective was to be assessed through a survey of county residents before (September 2018) and after (September 2019) the PSN initiative was operationalized. The results should be viewed with caution as only about 100 residents of the target neighborhoods and 300 residents of the rest of the county were surveyed each year. The results are both interesting and a little perplexing.

- With respect to the frequency of crime, the perceptions of county residents outside the target neighborhoods who responded in 2019 were very similar to the perceptions of residents in the non-target neighborhoods who responded in 2018. These respondents generally perceived lower levels of crime than did respondents from the target neighborhoods. The perceptions of residents of the target neighborhoods with respect to frequency of crime were more changeable. The 2018 respondents from the target neighborhoods were more likely to report a medium level of crimes, whereas fewer of the 2019 respondents from the target neighborhoods reported a medium level of crime, and more reported a low or high level of crime than did the 2018 group.

- In 2018, respondents from target and non-target neighborhoods rated their feelings of safety the same, with 62% saying their feelings of safety had not changed during the previous year. In 2019, the group saying their feelings had not changed was smaller for residents of both the target and non-target neighborhoods. For the target neighborhoods, more 2019 respondents (21%) than 2018 respondents (17%) said their feelings of safety improved over the past year. Paradoxically, more 2019 respondents (27%) than 2018 respondents (21%) from the target neighborhoods said their feelings of safety decreased over the past year. These changes in feelings of safety among respondents residing in the target neighborhoods were more favorable than the changes among respondents residing in the non-target neighborhoods.

More 2019 respondents (27%) than 2018 respondents (21%) from the non-target neighborhoods reported that their feelings of safety had decreased, and fewer 2019 respondents (14%) than 2018 respondents (17%) from the non-target neighborhoods said their feelings of safety had improved.

- With respect to victimization, in 2019, roughly one in six respondents from both the target and non-target neighborhoods reported that they or a household member had experienced a violent crime during the previous year. This was more than double the rate of victimization reported by the 2018 respondents. Given the degree of change in this measure, it is surprising that perceptions of frequency of crime and feelings of safety did not decline dramatically between 2018 and 2019 among respondents from both the target and non-target neighborhoods.

PSN Team Recommendations

There are three primary recommendations based on the evaluation findings:

- One of the key challenges in the project was the tracking of particular firearms across data sets. Data were obtained from three PGPD sources– an extraction from the Record Management System (RMS) that included all arrests and non-arrests; spreadsheets provided by the PGPD Gun Intelligence Unit detailing the guns obtained for each arrest; and an extract from the Firearms Examination Unit database as well as spreadsheets capturing NIBIN leads and results. The issue was that the guns were described in different ways across these datasets (e.g., make and model were described differently). Often serial numbers were not consistently captured; in some cases Polymer guns do not contain serial numbers and/or the serial number was noted as obliterated. Finally, while the datasets contained the case number, the format of the case number also varied across the data. We recommend that PGPD consider assigning a unique identification number to each gun seized at the time of seizure. Assigning a specific ID number for each weapon and standardizing the capture of gun information in specific fields would improve the ability to track a specific firearm through the process. In addition, the use of dropdown lists in data fields could include the make, model/caliber, and type (e.g., revolver, semi vs. fully automatic, rifle etc.), which would ensure uniformity in entering the information.

- Another data challenge was the 1,091 missing cases from the Record Management System (RMS) data extraction report. While our examination did not find systematic differences between the data received and the data missing, it remains a limitation of this study. PGPD may wish to determine why these cases are missing from this report, particularly if this report is routinely utilized.

- PGPD general order states that guns seized by officers are to be submitted to the Firearms Examination Unit within 96 hours. While all guns in these data were turned into FEU, only 40% were turned in within this time frame. PGPD may wish to review the policy and/or training to ensure more timely processing of firearms within the department.

Appendix A: Final PDE Plan

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PDE PLAN

STEP 1: DEFINING THE PROBLEM
What problem or problems should your program address?
What evidence implies that these are real problems?

***Note: due to impacts of COVID-19, the research study period has been shortened to end February 2020 (Two weeks prior to the shut down). While portions of the intervention continue through September 2020, the evaluation will only include activity through February 2020.*

1. Target population:

*Prince George's County neighborhoods (defined by beats) in District 3 "Henry" Sector (Beats H1, H4, H5, H7) (Note the original intervention sectors are now classified as District 8, but the **beat number did not change**) and District 4 "King" Sector (Beats K1, K2, K3) experiencing the highest levels of gun crime.*

2. Problems facing this population:

- **a.** *High rates of gun crime*
- **b.** *Widespread availability of guns*
- **c.** *Disproportionate number of gun offenders residing in target neighborhood(s)*

3. Evidence implying problem(s):

- **a.** *Reported gun crimes in target neighborhood(s)*
- **b.** *Recovered firearms linked to target neighborhood(s)*
- **c.** *Residents of target neighborhood(s) on gun offender registry*

The Program Development Evaluation (PDE) Method was developed by Gary Gottfredson.
Gottfredson, Gary D. (1984). A theory-ridden approach to program evaluation: A method for stimulating researcher-implementer collaboration. *American Psychologist*, Vol 39(10), 1101-1112. doi: 10.1037/0003-066X.39.10.1101
Gottfredson, G. D., Rickert, D. E., Jr., Gottfredson, D. C. & Advani, N. (1984). Standards for program development evaluation. *Psychological Documents, 14*, 32. (Ms. No. 2668)

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STEP 2: SETTING GOALS

What are the goals your program is intended to reach?

How can you measure each goal?

When do you expect to have made a substantial difference?

How will you know your program made the difference?

***Note: due to impacts of COVID-19, the research study period were changed to 18-month periods concluding in February.*

Goal 1:
*Reduce gun crimes in the most violent neighborhoods (defined by beats) in District 3 "Henry" Sector (Beats H1, H4, H5, H7) (Note the original intervention sectors are now classified as District 8, but the **beat number did not change**) and District 4 "King" Sector (Beats K1, K2, K3).*

Measurement of Goal 1 (Instruments, timing of desired effect):
Reduce the number of reported crimes involving the use of guns in the most violent neighborhood(s) by 5% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018

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Research Design:

The research design to assess effectiveness the goals and objectives of this intervention will consist of analysis of a variety of data sources (see Table 1 below) and process data as outlined below in Step 6. Trends will be assessed comparing data prior to and post intervention (e.g., September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018 compared to September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020).

Table 1: Data Sources for PSN Project

Category	Measure	Goals/Objectives Category Measures	Source of Data PGR = PGPD RMS Extracts PGD = PGPD Data CJIS = DPSCS CJIS Data CR= Case Review CS = Community Survey
GOALS			
Goal 1 – Reduce Gun Crimes in Most Violent Neighborhoods (defined by beat) in Districts 3 (now called District 8) and 4	Reduce the number of reported crimes involving the use of guns in the most violent neighborhood(s) by 5% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018.	Reduce Gun Crime	PGR: *Gun Intel Unit Data – Incidents (2 datasets - without Arrests and With Arrestees)*
OBJECTIVES			
Objective 1 – Reduce illegal possession of guns in the target neighborhood(s)	Increase recovery of illegal firearms linked to target neighborhoods and to priority offenders by 5% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018.	Reduce Illegal Possession	PGR: *Gun Intel Unit Data – Incidents (2 datasets - without Arrests and With Arrestees)*

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Category	Measure	Goals/Objectives Category Measures	Source of Data PGR = PGPD RMS Extracts PGD = PGPD Data CJIS = DPSCS CJIS Data CR= Case Review CS = Community Survey
	Increase number of repeat violent offenders indicted in Circuit Court for illegal gun possession by 3% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018		*CJIS data pre/post on all arrested for gun possession who have a prior conviction for a violent offense, and look at the charges resolved in Circuit Court.*
	Increase number of gun-related cases with a guilty plea or going to trial by 3% during September 2018 to August 2019 compared to September 2017 to August 2018.		*CJIS data on all arrested for gun related cases pre/post and look % cases with outcomes other than nolle prosse.*
Objective 2 – Remove priority repeat gun offenders who are out in the community without cases pending.	By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), arrest/charge all repeat gun offenders identified as priority at the beginning of the intervention (September 2018)	Repeat Gun Offenders in the community; Perceived low probability that offender will be caught and receive serious punishment	**PGD:** *PGPD individual summary report*
	By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), obtain a guilty plea or go to trial for each Priority Repeat Gun Offender who is arrested/charged		**PGD:** *PGPD individual summary report*
	By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), achieve incarceration of each Priority Repeat Gun Offender who is arrested/charged.		**PGD:** *PGPD individual summary report*

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Category	Measure	Goals/Objectives Category Measures	Source of Data PGR = PGPD RMS Extracts PGD = PGPD Data CJIS = DPSCS CJIS Data CR= Case Review CS = Community Survey
Objective 3 – Improve the quality of cases against gun offenders	Achieve 15% increase in state gun-related cases rated as high quality among those prepared during the intervention compared to those prepared prior to the intervention.		**CR:** *Case Review*
Objective Statement 4: Improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods	Feelings of safety, perceptions of crime frequency, and reports of gun crime victimization after the intervention will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County	Lack of confidence in law enforcement agencies and suspicion of the criminal justice system among residents of high-crime neighborhoods.	**CS:** Community Survey Questions

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STEP 3: DEVELOPING AN ACTION THEORY

Why do these problems occur?

What causes of the problem can your program/project/organization address?

Theory: *Gun crimes occur due to the widespread availability of guns and are perpetrated by a relatively small group of repeat offenders, who expect to avoid serious punishment. Strained relations between law enforcement agencies and residents of high crime neighborhoods hamper attempts to reduce gun crimes.*

For Problem #1:

1. *Availability of guns*

For Problem #2:

1. *Repeat offenders in the community*

2. *Perceived low probability that offenders will be caught and receive serious punishment*

For Problem #3:

1. *Lack of confidence in law enforcement agencies and suspicion of the criminal justice system among residents of high-crime neighborhoods.*

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STEP 4: SETTING OBJECTIVES

What measurable changes in behavior, attitude, or social organization must be brought about in order to reduce the identified problems?

How can you measure each objective?

When do you expect to have made a substantial difference?

