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# Denver Police Department

Chief Paul M. Pazen

Youth Gun Violence: Trends, Impacts, and Solutions



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023

### Preventing Crime & Treating People with Respect



### Reducing Social Harms



- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Fear of Crime
- Multimodal Transportation

### Precision Policing



- Identify Neighborhood-Specific Issues
- Focused Enforcement Efforts
- Domestic Violence Prevention Program

### Taking Care of the People Who Take Care of the People



- Resilience & Wellness Programs
- Improving Work/Life Balance

### Public Safety Branding

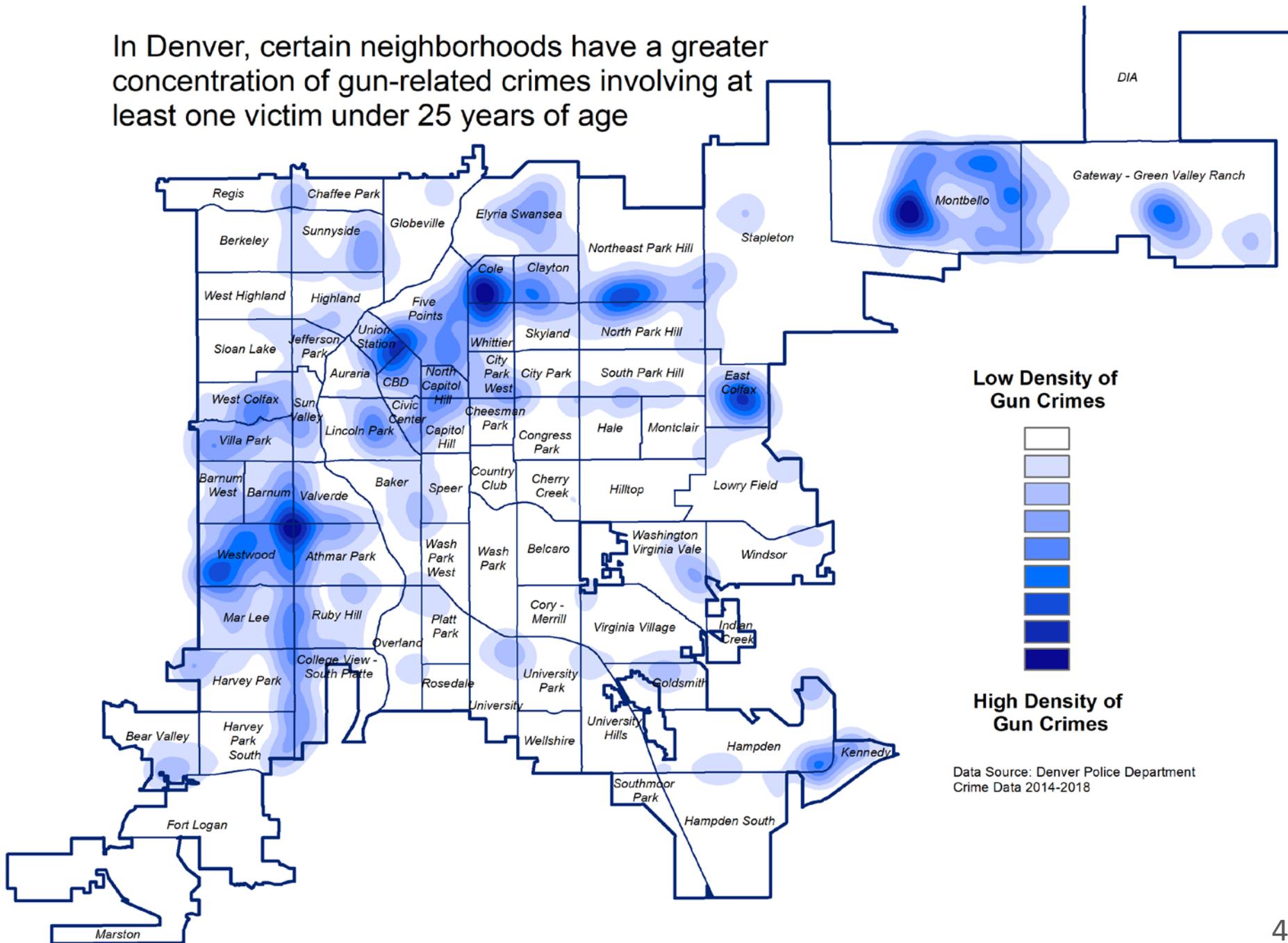


- Increase Public Information
- Decrease High-Frequency Crimes
- Increase Prevention Efforts

