

**Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV):  
2014 CIRV Activities and Violence Summary\***

**Report prepared for:  
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## **Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) 2014 Activities and Violence Summary**

The Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) is a multi-agency and community collaborative effort initiated in 2007 designed to quickly and dramatically reduce gun-violence and associated homicides, with sustained reductions over time. The initiative is a focused-deterrence strategy which is modeled after the Boston Gun Project from the mid-1990s.

A partnership among multiple law enforcement agencies (local, state and federal), social service providers and the community has been established to deliver a clear message to violent street groups: the violence must stop. This message is communicated through a number of different mechanisms, including call-in sessions with probationers and parolees; direct contact through street workers (street advocates), police, probation, and parole officers; community outreach; and media outlets.

Law enforcement agencies have gathered intelligence on violent street group networks, and consequences are delivered to the street groups that continue to engage in violence. Those offenders seeking a more productive lifestyle are provided streamlined social services, training, education, and employment opportunities. The community and law enforcement are working as partners and as a result, strengthening their relationship. The initiative has been highlighted locally, nationally and internationally for its success and ingenuity.

### **Violence Update (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2014)**

#### **Homicides**

- 63 homicide victims in 2014 (including one shot in 2012 but died from injury in 2014)
- **Homicides decreased 14.9%** from last year (11 fewer victims), and decreased from 3 and 5-year averages (3.1% and 3.7% reductions, respectively)
- 2014 had the 3rd lowest number of homicide victims in past 10 years (only 2009 and 2012 recorded fewer homicides)
- 57.1% of homicides (36 out of 63) are GMI (group/gang member involved)
  - **GMI homicides decreased 23.4%** from 2013; decreased 10.0% from 3-year average; decreased 6.3% from 5-year average
  - 2014 is 3rd lowest GMI homicide victim count in past 10 years (only 2009 and 2012 had fewer victims)

#### **Shootings (victims of fatal and non-fatal firearm incidents where victim was struck)**

- 377 fatal and non-fatal shooting victims in 2014
- **Shootings decreased 13.5%** from 2013 (59 fewer victims), and decreased from 3 and 5-year averages (9.4% and 9.7%, respectively)
- 2014 is 2nd lowest victim count in past 10 years (only 2007 had fewer shootings)

- Avondale leads neighborhood shooting victim counts at 50, followed by OTR (28), Walnut Hills (28), East Price Hill (25), and West End (25)
  - These 5 neighborhoods were home to 41.4% of all shootings in 2014
  - Top 11 neighborhoods were home to 63.9% of all shootings in 2014
- 184 shootings (48.8%) are GMI (group/gang member involved)<sup>1</sup>
  - **GMI shootings decreased 32.4%** from 2013 (88 fewer victims)

## 2014 CIRV Activities

### CIRV Offender Notification Meetings (i.e., “Call-in” Sessions)

Focused deterrence strategies are generally comprised of law enforcement, service, and community partners who reject the violence in clear, direct ways. First, various law enforcement agencies are coordinated to create meaningful consequences for groups who engage in violence. To respond to violent groups in a swift and predictable manner requires a coordinated effort among several agencies that prioritize group violence, share information, and develop comprehensive group-focused responses. Direct and accurate communication of the strategy to the target population is of central importance to increase compliance. This is often done during “offender notification meetings” (also referred to as “call-ins” or “forums”), during which violent group members are warned that if any member of their group commits a homicide, the entire group will become the priority of law enforcement. Second, assistance for those who want to transition out of the violent lifestyle is often offered in the form of outreach, support, and social and job services. Finally, key leaders within communities assist in the development of community engagement activities and strive to create a “moral voice” of the community by delivering a clear message of non-violence and rejecting the norms and narratives of the street which promote violence. As detailed in Table 1 below, two call-ins were conducted in 2014.

**Table 1. Call-in Attendance Rates**

	August 2014	December 2014
<b># of Invites</b>	130	149
<b># Attended</b>	103	125
<b>% Attended</b>	79.2%	83.9%
<b># of Gangs Represented</b>	38	33
<b># of Impact Players</b>	27	67

### CIRV Offender Home Visits

Another form of offender notification method employed by the law enforcement team is called a “home visit” or “custom offender notification.” These are individualized visits to members of the target population of known gang members. CIRV home visits are designed to have short-term impact, and are used to compliment other CIRV strategies such as call-ins or group enforcement

<sup>1</sup> This statistic is subject to change: 15 shootings from 2014 have yet to receive GMI classification

activities. Selected gang members are contacted by Hamilton County Probation Officers and Cincinnati Police Department Officers at their homes, in the jail, or their “hang out” spots on the street. When they make contact, officers deliver the CIRV message of non-violence to the individuals. They also use visual aids to supplement the message that “the police are watching,” such as surveillance photos of the target and their associates. If the individual is not present, officers will attempt to make contact with friends, family, or anyone who knows the targeted individual and relay the same message. Hamilton County Probation Officers attempted 228 home visits between July 14, 2014 and October 2, 2014, and CPD Officers attempted 455 home visits between January 1, 2014 and November 5, 2014.<sup>2</sup> Additional information regarding these home visits is provided below.