Objective Statement 1: *Reduce illegal possession of guns in the target neighborhood(s), defined as Districts 3 (intervention sectors now called District 8) and 4. **Note: due to impacts of COVID-19, the research study periods were changed to 18-month periods concluding in February.*

Measurement Objective #1:

a. *Increase recovery of illegal firearms linked to target neighborhood(s) by 5% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018*
b. *Increase number of repeat violent offenders indicted for illegal gun possession by 3% during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020 compared to September 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018*
c. *Increase number of gun-related cases with a guilty plea or going to trial by 3% during September 2018 to August 2019 compared to September 2017 to August 2018. (Note that, for this measure, the pre-intervention and post-intervention periods are only 12 months to allow time for the later cases to process through the court system.)*

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Objective Statement 2: *Remove from the community Priority Repeat Gun Offenders*

Measurement Objective #2:

a. *By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), arrest/charge all repeat gun offenders identified as priority at the beginning of the intervention (September 2018)*
   *? of 25 (?%) arrested/charged; 2 of 25 (8%) deceased; 4 of 25 (16%) no longer of interest**
   **Is this still true?*
b. *By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), obtain a guilty plea or go to trial for each Priority Repeat Gun Offender who is arrested/charged*
   ? of ? (?%) pleaded guilty or went to trial
c. *By the end of the grant period (September 30, 2020), achieve incarceration of each Priority Repeat Gun Offender who is arrested/charged*
   15 of ? (?%) incarcerated

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Objective Statement 3: *Improve the quality of cases against gun offenders*

Measurement Objective #3: *[moved from Objective #1]*

a. *Achieve 15% increase in gun-related cases rated as high quality among those prepared during the intervention compared to those prepared prior to the intervention [methodology below as described in proposal]*

Establish and conduct a case review process of 150 cases (75 treatment and 75 control) to assess the quality of state criminal cases related to gun crime and violent repeat offenders. A "case review panel", will be formed consisting of a member of the UMD-IGSR research team, as well as an Assistant State's Attorney, and a representative of the Prince Georges Police Department. The proposed strategy involves creating a tool for assessing the quality of cases sent to prosecutors (e.g., the availability of material evidence, FEU turnaround time, witness testimony screening); and piloting that checklist with 25 cases randomly selected from a pool of 100 control group cases which were randomly selected from violence/gun-related cases from September 1, 2016 to September 1, 2017 (pursued no more than 12 to 18 months prior to the start of the proposed project).[1] Once the checklist is final, an additional 75 cases will be randomly selected from arrests during the intervention period September 1, 2018 to September 1, 2019 (treatment group) and compared to the 75 cases remaining in the control group. Outcomes of these cases will also be collected, including number of cases prosecuted, nature of the charges, and outcomes. The tool will also help the research team understand which characteristics of cases are more likely to lead to which outcomes.

1 *Note – while the project began in January 2018, the intervention did not get started until September 2018.*

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Objective Statement 4: *Improve perceptions of law enforcement efforts and effectiveness in the target neighborhoods*

Measurement Objective #4:

a. *Feelings of safety after the intervention will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County*

b. *Perceptions of the frequency of crime will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County*

c. *Number of respondents reporting gun crime victimization will have changed more favorably among survey respondents in target neighborhoods than among survey respondents in other neighborhoods in Prince George's County*

UMD-IGSR engaged Qualtrics to conduct a survey with Prince George's community members. The baseline (pretest) survey was completed in Aug/September 2018 and strategic sampling approach was utilized to ensure at least 100 respondents lived in target neighborhoods (based on zip code). The post-test community survey was completed by Qualtrics in September 2019 utilizing the same sampling strategy.

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STEP 5: DESIGNING INTERVENTIONS

What are the major program components designed to achieve your objectives?

Interventions (List)	Objectives(s) Addressed
1. Hire a firearms technician to expedite NIBIN entry and case connections	*1, 2 & 3*
2. Hire an Assistant State's Attorney to focus on gun-related cases	*1, 2 & 3*
3. Provide overtime for police to increase violence reduction efforts in the target neighborhood(s)	*1, 2 & 4*
4. Provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers)	*1*
5. Enhance DNA processing/analysis	*1, 2 & 3*
6. Facilitate continuous information sharing and coordination among agencies	*1, 2, 3 & 4*
7. Use training and technical assistance to determine and execute appropriate investigative and enforcement strategies	*1, 2, 3 & 4*
8. Conduct outreach and community engagement that guides stabilization and revitalization	*4*

***Note: due to impacts of COVID-19, the research study period has been changed. While the intervention may continue beyond February 2020, the evaluation will only include activity through February 2020.*

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Intervention 1: *Hire a firearms technician to expedite NIBIN entry and case connections*

Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:

- when the intervention is to begin: *September 2018*
- how long the intervention will last: *September 2018 – June 2020*
- Intervention Evaluation Period: *September 2018 – February 2020*

- to whom*[/what]* the intervention is to be applied:

  firearms submitted to the Firearms Examination Unit (FEU) for examination

- who will perform the intervention:
  Prince George's Police Department (PGPD) FEU

- how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:

  The Firearms Technician will assist with routine examinations and compare the evidence pattern characteristics in the computer imaging systems database to current and historical cases; perform test fires and certify functional operability of submitted weapons; perform basic evaluation of submitted firearms to include routine function test and associated ammunition, recording firearm characteristics with manufacturer, model and serial number; conduct limited forensic testing under the supervision of a certified Firearms Examiner; receive, maintain and record physical evidence submitted to the FEU for analysis; and be responsible for coordination between the FEU and other departmental sections/units and outside agencies.

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Intervention 2: *Hire an Assistant State's Attorney to focus on gun-related cases*

Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:

- when the intervention is to begin: *September 2018*
- how long the intervention will last: *September 2018 – August 2020*
- Intervention Evaluation Period: *September 2018 – February 2020*

- to whom the intervention is to be applied: *gun offenders*

- who will perform the intervention: *State's Attorney's Office (SAO)*

- how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:

  An additional Assistant State's Attorney (ASA) focused only on gun related cases will enable the SAO to perform a more thorough review of all matters of violations of Maryland law, witness testimony screening and evaluation of material evidence in order to determine if sufficient evidence exists to continue with prosecution or charging individuals by information or Grand Jury indictment. The ASA will also maintain a direct connection to the U.S. Attorney's Office to quickly identify appropriate defendants for federal prosecution. The ASA will provide Maryland Parole and Probation with a single, dedicated point of contact at the SAO to pursue Violation of Probation (VOP) warrants on repeat offenders who violate the terms of their release, thereby expediting those requests and providing more directed and informed advocacy to the Court.

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Intervention 3: *Provide overtime for police to increase violence reduction efforts in the target neighborhood(s)*

Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:

- when the intervention is to begin: *September 2018*
- how long the intervention will last: *September 2018 – June 2020*
- Intervention Evaluation Period: *September 2018 – February 2020*

- to whom*[/what]* the intervention is to be applied: *target neighborhood(s)*

- who will perform the intervention: *PGPD patrol officers and detectives*

- how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:

  The proposed funding will facilitate providing the additional sworn overtime hours needed to support ongoing crime prevention efforts and provide a focus on enforcement or investigative work in the target neighborhood as determined by the County's PSN team.

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Intervention 4: *Provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers)*

Note: Intervention #4 was eliminated due to changes in ATF Priorities. (See Force-Field Analysis.)

~~Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:~~

- ~~when the intervention is to begin: *September 2018*~~
- ~~how long the intervention will last: *September 2018 – August 2019*~~

- ~~to whom the intervention is to be applied: *exhibitors and purchasers at gun shows*~~
- ~~who will perform the intervention:~~
  ~~*PGPD Gun Intel Unit in partnership with federal Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)*~~

- ~~how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:~~

  ~~*The Nation's Gun Show, which takes place approximately every two months in Chantilly, Virginia, creates a perfect venue for criminal enterprise groups to organize straw purchases and indirectly gain access to firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Working in partnership, ATF and PGPD Gun Intel Unit will identify criminal enterprise groups and their activity at these gun shows; simultaneously develop action plans that will ensure the safety of the public while attempting apprehension of suspects, which will ultimately lead to the seizure of firearms, ammunition, and explosives that would otherwise find themselves on the streets at the hand of violent criminals. Various methods of enforcement will be employed. These methods include surveillance at the gun show in search of straw purchasers and any other violators of federal firearms/explosives laws and/or state/local laws; execution of undercover purchases from gun show exhibitors when illegal activity is identified; and investigative stops/interviews where reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause exists.*~~

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Intervention 5: *Enhance DNA processing/analysis*

Note: Intervention #5 was eliminated due to prosecutorial and financial concerns. (See Force-Field Analysis.)

~~Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:~~

- ~~when the intervention is to begin:~~ ~~*September 2018*~~
- ~~how long the intervention will last:~~ ~~*September 2018 – June 2020*~~
- ~~to whom *[/what]* the intervention is to be applied:~~

  ~~*Firearms recovered from crime scenes*~~

- ~~who will perform the intervention:~~ ~~*PGPD*~~

- ~~how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:~~
  - ~~*Two investigators within the Criminal Intelligence Division will be assigned to collect and process firearms for DNA in Districts III and IV, hereafter referred to as the PSN area.*~~
  - ~~*The assigned investigators will receive appropriate DNA processing training by qualified departmental personnel to ensure proper handling and processing of firearms recovered in the PSN area.*~~
  - ~~*The issued training will adhere to the standards, policies, and procedures set forth by the Prince George's County Police Department, specifically, the Forensic Science Division, DNA Lab and the Crime Scene Investigation Division, Evidence Unit.*~~
  - ~~*The investigators will visit the District III and IV stations twice per week to process recovered guns for DNA evidence prior to the recovering officer taking the gun to FEU.*~~
  - ~~*To maintain continuity with the Patrol Units assigned to the PSN area, a Gun Arrest Checklist will be implemented and provided to Patrol Units detailing the steps and notification to be made during this process.*~~
  - ~~*Moreover, the Gun Arrest Checklist will form part of the arrest Case File and will be used as a guide to streamline the case screening process with the State's Attorney's Office.*~~
  - ~~*Cross training will be coordinated with the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) to create a seamless transition of every gun arrest made within the PSN area.*~~

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Intervention 6: *Facilitate continuous information sharing and coordination among agencies*

Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:

- when the intervention is to begin: *September 2018*
- how long the intervention will last: *September 2018 – June 2020*
- Intervention Evaluation Period: *September 2018 – February 2020*

- to whom the intervention is to be applied: *All PSN partner agencies*

- who will perform the intervention: *All PSN partner agencies*

- how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:

Given the importance of timely and quality data delivery, as part of the PDE process, the team will work diligently to establish information sharing protocols in an effort to avoid data quality/availability problems. UMD-IGSR will review existing and/or develop data collection tools to track activities outlined in the PDE. Available methods of deconfliction will be reviewed to ensure that the best practices are implemented. The objective is to minimize any duplication of efforts within the specified target area and, most importantly, prevent any conflicts between overt and covert operations. This process will also ensure that an overlap of resources does not occur and simultaneously provides the County's PSN team with the opportunity to augment any existing ongoing efforts. The team will compile a list of any open homicide and non-fatal shooting cases within the specified geographical area for the past three years. This list will serve as a historical databank and will be utilized to corroborate any street level intelligence generated by the enforcement partners.

Information sharing among other PSN partners, such as between PGPD and SAO, between SAO and USAO, and among Parole and Probation, PGPD and SAO, will also be emphasized.

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Intervention 7: *Use training and technical assistance to determine and execute appropriate investigative and enforcement strategies*

Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:

- when the intervention is to begin: *July 2018*
- how long the intervention will last: *July 2018 – June 2020*
- Intervention Evaluation Period: *September 2018 – February 2020*

- to whom the intervention is to be applied: *PGPD Sworn Officers*

- who will perform the intervention: *PGPD in partnership with PSN team and BJA*

- how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:

As part of the SAP development, the team will identify training needs associated with the proposed project. The team will select members to attend available training offered by BJA and its Training and Technical Assistance Provider(s) based on the needs identified and areas of expertise critical to the team's mission. The team will use the insight gained from this training to improve the outcome regarding investigative and enforcement strategies. As the proposed project develops, the team will continue to focus on tailoring established evidence-based practices through training to address the specific crime and disorder issues that are associated with the targeted neighborhoods. Further, the team will coordinate continuous peer-to-peer training with components involved in the program as well as agencies operating in the targeted neighborhoods to further spread the County's PSN approach against gun crime across a broader base. The team will have access to many enforcement resources and therefore potential proponents of the County's PSN approach to violent crime. In addition to the existing PSN partners, the resources include: the PGPD's Criminal Intelligence Division (Intel Division), Criminal Investigations Division (CID), Regional Investigations Division (RID), Special Investigations Division (SID), Special Assignment Teams (SAT), Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED), the Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement (WAVE) Team, and directed patrol from PGPD.

