GAIN Presentation

Health and Safety Committee
12.3.2025

Agenda

- Citywide Safe City Goal
- Evidence-based practices: Focused Deterrence
- Existing Program: Community Violence Solutions
- GAIN Pilot Program
- Outcomes to Date
- Pilot Findings
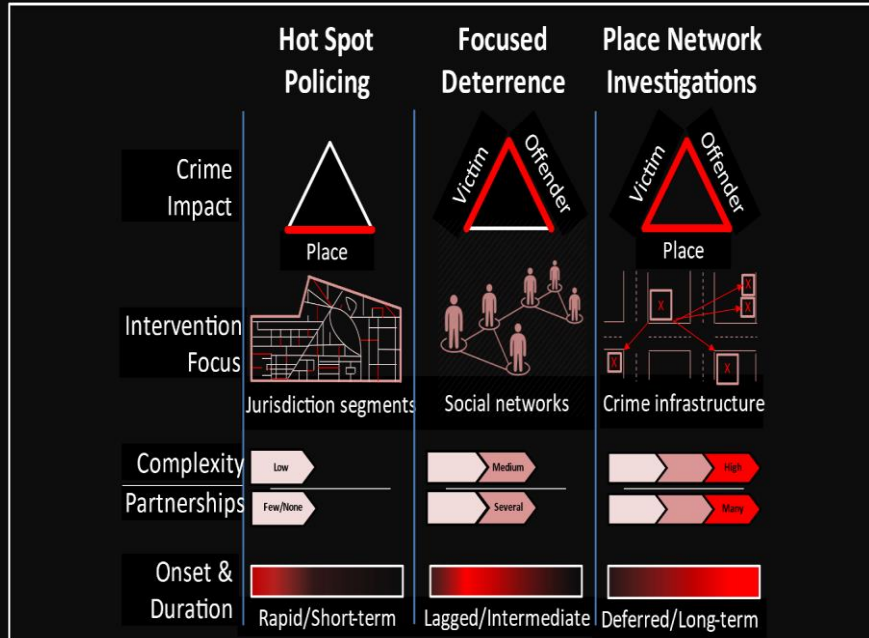- Next Steps

Key Points

- This was a year-long pilot that concluded in October

- This pilot served both adults and youth

- No one has been arrested in Denver in conjunction with this pilot

Citywide Safe City Goal

- 2023 statistics: 68 firearm homicide victims, 285 non-fatal shooting victims (Total of 353 shooting victims)
- Launched the Safe City goal in 2024 to focus on firearm homicides and non-fatal shootings.

Year	Goal	Tactics	Result
2024	20% decrease in shootings	- Place Network Investigations (PNI) - Hot Streets - Trust Patrols	28% decrease in total shooting victims; 33% decrease in homicide shooting victims; 28% decrease in NFS victims
2025	Additional 15% decrease in shootings	- Place Network Investigations (PNI) - **Gun Violence Awareness and Intervention Network (GAIN)** - Hot Streets - Trust Patrols	33% decrease in shootings; 50% decrease in gun-related homicides

City of Denver Gun Crime Reduction Strategy

Safe Denver WIG: Reduce Violent Gun Crime by 20% DPD Sub Goals		
Hot Streets	**Group Violence Reduction Strategy**	**Place Network Investigations**
• **Short Term** • **Changes every 28 days** • **Patrol led** • **Place Based**	• **Intermediate-Term** • **People based** • **SORT led**	• **Long Term** • **Focused on criminal networks and infrastructure** • **Patrol led**

Expanding Intervention: Focused Deterrence

"Focused Deterrence" is a crime reduction strategy that targets specific criminal behaviors committed by a small number of high-risk individuals or groups. It combines law enforcement, community engagement, and social services to deter violence.

Core Components:
- **Identification** of high-risk individuals or groups (e.g., individuals that have been involved in gun violence in the recent past)
- **Direct communication** to deliver a clear message: violence will bring swift consequences, but help and services are available
- **Support and services** offered to those who want to exit violence
- **Swift, certain, and legitimate sanctions** for continued violence

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Evidence-based approach

- Operation Ceasefire in Boston launched in 1990s: 57% reduction in number of monthly youth homicides

- National Academy of Science Report on Proactive Policing: Effects on Crime and Communities (2018): Focused deterrence is an effective person-based strategy

- Campbell Systematic Review (2019): 19/24 focused deterrence evaluations found evidence of violent crime reduction attributable to the program

- Principal tactic of the nationally renowned Violence Reduction Center, helmed by Thomas Abt of *Bleeding Out* and Obama administration

Existing Program: Community Violence Solutions

- Formerly known as GRID, Community Violence Solutions (CVS) provides case management and service connection to individuals that are **referred** to the program

- These individuals (both adults and youth) are referred from: Pre-Trial, Probation, Community Corrections, Guardian Ad Litem, Youth Reentry (DYS, YOS), DPS, etc.

