

# NATIONAL NETWORK FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES



**Saving Lives, Saving Communities**

**WEBINAR SERIES:**

## **COMMUNICATING WITH OFFENDERS: INNOVATIVE NOTIFICATION STRATEGIES**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2010**

Center for Crime Prevention and Control  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
555 W57th Street, Room 601  
New York, NY 10019  
[www.nnscommunities.org](http://www.nnscommunities.org)

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Supporting jurisdictions around the country in institutionalizing and sustaining two highly effective strategies:

- Group Violence Reduction Strategy  
“Ceasefire”
- Drug Market Intervention  
“High Point”

# STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES



- The levels of violence in America are unacceptable.
- The impact of overt drug markets is unacceptable.
- The tensions between the police and minority communities are unacceptable.
- The levels of incarceration in America are unacceptable.

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1. Baltimore, MD
2. **BOSTON, MA**
3. **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
4. Canton, OH
5. **CHICAGO, IL**
6. **CINCINNATI, OH**
7. Cleveland, OH
8. Columbus, OH
9. Concord, NC
10. Dallas, TX
11. Dayton, OH
12. Durham, NC
13. East Palo Alto, CA
14. Graham, NC
15. Greensboro, NC
16. Greenville, NC
17. Hempstead, NY
18. **HIGH POINT, NC**
19. Hillsborough, NC
20. Huntington, WV
21. Lancaster, PA
22. Long Beach, CA
23. **LOS ANGELES, CA**
24. Mesa, AZ
25. Middletown, OH
26. **MILWAUKEE, WI**
27. Mineola, NY
28. Mount Vernon, NY
29. **NEWARK, NJ**
30. **STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**
31. **OAKLAND, CA**
32. Ocala, FL
33. Omaha, NE
34. Oxnard, CA
35. Peoria, IL
36. Pittsburgh, PA
37. Portland, OR
38. **PROVIDENCE, RI**
39. Richmond, VA
40. Rockford, IL
41. Sacramento, CA
42. Salinas, CA
43. Salisbury, NC
44. Seattle, WA
45. Shelby, NC
46. Snow Hill, MD
47. Stockton, CA
48. Toledo, OH
49. White Plains, NY
50. Winston-Salem, NC
51. Yonkers, NY

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## **Purpose of Webinar Series**

- Provide assistance to National Network jurisdictions in specific areas of crime reduction research and practice.
- Provide a venue for sharing cutting-edge innovations among current National Network sites.
- Provide an opportunity to identify emerging issues and opportunities in the community of practice.

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## **Webinar Series Schedule**

- What the Research Says January 2011
- Strategy Management Essentials March 2011
- Effective Group Enforcement April 2011

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## **Innovative Notification Strategies Overview**

1. Framing and purpose of notifications
2. Current best practice
3. Future directions

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# Notifications

It is just communication.

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## Why communicate?

- Define public safety goal: don't shoot, don't deal in public
- Define risk
- Establish community standards
- Offer support
- Establish legitimacy and activate agency

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## Key Messages

- It has to stop. End of story. It's wrong. It hurts. You are better than this. You don't like it. We don't want to live like this any more.
- Your community and loved ones need it to stop.
- You are hugely important and valuable.
- The ideas of the street code are wrong.
- We will do everything we can to help you.
- We will stop you if you make us.
- None of us like how we have been living; we all want to change.

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## Current Practice

- “Classic” Group Violence Call-in
- “Classic “ Drug Market Call-In
- Chicago PSN Parolee Forums
  - Emphasizing legitimacy
- Home/Street Visits with Impact Players
- Prison/Jail Call-Ins
- Voluntary Call-Ins

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## “Classic” Group Violence Call-In