# Youth Gun Violence Data

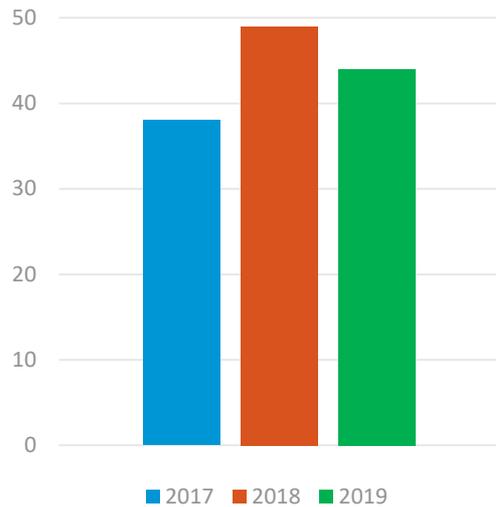


In Denver, certain neighborhoods have a greater concentration of gun-related crimes involving at least one victim under 25 years of age

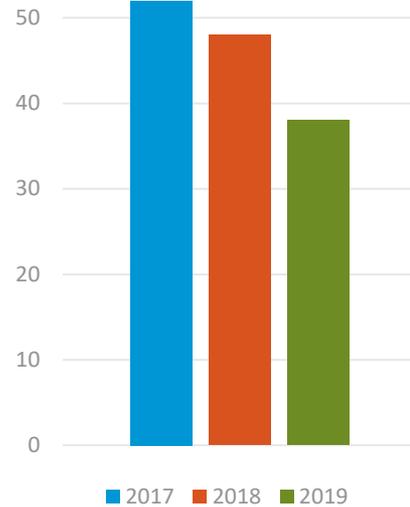


# Gun-Related Crime

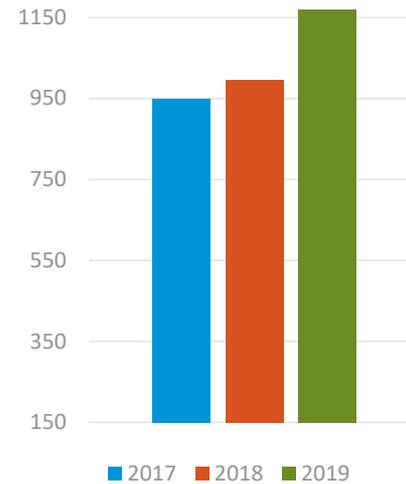
## Murder



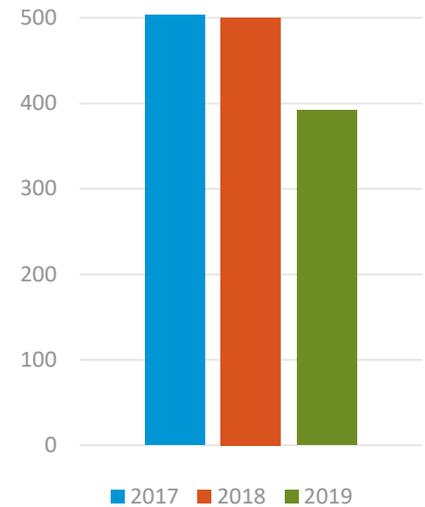
## Suicide



## Aggravated Assault-Total

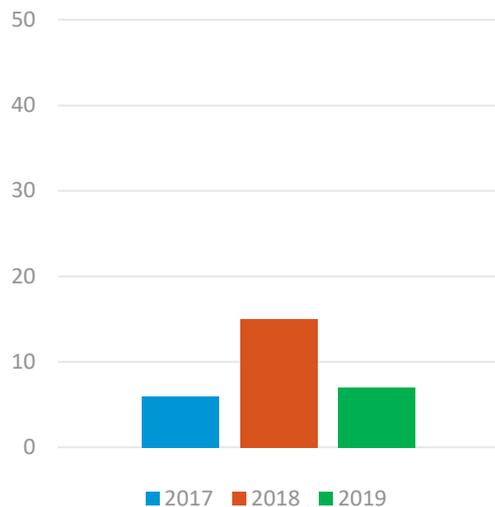


## Robbery-Total

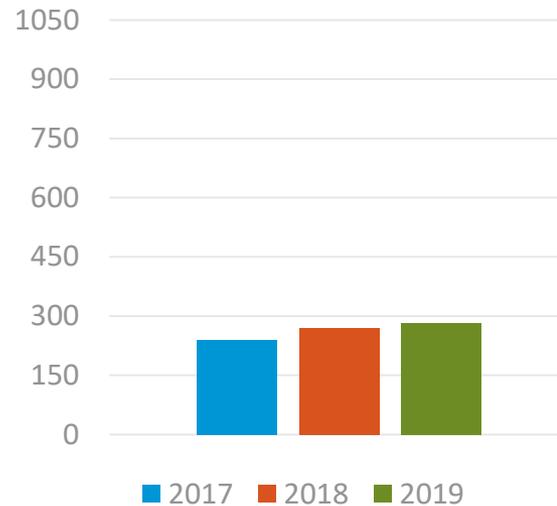


# Gang and Gun-Related Crime

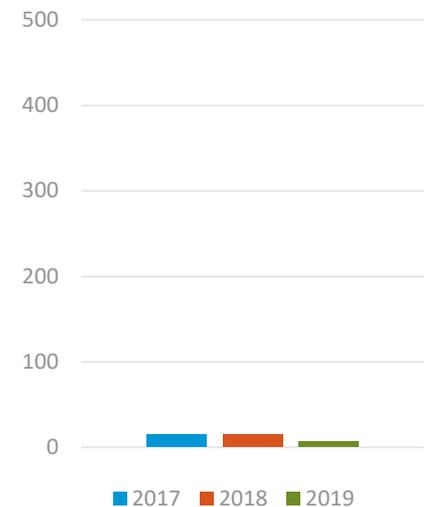
## Murder



## Aggravated Assault-Total



## Robbery-Total



# Impacts of Youth Gun Violence



# Juvenile Health Concerns

Mental health issues: anxiety, depression, and PTSD

Negative impact on school attendance

Lack of positive social engagement and adolescent development

Potential to join a gang for protection and a sense of belonging

- The entire community's health is impacted due to fear of crime and a reluctance to leave their homes
- This has a direct impact on the vitality, socialization, and economy of our neighborhoods



# Solutions



# Taking a Holistic Approach

Youth violence disengagement model:

- Mental Health Clinicians
- DPS – healthy learning and lifestyle for students
- GRID
- Safe gun storage
- Precision Policing
- Share data
- Handle with Care program

What DPD is doing:

- Added a CRO and officers to Gang Section
- Citywide Impact provides wrap-around services
- Addressing Social Harms
- Bridging the Gap
- SROs support DPS
- Enhanced non-fatal shooting investigations

# Outreach Model

## Bowser Model

- Partnership with DPS
- Identify Kids in need of supportive service
- Police Officer, Mental Health Co-Responder, Victim Advocates

## GREAT Training

- Gang Resistance Education
- Focuses on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

## Opportunity Index

- Resource Map

# Mayor Hancock's Action Table

## A Sampling of the Members Involved:

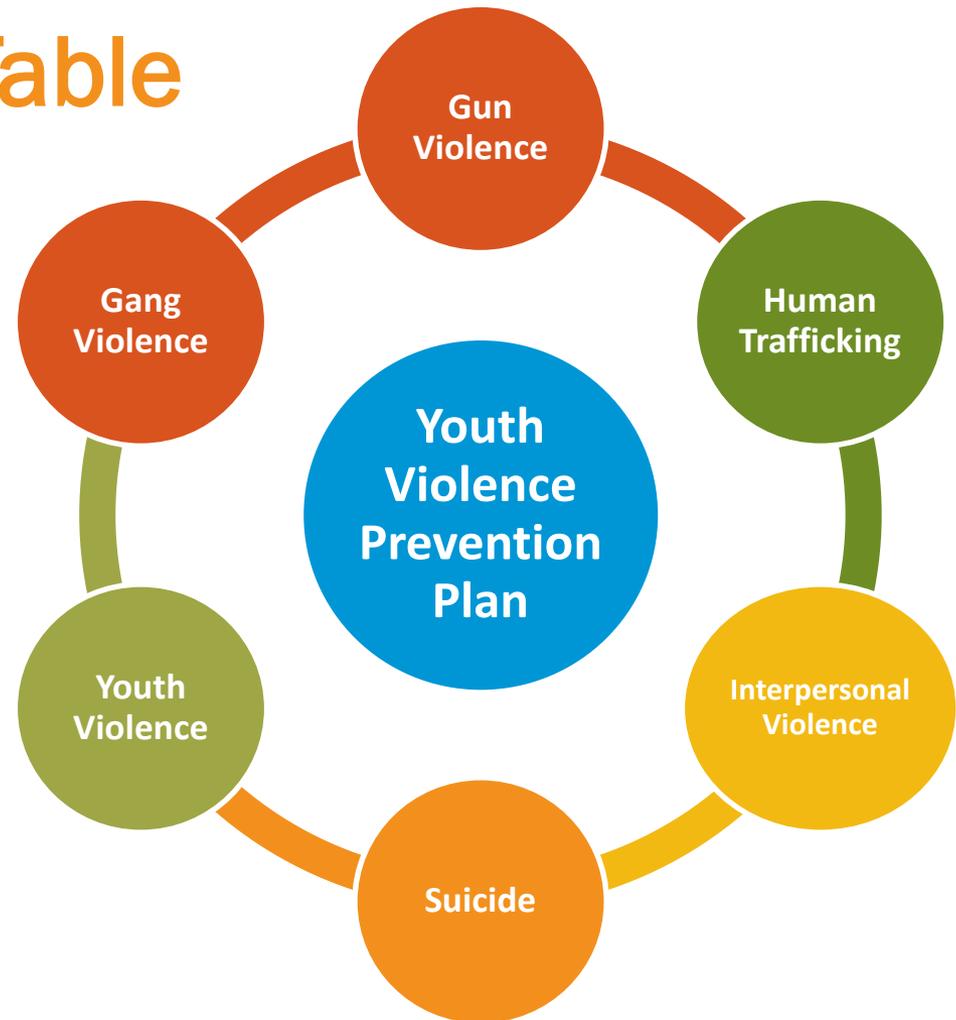
**Goal:** Improve internal systems alignment and communications to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies in service delivery