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Intervention 8: *Conduct outreach and community engagement that guides stabilization and revitalization*

Describe the quality, quantity, and timing of the intervention including:

- when the intervention is to begin: *September 2018*
- how long the intervention will last: *September 2018 – June 2020*
- Intervention Evaluation Period: *September 2018 – February 2020*

- to whom the intervention is to be applied: *Residents of targeted neighborhood(s)*

- who will perform the intervention: *PGPD*

- how, specifically, the intervention is to be delivered:

The Prince George's County Police Department has strong ties with the community and hosts a number of community meetings throughout the County on a regular basis. As part of the PSN initiative, PSN team members will participate in community meetings within Districts III and IV to include: The Coffee Roundtable, Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI), 202 Coalition, and Citizen Advisory Council (CAC). These community meetings are held independent of each other, on a monthly basis, and are highly attended by stakeholders of the affected communities where violent gun crime is most prevalent.

PSN team members will conduct a series of community-based information exchange sessions. Through these meetings, the PSN team will educate the community members about the PSN initiative and encourage residents of the affected communities to take part in discussing the implementation, progress, and results of the PSN initiative. As part of this process, PSN team members will interact with residents of the affected communities and gather information related to issues that directly affect the neighborhood's stability.

When a request falls outside of the scope of the PSN initiative, the information will be forwarded to the appropriate Section/County agency in order to fulfill the request. The Community Services Division and Community Oriented Police Squads (COPS) of PGPD are available resources to help facilitate this process. Information collection techniques will be implemented by the PSN team research partner (via community surveys) to track the progress of our efforts as well as to enhance our community outreach strategies where necessary.

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STEP 6: SETTING IMPLEMENTATION STANDARDS

What are your expectations for the quantity and quality of the services to be provided in each intervention component?

Program Implementation Standards

For Intervention #1:

Hire a firearms technician to expedite NIBIN entry and case connections

1. Firearms evaluations -- *100% of weapons seized for gun related crimes committed in District 3 (now referred to as District 8) and District 4 will be received for examination by FEU within 96 hours of recovery of the weapon. The firearms will be processed into intake, test fired, and serial number examination will be conducted in this time period.*

Data: FEU Foxpro database -- Date Submitted and **Date Begin Processing****

****FEU advises they "typically begin processing the firearm as soon as it is submitted to FEU" – Not sure if we can measure the when "processing began" part of standard.**

2. Expedited entry to NIBIN -- *100% of eligible weapons received for processing by FEU will be NIBIN tested within 96 hours of gun taken in for processing.*

Data: ***FEU NIBIN Data (with Pulldowns) NIBIN Entry Data*** *Worksheet* **-** *Time between "Date of acquisition" and "Date of Correlation"*

3. Expedited Notification on NIBIN leads - report on NIBIN hits -- *100% of cases with a NIBIN hit ("potential lead") within Prince George's County will have a report completed within 7 days of date of correlation.*

Data: FEU NIBIN Data (with Pulldowns)

*2 Spreadsheets – **NIBIN Entry Data** Worksheet, "Correlation Results (+ or -)" = NIBIN Lead and "Date of Correlation"; To measure report time frame: **NIBIN Entry Data** "Date of Correlation" to **Lead Data** worksheet - "Lead Dissemination Date" = Date of Notification*

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For Intervention #2:

Hire an Assistant State's Attorney to focus on gun-related cases

1. *Number of Priority Repeat Gun Offenders vertically screened by the SAO during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020.*
2. *Number of other (Non-Priority) Gun Offenders from Districts 3 and 4 vertically screened by the SAO during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020.*

Data: *SAO will track – Details to be Confirmed with SAO.*

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For Intervention #3:

Provide overtime for police to increase violence reduction efforts in the target neighborhood(s)

1. *At least 90% of PSN overtime hours will be devoted to investigative operational support in target neighborhood(s) during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020.*

2. *At least 10% of PSN overtime hours will be devoted to community engagement in target neighborhood(s) during September 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020.*

Data: *PGPD Activity Log*

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For Intervention #4:

Provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers)

Intervention #4 – Overtime for Gun Shows was eliminated from the Project due to changes in ATF Priorities. (See Force-Field Analysis.)

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~~**For Intervention #5:**~~

~~*Enhance DNA processing/analysis*~~

Intervention #5 – DNA Processing/Analysis was eliminated due to prosecutorial and financial concerns. (See Force-Field Analysis.)

~~**1.** *The Gun Arrest Checklist will be completed and placed in the case file for 100% of gun arrest cases in Districts 3 and 4*~~

~~**Data:** *As of the October 2019 PSN Team Meeting, team was advised by Lt. Arscott that the PGPD RMS system could not be adapted to reflect the use/inclusion of the Gun Arrest Checklist. UMD IGSR is contacting SAO office to determine if variable can be added to capture this activity.*~~

~~**2.** *DNA processing (swabbing for DNA evidence) will be conducted on 100% of guns recovered in Districts 3 and 4 except guns recovered on persons.*~~

~~**Data:** *PGPD Data: **GUN RECOVERIES-FEU Comparison** spreadsheet, "DNA" worksheet – Eligible for processing include all cases listed on the Reported Gun Recoveries spreadsheet column "Received" EXCEPT listed specifically as "person". PGPD are swabbing all others – including Vehicle, S/W; Recovery, Robbery; Assault, etc.; Date/Time of DNA Swab*~~

~~**3.** *100% of guns in Districts 3 and 4 eligible for DNA processing (i.e., not recovered on persons) will be submitted to FEU within 96 hours of recovery/arrest.*~~

~~**Data:** *PGPD Database – Date of Arrest; FEU Foxpro database – Date Submitted*~~

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For Intervention #6:

Facilitate continuous information sharing and coordination among agencies

1. *Collaboration and cooperation among members of the PSN team*

2. *Agency support for PSN activities; alignment of agency and PSN goals*

3. *Information sharing among agencies*

Data: *Stakeholder Survey conducted in September 2018 will be compared to same survey completed in late spring 2020. The survey, submitted to all past and present PSN team members, is anonymous.*

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For Intervention #7:

Use training and technical assistance to determine and execute appropriate investigative and enforcement strategies

1. *PGPD will conduct refresher training on timely submission of firearms and lawful searches and training on identification of the true gun possessor during arrests by July 20, 2018.*
Data: *PGPD PSN Activity Log -- Dates of training and numbers of officers trained*

2. *PGPD will conduct training on the Gun Arrest Checklist for all District 3 and 4 officers by August 31, 2018*
Data: *PGPD PSN Activity Log -- Dates of training and numbers of officers trained*

3. *The PSN team will identify other training needs.*
Data: *PSN Team Meeting Minutes maintained by USAO; IGSR track topics.*

4. *PGPD will conduct training on additional topics identified at PSN Team meetings*
Data: *PGPD PSN Activity Log -- Dates of training and numbers of officers trained*

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For Intervention #8:

Conduct outreach and community engagement that guides stabilization and revitalization

1. *During the PSN project period, PGPD will conduct 8 community-based information exchange sessions in Districts 3 and 4 (4 sessions per district) attended by at least one member of the PGPD PSN team, representatives of COPS and, if possible, the District Commander, the PSN Assistant State's Attorney or designee and a representative of Parole and Probation*

Data: *PGPD PSN Activity Log - PGPD will log each community-based information exchange session and report on who represented the PSN team, the PSN-related topics covered at the session, and the number of community members in attendance*

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STEP 7: ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENT USING FORCE-FIELD ANALYSIS:

What obstacles to implementing your chosen interventions can be anticipated at present?

What resources can you call on to overcome these obstacles?

What strategy is implied?

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Force-Field Analysis

Intervention #4: *Provide overtime for police to identify and pursue gun suppliers (straw purchasers and traffickers)*

Date: *February 2019*

Obstacles: *This intervention involved the PGPD Gun Unit working with the federal ATF to conduct surveillance at gun shows. That activity is no longer an ATF priority, so the intervention was eliminated from the project.*

Resources: *Funding that had been allocated to this intervention became available for reallocation.*

Strategy: *Reallocate funding to training as part of Intervention #7.*

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Force-Field Analysis

Intervention #5: *Enhance DNA processing/analysis*

Date: *February 2020*

Obstacles: *This intervention initially targeted gathering of DNA samples ("DNA processing") for all firearms not recovered on persons. While this effort began, it became apparent that there were concerns by prosecutors (particularly for Federal partners) that obtaining the DNA sample, but then not conducting the actual DNA analysis, was a possible hindrance to prosecution because it raised questions of why the DNA was not tested. DNA analysis is expensive, and processing DNA for all the eligible firearms seized would have far exceeded the project budget.*

In addition, the intervention also entailed the use of a Gun Arrest Checklist on which collection of DNA would be recorded and become part of the case file. In June and July 2018, PGPD trained 40 officers on the Gun Arrest Checklist. In October 2019, the PSN Team was advised that the PGPD RMS system could not be adapted to reflect the use of the checklist or its inclusion in the case file.

Resources: *No resources were available for this intervention.*

Strategy: *Initial inquiries were made with the SAO office regarding presence of checklists in the files. The Assistant State's Attorney associated with the PSN project did not think the Gun Arrest Checklist was routinely made part of the case file. It may be possible to determine whether the checklist is included in the files as part of the case quality review (See Objective 3.) But given that the intervention has been eliminated, the presence of the checklist may be moot.*

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STEP 8: IDENTIFYING CRITICAL BENCHMARKS:

What specific changes must occur in the project environment for you to implement your intervention?

For each intervention for which a force-field analysis was conducted, list key events ("Critical Benchmarks- CB's") that must happen to overcome obstacles to implementing your interventions and to make the situation conducive to a strong program. State specifically what key events or arrangements must be observed, by when, and who is responsible for bringing those events or arrangements about.

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Critical Benchmarks
Intervention #1:

Date Developed	Critical Benchmark	When	Who is Responsible?

Final Revision 07/2020

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Critical Benchmarks
Intervention #2:

Date Developed	Critical Benchmark	When	Who is Responsible?

Final Revision 07/2020

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STEP 9: ASSIGNING TASKS:

Who must do what by when in order to meet your critical benchmarks, implement the program as it is planned, monitor progress, and evaluate the activity.

List everything on the tables below that must be done to develop the program, secure materials and training, establish a location, recruit participants, locate service providers, begin and maintain services, achieve critical benchmarks, and monitor program implementation for each intervention, then do the same for all evaluation activities.

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TASKS
Intervention #1 : _____

Date Developed	Who?	What?	By When?

TASKS
Intervention #2: _____

Date Developed	Who?	What?	By When?

