

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE



community violence / *defined* /*

Community violence happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home. Examples include assaults or fights among groups and shootings in public places, such as schools and on the streets.



background / *understanding the problem* /

For more than a decade, **violence in our community** has been steadily rising. Serious assaults, including shootings, are primary contributors. Researchers took an in-depth look at the data to better understand the gun violence occurring in Salem.



the facts & figures / *reference points* /

Data revealed violence increased 42% over the past 15 years, and fatal and non-fatal shootings doubled in the last five years. The **researchers' analysis** provided much insight into the who, why, and where. A few key points are from the report are listed below.

High-risk areas: *Where shootings occur*

- Shootings were concentrated within about five square miles in the northeast part of the city.

Circumstances: *Why shootings occur*

- 60% of shootings were driven by personal disputes, from disputes over money or romantic interests to drug-related disputes

High-risk individuals: *Who is involved*

- Victims and suspects are primarily between the ages of 18-34
- 87% are male
- 51% of victims and suspects are Hispanic

High-risk individuals: *Juveniles*

- 18% of suspects and 10% of victims were juveniles
- Within the study period, juvenile involvement in gun violence increased

High-risk individuals: *Those experiencing homelessness*

- 15% of incidents involved an unsheltered victim or suspect
- Within the study period, the rate of unsheltered involvement increased
- Half of these incidents resulted from personal disputes

High-risk individuals: *Gang or group affiliation*

- Almost half of the shootings involved a gang or group member
- The total number of active gang or group members in Salem is relatively small

High-risk individuals: *Those known to the criminal justice system*

- Nearly 70% had a prior criminal history
- More than half were previously incarcerated
- About 60% had been convicted of a felony
- About 60% were previously on probation and 23% were on active probation
- 36% were previously on post prison supervision and 14% were on post prison supervision
- Prior offenses varied

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE



focusing our efforts / *now and in the future* /

Take an effective approach

- Learn from the success of others. Cities across the country have done similar work and guidance on effective strategies is available. Resources include the [Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\) Gun Violence Resources](#), the [City of Oakland Ceasefire Strategy](#), and the [Council on Criminal Justice \(CJC\)](#).
- In partnership with our community, design a strategy specific to Salem's needs.
- Collaboratively implement the strategy.
- Evaluate the impacts of the strategy by measuring for the intended outcomes, then adapting as needed to reduce community violence.

Community collaboration

- Throughout 2024, engage the community, especially those most affected, to increase awareness of the issue and identify stakeholders and partners.
- Prioritize community input in the development and implementation of the intervention strategy.

Law enforcement collaboration

- Focus on high-risk individuals, deploying law enforcement and community resources to prevent and intervene in the community violence.
- Develop outreach programs to directly engage high-risk individuals, offering alternatives, support, and resources.

USE YOUR SMART PHONE
CAMERA FOR MORE INFO



key next steps / *2023 and 2024* /

- Understand the problem** - Commissioned a gun violence problem analysis
- Coordinating and focusing our criminal justice resources** - Ongoing
- Raise community awareness** - Launch a series of community engagement efforts in 2024
- Community inventory** - Create an inventory of partners and stakeholders who can lead
- Develop the overall strategy** - Begin development of a community-based strategy for Salem