

Urban Violence Reduction Strategies: Rochester, NY

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Introduction

Urban crime is a chronic and complex problem in cities across the United States, with Rochester, New York, experiencing an increasing challenge from urban violence. Some of the alarming surges in Urban Violence include increasing rates of auto theft, larceny, gun violence, and homicide, and proactive measures are needed to protect public safety. In response, there is increasing interest in finding effective ways to reduce violence and improve urban safety. A comprehensive plan to reduce violence would likely involve an integrated approach, focusing on the underlying societal and economic problems and the individual attitudes and behaviors that generate violence.

Violence Reduction Strategies

An urban violence reduction strategy is a practical approach to reducing the occurrence and impact of violence in communities. Such methods typically involve a combination of interventions addressing the root causes of violence, including poverty, unemployment, inequality, and social exclusion, as well as risk factors contributing to violent behavior, such as substance abuse, mental health issues, and exposure to violence. Various programs have been implemented in major cities to tackle the growing challenge of urban violence, such as: the Cure Violence program in New York City, the Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy, Gang Reduction and Youth Development strategy in Los Angeles, the Focused Deterrence program in Philadelphia, and Operation Shield in Atlanta. In addition, the Violence Interrupters program in Washington, D.C., is an example of a prevention strategy that prioritizes community engagement, collaboration, and evidence-based interventions to prevent violence before it occurs and mitigate its impact when it does.

Successful violence reduction requires collaboration across multiple agencies and organizations. For example, a comprehensive violence reduction strategy in Rochester, NY, would include law enforcement, community groups, social service providers, and citizens. Violence reduction strategies (VRS) can help create safer, more inclusive communities and reduce Rochester's violent crime by focusing on prevention, intervention, and enforcement efforts. Similar techniques in Rochester can help reduce violent crime, improve public safety, and create a more livable and thriving society for all residents. Hence, this working paper aims to review some of the approaches used by twelve major cities to reduce urban violence and find common themes and successful practices. Also, Urban Violence Strategies (i.e., UVRs) will serve as a possible solution for the Rochester community to reduce violent crime in our community.

Essential: Violence Reduction Strategies

Violence reduction strategies are crucial for several reasons. First, violence in the United States poses significant public safety challenges and often leads to social and economic consequences for individuals. Additionally, it can cause severe health issues, such as psychological trauma, reduced economic opportunities, decreased social cohesion, increased social isolation, and even higher rates of homicide. According to Every Stat, gun violence is the primary cause of death among children and teenagers in the United States, with an average of 3,540 deaths yearly. Of these, 35% are suicides, and 60% are homicides. Shockingly, Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than their white peers to die from gun homicides. In addition, reducing violence through effective strategies is crucial to preventing life loss, improving public safety, and addressing violence's social and economic

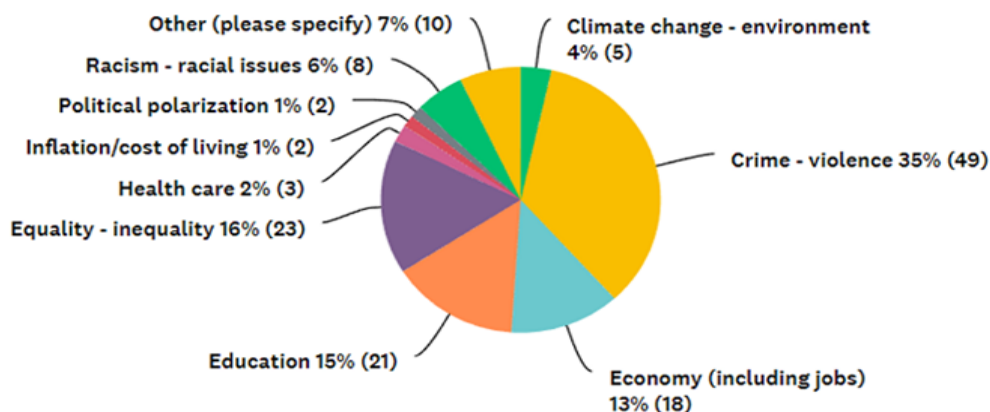
consequences.

Violence reduction strategies are critical at a national level because urban violence is a pressing issue that demands urgent attention, as said by Thomas Abt on page 4 of "Bleeding Out." These strategies take a proactive approach to address the root causes of violence rather than merely responding to violent incidents after they occur. Furthermore, by tackling the social and economic factors contributing to violence, such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, violence reduction strategies can help create safer, more inclusive communities that foster individual prosperity and well-being. Finally, by addressing the problem of urban violence at its source, violence reduction strategies are an essential tool in promoting public safety, health, and overall social welfare.