Appendix B: Methodological Details and Considerations Regarding Goal Assessment

Methodological details

a) Empirical specification for the difference-in-differences approach

More formally, the difference-in-differences method we follow can be summarized by Equation (1), which describes the regression specification we are using to obtain our estimates:

$$Outcome_{bm} = \alpha + \beta(Target\_beat_b * Post\_int_m) + \gamma_b + \tau_m + \varepsilon_{bm},$$

where $Outcome_{bm}$ refers to one of three outcomes of interest (gun crimes, arrests, and unique guns recovered) in each beat b and each month-year m. γ_b represents beat fixed effects and accounts for unobserved, time-invariant beat characteristics, while τ_m represents month-year fixed effects, which captures county-wide time trends. $Target\_beat_b * Post\_int_m$ is the interaction term (between target beats and the post-intervention period) and is the key variable of interest in our regression specification, thus making β the key coefficient of interest.

b) Parallel trends assumption

The key assumptions for the difference-in-differences method to be valid is that the control group must provide a valid counterfactual for what would have happened in the treatment group in the absence of a treatment. One of the indicators to assess if that assumption is likely to hold relies on checking if the trends on the outcomes of interest were statistically similar, between the treatment and control groups, during the pre-intervention period – this is commonly referred to as the "parallel trends assumption". When the parallel trends assumption is violated, we cannot take the control group as providing an appropriate counterfactual for the treatment group.

Appendix B Table 1 below shows the results of our check on the parallel trends assumption, when we take beats as the unit of analysis, for all three outcomes of interest: monthly gun crimes, arrests, and unique guns recovered. There we restrict the sample to the pre-intervention period and the key variables of interest are the interactions between the month-year and the target beats. The results in the table do not reject the hypothesis that the parallel trends assumption holds, when analyzing at the beat level. However, it is also important to realize that, aside from the limitations outlined in the results discussion, the number of observations from target beats in Appendix B Table 1 is small and that can lead to biases in the estimates.

Appendix B Table 2 below shows an analogous check for the parallel trends assumption, but now when we take districts as the unit of analysis. Unlike the case where we use beats as the unit of analysis, the results suggest that the parallel trends assumption does not hold, and therefore the estimates we obtain with the difference-in-differences approach will not be reliable and valid.

Appendix B Table 1: Parallel Trends Assumption When Beat Is Unit of Analysis

Variables	(1) Gun crimes per month Pre-intervention period	(2) Gun crimes per month Pre-intervention period Tobit	(3) Arrests per month Pre-intervention period	(4) Arrests per month Pre-intervention period Tobit	(5) Guns recovered per month Pre-intervention period	(6) Guns recovered per month Pre-intervention period Tobit
(Target beat)* (Sep-16)	0.367	0.247	-0.967	-1.551	-0.900	-1.102
	(0.862)	(0.874)	(1.195)	(2.075)	(0.888)	(1.389)
(Target beat)*(Oct-16)	0.900	0.494	-0.350	-1.910	-0.217	-1.157
	(1.202)	(1.180)	(1.519)	(2.260)	(1.110)	(1.534)
(Target beat)*(Nov-16)	0.200	0.068	-1.183	-3.859	-1.083	-2.671
	(1.037)	(1.042)	(1.147)	(2.731)	(0.859)	(1.769)
(Target beat)*(Dec-16)	1.317	0.839	-0.983	-2.062	-1.033	-1.810
	(1.069)	(1.056)	(1.113)	(1.916)	(0.811)	(1.272)
(Target beat)*(Jan-17)	-0.033	-0.613	0.850	-0.595	-0.050	-0.768
	(0.966)	(0.963)	(1.958)	(2.493)	(1.028)	(1.408)
(Target beat)*(Feb-17)	0.700	0.463	1.867	1.491	1.150	0.899
	(0.770)	(0.789)	(1.187)	(1.768)	(0.869)	(1.218)
(Target beat)*(Mar-17)	0.383	-0.111	0.600	-1.028	-0.083	-1.128
	(1.048)	(1.033)	(1.379)	(1.978)	(1.006)	(1.342)
(Target beat)*(Apr-17)	0.133	-0.018	0.800	0.364	0.117	-0.094
	(0.849)	(0.859)	(1.448)	(2.090)	(1.012)	(1.382)
(Target beat)*(May-17)	-0.817	-1.079	-0.900	-2.408	-0.500	-1.558
	(0.756)	(0.775)	(1.357)	(2.195)	(1.180)	(1.741)
(Target beat)*(Jun-17)	-0.367	-0.664	-1.500	-2.883	-0.667	-1.328
	(1.091)	(1.079)	(1.091)	(1.887)	(0.868)	(1.314)
(Target beat)*(Jul-17)	0.233	-0.131	1.100	-0.591	0.767	-0.144
	(1.084)	(1.149)	(1.772)	(2.466)	(1.215)	(1.618)
(Target beat)*(Aug-17)	0.817	0.508	4.867	4.254	4.217	3.868
	(1.040)	(1.031)	(3.916)	(3.957)	(3.377)	(3.334)
(Target beat)*(Sep-17)	0.950	0.716	-0.283	-2.773	-0.067	-1.387
	(1.126)	(1.117)	(1.378)	(2.327)	(1.100)	(1.650)
(Target beat)*(Oct-17)	0.583	0.212	0.767	-0.687	0.400	-0.544
	(1.073)	(1.061)	(1.452)	(2.082)	(1.084)	(1.441)
(Target beat)*(Nov-17)	0.800	0.294	-0.683	-1.639	-0.333	-0.909
	(0.944)	(0.938)	(1.047)	(1.675)	(0.833)	(1.179)
(Target beat)*(Dec-17)	1.550	1.154	-0.217	-1.663	-0.533	-1.405
	(1.217)	(1.197)	(1.284)	(2.142)	(0.931)	(1.405)
(Target beat)*(Jan-18)	-0.617	-0.887	0.900	0.846	-0.333	-0.218
	(0.660)	(0.685)	(1.832)	(2.370)	(0.816)	(1.235)
Observations	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188
R-squared	0.650		0.390		0.415	
Month-year fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beat fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1

Robust standard errors in parentheses. Beat fixed effects were included were included in the regression but are not displayed for conciseness. The sample is limited to the September 2016 - February 2018 period.

Appendix B Table 2: Parallel Trends Assumption When District Is Unit of Analysis

Variables	(1) Gun crimes per month Pre-intervention period	(2) Gun crimes per month Pre-intervention period Tobit	(3) Arrests per month Pre-intervention period	(4) Arrests per month Pre-intervention period Tobit	(5) Guns recovered per month Pre-intervention period	(6) Guns recovered per month Pre-intervention period Tobit
(Target beat)*(Sep-16)	2.833	2.833	7.500	7.328	1.500	2.708
	(3.591)	(3.034)	(8.294)	(7.124)	(4.443)	(3.925)
(Target beat)*(Oct-16)	15.167**	15.167***	7.833	7.040	3.833	3.262
	(6.410)	(5.415)	(7.053)	(6.023)	(4.049)	(3.487)
(Target beat)*(Nov-16)	5.000	5.424	-1.833	-0.772	-2.667	-1.979
	(6.991)	(5.930)	(3.637)	(3.280)	(2.813)	(2.474)
(Target beat)*(Dec-16)	6.500	6.500*	4.000	5.389	1.500	2.267
	(4.028)	(3.404)	(4.173)	(3.908)	(3.217)	(2.999)
(Target beat)*(Jan-17)	15.333**	15.333***	26.333***	25.540***	10.500**	9.928**
	(6.019)	(5.084)	(5.966)	(5.096)	(4.472)	(3.813)
(Target beat)*(Feb-17)	8.000**	8.000**	14.000***	14.099***	8.167	8.135*
	(3.788)	(3.201)	(3.327)	(3.049)	(4.937)	(4.264)
(Target beat)*(Mar-17)	7.500**	7.500**	6.333	5.540	2.167	1.595
	(3.460)	(2.927)	(5.073)	(4.434)	(3.396)	(2.996)
(Target beat)*(Apr-17)	7.667**	7.667***	15.167***	14.374***	7.500*	7.209**
	(3.443)	(2.910)	(4.111)	(3.583)	(4.153)	(3.627)
(Target beat)*(May-17)	3.333	3.333	13.500**	13.888***	0.833	1.005
	(4.135)	(3.493)	(5.218)	(4.688)	(2.752)	(2.563)
(Target beat)*(Jun-17)	4.500	4.500	2.500	2.115	3.167	2.959
	(6.024)	(5.088)	(7.496)	(6.386)	(3.215)	(2.767)
(Target beat)*(Jul-17)	7.000**	7.000**	21.833***	21.404***	11.000***	10.689***
	(3.419)	(2.889)	(4.164)	(3.711)	(2.664)	(2.399)
(Target beat)*(Aug-17)	3.333	3.333	14.500	13.707	11.333	10.762
	(5.258)	(4.442)	(11.865)	(10.049)	(10.825)	(9.156)
(Target beat)*(Sep-17)	4.667	4.667	4.167	3.374	1.667	1.095
	(4.020)	(3.396)	(5.568)	(4.708)	(5.607)	(4.736)
(Target beat)*(Oct-17)	4.667	4.667	11.000**	10.207**	4.167	3.595
	(3.387)	(2.863)	(4.976)	(4.249)	(3.238)	(2.749)
(Target beat)*(Nov-17)	5.333	5.333	5.667	5.966*	2.667	2.839
	(4.123)	(3.481)	(3.569)	(3.442)	(2.951)	(2.680)
(Target beat)*(Dec-17)	7.500	7.500	14.167*	14.725**	-1.000	-0.744
	(5.913)	(4.993)	(7.856)	(6.765)	(2.873)	(2.573)
(Target beat)*(Jan-18)	5.667	5.667*	12.000***	12.154***	1.667	2.239
	(3.610)	(3.049)	(2.860)	(2.559)	(2.354)	(2.160)
Observations	144	144	144	144	144	144
R-squared	0.933		0.822		0.803	
Month-year fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1

Robust standard errors in parentheses. District fixed effects were included were included in the regression but are not displayed for conciseness. The sample is limited to the September 2016 - February 2018 period.

The Impact on District and Beat Changes of July 1, 2019 Reorganization

The PSN initiative targeted beats H1, H4, H5, and H7 in old District 3 and beats K1, K2, and K3 in District 4. However, on July 1, 2019, some districts and beats were reorganized and these changes have a substantial impact in the measurement and evaluation of the overall goal and Objective 1a. At the district level, old District 3 split into two separate districts (new District 3 and District 8), with District 2 losing a small amount of territory (in beats E2 and E4) to the new Districts 3 and 8. At the beat level, the changes were as follows:

- Beat H6 in old District 3 corresponds to beat H5 in new District 8. This is the only beat in District 8 that appears to have not changed borders as a result of the July 1, 2019, reorganization of old District 3.

- Beat H1 in new District 8 corresponds primarily to beat H1 in old District 3, although it also includes some areas belonging to beats H2 and G1 in old District 3 (which were not target beats).

- Beat H4 in old District 3 corresponds roughly to beat H2 in new District 8, although the latter gained some territory that used to be in beat H5 from old District 3 (which was also a target beat).

- Beats H5 and H7 in old District 3 roughly correspond to beats H6 and H4 (respectively) in District 8, although with substantial territory switches between them. As a result, for analytical purposes, those two beats will be taken as a single beat throughout the 2016-2020 period. Beat H5 in old district 3 also lost some territory to the new beat H7 in District 8 (which was not a target).