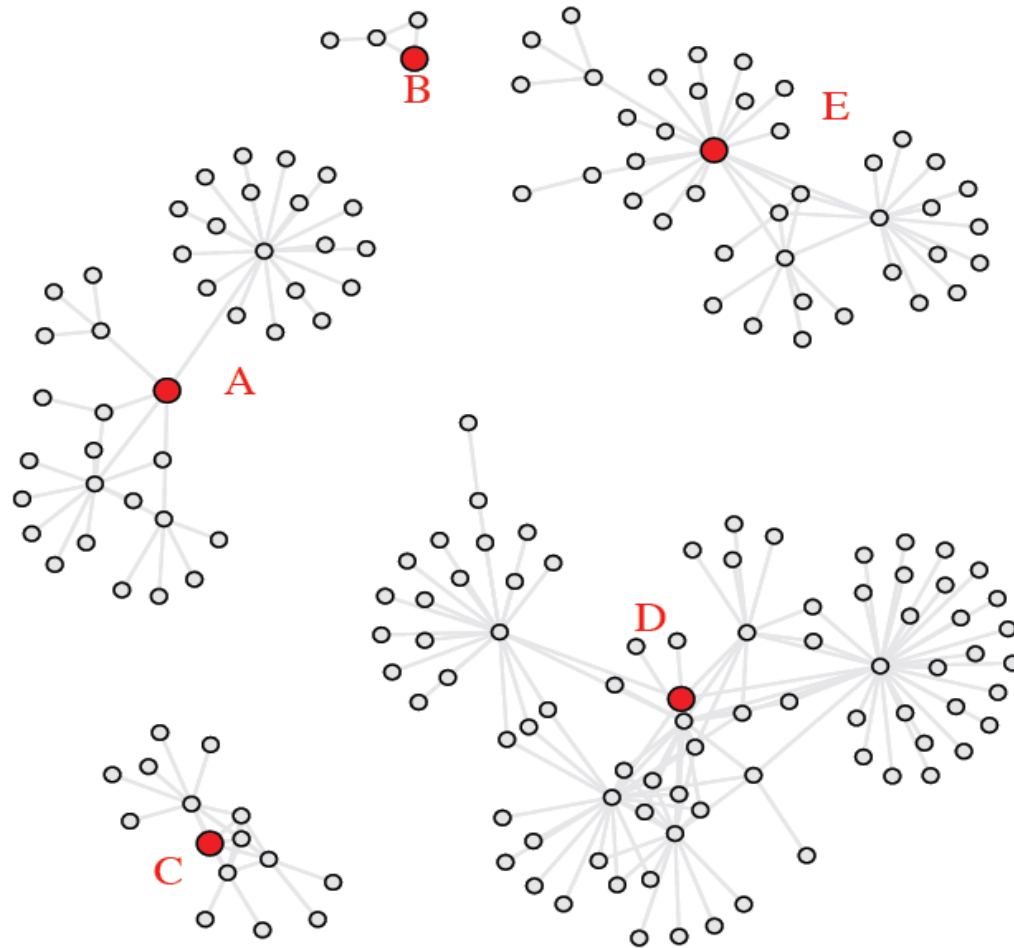
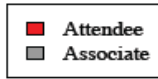
- Identifies all violent groups and gangs; all members under community supervision
- Directs one or several members of each group to attend
- Setting is often a court room or other secure facility
- Seating/set-up often “court room” style
- Standard messages are delivered; not a conversation

Purpose is to communicate key messages to all groups through those directed to attend; it is NOT primarily about them.



# CHICAGO: GARFIELD PARK CALL-IN

## Social Network of Call-In Attendees 17 August 2010



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## **Drug Market Classic Call-in**

- Participants are all dealers in a given market
- Use of “Influentials”
- Audio/Visual case documentation
- Other elements very similar

# Washington Drive DMI — High Point, NC



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**CHICAGO MODEL**

- PSN Strategy
- Legitimacy in theory
- Application of theory

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## Chicago PSN

- Adapted ideas from group strategy to focus on individual parolees
- Quasi-experimental evaluation demonstrates 37% reduction in average monthly homicide rate
- Participants in key component stay out on street 33% longer than non-participants

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## **PSN Intervention**

- **Increased Federal Gun Prosecutions**  
Deterrence
- **Increased Federal Prison Sentences**  
Incapacitation
- **Increased Firearms Policing**  
Supply-side strategies
- **Offender Notifications**  
Deterrence  
Normative change



