

NONFATAL SHOOTING ASSESSMENT



Gun violence is a persistent challenge for law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Although homicide statistics receive most of the attention, nonfatal shooting rates provide a more complete depiction of a jurisdiction's gun violence problem. Often, a nonfatal shooting is a failed murder attempt. The victim's survival can often be attributed to factors independent of the shooter's attempt, such as access to quality medical care, poor marksmanship, and malfunctioning weapons. Increasing nonfatal shooting investigation clearance rates is critical to enhancing public safety, as nonfatal shooting offenses can undermine police legitimacy, lead to witness intimidation and community fear, and leave offenders—many with substantial criminal histories—free to re-offend or become victims in a cycle of retaliation.

Through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program, CNA offers sites nonfatal shooting assessments to support their efforts to enhance the quality of nonfatal shooting investigations and reduce gun violence. This assessment provide evidence-based recommendations and suggestions that focus on improving productivity while using the agencies' existing resources.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify and assess the requesting agency's gun violence prevention efforts.
- Assess nonfatal shooting investigation and prosecution processes.
- Identify strengths and gaps in practices and opportunities for enhancements.
- Identify relevant benchmarks to measure progress.

THE PROCESS

The key steps of the assessment process include the following:

1. **Pre-assessment questionnaire:** The PSN TTA team asks the requesting agency to complete a pre-assessment questionnaire, which provides the subject matter experts (SMEs) with a preliminary review of the agency's nonfatal shooting investigation and prosecution capacity and needs.
2. **Kick off call:** CNA will host a kick off call with the PSN TTA team—including the requesting agency's TTA liaison, analyst, and DOJ support team member—to identify the desired goals and objectives of the assessment and potential dates for the on-site portion of the assessment.



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- 3. Site visit:** During a two- to three-day on-site visit, SMEs will observe relevant processes, gather data, and conduct interviews with key personnel at the requesting agency and with representatives from relevant local, state, and federal partners. These partners can include the local District Attorney's Office; the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the US Attorney's Office (USAO); the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF); the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and the US Marshals Service (USMS). Commitment and support from local and federal partners are critical to the successful implementation of assessment recommendations.
- 4. Assessment report:** The assessment team will develop an assessment report with findings and recommendations to enhance an agency's nonfatal shooting investigation and prosecution capacity. SMEs will discuss their findings with the site while developing the report. The PSN TTA team will provide a final report to the site within six weeks of the site visit. The SMEs can debrief the findings of the report via a conference call, at the request of the site.

SAMPLE ON-SITE VISIT AGENDA

- Hold interviews with local law enforcement agency representatives.
 - Leadership and command staff
 - Investigators (gang, narcotics)
 - Homicide detectives, commanders, etc.
 - Crime/intelligence analysts, supervisors
 - Patrol
 - Crime scene, crime lab technicians
 - Community relations personnel
 - Training staff
- Hold interviews with prosecutorial personnel.
 - Local prosecutors (state, county, etc.)
 - Victim/witness coordinators
 - USAO
- Hold interviews With federal law enforcement partners and/or task forces.
 - DEA
 - FBI
 - USMS
 - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force
 - Gang task force
- Attend CompStat meeting.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

- Modified practices or implementation of new practices based on lessons learned
- Increased public safety as nonfatal shooting clearance rates improve
- Improved ability of the participating agencies to identify and prosecute prolific offenders
- Reduction in gun violence through the increased identification and prosecution of top offenders

QUESTIONS AND MAKING AN ASSESSMENT REQUEST

If you have questions about this assessment or would like to request the assessment, please consult with your TTA liaison or PSN TTA analyst. You can also complete the PSN TTA request form at the link below.

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