- CVS partners with several community-based organizations to provide services to individuals in the program

- Serves approximately 100 clients per year

Why launch new pilot?

- Looking to expand the "top of funnel" in which individuals (both adults and youth) are offered services before they are involved in a violent gun crime

- Received Department of Justice grant to build a model on existing data to help proactive outreach
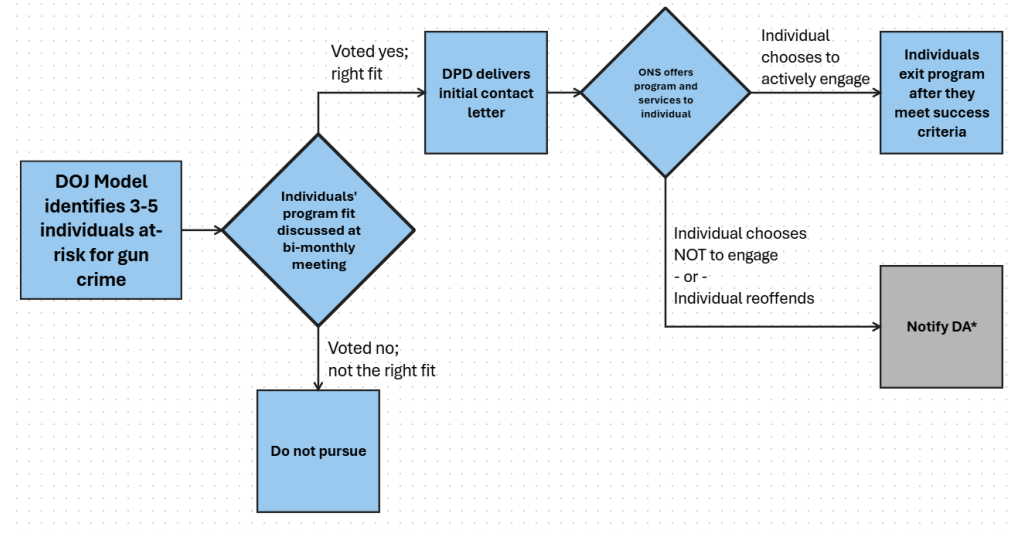
GAIN Data Model: Origin

- DPD requested assistance from the Biden-era Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)

  - BJA NTTAC connected DPD with national experts at IDEA Analytics

  - IDEA Analytics developed an intelligence-led, person-based analytical product known as the GAIN Data Model

GAIN Data Model: How it works

- Model utilizes offense data and entity data from DPD's Record Management System (RMS) to assign a score

- Scores in the model are based on 1) the seriousness of the offense, 2) the role of the person in the incident, and 3) the amount of time that has passed since the incident.

    - This score does not reflect the value, danger, or future behavior of any individual and is intended to be a supplement to additional information