## Offender Notification Forums

- One Hour Meetings with ‘Active Gun Offenders’
  - Recently released to parole/probation
  - Prior gun/violent offense
  - Live in target community
  - Possible gang membership
- “Stick and Carrot” Approach . . . With a lot of *legitimacy*

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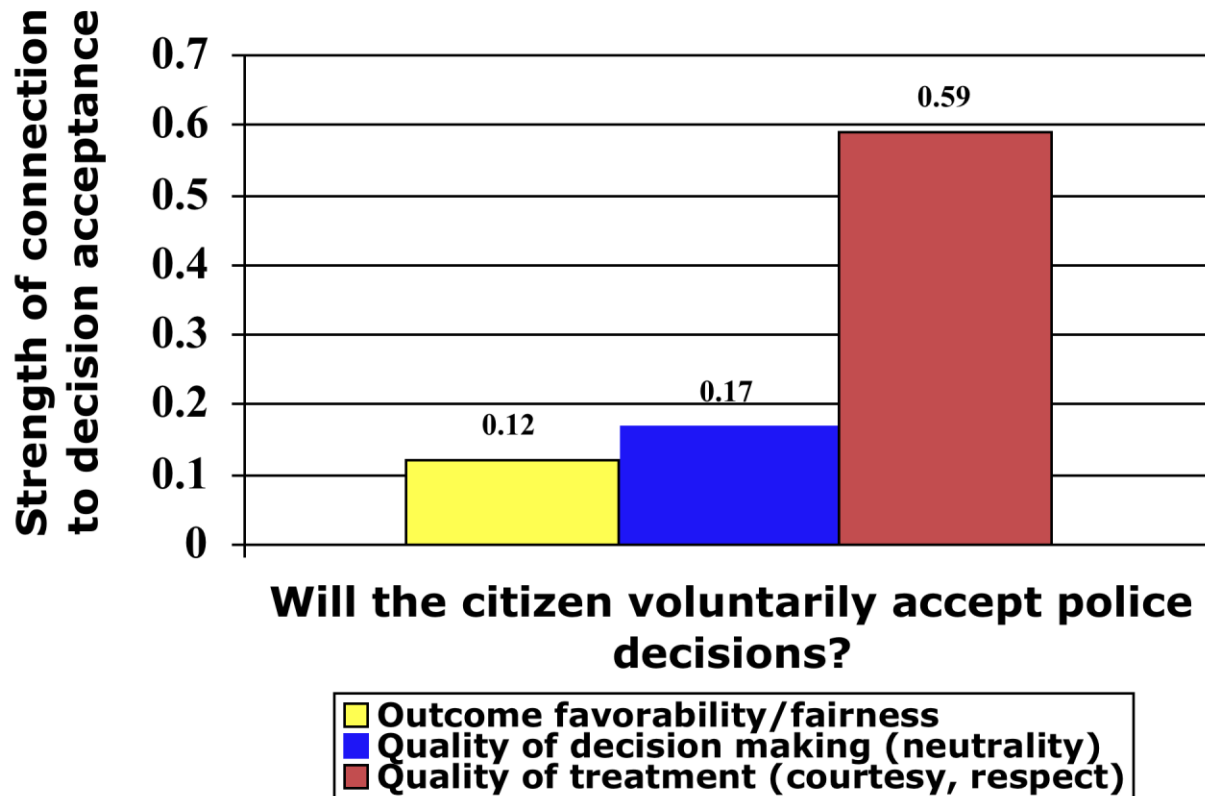


## **Legitimacy**

The belief that:

- The police are trustworthy, honest, and concerned about the well being of the people they deal with.
- Police authority ought to be accepted.
  - People should voluntarily accept police decisions and follow police directives.
  - They should comply with the law and cooperate with the police.

# What shaped decision acceptance in personal encounters (California street stops)?



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## Legitimacy Constraints

People care about:

The primary issue shaping people's views about legitimacy when dealing with the police is whether the police are exercising their power in fair ways – **procedural justice**.

Quality of decision-making (Are decisions made fairly, in a neutral, unbiased way?)

Quality of treatment (Are people treated fairly, in a respectful, courteous way?)

Procedural justice is **MORE** important than the outcome of those experiences.

