

Reducing Retaliatory Dispute Violence Involving Gangs and Guns in Rochester, New York

Program Abstract for Project Safe Neighborhoods 2014

This project seeks to create safe neighborhoods through a sustained reduction of violent crime associated with gang and gun violence. It draws on a Smart Policing Initiative that was developed to identify, assesses, and intervene in situations where the probability of dispute related gun violence is believed to be high. The program will be implemented across the City of Rochester, New York, with a particular focus on the geographic areas where analysis has shown there to be persistent violence hotspots.

Analysis of Rochester crime patterns reveals high levels of gun and gang related violence and concentrations of that violence in identifiable hotspots within the city. A recently developed comprehensive database and related research has shown that over 60% of the shootings can be attributed to ongoing disputes. The key to intervention is to recognize, among the large volume of disputes that police encounter, those disputes that have high potential for violence. A risk assessment tool has been designed and field tested to support a broad partnership-based intervention effort to intervene using problem solving methods to prevent dispute related violence. The project has significant analysis, partnership, and evidence based components. This project will take place in the Western District of New York. The District is classified as a Category 2 district by the Department of Justice. The total population of the Counties in the District, as reported in the 2010 United States Census, was 2,819,956.