



Joint Briefing: Community Violence Prevention

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Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police | Dr. Tamara Herold, Texas State University | August 3, 2026

Agenda



National Violence Trends

- Gun Violence in Austin

APD Overview

- Violence Prevention
- Victim Services, Partnerships & Engagement

Office of Violence Prevention Overview

- Public Health Approach
- Community Violence Intervention

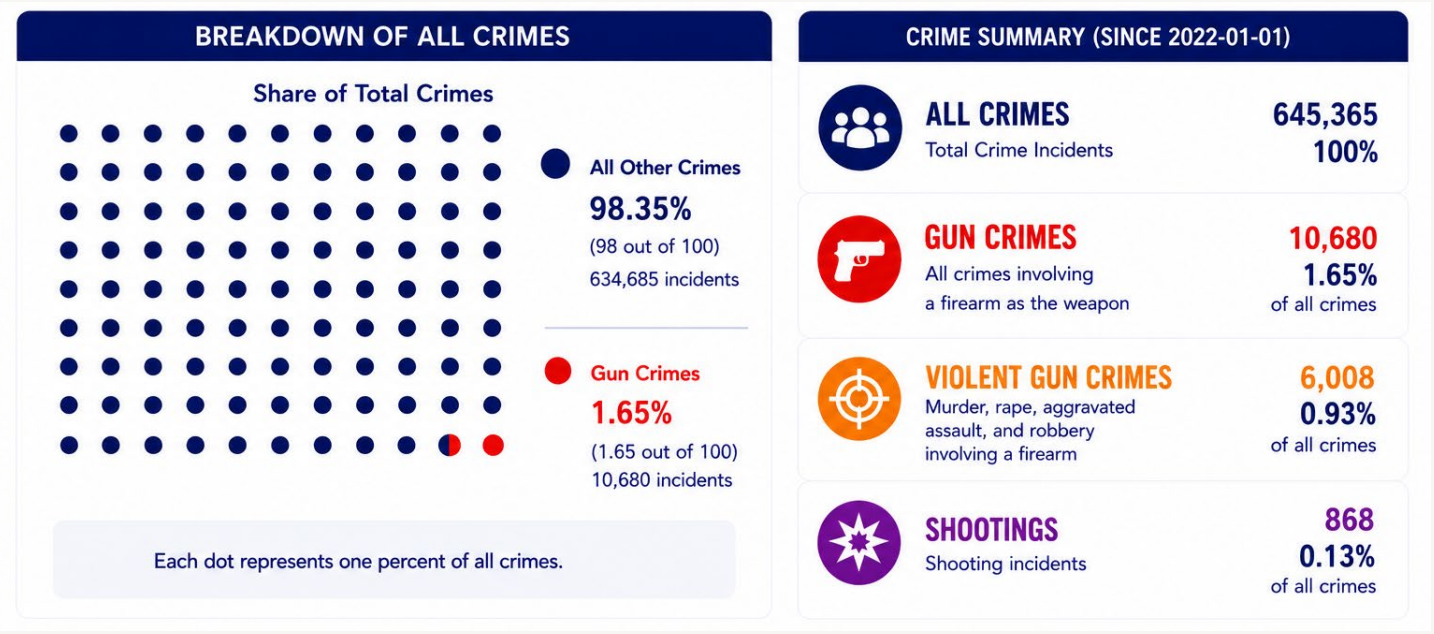
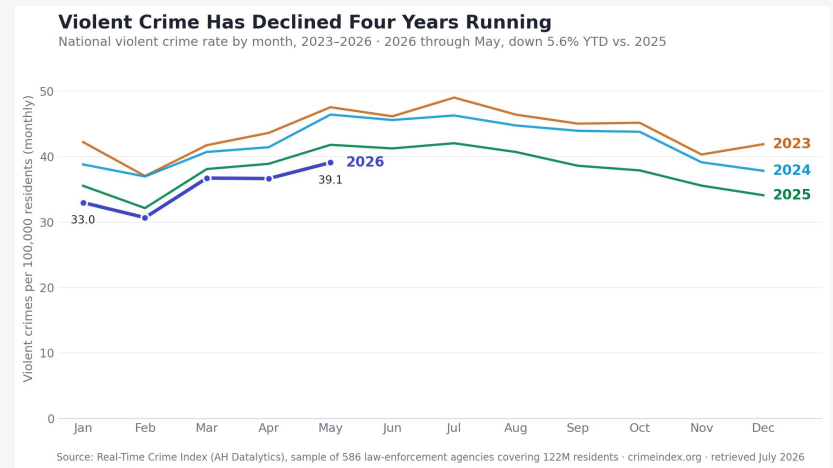
ATX Peace Overview