# Implementation

- Urban League Style Conference with *everyone* at the table
- Place of “Civic Importance”



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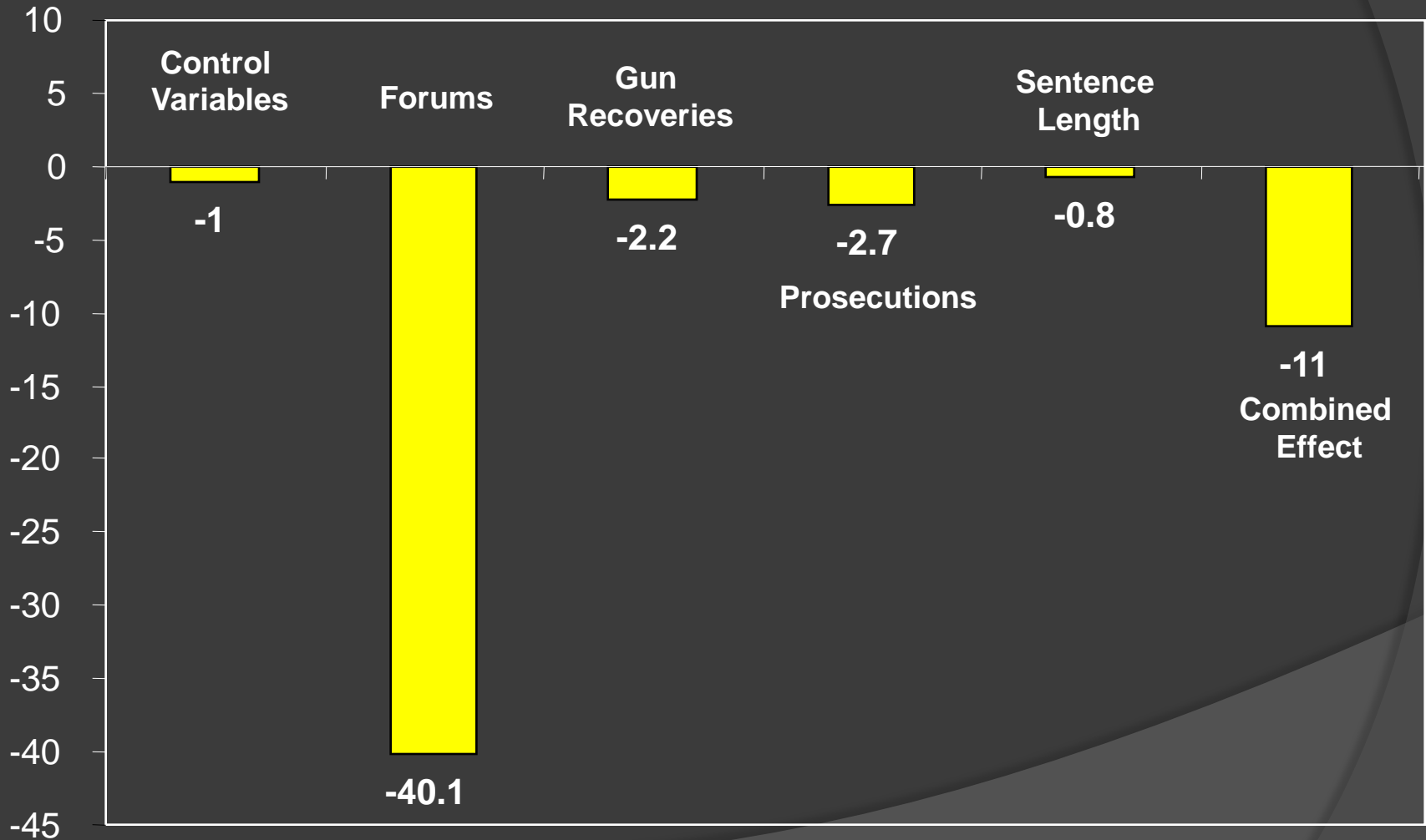
## **Implementation**

Three sets of presentations followed by one-on-one time with offenders:

1. Law Enforcement Message – “You’re a Target”
2. Ex-Offender Message – “You can do it”
3. Community Message – “Here’s how you do it”