- 683 attempts to contact 471 targeted individuals
  - Probation = 228 attempts to contact 133 individuals
  - CPD = 455 attempts to contact 386 individuals
- 39.7 % of the home visit attempts (n=271) were successful (message relayed to target individual or influential person)
  - Probation = 51.8% of home visits successful
  - CPD = 33.6% of home visits successful
  - 25 individuals received more than one successful home visit
  - 17 individuals were targets of home visits by both Probation and CPD Officers
- Members from 26 different gangs were successfully contacted
- 18.7% of known gang members in Cincinnati have been contacted through at least one home visit

**Table 2. 2014 Home Visit Contacts**

	Probation	CPD	Combined
<b>Attempts</b>	228	455	683
<b>Unique individuals</b>	133	386	471
<b>Successes</b>	118	153	271
<b>Success Rate</b>	51.8%	33.6%	39.7%
<b>Direct contact</b>	80	61	141
<b>Family/friend contact</b>	38	92	130
<b>% of CIRV List Successfully contacted (individuals)</b>	8.1% (n=89)	12.3% (n=135)	18.7%(n=205)
<b>Multiple attempts (individuals)</b>	59	63	139
<b>Multiple Successful visits</b>	25 individuals; 54 visits	17 individuals; 35 visits	51 individuals; 117 visits

<sup>2</sup> Updates on home visits are current from Hamilton Co. Probation through October 2, 2014 and from CPD through Nov 05, 2014. Updates for all of the home visits conducted in 2014 will be provided for the 2014 CIRV Final Report, to be distributed in February 2015.

## **Cincinnati Police Department – CIRV Law Enforcement Team**

### **Problem Solving**

- The Cincinnati Police Department continues to engage in a problem solving effort based on data analysis. These efforts incorporate aggressive place based strategies utilizing data driven strategies to identify and address locations that attract crime and disorder.
- CPD's Command Staff including the Chief, Assistant Chiefs, District Commanders meet weekly with internal crime analysts and the University of Cincinnati's Institute of Crime Science to review crime data and develop place-based and offender-based strategies.
- Assistant City Solicitor assigned to address problem landlords/property owners.

### **Neighborhood Enhancement Programs**

- 90 day focused application of City services addressing neighborhood problems
- Conducted two efforts in 2014 – East Price Hill and Walnut Hills

### **Enhanced intelligence gathering capabilities and improved information dissemination to officers and investigators**

- Expanded use of Tablets and other IT
- Expanded neighborhood camera deployment
- License Plate Reader systems

### **Formulation of a dedicated Gang Unit focusing on violent crime involving GMI individuals**

- 21 Federal Felony arrests
- 59 State Felony arrests
- 16 Search warrants served
- 279 guns seized
- Significant seizures of drugs (cocaine, crack, heroin, marijuana and pills)
- Seized approximately \$150,000 currency

### **Southwest Ohio Violent Crimes Task Force**

- 10 homicides solved with an additional 10 nearing closure
- Actively investigating cold cases and recent homicides with several nearing presentation to Grand Jury
- Seized 15 handguns, assault weapons, shotgun and bullet proof vests
- Significant seizures of drugs (cocaine, crack, heroin, marijuana and pills)
- Served over 200 search warrants (many for phone and data information)
- Ongoing investigations of targets identified as being actively involved in violent crime in the Cincinnati area.

### **Creation of Quality of Life Enhancement Team (QLET)**

- Two officers assigned to each District
- Each team focusing on community problem oriented projects

Creation of position in Homicide Unit that acts as liaison between Cold Case Squad, Crimestoppers, and families of homicide victims.

Creation of Legal Liaison position responsible for training officers on emerging legal trends and information regarding nationwide legal and law enforcement matters.

City-wide truancy intervention strategies in each District

Expanded use of Citizens on Patrol, Explorers, Cadets and God Squad

#### Community/Youth Engagement

- Town Hall Meetings conducted in all five Districts
- H3 Cincy – (Hoops, Heart, Hope) - partnership with Boys Hope Girls Hope offering character and leadership building program for over 140 at risk youth
- Chief's CHILL crew (Character, Humility, Integrity, Leadership and Love) – High School leadership development Program
- CITI Camp – (Children In Trauma Intervention) – boot camp style learning environment for troubled children
- Adopt-A-Class – members of the Department volunteer at St Joseph Elementary and Frederick Douglas Elementary
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade mentoring/Tutoring Initiative – aimed at improving reading abilities in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students
- Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program – presented to all Cincinnati Public School 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes

#### **Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC) Community Outreach Advocates Team**

The Community Outreach Advocates (COA's) are partners of CIRV, and key on-the-ground workers. They are able to work in neighborhoods adversely experiencing high levels of violence alongside residents. Because of the life and personal experiences of each COA he or she is able to identify with the target population and therefore able to build a relationship of trust that can lead to changed life directions. The COA's work to reduce gun-related violence among chronic violent offenders affiliated with street gang/groups. The responsibilities of the COA's include:

- **Community Engagement:** *With the CIRV Community Engagement Team participate in community events and activities*
  - COA's reinforce community norms that gun violence is unacceptable by planning community outreach events in targeted areas
  - COA's work w/ the Community Engagement Team and Law Enforcement to deliver the Moral Voice message to group and gang members
  - COA's help identify positive influencers of group & gang members
  - COA's assist with the Partnering Center's analysis of community resources to develop a resource guide for clients/communities

**Jan 1 – Dec 29, 2014:**

- 13 Events Organized to deliver CIRV message
- 91 Events Attended to deliver the CIRV message
- 175 Target Population contacts on Moral Voice List
- **Violence Interruption:** *Perform street outreach in response to group/gang member involved shootings to determine circumstances contributing to shooting and to develop better prevention strategies; and engage in conflict mediation to prevent retaliatory shooting*
  - COA's respond to shootings and homicides to provide crisis intervention to de-escalate community tension and comfort the family
  - COA's work with the community and the Cincinnati Police Department to determine circumstances contributing to the shootings and develop prevention strategies
  - COA's work with the Cincinnati Police Department in hot spots for intervention and daily outreach
  - At the family's request, COA's attend potentially violate funerals
  - At the family's request, COA's organize / assist w/ and attend memorials & vigils to offer comfort, support and testimonials in hope of interrupting the cycle of vengeance.

**Jan 1 – Dec 29, 2014:**

- 62 Shooting Responses
- 10 Conflict Mediations
- 228 Community Outreach District Walks (in hotspots)
- 81 Funerals / Vigils / Memorials Attended
- **CIRV Message Delivery (at call-ins, on the street, notifications, etc.):** *Work with the entire CIRV Team by delivering CIRV's message*
  - COA's provide testimonial of experience, strength and hope at call ins, on the streets, in the jail, prison visits, etc.)
  - COA's engage group and gang members by disseminating public education materials in high incident locations where high risk individuals are located to spread the "Stop the Shooting" message and provide information about CIRV

**Jan 1 – Dec 29, 2014:**

- 62 Group Presentations to deliver CIRV message
- 9 Call-In presentations
- 19 Presentations at 20 / 20
- 8 Court Clinic presentations
- **Coaching / Mentoring:** *Serve as coaches and mentors for group/gang members who want to "turn their lives around".*
  - Through dialogue, COA's engage group and gang members to "Stop the Shooting" and to make changes in their lives.
  - COA's collaborate with social and human services agencies, faith-based and community organizations to make referrals for employment, education, job readiness, reentry and whatever is needed to improve their lives and reduce the chance of recidivism.

**Jan 1 – Dec 29, 2014:**

- 251 Individual Intakes
- 87 Active Clients
- 230 Referrals Made to Local Resources
- 28 Clients Reaching 1 Goal (from needs assessment)
- 26 Clients Reaching 1 Goal + 1 Social Service Goal
- 28 Clients Working
- 61 Clients Referred to Reentry
- 86 Additional Referrals Made to COA

**Hamilton County Office of Reentry: CIRV Outreach and Support Team**

- Piloted a transitional employment program which saved the county about \$3.7 million on a \$5 million budget. 86 individuals with criminal backgrounds were hired to replace the seats at the stadium. This is a 6 month project and 3 months into the project we have a 70% retention rate and no employee has been re-arrested or committed a new crime.
- Hosted a major job fair with an offender friendly employer which resulted in over 600 individuals in attendance. And 35% receiving employment opportunities.
- In 18 months of operation, the resource center has serviced over 1100 individuals which 53% have a high propensity for violence.
- Successfully created an evidence based mentoring component, O.G. (Original Gems) Mentoring, and peer support groups with over 25 committed mentors
- Awarded Second Chance Act grant in partnership with University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. This grant will be used to establish a reentry pod in the Hamilton County Justice Center and evaluate reentry community support services nationally.

**Cincinnati Community Police Partnering Center: CIRV Community Engagement Team**

*Empower affected communities with strategies to change norms and expectations toward violence*

- Presentations to introduce the Moral Voice Strategy to the community
  - OTR 25 community members (3 meetings)
  - West End 21 community members ( 3 meetings)
  - Walnut Hills 52 community members (3meetings)
- Trained Communities in the delivery of the moral voice message.
  - Over-The-Rhine 8 community members
  - West End 7 community members
- Supported the delivery of the moral voice message in 2014.

Worked with community members in the delivery of the moral voice message at community organized events.

Avondale -	30
East Price Hill-	7
Over-The-Rhine	11
West End	5
Walnut Hills	3

- Moral Voice Team meetings to plan strategies for the delivery of the moral voice.

Avondale	4 meetings	10 community members
OTR	3 meetings	8 community members
EPH	2 meetings	4 community members
- Customized Notification calls made by community members to influentials

OTR/West End	40 attempts to reach influential
	14 contacts completed
- Community members attended CIRV Call Ins

August 15	12 community members
December 4 & 5	2 community members
- Customized Notification for Avondale Community Call In
  - 96 identified individuals to receive customized notification to Avondale Community call in
  - Contacts made (still waiting for this number from CPD, COA and Avondale community representatives)
  - 10 target members in attendance
  - 15 community members attended