- Crime Violence in Austin
- CVI Best Practices

Next Steps

- Collaborative Opportunities
- Expand Strategic Partnerships

National Violence Trends



Gun Violence in Austin

A small fraction of Austin's policing needs, but with devastating consequences

Austin Police Department



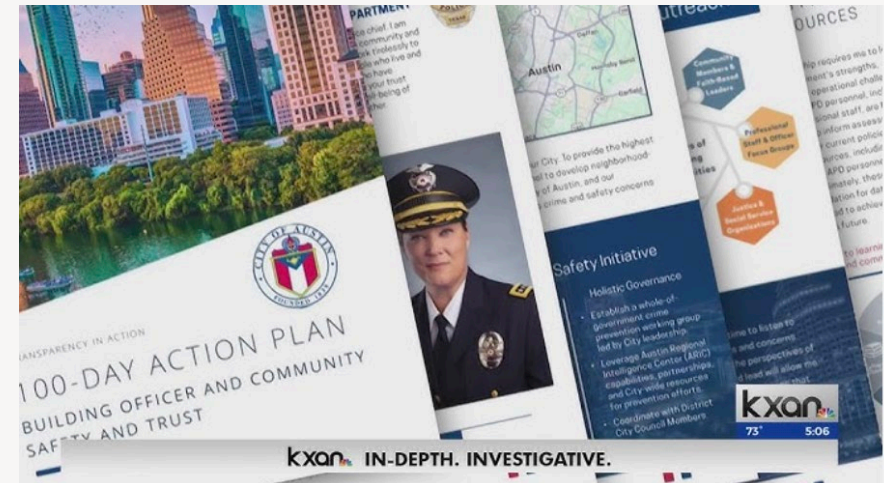
MISSION

*“To keep you,
your family, and
our community safe.”*



KEY PRIORITY

Community Trust &
Crime Prevention



APD Violence Prevention



EXAMPLES OF POLICE ENGAGEMENT

- 1 Investigate crime and hold offenders accountable**
- 2 Respond to emergencies and crises**
- 3 Be present and proactive**
- 4 Provide victim services**
- 5 Protect public spaces**
- 6 Collaborate with partners**

EXAMPLES OF EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES

- Improving Clearance Rates
- Rapid Response to Mass Casualty Events
- Directed Patrols
- Structured Psychotherapy: EMDR
- Dialogue Policing
- Place Network Investigations

POLICE ENGAGEMENT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION #1



Investigate crime and hold offenders accountable

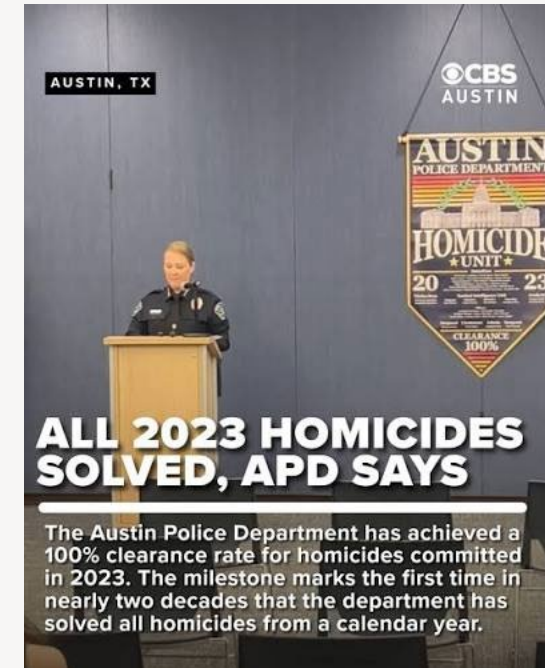
- Provides justice and safety for victims
- Reduces desire for retaliation
- Removes the ability for individuals to harm other community members