- Beats H2, H3, and G4 in old District 3, along with E4 in District 2 all incurred substantial changes in territory with the reorganization. As a whole, they can be mapped to the current beats H3 and H7 (District 8), G4 and G7 (new District 3), and E4 (District 2). The large territorial changes that took place for individual beats would mean that mapping the old ones to the new ones on an individual level would introduce a large degree of error. As an example, beat H7 in District 8 now includes areas that were previously in beats H2, H3, and H5 of old District 3, as well as beat E4 from District 2.

- Beat G5 in new District 3 results from the merger of beats G5 and G7 in old District 3 and also includes a small area from beat E2 (District 2).

As a result of the changes outlined above, we made the following assumptions and decisions:

- Use beats H1, H4, and a merger of H5 and H7 in old District 3 as the target area for incidents prior to July 1, 2019, and beats H1, H2, H6, and H4 in District 8, respectively, as the target area for incidents on and after July 1, 2019. This inevitably introduces biases, but that is unavoidable given that the reorganization directly affected several of the target beats.

- For beats that were not part of the target areas but incurred substantial territory changes with the reorganization, the approach will be to merge them and take them as a single beat throughout the period, to minimize bias. Therefore:

    - G5 and G7 in old District 3 are merged and taken as a single beat, prior to the reorganization, that is assumed to correspond to the same area as G5 in the new District 3 after the reorganization.

    - Similarly, beats H2, H3, G4, and E4 (old District 3 and District 2) are merged and taken as a single beat, prior to the reorganization; beats H3, H7, G4, G7, and E4 (Districts 2, 3, and 8) are also merged and taken as a single beat corresponding to the same area in the post-reorganization period. This merged beat was then assumed to belong to District 8 throughout the evaluation period, despite containing beat E4.

Obtaining Estimates for Number of Unique Guns Recovered

In the final sample based on the PGPD Gun Intel Unit Data files there were 2,644 arrests in the period under analysis, related to a total of 1,619 cases. For the cases where arrests were made, guns were recovered, and gun serial numbers were registered, the data files record 1,576 unique guns.

However, there are also 344 arrests, associated with 242 cases, where there is no gun serial number information. In these instances, the number of unique guns recovered was estimated indirectly, as follows:

- In 93 of those arrests, there is information on the gun manufacturer and/or model. Each different manufacturer/model combination within a case is assumed to correspond to a unique gun.

    - If multiple people in a case are arrested, the manufacturer/model combination is the same for all people, and we do not have any serial number, we assume it corresponds only to one unique gun.

    - If there are multiple entries to a given case (either due to more than one arrest or more than one gun) and if the gun serial number is available for some entries but not for all, we assume that any unique manufacturer/model combination within that case represents an additional unique gun (in addition to any whose serial number appears on file for that case).

- For the remaining 251 arrests, we assume there is one unique gun involved per case. Given that these arrests come from 176 different cases, this yields an estimate of 176 additional unique guns.

Appendix C: "The 25" Final Report (Objective 2)

"THE 25" INITIATIVE: PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY'S REPEAT HANDGUN OFFENDER PILOT PROGRAM

Background

Violent victimizations in the United States involving a firearm increased 60% from 2015 to 2017.[1] Previous research demonstrates the usefulness of state criminal history records for examining recidivism of repeat handgun offenders such that repeat handgun offenders were 6 times more likely to be re-arrested for a firearm charge than offenders of previous non-firearm related crimes.[2] Therefore, even minor initial illegal firearm involvement can signal risk of serious long-term consequences for both public safety and the involved individual, and should not be minimized as a risk factor.

During 2018, the Criminal Intelligence Division (CID), engaged in a violent repeat handgun offender initiative targeting repeated handgun offenders within Prince George's County. This initiative specifically focused on "The 25," who the CID identified as subjects within Prince George's County that heavily contributed to violent crime and repeated handgun offenses. The intent of the program was to target offenders who likely had the greatest impact on violent crime and public safety.

Methodology

Commanders of the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Gun Intelligence Unit spearheaded the operation by establishing and maintaining open lines of communication between several agencies to include the Office of Parole and Probation, the State's Attorney's Office, and various law enforcement entities. Offender identification and focused investigative strategies would serve as the foundation for this project. Each subject identified to be a repeat gun offender was assigned to an individual investigator. That investigator was charged with developing a strategy that catered to each offender's case with the end result of reducing violence by incarceration, rehabilitation, or use of monitored supervision to ensure compliance.

Monthly "25" meetings were attended by Assistant State's Attorney Todd Steuart and Assistant State's Attorney Jonathan Decarlo, Agent William Turc from Parole and Probation, varying members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and every investigator assigned to an offender from within the division. These monthly meetings were paramount to the success of this project. Each offender was discussed at length allowing every member in the meeting to share information and develop a specific strategy to investigate their offender. Additionally, each offender was subscribed to in the Records Management System, allowing real time contact notifications to be provided to the assigned investigator. During these meetings, updated information was provided by Parole and Probation as to additional police contacts, offender violations known or pending, and any unknown open warrants. This information was paramount as the glue to ensuring that pending cases and new arrests were tied together and presented by the State's Attorney to ensure the defendant was held and that all cases were known to the judicial system as decisions were being made.

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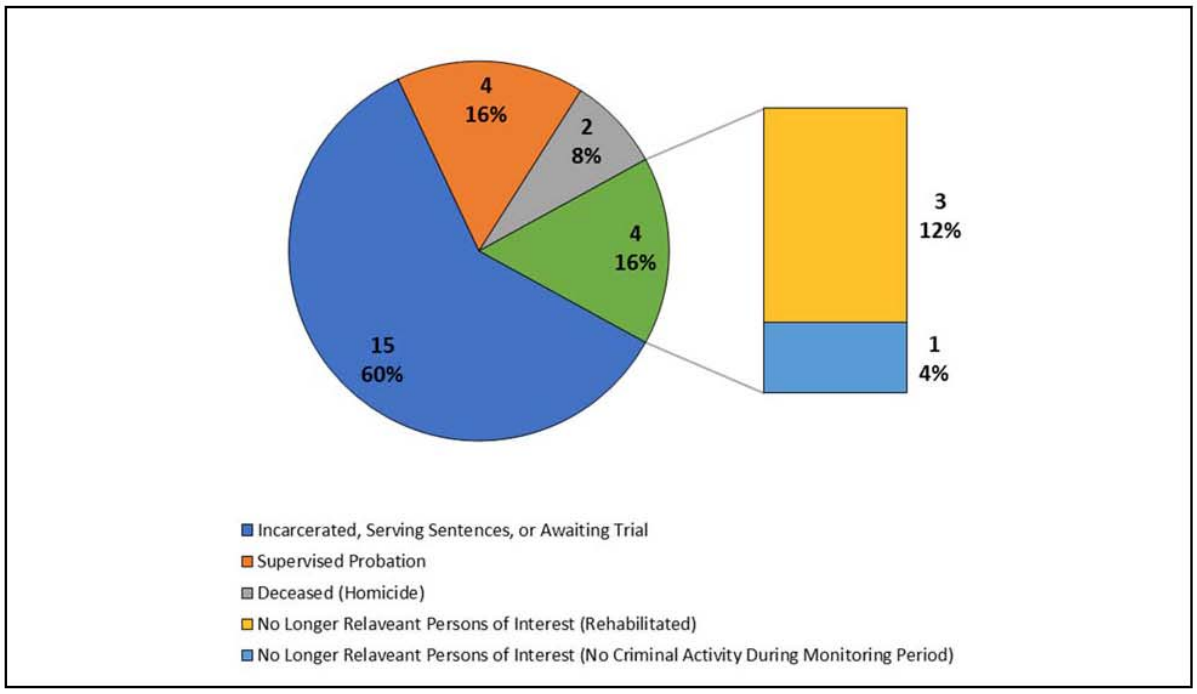
[1] Morgan, R.E., & Truman, J.L. (2018). Criminal Victimization, 2017. Bureau of Justice Statistics. www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv17.pdf

[2] Devitt Westley, C., Kang, B., Sheridan, E., & Specker, J. (2018). Examining the recidivism of firearm offenders using state criminal history and mortality data. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Results

Figure 1. Results of "The 25" Initiative as of December 2018



15 of the 25 are incarcerated serving sentences or awaiting trial
4 of the 25 are on supervised probation
2 of the 25 are deceased (homicide)
4 of the 25 are no longer relevant persons of interest, as despite multiple avenues of investigations, these subjects maintained legality.

-100% of "The 25" were fully investigated and prosecuted with every available resource.
-**84% of the "The 25"** are no longer free to interact with citizens of Prince George's County in a manner in which gun crime can be committed and violence perpetuated.
-There is 1 offender on this list to which this division believes to be fully rehabilitated and the department of Parole and Probation is in the process of offering outreach services to continue to assist him in his journey.
-The remaining 3 offenders, while having a substantial criminal background, have ceased in criminal activity for the time in which monitoring was underway. It is the hope of this division that this positivity will continue.

The outcome of this targeted offender project has contributed to a **decrease in violent crime** across Prince George's County of 11.4% and a reduction in illegal handguns recovered by 5%.

Appendix D: Case Quality Review Pre-intervention Report

Maryland Project Safe Neighborhoods 2017

Case Quality Review

Pre-intervention Report

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DRAFT
December 3, 2019

INSTITUTE FOR
GOVERNMENTAL
SERVICE AND RESEARCH

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Acknowledgements

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Case Quality Review Process

Objective 3 of the Prince George's County PSN project was to improve the quality of cases against gun offenders. Specifically, the PSN team sought to achieve a 15% increase in gun-related cases rated as high quality among those prepared during the intervention compared to those prepared prior to the intervention. Attainment of the objective would be determined through a review of the case files of 75 randomly selected cases from the intervention period and 75 randomly selected cases from prior to the intervention.

A review of criminal justice and legal literature uncovered no previous studies of case quality. However, several publications discuss measures of prosecutor performance. Traditionally, conviction rate was the sole metric of prosecutor performance, but expanding metrics to address multiple prosecutor goals (Dillingham, Nugent, and Whitcomb, 2004) and prosecutorial discretion during charging and plea bargaining (Kreag, 2017, pp. 798-800) has been advocated.

The American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) developed a measurement framework to address three prosecutorial goals: (1) promoting the fair, impartial, and expeditious pursuit of justice; (2) ensuring safe communities; and (3) promoting integrity in the prosecution profession and coordination in the criminal justice system (Dillingham, et al., 2004). APRI applied the framework for goals 1 and 2 in two prosecutors' offices and found that data related to convictions, sentencing, pleas, average disposition time, crime rates, repeat offenders, and public perception of crime are valid performance measures for these goals (Nugent-Borakove, Budzilowicz, and Rainville, 2009, p.xiv).

Following a national survey of data collection and use by prosecutors' offices, the Urban Institute recommended that, at a minimum, prosecutors compile seven foundational metrics (cases referred, initial charges, final charges, cases declined, cases dismissed, cases resolved by pleas, and cases that go to trial) as well as basic case details such as offense type (Olsen, Courtney, Warnberg, and Samuels, 2018, p. 15). More ambitious data collection would include other case details (misdemeanor/felony classifications, referring law enforcement agency, assigned prosecutor, defendant characteristics, and victim characteristics) and at least one metric at each prosecutorial decision-making stage, that is screening and charging, pretrial release, alternative options, and plea bargaining and sentencing (Olsen, et al., 2018, pp. 15-16).

