



ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF BALTIMORE'S GROUP VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGY

Crime and Justice Policy Lab, University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania's Crime and Justice Policy Lab is conducting a rigorous evaluation of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs) in the Baltimore Police Department's Western District – an area with one of the highest rates of homicides and shootings not only in Baltimore, but in the entire United States.

The team's preliminary estimates are that, in the 18 months after its introduction in January 2022, GVRs was responsible for reducing homicides and shootings in the Western District by approximately a quarter, and carjackings by about a third, with no evidence that these crimes moved to other parts of Baltimore. There is also no evidence of a change in arrests due to GVRs.

GVRs Objectives



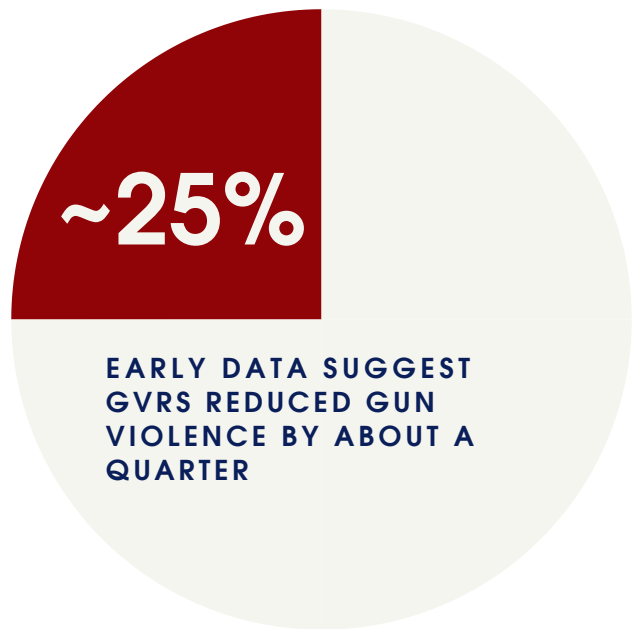
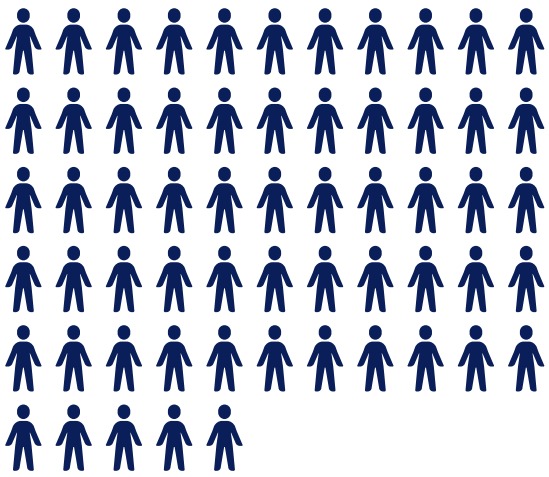
What Is GVRs?

The **Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs)** is a data-driven approach to reduce homicides and shootings. It combines the efforts of police, community leaders, and service providers to:

- Identify individuals at the highest risk of violence -- as shooters and shooting victims;
- Directly and respectfully communicate the risks associated with violence to those high risk individuals;
- Offer services, supports, and opportunities via outreach and intensive case management; and
- Narrowly focus enforcement on those who continue to engage in violence

What Was its Impact?

60 FEWER HOMICIDE AND SHOOTING VICTIMS



Overview of Activities

175

INDIVIDUAL INTERVENTIONS

Community and city leaders have conducted 175 individual interventions, during which they directly and respectfully communicated the legal and safety risks associated with continued violence and offered supportive services

90

LIVES TRANSFORMED

90 individuals at highest-risk of shooting someone or being shot have accepted services including mentorship, employment support, and mental health treatment, through GVRs

144

FOCUSED ARRESTS

Groups and individuals who continued to engage in gun violence self-selected for increased focused enforcement attention. There is also no evidence of a change in arrests due to GVRs