58%

NATIONAL HOMICIDE
CLEARANCE RATE

100%

APD HOMICIDE
CLEARANCE RATE



EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

**Improve
Clearance Rates**

POLICE ENGAGEMENT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION #2



Respond to emergencies and crises

Stop harm and prevent escalation as it happens

Improving deployment

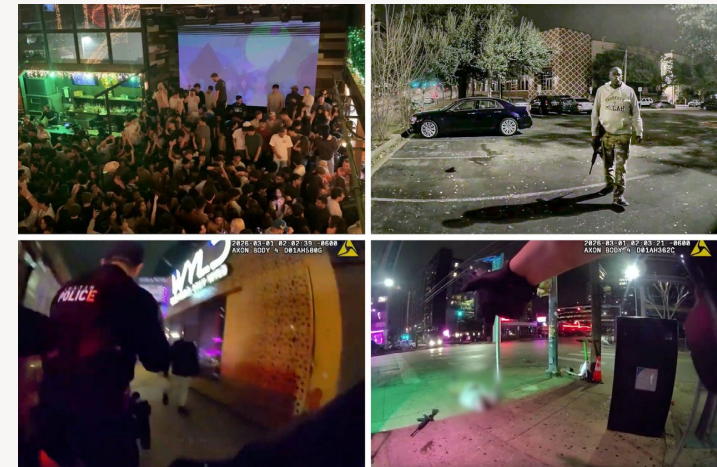
- Member of Consortium to Advance Police Supervision (CAPS)

Return to recommended staffing levels

- Applications **+74%**
- Separations **-18%**
- **92 cadets graduating**

Community perceptions

- City of Austin Community Survey: Timeliness of APD emergency response **improved by 52%**



Officer response = 30 sec = lives saved

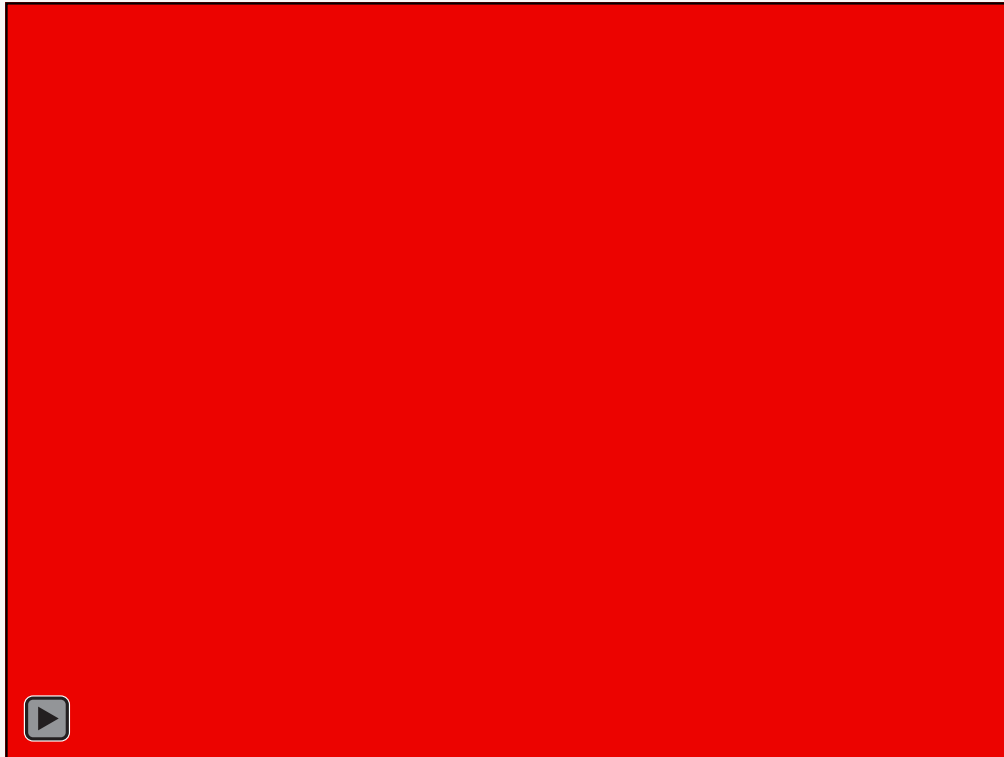
EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