The measures contained in the referenced literature pertain to the overall objectives and broad set of case types handled by prosecutors' offices. A limited set of the measures is applicable to the prosecution of gun crimes.

For the current project, a case quality review panel was formed to identify the elements of a high quality gun-related case. The panel comprised the Operations Research Analyst and an Assistant State's Attorney from the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, the Commander of the Gun Intel Unit of the Prince George's Police Department, the Co-principal Investigator at UMD-IGSR, and a University of Maryland law student serving at UMD-IGSR under the UM Scholars program. The panel initially agreed to a set of seven elements that would be extracted from the case files to assess the quality of cases. The elements selected include several of the

1

measures recommended by APRI and the Urban Institute as well as items specific to gun crimes. The seven elements and their rationale are listed below:

1. Number of charges issued by officer

   The PSN project should put more resources into the efforts to locate and carefully assess potential gun crime violations. The more thorough the assessment of the crime scene the greater the potential number of charges issued, and the higher the likelihood of a conviction.

2. Were there victims and/or civilian witnesses? If yes, was a verbal or written statement acquired from each victim and witness?

   Additional resources for locating and assessing gun crime violations should lead to officers using their time and training to secure verbal or written statements at the crime scene. Properly secured statements will be admissible in court, and should lead to a higher likelihood of conviction.

3. Is there a Test Fire Certificate in the case file? If yes, what is the date of the certification?

   Ensuring that ballistics tests are performed is part of the PSN project, and should lead to higher likelihoods of conviction.

4. Was a gun found physically on the accused person? If no, was a DNA test performed on the firearm?

   The PSN project includes procedures that increase the likelihood of DNA testing of firearms. DNA testing of firearms and other evidence should lead to higher likelihoods of conviction.

5. Was a plea deal offered? If yes, what was the length of the plea deal in months? On what date was the plea deal offered?

   The PSN project increases the capacity of officers and prosecutors to pursue gun crimes, which should lead to better cases. Longer plea deals indicate that the prosecuting attorney is less willing to make a generous deal, and more confident that a guilty verdict will result from a trial. Longer plea deals, on average, should be associated with a higher likelihood of conviction.

6. Time between arrest and resolution of case

   Shorter time to resolution indicates a stronger case. By devoting more resources to prosecuting gun crimes, speedier resolution should result, and cases should have a higher likelihood of conviction.

7. How many prior gun crime convictions does the defendant have?

   The PSN project puts resources toward arresting and convicting the most frequent perpetrators of gun crime. Arrests of those with prior gun convictions is an indicator that the program is succeeding and moving those most likely to be convicted because of their past gun-related behavior into the criminal justice system.

The initial thinking was that a numerical score could be assigned to each case based on the information found in the case files for each element. To test the use of these elements, the UMD-IGSR Co-principal Investigator and law student collected data from the case files of a sample of 25 pre-intervention cases. In addition to data that addressed the seven elements of case quality, the resolution of the case (acquittal, conviction, or nolle prosequi) was also collected. (See Appendix 1 for a description of the data collection process.)

Results of Pilot Data Collection from 25 Pre-intervention Cases

The pilot test supported the rationale behind elements 1 and 3. Cases with many charges (seven or more) and those with a test fire certificate in the case file were more likely to result in convictions.

The pilot test revealed potential problems collecting data for case quality elements 4, 5, and 7. It often was unclear from the case files whether DNA testing occurred, the length and timing of plea deals, and whether a defendant's prior convictions were for gun crimes.

The pilot test also called into question the rationale behind elements 2, 4, and 6. The pilot cases with witnesses, all of whom had given statements, were not more likely to result in convictions, contrary to the rationale for element 2. The cases with victims were more likely to result in convictions, whether or not the file contained victim statements. The result may be due to the more serious nature of crimes with victims rather than to the quality of the case. The single case with documented DNA testing did not support the rationale for element 4. The DNA did not match the defendant, so DNA testing did not lead to a stronger case. Contrary to the rationale for element 6, the average time from arrest to resolution of the case was more than twice as long for the cases resolved by conviction as the cases resolved by nolle prosequi.

Overall, the results of the pilot test suggested that case quality could not be summarized by a numerical score based on the seven elements identified initially. Instead, statistical analyses would be needed to better understand the relationships between the seven elements, other case variables, and the resolution of cases. The case quality review panel agreed that collecting some additional case data would enhance these analyses. As detailed in Appendix 1, in addition to the data collected for the pilot test, the revised data collection form itemizes charges by type, requests demographic data for each victim and witness, asks whether the gun was swabbed for DNA as well as whether the DNA was tested, requests the date the defendant pled guilty, asks whether the defendant was released on bail or their own recognizance, expands the possible case outcomes, and requests the number of all prior convictions as well as the number of gun crime convictions.

Case Quality Review of 75 Pre-intervention Cases

Case Elements

The following section summarize the data collected from 75 pre-intervention cases using the revised data collection form. The data are generally complete with two exceptions: (1) victim and witness demographics and (2) pre-trial release. Very few case files contained information on victim and witness demographics. For many cases, it was not possible to determine from the case files whether or not the defendant was released on bail. Also, many case files were not checked to determine whether the defendant was released on their own recognizance because this item was added to the data collection form only after one instance of release on own recognizance was found. The researchers are attempting to fill in the pre-trial release data gaps using the online tool, Maryland Judiciary Case Search[1].

Charges

The researchers counted the total number of charges levied in each case and tallied each charge in one of three categories: (1) illegal possession of firearms or ammunition, (2) other gun crimes, and (3) other crimes. If the case concluded in District Court, the charges prosecuted in District Court were counted. If the case concluded in Circuit Court, the charges prosecuted in Circuit Court were counted.

Among the 75 cases reviewed, there were a total of 418 charges levied against defendants, for an average of 5.6 charges per case. As shown in the "Total" column of

[1] http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch/

Table 1, all the cases involved at least one charge, only 4 cases (5.3%) involved a single charge, and the other 71 cases (94.7%) had multiple charges. In 46 cases (61.3%), there were between 2 and 5 charges, and in some more extreme cases (approximately 9% of the total) there were more than 10 charges.

As shown in the "Illegal Firearm/Ammo Possession" column, of the 75 defendants arrested, only 6 (8.0%) were not charged with illegal firearm or ammunition possession; 12 defendants had a single possession charge, and the remaining 57 had multiple possession charges, ranging from 2 to more than 10.

In 51 cases (68%) defendants were not charged with any gun crimes other than possession of a firearm or ammunition, while 24 cases (32.0%) involved other gun crimes, such as armed robbery. Two defendants (2.7%) were each charged with more than 10 other gun crimes.

Thirty cases (40%) involved no crimes other than gun crimes, while 45 cases (60.0%) involved other crimes not related to guns. These other crimes were often drug-related.

Table 1: Number of Charges

Number of Charges	Cases with Specified Number of Charges							
	Total		Illegal Firearm/Ammo Possession		Other Gun Crimes		Other Crimes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	0	0.0	6	8.0	51	68.0	30	40.0
1	4	5.3	12	16.0	10	13.3	18	24.0
2 to 5	46	61.3	51	68.0	9	12.0	26	34.7
6 to 10	18	24.0	4	5.3	3	4.0	1	1.3
>10	7	9.3	2	2.7	2	2.7	0	0.0
Total	75	100.0	75	100.0	75	100.0	75	100.0

The charges listed in the case files were tallied in three categories, possession of firearms/ammunition, other gun crimes, and other crimes. Table 2 shows the number of cases with each combination of these types of charges. Fifty cases (66.7%) involved possession or a combination of possession and other crimes. (The other crimes were often drug crimes.) Twenty-four cases (32.0%) involved gun crimes other than or as well as possession. Only six cases (8.0%) did not include a gun possession charge. (The one case that involved only other crimes (no gun crimes) began in District Court with both gun possession and drug charges, but only the drug charges were prosecuted once the case reached Circuit Court.)

Table 2: Number of Cases by Type of Charges

Type of Charges	Number of Cases	% of Cases
Illegal firearm/ammo possession and other crimes	29	38.7
Illegal firearm/ammo possession, only	21	28.0
Illegal firearm/ammo possession, other gun crimes, and other crimes	12	16.0
Illegal firearm/ammo possession and other gun crimes	7	9.3
Other gun crimes and other crimes	3	4.0
Other gun crimes, only	2	2.7
Other crimes, only	1	1.3
Total	75	100.0

Victims and Witnesses

Table 3 shows that in a clear majority of the cases (80.0%) there were no victims; similarly, most of the arrests (85.3%) did not involve witnesses. Among the 15 cases that had victims, there were a total of 24 victims; among the 11 cases that had witnesses, there were a total of 15 witnesses.

Table 3: Numbers of Victims and Witnesses

Number of Victims/Witnesses	Cases with Specified Number of Victims/Witnesses			
	Victims		Witnesses	
	No.	%	No.	%
0	60	80.0	64	85.3
1	8	10	7	9.3
2	5	6.7	4	5.3
3	2	2.7	0	0.0
Total	75	100.0	75	100.0

In the cases where there were victims and/or witnesses (Table 4), there were statements in the case files for only a minority of cases (46.7% and 36.4%, respectively). It should be noted that some of the individuals identified in the case record as victims were not parties to the arrest incident. For example, some of the victims were the owners of firearms or vehicles that had been stolen at an earlier time and recovered during the arrest.

Table 4: Victim and Witness Statements

Victims/Witnesses with Statements	Victims		Witnesses	
	Number of Cases (among cases with victims)	% of cases with victims	Number of Cases (among cases with witnesses)	% of cases with witnesses
None	8	53.3	7	63.6
Some	1	6. 7	0	0.0
All	6	40.0	4	36.4
Total	15	100.0	11	100.0

Victim and Witness Demographics

Questions on victim and witness demographics were added to the data collection form based on the Urban Institute's recommendation that this information be collected by prosecutors' offices. Among these 75 cases, no information on the victim's race was found in the case file for half of the victims (Table 5). Where information was found, 7 out of 12 victims were Black. For witnesses, information on race was found in the case file for only one third of witnesses, all of whom were Black.

The information in the case file on victim and witness ethnicity was even more limited (Table 6). For victims, ethnicity was missing/unknown for 87.5% of the 24 witnesses, with the remaining 12.5% not being Hispanic; for the 15 witnesses, there was no ethnicity information.

Table 5: Victim and Witness Race

	Black		White		Other		Mixed		Unknown		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Victims	7	29.2	2	8.3	3	12.5	0	0.0	12	50.0	24	100.0
Witnesses	5	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	66.7	15	100.0

Table 6: Victim and Witness Ethnicity

Hispanic	Yes		No		Unknown		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Victims	0	0.0	3	12.5	21	87.5	24	100.0
Witnesses	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	100.0	15	100.0

Forensics

A Test Fire Certificate was part of the case file of 36 cases, or slightly less than half of the cases (48.0%). Additionally, a gun was found on the person of the accused in 12 cases (16.0%). For the 63 cases in which the gun was not found on the person or the case file did not specify where the gun was found, only 2 cases (approximately 3%) had the gun swabbed and tested for DNA.[2]

Defendant Criminal History

Information regarding the defendant's criminal history was found in 70 of the 75 case files reviewed. These cases were evenly split, with the defendant in 35 cases having prior convictions, and the defendant in the other 35 cases without prior convictions. Among the 35 defendants with a criminal record, 21 (60.0%) had more than one conviction, with one defendant having 18 prior convictions (Table 7). For three of the defendants with prior convictions, it could not be determined whether any of the convictions were for gun crimes. At least 10 defendants (28.6%) had a prior gun crime conviction, but none of these defendants had more than one prior gun conviction.