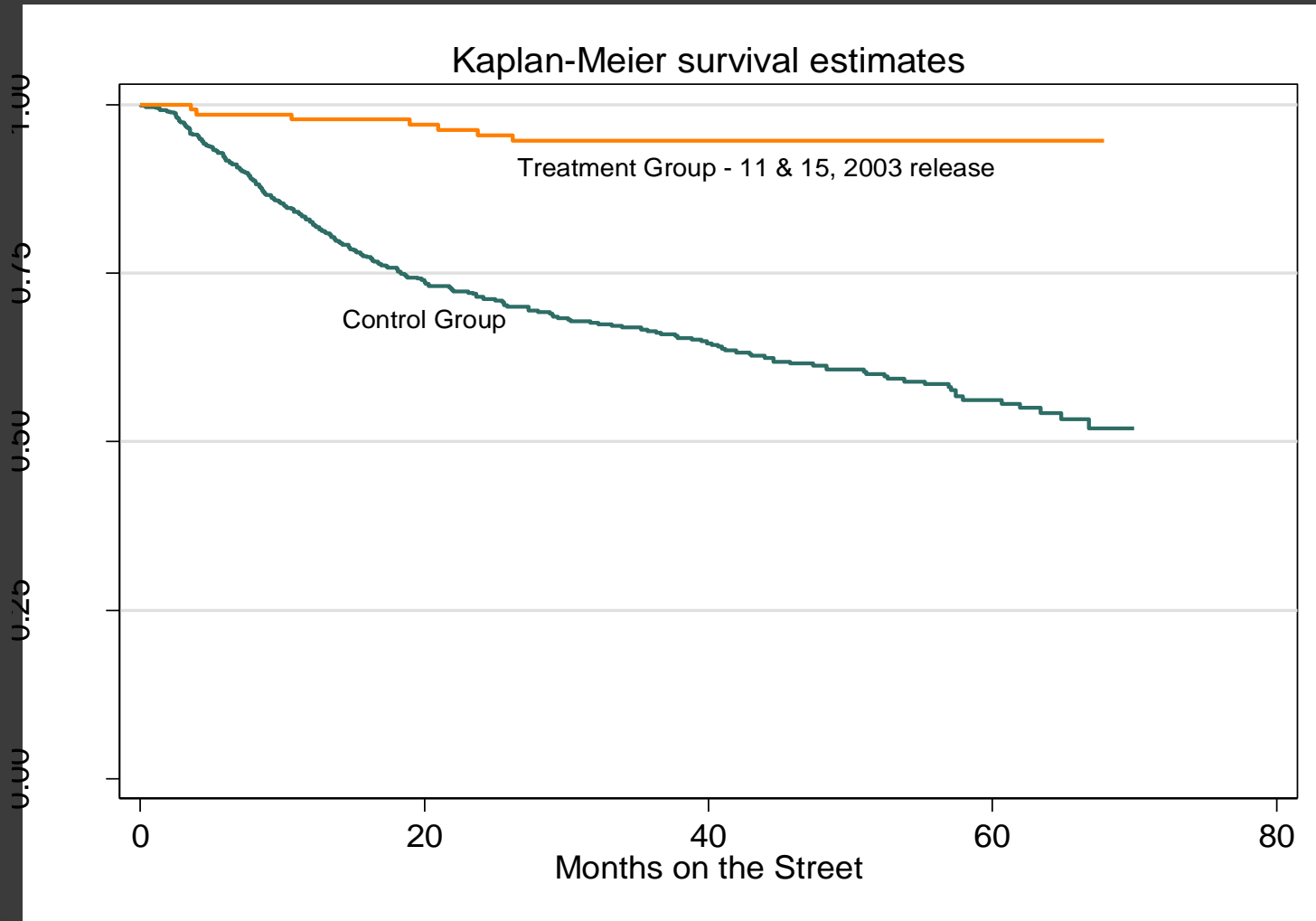
# Summary of PSN “Treatment” Effects on Quarterly Neighborhood Homicide Rates

Percentage decrease in Log(Homicide Rate) associated with a one-unit increase in PSN “treatment”