Rapid Response to Mass Casualty Events

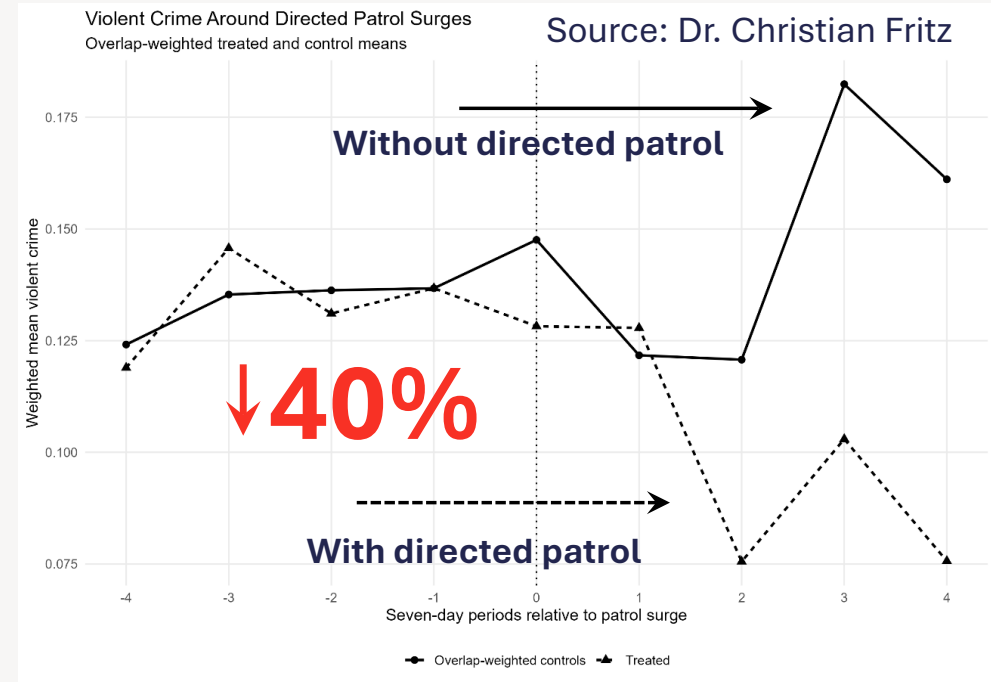
POLICE ENGAGEMENT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION #3

Be present and proactive

Deter criminal activity and reduce fear of crime



Source: AXON Body Camera Footage



EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

Directed Patrols (Plus 1 Protocol)

POLICE ENGAGEMENT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION #4



Provide victim services



Crisis Response Team ON SCENE 24/7/365

Real-time crisis response and intervention in tandem with police and other first-responders.



Investigation Support Team ONGOING SUPPORT

Longer-term, ongoing counseling throughout each stage of case progression.