[2] DNA testing is a priority of the PSN intervention. It is not surprising that little DNA testing was documented during the pre-intervention period.

Table 7: Prior Convictions among 35 Defendants with Known Criminal History

Number of Convictions	All Prior Convictions		Prior Gun Crime Convictions	
	Number of Defendants	% of Defendants	Number of Defendants	% of Defendants
Unknown	0	0.0	3	8.6
0	0	0.0	22	62.9
1	14	40.0	10	28.6
2	10	28.6		
3	2	5.7		
4	5	14.3		
5	1	2.9		
6	0	0.0		
7	2	5.7		
18	1	2.9		
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0

Defendant Pretrial Release

Information regarding the defendants' pretrial release is incomplete. While in 48.0% of the cases, the defendants were released on bail, information was unknown or missing (i.e., the information was not collected) for approximately 45% of the cases. Efforts are being made to fill in the missing data using Maryland Judiciary Case Search. So far, only 1 defendant was found to have been released on own recognizance. This information will be updated in the final report.

Plea Deals

Plea deals were offered in 38 of 75 cases, approximately half of the total (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Of those 38 cases, a clear majority (32 or 84.2%) were accepted, suggesting that, in cases in which plea deals were offered, defendants believed the prosecution's case was strong. Out of the plea deals offered, a majority included incarceration (25 of 38) and even more frequently probation (28 cases) and suspended time (32 cases).

Case Duration

Case duration (the number of days between the arrest date and the case resolution date) has a large degree of variability (Table 8). While no cases were resolved in the first 30 days, in 40.0% of the instances the case resolution took less than 6 months. However, in about 23% of the cases it took more than a year to attain a resolution. Two of the 75 cases were still ongoing due to the defendants' failure to appear.

Table 8: Time to Case Resolution

Number of Days	No.	%
1 to 30	0	0.0
31 to 90	9	12.0
91 to 180	21	28.0
181 to 365	26	34.7
> 365	17	22.7
Ongoing	2	2.7
Total	75	100.0

Resolution of Charges

Table 9 shows how charges were resolved, ranked from most to least frequent. A clear majority of the 418 charges (337 or 80.6%) were resolved by "nolle prosequi" not due to Federal prosecution. The next most frequent resolution was a guilty plea, which occurred for 39 charges or 9.3% of all charges. For 16 charges (3.8%), the defendant failed to appear. The defendant was found guilty at trial on 9 charges (2.2%).

Table 9: Resolution of Charges by Type of Resolution

Type of Resolution	Number of Charges	% of Total Charges
Nolle prosequi (not due to Federal prosecution)	337	80.6
Guilty Plea	39	9.3
Failure to appear	16	3.8
Found guilty at trial	9	2.2
Death	5	1.2
Nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution	4	1.0
Stet without conditions	3	0.7
Stet with conditions	2	0.5
Acquittal	1	0.2
Dismissal	1	0.2
Probation before judgement	1	0.2
Total	418	100.0%

Case Results

While Table 9 presents information on each of the 418 charges associated with the 75 cases under analysis, the table does not reveal the results associated for each case. For that, cases were assigned the one of three results: favorable, unfavorable, or neutral prosecution, according the following categorization:

- Unfavorable, if **all** charges in the case had the resolution of nolle prosequi (not due to Federal prosecution) **or** if **any** charge had the resolution "acquittal" or "dismissal" **and no** charge had the resolution "guilty plea", "found guilty at trial", "probation before judgement", "stet with conditions", or "nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution".
- Favorable, if **any** charge in the case had any of the following resolutions: "guilty plea", "found guilty at trial", "probation before judgement", "stet with conditions", or "nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution".
- Neutral, if **any** charge had the resolution "stet without conditions", "failure to appear", or "death".

When using this classification, the prosecution obtained a favorable result in 50.7% of the cases, versus an unfavorable one in 44.0% of the cases (Table 10).

Table 10: Case Results

Prosecution result	No.	%
Unfavorable	33	44.0
Favorable	38	50.7
Neutral	4	5.3
Total	75	100.0

Relationship of Case Elements to Case Results

It is not possible to analyze the effects of the PSN initiative on case quality until after data are compiled for the set of cases that were prosecuted during the intervention. However, it is possible to explore whether any of the elements of the pre-intervention cases appear to be associated with a favorable or unfavorable case result. The following sections examine some of the possible relationships.

Charges

The proportion of cases with unfavorable prosecution results decreases as the number of charges increases (Table 11).

Table 11: Case Results by Total Charges

	Case result							
Number of charges	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
1	4	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	100.0
2 to 5	20	43.5	24	52.2	2	4.5	46	100.0
6 to 10	7	38.9	9	50.0	2	11.1	18	100.0
>10	2	28.6	5	71.4	0	0.0	7	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Table 12 presents case results by types of charges levied in the case. Only 38.1% of cases in which the only charges involve illegal possession of firearms/ammunition have favorable results. In contrast, more than 55% of cases in which the charges are possession in combination with other gun crimes and/or other crimes have favorable results.

Table 12: Case Results by Types of Charges

	Case Result							
Types of Charges	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
Illegal firearm/ammo possession and other crimes	13	44.8	16	55.2	0	0.0	29	100.0
Illegal firearm/ammo possession, only	12	57.1	8	38.1	1	4.8	21	100.0
Illegal firearm/ammo possession, other gun crimes, and other crimes	3	25.0	7	58.3	2	16.7	12	100.0
Illegal firearm/ammo possession and other gun crimes	3	42.9	4	57.1	0	0.0	7	100.0
Other gun crimes and other crimes	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0.0	3	100.0
Other gun crimes, only	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
Other crimes, only	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Victims and Witnesses

Table 13 and Table 14 show the cross-tabulation of case results with the number of victims and witnesses. The small number of victims and witnesses within the 75 cases under analysis limits how much can be inferred, but even in the cases without either victims and/or witnesses, approximately half of the cases were successfully prosecuted.

Table 13: Case Results by Number of Victims

	Case result							
Number of victims	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
0	28	46.7	29	48.3	3	5.0	60	100.0
1	3	37.5	4	50.0	1	12.5	8	100.0
2	2	40.0	3	60.0	0	0.0	5	100.0
3	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Table 14: Case Results by Number of Witnesses

	Case result							
Number of witnesses	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
0	29	45.3	33	51.6	2	3.1	64	100.0
1	3	42.9	3	42.9	1	14.3	7	100.0
2	1	25.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Forensics

Table 15 shows that having a test fire certificate in the file was positively correlated with a successful prosecution; similarly, Table 16 shows a positive correlation between a gun being found on a person and successful prosecution.

Table 15: Case Results by Whether a Test Fire Certificate Is in the File

	Case result							
Test fire certificate	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
Yes	10	27.8	25	69.4	1	2.8	36	100.0
No	23	60.5	12	31.6	3	7.9	38	100.0
Missing	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Table 16: Case Results by Whether a Gun Was Found on the Person

	Case result							
Gun found on person	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
Yes	2	16.7	9	75.0	1	8.3	12	100.0
No	31	51.7	26	43.3	3	5.0	60	0.010
Unknown	0	0.0	3	100.0	0	0.0	3	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Plea Deals

Table 17 shows the cross-tabulation of case results with plea deal offers. Nearly all the cases where a plea deal was offered had a successful prosecution. The 36 favorable case results include the 32 defendants that accepted a plea deal and pled guilty to at least one charge as well as 4 of the 6 defendants who were offered but did not accept a plea deal. Conversely, only 2 of the 27 cases where no plea deal was offered had a favorable result for the prosecution. These findings reinforce the idea that plea deals are being offered primarily when the prosecution's case is strong.

Table 17: Case Results by Plea Deal Offer

	Case result							
Plea deal offered	Unfavorable	%	Favorable	%	Neutral	%	Total	%
Yes	2	5.3	36	94.7	0	0.0	38	100.0
No	31	83.8	2	5.4	4	10.8	37	100.0
Total	33	44.0	38	50.7	4	5.3	75	100.0

Summary of Findings from Pre-intervention Cases

Case Elements

The 75 pre-intervention cases encompassed 418 charges, with nearly 95% of the cases having multiple charges. All but 6 cases included a charge of illegally possessing a firearm and/or ammunition. Twenty-four cases involved gun crimes other than or in addition to possession.

There were no victims in 85% of the cases and no witnesses in 80% of the cases. Statements from at least some of the victims were found in 11 of the 15 cases with victims. Statements from witnesses were found in 4 of the 11 cases with witnesses. The person's race was found in the case file for only 12 of the 24 victims and 5 of the 15 witnesses. Ethnicity was found for 3 victims, and no ethnicity information was available for witnesses.

Test fire certificates were found in about half the case files. Of the 63 cases in which the gun was not found on the defendant or the case file did not specify where the gun was found, only 2 cases had documentation of DNA testing.

Information on the defendant's criminal history was found in 70 cases. In half of these cases, the defendant had at least one prior conviction, while in the other half of cases, the defendant had no prior convictions. At least 10 of the defendants with prior convictions had prior gun crime convictions.

Information on pre-trial release was incomplete. This information is being compiled through an online review of Maryland Judiciary Case Search.

Plea deals were offered in about half the cases, and 84% of the deals were accepted. Plea deals generally comprised a combination of incarceration, suspended time, and probation.

Forty percent of cases were resolved within six months, and about 35% were resolved in 6 to 12 months. About one-quarter took more than a year to resolve, including two cases that are still ongoing.

Nearly 81% of charges were resolved by a decision not to prosecute. Forty-eight charges (11.5%) were resolved by a guilty plea or a guilty finding at trial. Four charges (1.0%) were shifted to Federal prosecution.

Case Results

In just over half the cases, the result was favorable to the prosecution in that, on at least one charge, the defendant entered a guilty plea, was found guilty at trial, or received probation before judgement, stet with conditions, or nolle prosequi due to Federal prosecution.

Relationship of Case Elements to Case Results

Cases with more charges tend to be associated with a higher likelihood of favorable results. In addition, cases in which all the charges are for illegal possession of a firearm or ammunition are associated with a lower likelihood of favorable results than cases in which other crimes are also charged.

The presence and number of victims and witnesses do not appear to be related to the likelihood of a case attaining a favorable result.

The presence of a firearm certificate in the case file appears to be associated with a greater likelihood of favorable case results. Cases in which the gun was found on the defendant also appear to be associated with a greater likelihood of favorable results.

Cases in which plea deals are offered are correlated with a greater likelihood of favorable results, whether or not the plea deal is accepted.

Next Steps

With respect to the 75 pre-intervention cases, the IGSR researchers will use Maryland Judiciary Case Search to compile missing data on pre-trial release. They will also continue to analyze relationships among the case elements and relationships between case elements and case results.

By April 1, 2020, the Prince George's County Police Department gun intelligence unit will provide the IGSR researchers with a list of all gun-related incidents between September 1, 2018 and August 31, 2019. The same process that was used to select the pre-intervention cases will be used to select a random sample of 75 of the 2018-2019 cases for the post-intervention case review.

