

PSN TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Monthly Newsletter



Thank you for following our monthly Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) bulletin. The monthly bulletin highlights TTA and resources provided to PSN teams and local law enforcement agencies. TTA requests can be made online [here](#). If you have questions regarding TTA, please contact your regional TTA liaison or the PSN TTA team at psntta@cna.org.

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PSN SPOTLIGHT ON ACOUSTIC GUNSHOT DETECTION SYSTEMS

Discover several research articles and resources on these systems below.

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NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 21 to 27. Learn more about how your agency can participate!

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GRANTS SPOTLIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CURRENT SOLICITATION OPPORTUNITIES

Here is a roundup of where to find current Department of Justice solicitations!

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PSN SPOTLIGHT: ACOUSTIC GUNSHOT DETECTION SYSTEMS

This month's newsletter features a PSN Research in Brief on a study of an acoustic gunshot detection system (GDS) that was funded by a PSN grant.

Interested in learning more about acoustic gunshot detection systems? Check out the following reports and resources:

- [Smart Policing Initiative Gunshot Detection POP Guide](#)
- [The Impact of Gunshot Detection Technology on Gun Violence in Kansas City and Chicago: A Multi-Pronged Evaluation](#)
- [Gunshot detection technology effect on gun violence in Kansas City, Missouri: A microsynthetic control evaluation](#)



The Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance program developed the PSN Research in Brief series to provide a summary report of scholarly articles, studies, and publications relevant to the PSN program. This seventh issue of the PSN Research in Brief series summarizes the following study by Marc Swatt, Craig Uchida, and Allison Land: ***The Effects of ShotSpotter on Gun-Crime in Denver: An Impact Evaluation.***[1]

BACKGROUND:

- ShotSpotter is an acoustic gunshot detection system (GDS) that uses a network of sensors to detect gunshots and alert police of the likely location.
- ShotSpotter was first tested in Redwood City, CA, in the mid-1990s; many large police departments have installed ShotSpotter and other GDSs.
- Empirical evidence has found that GDSs gunshot detection systems (GDS) have led to decreases in police response times but findings of the impacts on crime have been mixed [2]. Recently, several studies by non profit organizations, government, and media have been critical of the financial and social costs of GDS relative to the demonstrated benefits [3,4,5,6].

THEORY AND PRACTICE:

- The assumption underlying GDS is that quickly detecting and accurately pinpointing the location of firearm discharge and dispatching police can lead to apprehending shooters, collecting evidence, canvassing for witnesses, and quickly providing aid to victims. Furthermore, data collected by gunshot detection technology could be used to make police deployment decisions.
- Relevant theories include deterrence theory (would-be shooters will be deterred for fear of apprehension) and the theory of selective incapacitation (rapid response will result in apprehension of shooter and preservation of evidence to identify and convict offenders).

STUDY OUTCOMES:

- ShotSpotter was installed by Denver Police Department (DPD) at four sites with different start dates. Control groups were assigned to each of the four sites covered by ShotSpotter.
- Outcome measures included incidents of robbery with a firearm, aggravated assault, and a composite measure of “serious violent crime”. Analysis included DPD data for 2010–2019.
- The analysis found ShotSpotter was associated with reductions in some crimes in three of the four locations. However, similar reductions were observed at other sites during the same time periods. In other words, there was mixed evidence for ShotSpotter’s impact on violent firearms crimes.

1 Swatt, M. L., C. D. Uchida, and A.Q. Land. (2020). *The Effects of ShotSpotter on Gun-Crime in Denver: An Impact Evaluation.* Justice & Security Strategies Inc.

2 The Impact of Gunshot Detection Technology on Gun Violence in Kansas City and Chicago: A Multi-Pronged Evaluation by Eric L. Piza, George O. Mohler, Jeremy G. Carter, David N. Hatten, Nathan T. Connealy, Rachael Arietti, Jisoo Cho, Emily Castillo. Submitted to DOJ January 2024 (Award # 2019-R2-CX-0004)

3 Office of the Inspector General. (2021, August 24). OIG finds that ShotSpotter alerts rarely lead to evidence of a gun-related crime and that presence of the technology changes police behavior. City of Chicago. <https://igchicago.org/2021/08/24/oig-finds-that-shotspotter-alerts-rarely-lead-to-evidence-of-a-gun-related-crime-and-that-presence-of-the-technology-changes-police-behavior/>.

4 Schuba, T., and Hendrickson, M. (2024, February 8). Top prosecutor says ShotSpotter has little impact on gun violence cases as mayor faces pressure to renew contract. Chicago Sun-Times. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2024/2/8/24066228/top-prosecutor-shotspotter-chicago-mayor-renew-contract-deadline-renew>.

5 Scott, J. (2023, August 24). Data shows ShotSpotter leads to dead ends and wasted resources in Pasadena. Knock LA. <https://knock-la.com/data-shows-shotspotter-leads-to-dead-ends-and-wasted-resources-in-pasadena/>.

6 Cheng, Y. (2023, July 11). Houston’s gunshot alert system isn’t curbing violence, data shows. Houston Chronicle. <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/investigations/article/houston-gun-alert-police-delays-18117579.php>.

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GRANTS SPOTLIGHT BY JOAN BRODY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CURRENT SOLICITATION OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Grant Seekers,

We are now in the thick of it! Grant Season 2024 has arrived. Did you know that there are multiple ways to find current grant solicitations?

Every day, I check the current grant funding opportunities page for each of the three USDOJ grantmaking components.

1. [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\) which includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime](#)
2. [Office on Community Oriented Policing Service \(COPS Office\)](#)
3. [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\)](#)

I also often visit the main webpage for each office to see what they are highlighting, which provides clues about what they are focusing on this year.

**NATIONAL
CRIME VICTIMS'
RIGHTS WEEK**

April 21-27, 2024

**Options,
services
and hope
for crime
survivors.**

**HOW WOULD
YOU HELP?**

Victim service providers help victims rebuild their lives. We can help you learn about your legal rights and options, cope with the impact of crime, access victim compensation and other resources, develop a safety plan, and navigate the criminal justice and social service systems.

**[Learn More About
National Crime
Victims' Rights
Week here!](#)**



GRANTS SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED

You can also get notified when current grant solicitations drop by signing up at these links:

[OJP email update sign up](#)

[COPS Office email update sign up](#)

[OVW solicitation email update sign up](#)

Most DOJ agencies provide information on social media. Just go to their webpages and search “subscribe” to access social media, newsletters, blogs, and more information.

Finally, if you want to do a broader search for all federal agencies, go to grants.gov/search-grants. Just remember that this is a very powerful search tool, and you may need to filter in your specific focus using the check boxes on the left.

Happy 2024 Grant Season!

Joan L. Brody | Cell: 847-338-8445 | Email:
BrodyJL@aol.com

WEBINARS

FY 2024

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program

Date: April 11, 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET

[Registration Link](#)

Talking Truancy and Other Status Offenses: Strategies for Prevention and Intervention

Dates: April 23, 3:00–4:15 p.m. ET

[Registration link](#)

Follow [@PSNTTA](#) on Twitter to receive regular updates, learn about resources, or ask questions.