

# VIOLENCE ANALYSIS ASSESSMENT



Police agencies have been moving toward analyzing crime data to identify high crime areas and to identify the offenders involved in violence. Such methods can be used to design comprehensive violence prevention, intervention, and enforcement responses to violent crime. However, not all agencies have the capacity to conduct such an analysis. Through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program, CNA offers sites a violence analysis assessment to understand better the scope and nature of violence in their communities and to inform recommendations for the local law enforcement agencies to design a comprehensive response to violence, including prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- Assess calls for service and crime statistics related to homicides, robberies, and shootings to identify violent crime patterns and to identify and map hot spots.
- Conduct social network analysis to identify the most central people and groups within the identified networks based on degree, closeness, and betweenness.
- Map geographic locations related to the most violent networks and the most central people within those networks.



## THE PROCESS

The key steps of the assessment process include the following:

1. **Pre-assessment data:** The PSN TTA team asks the requesting agency to provide available historical data on violent crime, including homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, and shootings. Other requested documentation will include policies, procedures, and documents related to violence reduction. Subject matter experts (SMEs) will review the data before an on-site visit.
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 one- to two-day site visit, SMEs will conduct interviews with local law enforcement personnel. They will also observe internal briefings and collaborative crime meetings with outside partners, and tour police department facilities.
4. **Assessment report:** The assessment team will develop an assessment report with findings that describe violent crime trends and patterns in the city and provide recommendations to enhance violent crime prevention, intervention, and enforcement response efforts. 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.
  - Crime analysis unit
  - Gang unit
  - Detectives and investigators of homicides, robberies, and shootings
- Observe internal and external briefings and meetings.
- Tour police department facilities.

## POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

- Modified practices or implementation of new practices based on lessons learned
- Increased public safety as violent crime preventive methods improve



## 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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