- Analysts develop a comprehensive workup for individuals with scores indicating they may be candidates for focused deterrence.
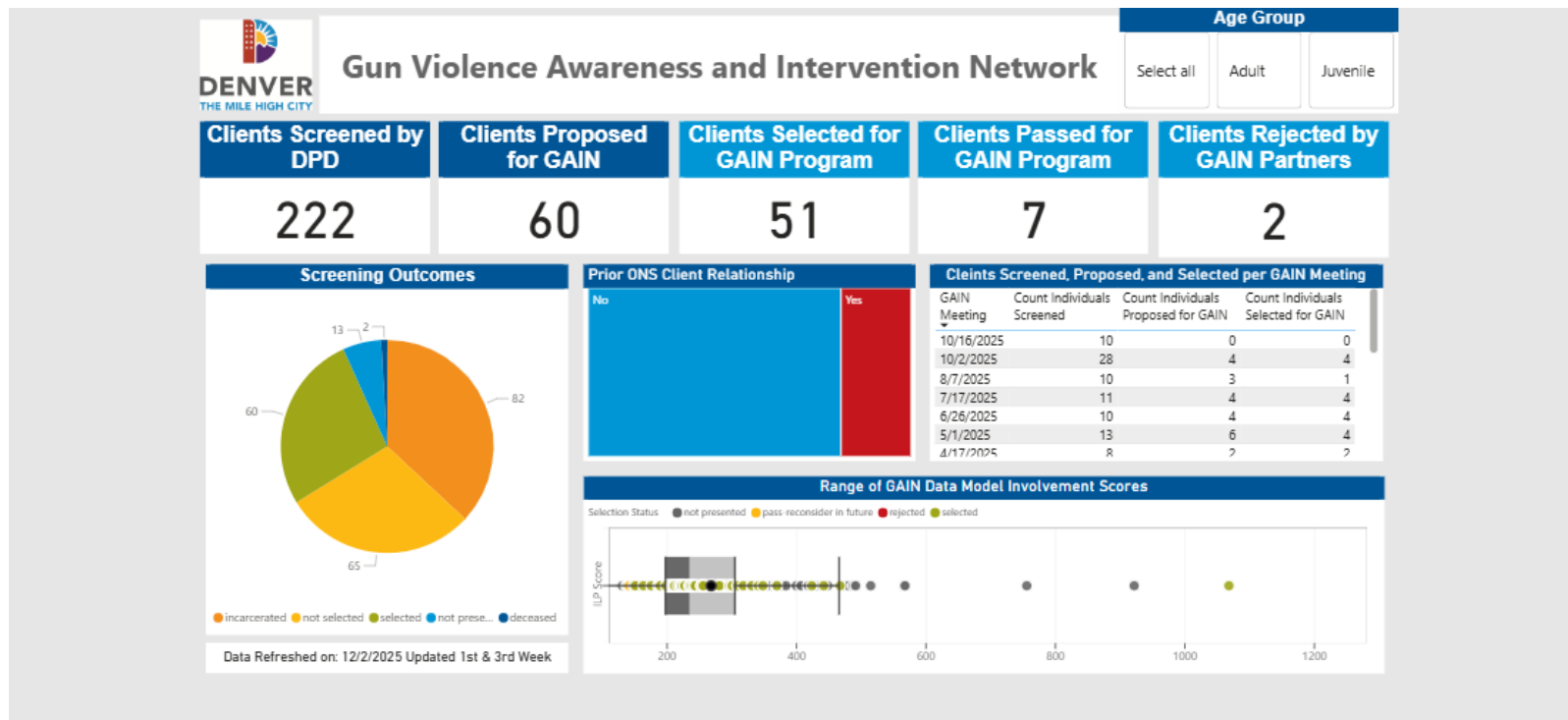
Pilot Program: Gun violence Awareness and Intervention Network (GAIN)

- Year-long pilot launched Nov 2024; no additional budget or teams
- Coordination and prioritization; carved out space in CVS capacity
- Players:
  - Support and Outreach: ONS, DDPHE, DHS, DHA, DPS
  - Law Enforcement: DPD SORT, DPD Analytics, FBI, Denver DA, Probation*, Pre-Trial, DSD*, ATF, USAO

*DSD and Adult Probation were not involved in any juvenile sessions.

DOJ Model identifies 3-5 individuals at-risk for gun crime → Individuals' program fit discussed at bi-monthly meeting

Voted yes; right fit → DPD delivers initial contact letter → ONS offers program and services to individual

Individual chooses to actively engage → Individuals exit program after they meet success criteria

