Roundtable discussion on gun violence and local solutions  
March 14, 2018, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, IL

Thank you for viewing this video. We hoped that this roundtable discussion could be a template for local communities so that they could use it to more efficiently develop solutions to their own gun violence issues. It doesn’t ignore Chicago, but similar issues elsewhere in Illinois don’t often get the media coverage that is deserved.

Communities matter, so a community-based response to these issues may be the most effective response to violence in local communities. The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform endorsed this theme by promoting the use of local criminal justice coordinating councils.

One of the many difficulties addressing these issues is the lack of empirical data. No single data source exists about gun violence in Illinois. We simply lack timely and detailed information with which to use to fashion evidence-based responses. But there is an opportunity for Illinois to move significantly in that direction if we adopt the right inquiries as the country moves to the National Incident Based Reporting Systems (NIBRS). A short summary of NIBRS and a recent article from the Washington Post is attached.

Other themes that emerged were as follows:

The importance of convening stakeholders from the criminal justice system to include those in the courthouse, law enforcement and community groups that work with the people most affected by gun violence.

Investing time and energy in building trust between law enforcement and high-risk communities. We’re all in this together.

Meeting victims where they are and who they are to recognize the cycle of victimization and perpetration that can drive violence.
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10:00-10:05 Welcome
Judge Russell W. Hartigan (ret.), ISBA President 2017-2018
Moderator, Cheryl Niro, ISBA President 1999-2000 and chair of ISBA Special Committee on Gun Violence

10:05-10:25 Empirical overview of violent crime south of I-80
Megan Alderden from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA.)

10:25-11:00 Evidence-based responses to violent crime and local strategies
Megan Alderden to moderate an interactive panel discussion to include Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady, Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser, Tracy Parsons, Champaign Community Relations Manager, Gregory A. Mattingley, Macon County Community Restorative Board and former chief public defender of Macon County.

11:00-11:30 Addressing the needs of those affected by gun violence: the intersection between victims and perpetrators
Kathryn Bocanegra, Coordinator, Grupo Consuelo Doctoral Candidate, University of Chicago; Peter Baroni from the Alliance for Safety and Justice; and Marcus Johnson from the Springfield Urban League.

11:30-12:00 Action steps for starting the dialogue
Interactive discussion moderated by Judge Elizabeth Robb (ret.)

12:00 Box lunch and discussion moderated by Cheryl Niro
If there is time a video presentation of Gary Slutkin’s Ted Talk “Let’s treat violence as a contagious disease.” Slutkin is an epidemiologist, and the founder/executive director of Cure Violence, formerly known as CeaseFire.
Violent Crime in Illinois

Dr. Megan Alderden
Associate Director – Research
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Public safety policy – Gun violence
34 states and Puerto Rico: 736 (8%)
N=8,745 traces

https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/undefined/2016tracestatsillinoispdf/download
Higher-risk purchasing

- Multiple handguns, single transaction
- Younger age
- Females
- Higher caliber
- Retailers
  - High denial rate
  - High sale to crime rate

Wright et al., 2010; Koper, 2007
Friends, family, “street” connections are common sources of guns used by offenders.

Direct or indirect victimization significantly increases likelihood of gun carrying.

- Family member shot: 76%
- Witnessed violence: 93%
- Heard about violence against others: 63%
- Experienced violent victimization: 91%

Molnar, Miller, Azrael, & Buka, 2004
Neighborhood safety plays a significant role in gun carrying.

Unsafe to play
- Physical disorder
- Social disorder

Collective efficacy

Molnar, Miller, Azrael, & Buka, 2004
The closer one is to a gun shot victim, the more likely that person will be shot.

Papachristos, Braga, & Hureau, 2012
• Murders and shootings often involve disputes.

• Threats of violence:
  – increase group membership.
  – solidifies group belonging.
  – intensifies perceived need to retaliate.

• Low clearance rates further amplifies perceived need for retaliation.

Decker & Curry, 2002; Molnar et al., 2004
Gun offenders were rearrested and reconvicted at a higher rates than non-gun offenders.