Similarly, public opinion emphasizes the need to implement effective violence reduction initiatives. For example, crime and violence were regarded as the most severe issue by a substantial majority in a recent Rochester Beacon survey, with 35% of respondents picking that choice. Education was ranked second with 15%, followed by equality/inequality with 16%. These figures show that violence and crime are essential worries for communities across the country, and minimizing their effect should also be a primary goal for governments and community leaders.

Figure 1. Rochester Opinion Poll Responses

What do you think is the MOST important issue for the Rochester area today?



Source: Rochester Beacon

Moreover, violence reduction strategies can help reduce the strain on social and economic systems resulting from prominent violence levels. Prominent levels of violence can significantly burden public health and law enforcement agencies and lead to increased incarceration and other forms of punitive justice that can be expensive and ineffective.

Methodology

The research method included examining existing violence reduction strategies used in different cities and evaluating the credibility and reliability of the information obtained from other sources. In addition, the researchers used a combination of various online resources, including Google and Google Scholar, as well as academic, non-academic, and city government websites. Finally, this study concentrated on cities that had adopted innovative strategies to minimize violence and had shown positive prospects to ensure that the chosen cities were relevant to Rochester's situation. The goal was to find successful violence

reduction strategies that Rochester, NY, could implement or serve as an example for developing new plans. Overall, the research method used in this study included: the invention of strategy, proof of success, ranking, and available data online to provide a comprehensive and accurate examination of the chosen cities, their violent crime, and the crime reduction strategies they have put in place.

Table 2 displays significant U.S. cities' prevalent crimes and corresponding intervention strategies determined by available data online. Homicide is the primary crime in five cities: New York City, Chicago, Phoenix, Philadelphia, and Dallas. Robbery takes the top spot in four cities: Los Angeles, Houston, San Diego, and San Jose. San Antonio reports aggravated assault as the leading crime. Washington, DC, has violent crime as the top offense, while Atlanta's primary crime is property related. These cities implement various violence reduction strategies, with some utilizing gang reduction programs like Gang Reduction in Los Angeles or Gang Prevention and Intervention in San Jose.

Table 2. Top 12 Major Cities, Top Crime, and Violence Reduction Strategy, United States

Cities	Top Crime	Violence Reduction Strategy
New York City, NY	Homicide	Cure Violence program
Los Angeles, CA	Robbery	Gang Reduction
Chicago, IL	Homicide	Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy (CVRS)
Houston, TX	Robbery	Anti-Gang Office, Mayor's Anti-Gang Task Force
Phoenix, AZ	Homicide	Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM)
Philadelphia, PA	Homicide	Focused Deterrence, Operation Pinpoint
San Antonio, TX	Aggravated Assault	Violence Prevention Program (VPP)
San Diego, CA	Robbery	Ceasefire, Gang Reduction Intervention Program
Dallas, TX	Homicide	Dallas Anti-Gang Initiative (DAGI)
San Jose, CA	Robbery	Gang Prevention and Intervention (GPI)
Washington, DC	Violent Crime	Operation Shield
Atlanta, GA	Property Crime	Violence Interrupters program

In addition to the above violence reduction strategies, these areas engage in other activities to reduce crime. Some cities, for example, may have expanded community policing or enforced community-oriented programs to strengthen relationships between community members and law enforcement. In addition, to address the underlying causes of crime, some cities may focus on improving economic prospects, education, and social services in high-crime neighborhoods. These activities, which address the core causes of crime and minimize the likelihood of future criminal activity, enhance the violence reduction strategies mentioned above.

Among the strategies mentioned above, Cure Violence is more effective not only in New York City but also in Baltimore, Maryland, as an analysis based on 17 years of data revealed that,

as a direct result of Cure Violence, shootings decreased 16-28 percent in four of the seven sites studied. (T. S. Bynum, H. Perez, K. Gregory, C. M. Kane, and C. Ransford. 2013). Yet, despite being started in Chicago in 2000 to reduce violence by addressing it as a public health issue, the same program had no meaningful influence on gun violence in many Chicago communities. That shows that it is critical to recognize that violence prevention requires a diversified approach and that no one program can address it.

Conclusion

The main goal of this paper was to provide some insights into some of the major cities across the United States by reviewing the prevalent population crimes in the towns and their violence reduction strategy. Of all the methods listed, this research finds that Cure Violence has been the most effective in U.S. cities such as New York City and Philadelphia, and in the Caribbean, specifically, Trinidad and Tobago (cvg.org). Importantly, this working paper discusses the importance of effective initiatives, such as the Cure Violence program and the Violence Interrupters program, which can serve as models for Rochester, NY, in reducing violent crime. Finally, the report concludes with a call for the Rochester community to adopt similar violence reduction strategies to reduce violent crime and improve public safety.

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