



# PIVOT ATLANTA

*Program to Interrupt Violence thru Outreach and Treatment*

## Problem

The amount of crime related to gun violence has increased in the City of Atlanta. In fact, gunshot victimizations known to the police have grown by 65% in recent years, and hospital data suggests many victimizations go unreported. Not only does it cost billions to treat and investigate gun violence, a victim's likelihood of being shot again increases significantly. Preliminary analyses suggest nearly half of all gunshot-wound patients seen at Atlanta's premiere trauma center are revictimized by gun violence. The consequences of this problem are visible not only to victims, but also the communities at large. Therefore, physicians were seeking an intervention that prevents firearm-related injuries, and addresses the underlying trauma of violence. Simultaneously, police leadership was also searching for an innovative and data-driven approach to curb gun violence in Atlanta's communities. Research shows both public service agencies can indeed limit gun violence, suggesting there is an overlap between the criminal justice system and health arenas that demanded a collaborative response.

## Response

The Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Policing Initiative is sponsoring such a collaborative response between Grady Memorial Hospital and the Atlanta Police Department with Applied Research Services serving as an embedded research partner and evaluator. Hospital based violence prevention programs have shown promise in reducing the likelihood of violent trauma revictimization, as well as an individual's future contact with the criminal justice system through service provisions provisions). Similarly, research shows policing initiatives, such as problem-oriented, hot-spots, and broken-windows policing, can effectively reduce crime within at risk communities. Taken together and in consideration that gun violence can spread like an epidemic through social interactions and personal networks, a coordinated public health model was initiated – PIVOT.

## Solution

This *Program to Interrupt Violence thru Outreach and Treatment* aims to interrupt the contagion of violence that can occur following a single violent event. The project focuses on preventing repeat gunshot victimization and retaliatory violence through the combination of three major components: wraparound social services with intensive follow-up, community policing, and data sharing. Victims of gun violence seen by Grady will be assessed for program eligibility based on their risk of subsequent victimization or offending. Program participants will receive direct staff support to obtain services for a variety of needs, such as assistance with crisis intervention, mentoring, housing, and employment. PIVOT will also draw upon focused data-driven strategies used by law enforcement to reduce the burden of violence within Atlanta communities. Their multifaceted role involves the Community Oriented Policing Section, Tactical Analyses Unit, and Gangs Unit. PIVOT dedicated Officers will work specifically in targeted neighborhoods to build trust with citizens, increase their participation in solving gun crime, and address issues that put both an individual and a neighborhood at risk of further violence. For more information, contact our Violence Prevention Coordinator, Jasmine Moore, at [jusher@gmh.edu](mailto:jusher@gmh.edu)

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