- Rearrest - Felony: 78% Unmatched Firearm group, 65% Matched Firearm Group, 46% Matched non-Firearm group
- Reconviction: 57% Unmatched Firearm group, 43% Matched Firearm Group, 20% Matched non-Firearm group
- Rearrest - Firearm: 21% Unmatched Firearm group, 18% Matched Firearm Group, 3% Matched non-Firearm group
- Reconviction - Firearm: 83% Unmatched Firearm group, 74% Matched Firearm Group, 65% Matched non-Firearm group
Gun offenders were also *more likely* to be homicide victims.

Unmatched Firearm Group

Matched Firearm Group

Matched non-Firearm Group
No single data source exists on violent crime in Illinois.

Not timely
Not detailed
Violent Index crime was up in 2016 as compared to 2015.

Source: IUCR and FBI UCR data.
The Midwest experienced the highest percentage increase from 2015 to 2016.

- United States: 3.2%
- Northeast: -1.3%
- Midwest: 5.7%
- South: 2.4%
- West: 5.1%

Source: FBI UCR data.
Illinois had the highest percent increase in its violent Index crime rate in the Midwest.
The **largest increase** was in murders.

- **Murder**: 40.2%
- **Violent Index**: 12.6%
- **Rape (revised def)**: -0.1%
- **Robbery**: 18.8%
- **Aggravated Assault**: 10.8%

2015 vs. 2016
Source: FBI UCR data.
Aggravated assaults account for largest percentage.

- Aggravated Assault 57%
- Murder 2%
- Rape 9%
- Robbery 32%

Source: FBI UCR data.
Violent Index Rate, 2015

Aggravated Assault / Battery Rate, 2015

Source: ISP UCR data.
Eight municipalities accounted for 64% of murders and aggravated assaults in Illinois from 2013 to 2015.
Summary

• Individuals access guns when and where opportunities exist.
  - Close geographic and relational proximity

• Gun violence is people and place specific.

• Communities and social networks matter.

• Other violent victimization is impactful.
Trauma-informed Violence Reduction Strategy

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Suppression
Prevention/Intervention

- Build youth competencies
- Connections to prosocial, positive persons and systems
  - Families and other adults
  - Youth
  - School
  - Community
- Safe and viable communities
  - Physically
  - Economically
- Prosocial norms
  - Violence is not acceptable
  - Willingness to intervene
- Address other social inequities

Suppression

- Informal controls
  - Family, friends, community
- Formal controls
  - Policing
  - Community corrections

Trauma-Informed Lens

- Address interpersonal victimization
- Recognize behaviors may be symptomatic of traumatic experiences
- Encourage policies and practices that are sensitive to this reality
Challenges

- Lack reliable, timely crime and victimization data
- Legacy of distrust between at-risk, high crime communities and government
- Responses are uncoordinated
- Funding is not dependable, year-to-year cycles
The ICJIA Research and Analysis Unit serves as Illinois' Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). State SACs provide objective analysis of criminal justice data to inform statewide policy and practice. The Illinois SAC features four research centers and acts as a liaison between state agencies and the U.S. Department of Justice.

**CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**
- Applied research
- Program evaluation
- Technical reports and articles
- Policy analysis
- Technical assistance for local and state agencies
- Collaboration with criminal justice practitioners and academics
- Criminal justice forums and events
- National and state presentations

Jessica Reichert, Manager
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**CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA AND ANALYTICS**
- Data collection and analysis
- Distribution of crime and risk factor information
- Data management and visualization
- Dissemination of state criminal history record information (CHRI) data for research purposes
- Technical assistance in statistical methods, database design, data analysis, and data presentation

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**CENTER FOR SPONSORED RESEARCH AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**
- Support for selected experts in the field who conduct research and evaluate programs
- Selection of programs viable for evaluation and further research
- Technical assistance to programs supported with ICJIA-administered grant funds

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**CENTER FOR VICTIM STUDIES**
- Research examining the nature and scope of victimization in Illinois
- Evaluation of programs that address victim needs
- Technical assistance to victim service programs
- Management of InfoNet System, a web-based data collection and reporting service for standardized victim service data