51

Victim Services
personnel

7,400+

On-scene
counseling sessions

9,200+

Follow-up
counseling sessions

35,000+

Direct service
hours to victims

9,600+

Victims
served

Examples of Services Provided with Austin City Council Emergency Fund



911 &
Trac phones



Infant formula
/diapers



Groceries



Utility
payments



Security
cameras



New doors
& locks



Bus tickets
& transport



Clothing

EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

Structured Psychotherapy: EMDR

Source: APD Victim Services, 2024 Victim Services Overview

POLICE ENGAGEMENT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION #5

Protect public spaces

Including those used to exercise rights and freedoms

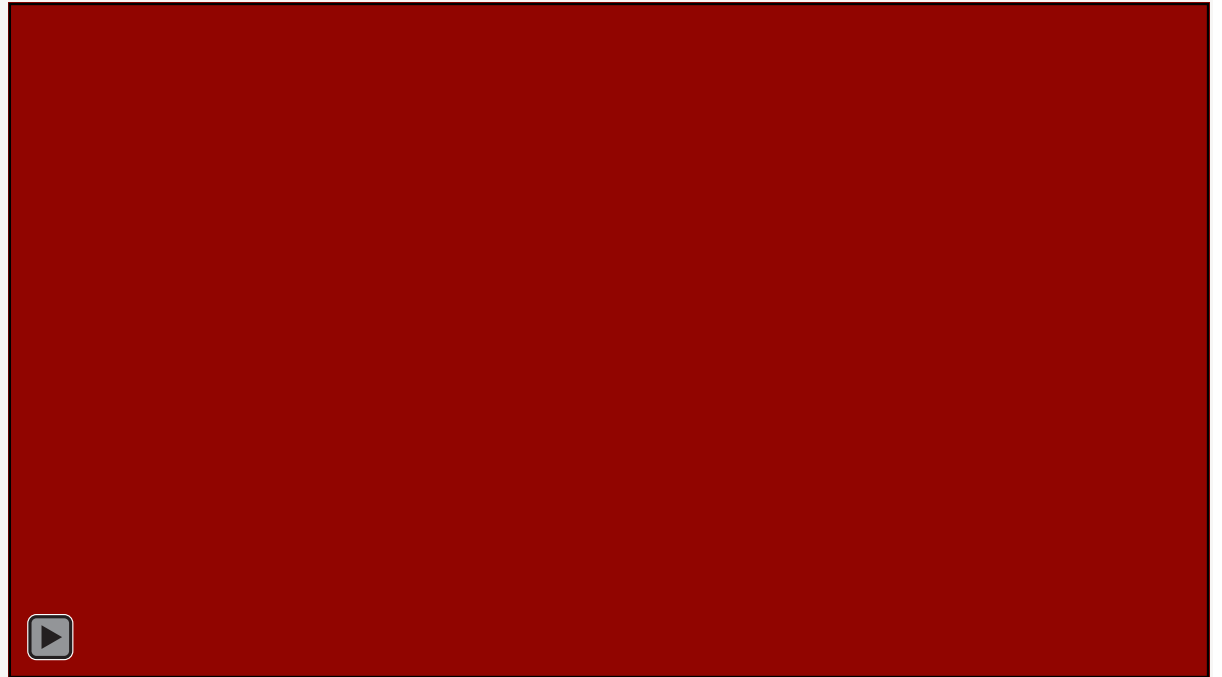


Vulnerable places (examples)

- Downtown streets and sidewalks
- Public parks
- Waterways
- Protest/demonstration sites

EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

Dialogue Policing



Source Credit: KXAN YouTube Clip – Community Member Threads Clip

POLICE ENGAGEMENT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION #6

Collaborate with partners

Community/city partnerships to prevent recurring crime problems



900 E. Braker Lane

	Calls for Service	Incidents	Arrests	Shootings*	Gun Seizures
Pre	147	90	25	4	22
Post	47	18	5	0	0
% Change	-68.03%	-80%	-80%	-100%	-100%

Pre: 9/1/2024–6/30/2025 · Post: 9/1/2025–6/30/2026 · *Does not include July 2026

EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY

Place Network Investigations



Other Violence Prevention Effort Examples

Collective Sex Crimes Response Model
LGBTQ+ Outreach
Chronic Nuisance Abatement Partnership
Crisis Intervention Team
Major Crimes Suppression Unit
Safety Fairs & Community Meetings
No Wrong Door
High-Risk Domestic Violence Offender Focus
District Representatives
Community Engagement Program
Threat Assessment Group
Crime Free Multi-Housing
HOST Housing Outreach
Firearms Technical Assistance Project
PACE Bar Compliance Teams
Domestic Violence PSAs
Problem-Solving Projects