Lead by Kristin Bronson

- Bloomberg Associates
- District Attorney
- US Attorney
- ATF
- Denver Health
- Denver Public Schools
- Courts
- Denver Police
- Denver Department of Public Safety
- Office of the Independent Monitor
- Denver Human Services
- Denver DPHE
- Juvenile Probation
- Multiple State Agencies
- Office of Public Defenders
- Savio Management Group
- GRASP
- Dream Culture Corporation
- AI Revolution

# Youth Violence Prevention Action Table

- Task: Develop Comprehensive Youth Violence Prevention Plan by end of 2020.
- Connect, align, and maximize all resources to support a comprehensive approach.
- Phase 1: Connect, map and align city and system resources.
- Phase 2: Feedback from community-based organizations, residents including youth to inform prioritization of strategies.
- Phase 3: Evaluate recommended strategies to determine potential impact.
- Phase 4: Deliver Youth Violence Prevention Plan to Mayor's Office.





## YOUTH PROGRAMS DENVER PUBLIC SAFETY

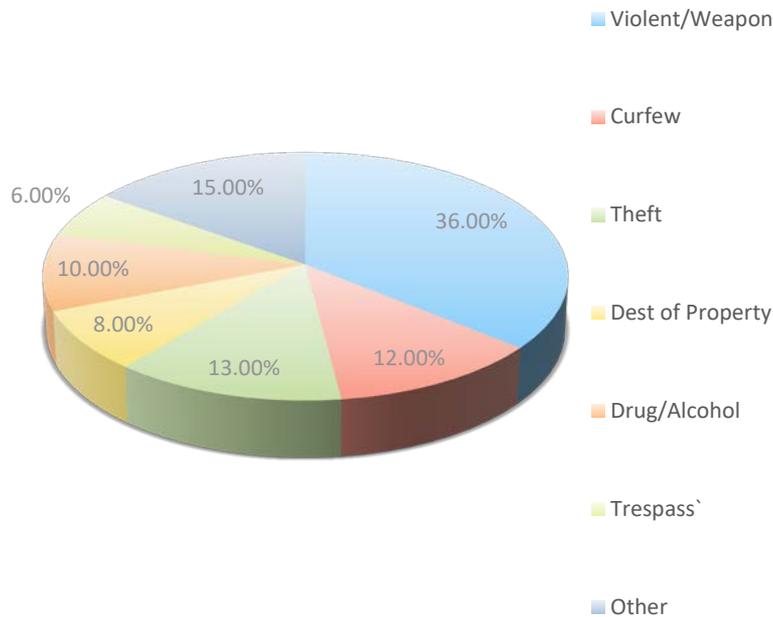
### Overview

- Operate Diversion programming supporting Municipal and Truancy Court
- Juvenile Services Center
  - Voluntary Diversion
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> JD Youth Detention Continuum Program

### Prevention

- Strengthening Families/Familias Fuertes Program 10-14
- Evidence-based curriculum
- Partnership with Vuela for Health
- 7 Spanish-language sessions
  - 64 parents/caregivers
  - 62 youth

**2019 Municipal Juvenile Court Cases**  
**N= 1459**



Intervention

- Alternative to Citation (ATC) Pilot
- North and West HS
- Reduction of 16% and 71% respectively in citations issued in first semester.
- Schools now referring without considering citation – Voluntary Diversion.



Unite Denver: Resource Coordination and Collaboration

 Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver

### Gang Prevention Efforts

- Gang Resistance and Education Training (G.R.E.A.T).
- Secondary Gang Prevention Services
  - Dream Center (SW, NW)
  - IEG (NNE)
  - Struggle of Love Foundation (FNE)

### Gang Intervention Efforts

- Violence Interruption
- GRID Outreach Team and community-based organizations.
- Gang desistance research project with CU Boulder

# Questions?

*Work Hard & Treat People  
Right*