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Illinois should capitalize on the innovations of other states. Massachusetts is often touted as the first state to require municipalities to geocode the location of the NIBRS incident data. Geocoding allows the state to map crime occurrences to better understand the relationship between crime and microplaces. Such information is tactically useful to police agencies. Placed-based policing strategies and other targeted efforts to prevent crime require detailed accounting of where crime occurs. Geocoding allows such analyses. In fact, in a recent article in Criminology and Public Policy, the authors argue that geocoded data should be included as part of national data collection efforts including NIBRS because geocoding makes the data more useful to police agencies. Data that are useful to police agencies are much more likely to be accurate and they induce participation in data collection efforts like NIBRS. Moreover, it opens up opportunities that currently do not exist. For instance, multi-jurisdiction geocoding increases the understanding of how crimes transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Such information is useful when coordinating multiple police department responses to crime and evaluating the impact of policing strategies (e.g., one can measure crime displacement, for instance, much easier). It also allows for improvements in crime analyses as techniques can be shared across jurisdictions and with those agencies that lack crime analysis capabilities.

Illinois should be a leader in maximizing the potential NIBRS represents. Illinois should not limit itself to those variables that are currently required by the FBI. Such a practice would limit the usefulness of the NIBRS data. NIBRS represents an opportunity for Illinois to have a much richer understanding of crime incidents and those arrested. The utility of NIBRS data massively expands by simply adding a few select variables. As already mentioned, geocoding the incident location will assist in developing a greater understanding of the relationship between environmental space and crime. Adding the Document Control Number (DCN) associated with the arrest is another way to increase the utility of the NIBRS data. By adding the DCN to every arrest, the state and local police will be able to fully understand not only who is being arrested, but their criminal history, their involvement in other incidents, and their connections to other persons involved (in the case of multiple arrests). Moreover, the state will be able to examine court dispositions...
associated with the arrest. This would mean that Illinois, for the first time in its history, would be able to know where crime is occurring AND the criminal justice system's response to that crime at the municipal level (and if geocoded, at the microplace level). Such information represents new opportunities for implementing and evaluating public safety policies and practices. Both the geocode and the DCN variables could be collected in a manner that protects individual identities—some states have added to NIBRS variables purely for state and local governmental purposes and those variables remain secured and only available per state regulated guidelines (in other words, they are protected data).

**Illinois should learn from the challenges other states have faced.** The one advantage that Illinois has is that it is poised to learn from the challenges other states have faced. This includes ensuring the data being collected and reported are accurate and up-to-date. Analyses of NIBRS data in Massachusetts, for instance, revealed that periodic updates of NIBRS data, particularly arrests associated with already recorded incidents, were not occurring due to problems with existing record management systems. This was especially problematic for those types of cases in which arrests were likely to occur well after the incidents, resulting in an under-estimation of clearances and arrests. Illinois can learn from this by ensuring these issues are addressed early on. Adding the DCN associated with an arrest, for instance, would allow the state to audit the NIBRS data using the criminal history record information system—arrests noted in the criminal history record system should be noted in the NIBRS data and vice versa. When the data do not agree, police agencies could be notified and efforts made to address discrepancies.

**Illinois should use a multidisciplinary approach to developing its NIBRS program.** The best way to develop a system that meets the various needs of multiple stakeholders is to include all of them at the table early during the development process. Academic researchers, crime analysts, and police officers should all have a place as each one represents a different perspective about how the data can be used. Such inclusiveness in the development process will result in a much richer, more useful system.
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As a courtesy, we tried to link to some articles about gun violence for you to read if you wish. Thank you.

*Neither the ISBA nor any of the participants endorse the contents or positions contained in these links that may have been mentioned in the roundtable.*

1. Dr. Megan Alderden’s June 2017 research on violence prevention that discusses in more detail the prevention, intervention, and suppression strategy.


2. The Giffords Law Center research “Investing in Intervention.”


4. Gary Slutkin’s Ted Talk to be broadcast at noon today: “Let’s treat violence like a contagious disease.”

   [https://www.ted.com/talks/gary_slutkin_let_s_treat_violence_like_a_contagious_disease](https://www.ted.com/talks/gary_slutkin_let_s_treat_violence_like_a_contagious_disease)

https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=589393949:589393951


https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/crime