Office of
Violence
Prevention
Collaboration

The Office of Violence Prevention

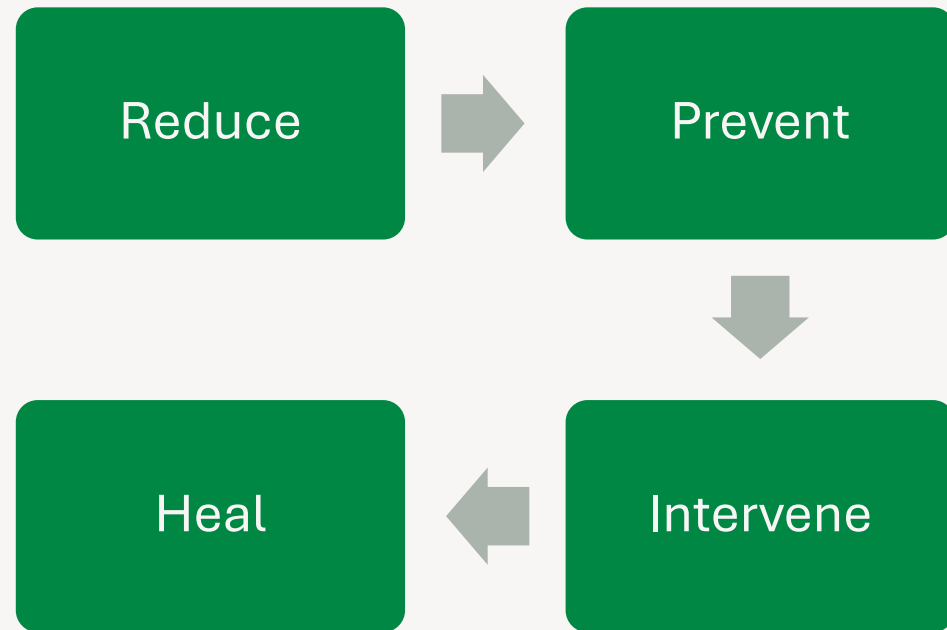
Vision:

A peaceful and safe
Austin for everyone.

Mission:

Fostering peace in Austin by
working with communities to
shape policy, coordinate violence
reduction strategies informed by
data and committed to equity.

Office of Violence Prevention: Community-Based Public Safety



Public Health Approach

Co-creating Investments & Interventions



Overview of Community Violence Intervention in Austin



City of Austin established the Office of Violence Prevention 2021

- Following community and City leadership direction
- OVP released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive Community Violence Intervention program
- ATX Peace is the first CVI program in Austin

ATX Peace was founded as a collaboration between OVP, Jail to Jobs, and Life Anew 2022

- Conflict Mediation
- Establish peace agreements
- Street Outreach
- Case Management
- Focus service:
 - Homicide hotspots
 - Populations at high-risk of gun violence

