



“By drawing on lessons learned from research and experience over the past two decades, the Department will help ensure that PSN remains the leading initiative bringing together law enforcement partners at all levels and a broad array of community stakeholders to develop comprehensive solutions to the more pressing violent crime problems in our communities.” –Attorney General Garland (May 26, 2021)

WHAT IS PSN?

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE STRATEGY

★ **COMMUNITY-BASED**

Contour each program to fit the specific local violent crime problem(s) in the district.

★ **FOCUSED**

Utilize law enforcement and community data and intelligence, along with cutting-edge technology to identify and target the most violent offenders and high crime areas.

★ **COMPREHENSIVE**

Combat violent crime in a meaningful way with leadership, partnerships, enforcement, prevention and reentry strategies.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS IMPLEMENTING PSN PROGRAMS

All 94 federal judicial districts are implementing a PSN program by incorporating the four PSN design elements found in the **PSN Blueprint for Success**.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Involves meaningful interactions between and among communities, law enforcement, prosecutors, and other stakeholders, which is an essential component of an effective violence reduction strategy



PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

For sustaining violent crime reductions depends on strategies, such as street outreach, victim services, and neighborhood revitalization.



FOCUSED AND STRATEGIC ENFORCEMENT

On small groups of problem prolific offenders, emerging trends and hot-spot places. Leveraging technology and analytics is key for understanding the drivers of violent crime. PSN team planning allows for identification of appropriate responses or use of evidence-based best practices.



ACCOUNTABILITY

For results based on the outcome of a reduction in violent crime, not merely output numbers of investigations or prosecutions. Critical for implementation and sustainability are communication, research and evaluation, training, and diversified working groups.

PSN WORKS

NATIONAL EVALUATION OF PSN

The original national evaluation of PSN found that the program was associated with significant declines in violent crime. Indeed, whereas non-PSN sites witnessed a 0.9% decline in violent crime, PSN target areas experienced declines ranging from 4 to 42%¹.

REDUCTION IN VIOLENT CRIME

NON-PSN LOCATIONS

0.9%

PSN PROGRAM SITES

4% -
42%

These findings have been reinforced in more recent studies of PSN programs. Examples include:



PSN MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PSN team in the Middle District of Florida worked with the Tampa Police Department to develop an evidence-based risk assessment of arrestees to identify the small group of prolific chronic offenders involved in violent crime. The risk assessment supported focused and strategic enforcement strategies that were associated with a 24 percent decline in violent and gun crime measured over a three-year period. This focused approach resulted in enhanced public safety despite an overall decline in arrests.²



PSN DISTRICT OF COLORADO

With the expansion of Crime Gun Intelligence Centers (CGIC), many PSN teams coordinate with and are supported by the intelligence provided by CGIC's utilizing National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) technology. This is true in the District of Colorado where PSN benefits from the work of the Denver Police Department CGIC. Since the implementation of the regional CGIC, violent crime has declined by 24 percent and robbery with a firearm by 38 percent.³



PSN EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

The PSN team working in Detroit combines a strategic and targeted enforcement approach with a focused deterrence strategy involving call-in meetings, custom notifications, street outreach, and services. A recent evaluation found that individuals involved in call-in meetings were significantly less likely to re-offend, particularly for violent crimes.⁴

¹McGarrell, E., et al., (2010). "Project Safe Neighborhoods and Violent Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Assessing Violent Crime Impact." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 26,2:165-190. <https://doi-org.proxy2.cl.msu.edu/10.1007/s10940-010-9091-9>

Michigan State University. (2013). "Summary of PSN Research Findings." https://psn.cj.msu.edu/tta/MSU-Summary_Key_PSN-Findings---FINAL.pdf

²Fox, B., et al. (2021). Evaluating the impact of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative on violence and gun crime in Tampa: does it work and does it last? *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. doi: 10.1007/s11292-021-09461-2.

³Uchida, C.D., et al. (2021). Focus on Gun Violence: An Evaluation of Denver's CGIC and RAVEN Programs. Los Angeles: Justice & Security Strategies. https://0a90a5f7-291b-416f-b30f-53e474207a8b.filesusr.com/ugd/c8e9dc_fe8b1267f921417b8bd9a330089a99c4.pdf

⁴Circo, G., et al. (2019). "The Individual-level Deterrent Effect of 'Call-in' Meetings on Time to Re-Arrest." *Crime & Delinquency*. Doi: 10.1177/0011128719885869