

Atlanta Project Safe Neighborhoods: 2016 Evaluation Summary

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a U.S. Department of Justice initiative focused on reducing gun and gang violence nationally in cities exhibiting the most need. PSN encourages practitioners and researchers to collaborate in the development of local, data-driven approaches to combat violence. Under the leadership of the Northern District of Georgia United States Attorney, the Atlanta PSN project combined a research partner with law enforcement, intervention, and prevention strategies in 2015 and 2016. The analyses presented in the full report provide compelling evidence of the effectiveness of the PSN strategies.

Enforcement

PSN enforcement efforts yielded positive results. The percentage of violent crimes in the PSN neighborhoods fell, and while homicides increased across the city, the PSN neighborhoods went down 9% between 2014 and 2016. Both gun and gang crimes in PSN neighborhoods decreased. Displacement and diffusion of violence to neighboring communities did not occur. Violent repeat offenders (VROs) were federally prosecuted and incapacitated. The 50 convicted VROs accumulated over 2,000 arrests before their federal case. We estimate conservatively that 3,000 new crimes will be avoided while they are incapacitated in federal prison.

Intervention

Intervention efforts by Urban League of Georgia resulted in 71 referrals (averaging eight arrests each) for cognitive restructuring and career services. Since programming, only 10% of participants have been rearrested, compared to 43% of referrals that did not participate. Successful outcomes include: 11 persons obtaining forklift certifications, one person obtaining a commercial driver's license, one person enrolled in vocational training, three have GEDs pending, and two obtained employment.



Forklift Certification Graduates

Prevention

Prevention efforts by Raising Expectations provided 134 youths within the PSN neighborhoods with academic, social, and cultural tutoring. Impressively, they had an 87% retention rate, none of the students were involved in firearms incidents, gang-activities or arrest while receiving services. RE seniors all graduated, 75% with a college plan.



RE Students Graduating

Documenting Success: Let the Data Do The Talking

We conservatively estimate that
3,000 new crimes
will be avoided
by incapacitating
50 violent repeat offenders.

Serious Crimes Reduced At All Levels of Atlanta PSN Catchment Area:

