

Community Gun Violence and “Stickiness”

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COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE IS “STICKY”

- Violence concentrates among “hot people”
 - In New Orleans, half of all killings occur within network of 600-700 people (Corsaro and Engel, 2015)
 - In most cities, half of all murders involve less than .06% of the city’s population (Lurie et al., 2018)
- Majority of violence concentrates in “hot spots”
 - In Boston, 70% of shootings over three decades concentrated in approximately 5% of city blocks (Braga et al., 2010)
 - In most cities, 4% of geography accounts for half of all crime (Weisburd, 2015) - serious violent crime, e.g. homicide, even more concentrated
- Violence also facilitated by a few “hot” behaviors such as illegal gun carrying, gang and drug conflicts

“STICKY” SOLUTIONS BEST – AT LEAST IN SHORT RUN

- In criminal justice, interventions focusing on highest risk places, people, and behaviors generate strongest effects
 - True for policing (Braga, 2015), gang prevention (Gravel et al., 2012; Petrosino et al., 2015), reentry (Hollin, 1999; Lipsey & Cullen, 2007)
- In public health, same is true
 - Targeted secondary and tertiary programs outperform primary prevention ones (Limbos et al. 2007); but see research re permit-to-purchase
- Displacement a concern, but “over 30 years of research evidence... suggests that crime relocates in only a minority of instances” (Johnson et al., 2014)