By May 1, 2020, the IGSR researchers will report to the PSN team any additional results regarding the pre-intervention cases and any planned changes to post-intervention data collection.

During July 2020, the IGSR researchers will collect data from the case files of the 75 post-intervention cases.

During August 2020, the researchers will analyze data from the post-intervention cases and compare data for the pre-intervention and post-intervention cases.

During September 2020, the researchers will document their findings for inclusion in the final project report.

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Appendix 1. Data Collection Process

The Prince George's Police Department Gun Intelligence unit provided a list of reported gun related incidents between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017 to UMD-IGSR. This list included the names and docket numbers of all those arrested. The Principal Investigator provided this list to the Operations Research Analyst at the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, who randomly selected case numbers of 100 gun-crime cases from Districts 3 and 4 handled by the State's Attorney's Office between September 1, 2016 and September 1, 2017. The group included 33 cases with District Court case numbers and 67 cases with Circuit Court case numbers. For the pilot test, the UMD-IGSR Co-principal Investigator selected every fourth case to create a group of 25 cases, including 8 with District Court case numbers and 17 with Circuit Court case numbers. The remaining 75 cases (25 District Court and 50 Circuit Court) were retained as the pre-intervention (control) group. However, during data collection, it was determined that one of the 75 pre-intervention cases involved charges in District Court for possession of ammunition, but no firearms charges. That case was replaced with the first of the District Court cases from the pilot test group.

The Operations Research Analyst and Assistant State's Attorney arranged for the UMD-IGSR Co-principal Investigator and law student to access the JD District Court and JD Circuit Court electronic databases to obtain information from the case files for the selected cases. Data collection was conducted at the State's Attorney's Office using a laptop provided by the Office. The Assistant State's Attorney was available to address problems accessing cases and to answer questions when information in the case file was unfamiliar or unclear.

Data for the 25 pilot test cases was collected using the form shown in Attachment 1. The UMD-IGSR Co-principal Investigator and the law student jointly collected data for the 25 cases over approximately three days. Data for the 75 pre-intervention cases was collected using the form shown in Attachment 2. The Co-principal Investigator and the law student jointly collected data for 17 cases (13 District Court and 4 Circuit Court) during one day. The law student collected the data for the remaining 58 cases over several additional days.

Where Information Was Found

Table 18 lists the data tabs within the JD District Court and JD Circuit Court databases and indicates what information was obtained from the data contained under each tab. While the two databases were organized slightly differently, with the District Court database having a few more tabs, the practical difference was minimal because the additional tabs within the District Court database (Non-merge Notes and Synopsis) were not used, and the Case Contact Notes tab of the District Court database was equivalent to the Case Notes tab of the Circuit Court database. Note that where a case appeared in both the District Court and Circuit Court databases, the Circuit Court database was the primary source of information. The District Court database was queried only if needed information could not be found in the Circuit Court database. The number and types of charges recorded were those listed in the Circuit Court database.

Table 18: Information Obtained from District Court and Circuit Court Electronic Databases

Data Tab	Database		Information Obtained
	District Court	Circuit Court	
Overview	X	X	arrest date; number and description of charges; disposition of each charge; final disposition date
Case	X	X	number of victims and/or witnesses; victim/witness demographics; information on bond
Events	X	X	prior criminal history; release on bond or personal recognizance; defendant's failure to appear or death; plea negotiations, whether convictions were the result of a plea or a trial
Charge/Sentence	X	X	type and length of sentence; arrest date (preferred source); final disposition date (preferred source)
Document Generation	X	X	Pre-sentence Investigation (PSI) letter documenting plea negotiations (rarely); Factsheet containing police report with location of gun (on person or elsewhere) and defendant's criminal history
Email	X	X	none
Case Information	X	X	occasionally, information normally contained under Case Notes
Media	X	X	police arrest reports; victim and witness statements; test fire certificates; DNA analysis; victim/witness demographics
Case Contact Notes (Circuit Court)/Case Notes (District Court)	X	(X)	plea negotiations; explanation of decision to nolle prosequi
Non-Merge Notes	X		none
Synopsis	X		none

Interpretation of Database Information

Sometimes, the information contained in the databases had to be interpreted in order to record it on the data collection form. The data collection form (Attachment 2) for the 75 pre-intervention cases divides the charges against a defendant into three categories:

1) Illegal Firearms Possession,
2) Other Gun Crimes, and
3) Other Crimes.

The following rationale was used to sort the charges into one of these three categories:

1) Illegal Firearms Possession. Does the charge make existing or engaging in an otherwise legal activity while in possession of a gun the essence of the crime? If so, the charge was classified as illegal firearms possession. For example, a person existing as a felon and/or

a minor is legal, but not when in possession of a handgun. Driving is legal, but not when transporting a gun in some cases. Therefore, Felony Possession, Minor Possession, and Transporting a Firearm were all classified as illegal firearms possession crimes. Possessing an Illegal Firearm (e.g., an assault weapon) was also categorized as a possession crime.

2) Other Gun Crimes. Does the charge necessarily involve a victim who was fairly directly subjected to the threat of violence (death or serious bodily injury) by way of a gun or wherein a gun was a significant factor? If so, the charge was classified as other gun crime. Therefore, attempted murders, armed robberies, and assaults wherein a gun was used or displayed were all classified as other gun crimes. However, the issue became murkier when lesser crimes were committed, or the gun was not a significant factor in the crime. For instance, if the defendant was caught breaking into unoccupied cars while subject to felony possession, the fact that the victim (the car owner) was never subject to any direct threat of violence by that gun led to classify the crime as other rather than a gun crime. Note that the exception to requiring a victim subject to violent threat was based on altering or destroying the serial number of a gun. This was categorized as a gun crime rather than other crime.

3) Other Crimes. If the charge did not necessarily involve a victim who was fairly directly subjected to the threat of violence (death or serious bodily injury) by way of a gun, was not based on possessing the gun alone, and did not involve altering the serial number of the weapon, it was classified as other crime. Generally, these were drug crimes, thefts (property was taken without violence or the threat thereof), and 2nd degree assaults wherein a gun may have been present but was never used, commented on, or displayed.

Other examples of how information was interpreted:

- Occasionally, whether an individual was identified as a victim or as a witness under the Case tab seemed to conflict with the description of events related in the police arrest reports. In such cases, whatever the recorder documented in the Case tab data took precedence over the data collector's interpretation of events.
- More demographic data pertaining to victims and witnesses could have been inferred from information in the database. However, only demographic data relayed by police, self-reported by victims and witnesses in their statements, and otherwise recorded by prosecutors was recorded on the data collection form. For example, one might assume that a victim or witness with surname Hernandez is Hispanic, but assumptions such as this were not made in recording the data.

Attachment 1: Data Collection Form for Pilot Test

Maryland Project Safe Neighborhoods 2017
Case Quality Index Data Collection Form

Research ID #_____

Number of Charges _____

Victim and Witness Statements

# of Victims _____ # of Victim Statements _____

# of Witnesses _____ # of Witness Statements _____

Forensics/DNA Testing

	Yes	No	
Test Fire Certificate in File?	O	O	If **Yes**, Certificate Dated ____/____/_____
Gun found on a person?	O	O	
If **No**, DNA Test on Gun?	O	O	

Plea Deal

	Yes	No	
Was a Plea Deal Offered?	O	O	If **Yes**, Date Offered ____/____/_____
Was Plea Deal Accepted?	O	O	

Sentence Offered:				Years	Months
Offered: Incarceration	O	O	Jail Time:	_____	_____
Offered: Suspended Time	O	O	Suspended Time:	_____	_____
Offered: Probation	O	O	Probation Time:	_____	_____

Case Duration/Resolution

Arrest Date ____/____/_____ Case Resolution Date ____/____/_____

Resolution Type: (Select One)

- O Convicted (*Select if found or pled guilty to ANY charge*)
- O Nolle Prosequi (*Select if Nolle Pros on ALL charges*)
- O Acquitted (*Select if Acquitted on ANY charge **AND** did not plead guilty, was found not guilty, and/or was Nolle Pros on any other charges*)

Defendant History

# of Prior Gun Crime Convictions _____

Notes

_____

_____

_____

Date Form Completed ____/____/_____ Researcher Initials _____

Date Entered into Survey Monkey ____/____/_____

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Attachment 2: Data Collection Form for Pre-intervention Cases

Maryland Project Safe Neighborhoods 2017
Case Quality Index Data Collection Form

Research ID #_____

Total Number of Charges _____

# of Charges by Type of Gun Crime:

Illegal Firearm/Ammo Possession _____

Other GUN crimes _____

 # Charges for Other Crimes (e.g., CDS) _____

Victim and Witness Statements

# of Victims _____ # of Vic Stmts _____ # of Witnesses _____ # of Wit Stmts _____

	Gender			Age	Race (Select one)														
V1:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
V2:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
V3:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
V4:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
W1:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
W2:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
W3:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	
W4:	☐ M	☐ F	☐ U	_____	☐	B	☐	W	☐	O	☐	M	☐	U	H:	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ U	

Forensics/DNA Testing

	Yes	No	
Test Fire Certificate in File?	☐	☐	If **Yes**, Certificate Dated ____/____/_____
Gun found on a person?	☐	☐	
If **No**, Swabbed for DNA?	☐	☐	
If **No**, DNA Test?	☐	☐	

Plea Deal

	Yes	No			
Was a Plea Deal Offered?	☐	☐	If **Yes**, Date Offered ____/____/_____		
Was Plea Deal Accepted?	☐	☐	If **Yes**, Date Pled Guilty ____/____/_____		
Sentence Offered:				Years:	Months
Offered: Incarceration	☐	☐	Jail Time:	_____	_____
Offered: Suspended Time	☐	☐	Suspended Time:	_____	_____
Offered: Probation	☐	☐	Probation Time:	_____	_____

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Maryland Project Safe Neighborhoods 2017
Case Quality Index Data Collection Form

Case Duration/Resolution

Arrest Date ____/_____/_____

Defendant Pretrial Release	**Yes**	**No**	**U**	
Released on Bail?	☐	☐	☐	**If Yes**, Date Bail Set ____/_____/_____
Released on own Recognizance?	☐	☐	☐	**If Yes**, Date Released ____/_____/_____

Resolution: # of Charges Resolved by Type Case Resolution Date ____/_____/_____

_____ # Acquitted
_____ # Charges Defendant PLED Guilty
_____ # Charges Defendant Found Guilty at Trial
_____ # Probation Before Judgement
_____ # Placed on STET Docket WITH conditions
_____ # Placed on STET Docket WITHOUT conditions
_____ # Nolle Prosequi due to referral for Federal prosecution
_____ # Nolle Prosequi due to prosecution in another jurisdiction
_____ # Other Nolle Prosequi
_____ # Dismissed
_____ # Failure to Appear
_____ # Death

Defendant History

		Yes	**No**	**U**			
Does Defendant have a Criminal History?		☐	☐	☐			
If Yes …	# (All)	**U**				#	**U**
# Prior Convictions (ALL)	_____	☐	# of Prior Gun Crime Convictions			_____	☐

Notes
_____
_____
_____

Date Form Completed ____/_____/_____ Researcher Initials _____
Date Entered into Survey Monkey ____/_____/_____

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