Why Community Violence Intervention



Trusted

Intentional

Community-Based

Proven

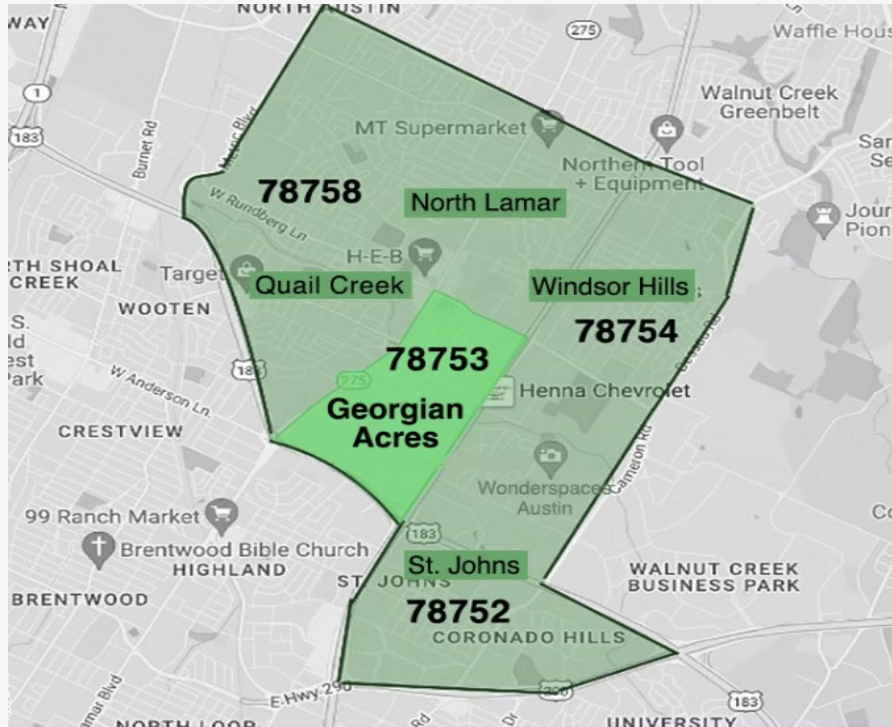
Data Driven

Reduces Homicides

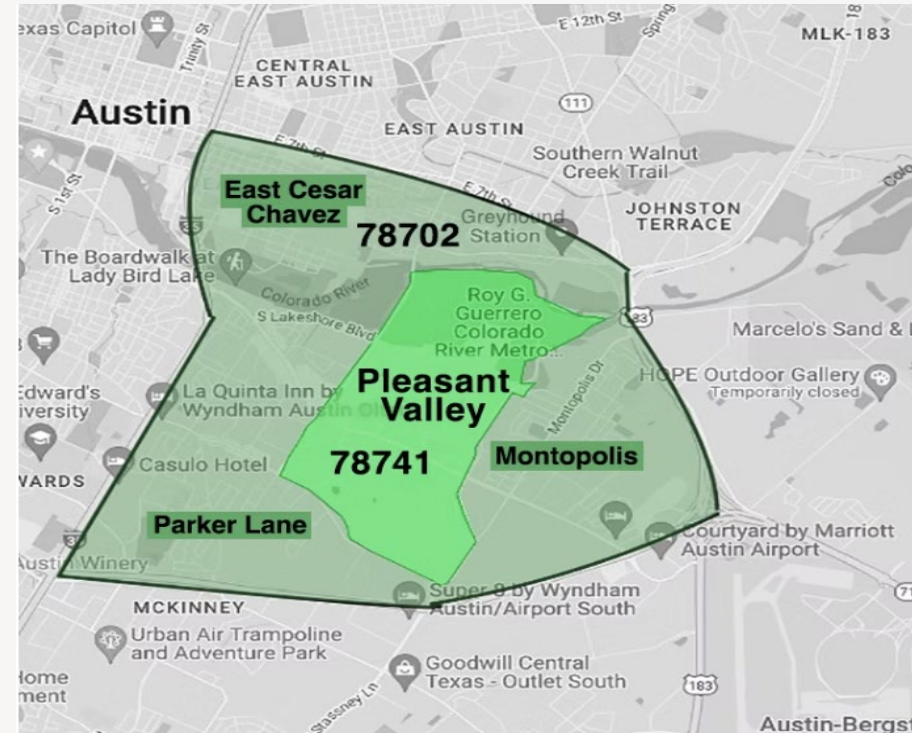
Office of Violence Prevention: ATX Peace Service Area



NORTH PRIORITY AREA



SOUTH PRIORITY AREA





ATX Peace 2025 Metrics: Fostering Peace and Saving Lives

44 Conflict Mediations



76 Shooting Responses



81 De-escalations



792

Clients Served

1901

Street Outreach Touches

146

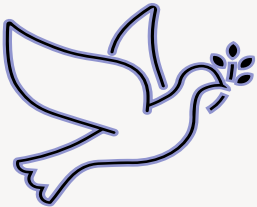
Case Managed Clients

19

Restorative Circles

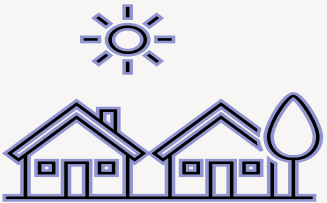
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Community Events