Individual chooses NOT to engage - or - Individual reoffends → Notify DA*

Voted no; not the right fit → Do not pursue

GAIN Outcomes to Date

GAIN Outcomes to Date

Pilot Findings

- Use of current model is heavily resource intensive

- It's hard to contact identified individuals

- There is reputational risk for ONS' programs in the current program design

- This version had no impact on our drop in shootings

- No data to evaluate program's effect on sentencing

Next Steps

- Year-long pilot concluded in October; program has been wound down

- Completed operational After Action Review (AAR) with Peak Team in November

- With an inter-organization small team, will investigate a program redesign in 2026
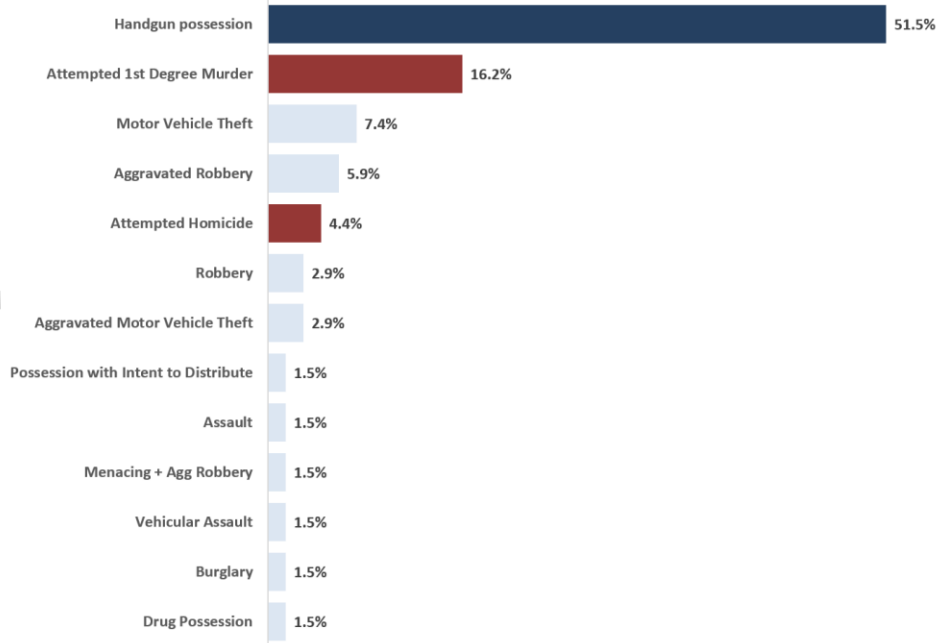
Questions

Appendix

Office of Neighborhood Safety

- History – GRID
- 2021 – changed from GRID to OCVS
  - Changed to gang, group, or gun involved
- DOS to ONS
- Organizational Principles
  - May 2024
  - Organizational Principles
  - Referrals
  - Case Management
  - Service Connection
  - Multi-disciplinary Team meetings

ONS: Community Violence Solutions

Count of Charges

Handgun possession and attempted murder top two charges

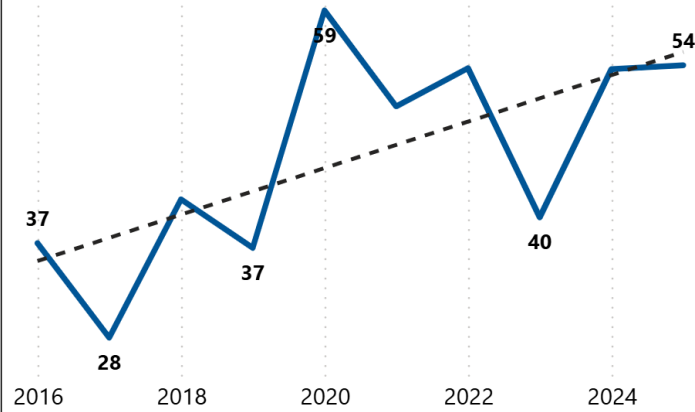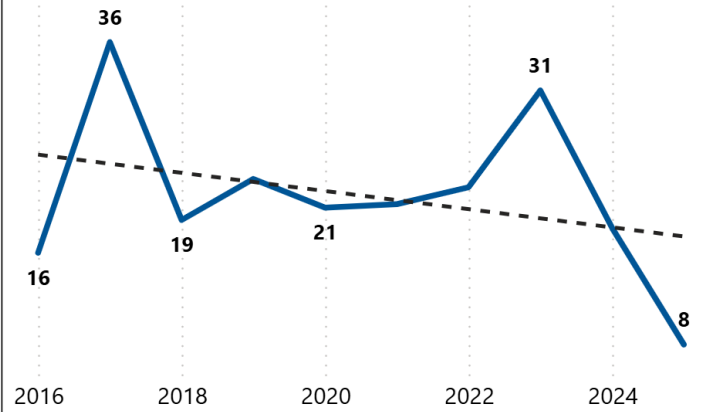| Charge	Percentage
Handgun possession	51.5%
Attempted 1st Degree Murder	16.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	7.4%
Aggravated Robbery	5.9%
Attempted Homicide	4.4%
Robbery	2.9%
Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft	2.9%
Possession with Intent to Distribute	1.5%
Assault	1.5%
Menacing + Agg Robbery	1.5%
Vehicular Assault	1.5%
Burglary	1.5%
Drug Possession	1.5%

Charges

- Primary charges for current CVS clients

- 90% of charges are violent or violence-related

- One out of two are handgun possession

ONS: Community Violence Solutions

CVS Annual Success Rate Steadily Improves

37
28
37
59
40
54

2016   2018   2020   2022   2024

Annual Disengagement Rate Falling

16
36
19
21
31
8

2016   2018   2020   2022   2024

- CVS Outcomes trending in positive direction

- Resource levels unchanged