41.7%

2024-2025 Homicide Reductions
ATX Peace Priority Areas



Working Together: Community Violence Intervention



- APD notifies ATX Peace of shootings, and provides crime data for the target area
- ATX Peace does not give APD information
- ATX Peace and OVP have monthly strategic planning meetings
 - Discuss violent trends
 - Results of canvassing
 - Process improvement

ATX Peace

Sean Oliver & Eddie Franz

ATX PEACE · COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION



Community Violence Intervention in Austin

Independent. Community-Based. Collaborative.



Our Mission

- Prevent violence before it occurs
- Build trust within the community
- De-escalate conflicts before they become shootings
- Connect individuals and families to meaningful services
- Strengthen neighborhoods through community-led solutions



Our Role

Community Violence Intervention is a **public health strategy** — not a law enforcement strategy.

Trusted Experience Coaches build relationships with individuals at the highest risk of violence and connect them to resources that reduce the likelihood of future harm.

The foundation of effective violence prevention is community trust. *Everything we do begins there.*

HOW EFFECTIVE CVI WORKS

CVI Best Practices



Relationship-Based Outreach

Credible messengers meet people where they are.



Trauma-Informed Intervention

Responses grounded in how violence affects people.



Rapid Response

Presence within hours of a violent incident.



Long-Term Case Management

Sustained support, not one-time contact.



Community Leadership

Solutions designed and led by the community.



Data-Informed Deployment

Focus resources where risk is highest.



Cross-Sector Collaboration

Coordinated partners, each with a distinct role.



Community Trust

The foundation beneath every practice above.

These practices reflect national CVI standards — **prevention over enforcement, always community-led.**

PUBLIC SAFETY ECOSYSTEM

ATX Peace & Austin Police Department



Different Roles. Shared Goal.



Austin Police Department ENFORCEMENT

- Enforces the law
- Investigates criminal activity
- Responds to emergencies
- Protects public safety through enforcement



ATX Peace PREVENTION

- Prevents violence before crimes occur
- Builds trusted relationships
- De-escalates conflict
- Public safety through prevention, intervention & restoration



How We Work Together

- Coordinate when appropriate
- Collaborate within Austin's public safety ecosystem
- Respect each organization's independent responsibilities
- Share a commitment to safer neighborhoods



What We Do Not Do

- We are not an arm of law enforcement
- We do not gather intelligence for investigations
- We do not build criminal cases
- Our credibility depends on community trust



Shared Outcomes

- Fewer shootings
- Reduced retaliation
- Stronger families
- Increased community trust
- Safer neighborhoods

*The safest communities are created when every partner fulfills its unique role **while respecting the independence of the others.***

AUSTIN'S VIOLENCE PREVENTION ECOSYSTEM



Working Together to Reduce Violence



Current landscape: Violence in Austin remains concentrated within a small number of neighborhoods and social networks — making focused intervention both practical and effective.

CURRENT FOCUS AREAS



Rundberg / Georgian Acres



Riverside



Proven Strategies

- ✓ Trusted outreach workers
- ✓ Hospital-based intervention
- ✓ Youth mentoring
- ✓ Restorative justice
- ✓ Workforce development
- ✓ Mental health support
- ✓ Housing stability
- ✓ Family engagement



Remaining Gaps

- Sustainable funding
- Additional Trusted Experience Coaches
- Expanded hospital response capacity
- More school partnerships
- Behavioral health resources
- Workforce opportunities
- Housing stability
- Trust-protective information sharing



Opportunities Ahead

- Community organizations
- Public health
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Faith communities
- Courts
- Austin Police Department

Strengthen collaboration — while preserving each partner's independent role.

Violence prevention is most effective when every organization contributes its unique strengths — *while earning and protecting the trust of the community.*

Next Steps



Collaborative
Opportunities

Expand Strategic
Partnerships





Questions?

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