*\*\*N.B.: Random Effects Poisson Regression*

# “Survival” on the Streets – Recidivism Rates of Forum Attendees



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**CINCINNATI INITIATIVE TO REDUCE VIOLENCE**

- Home Visits with Impact Players
- Prison Call-Ins
- Voluntary Gang Call-Ins

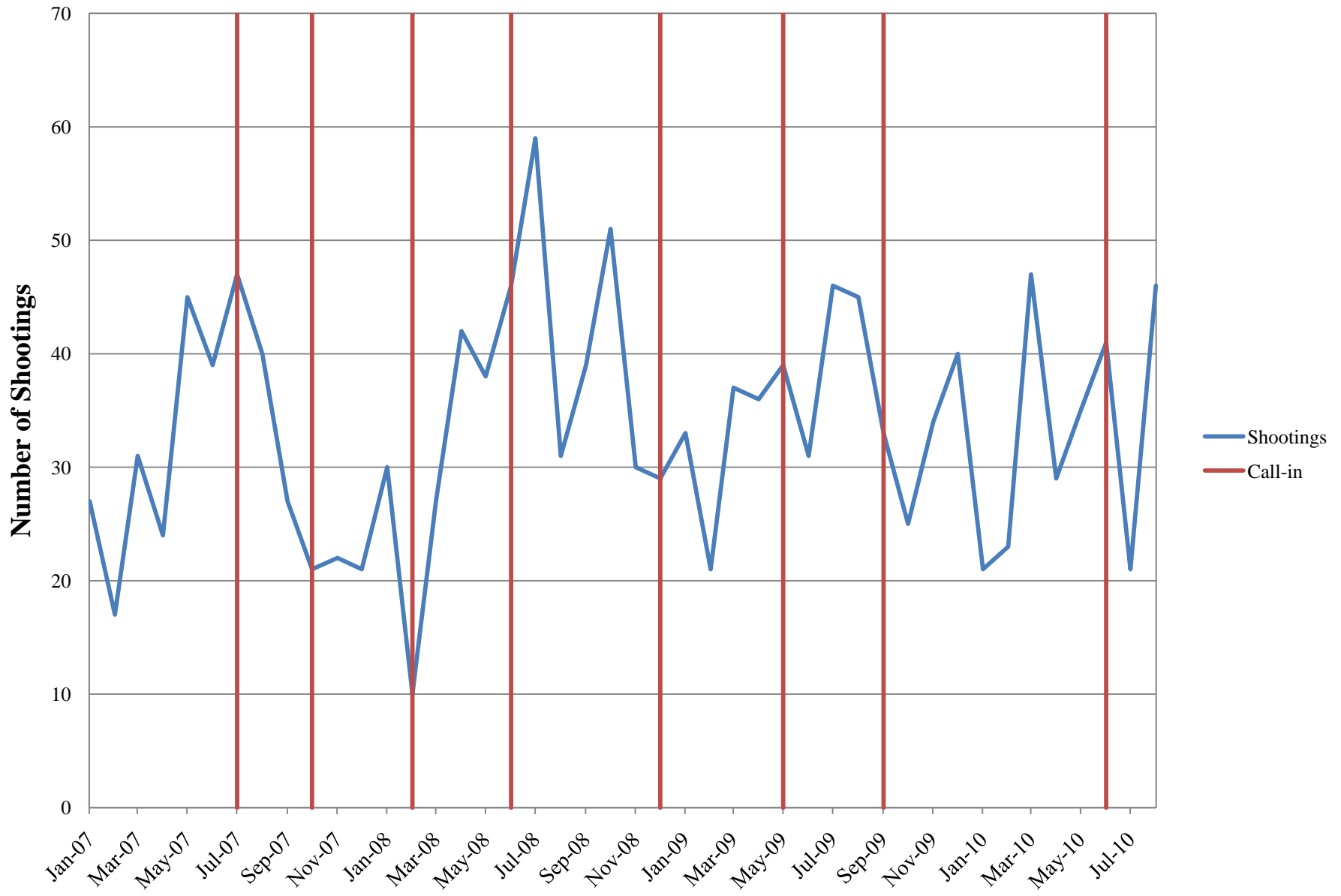
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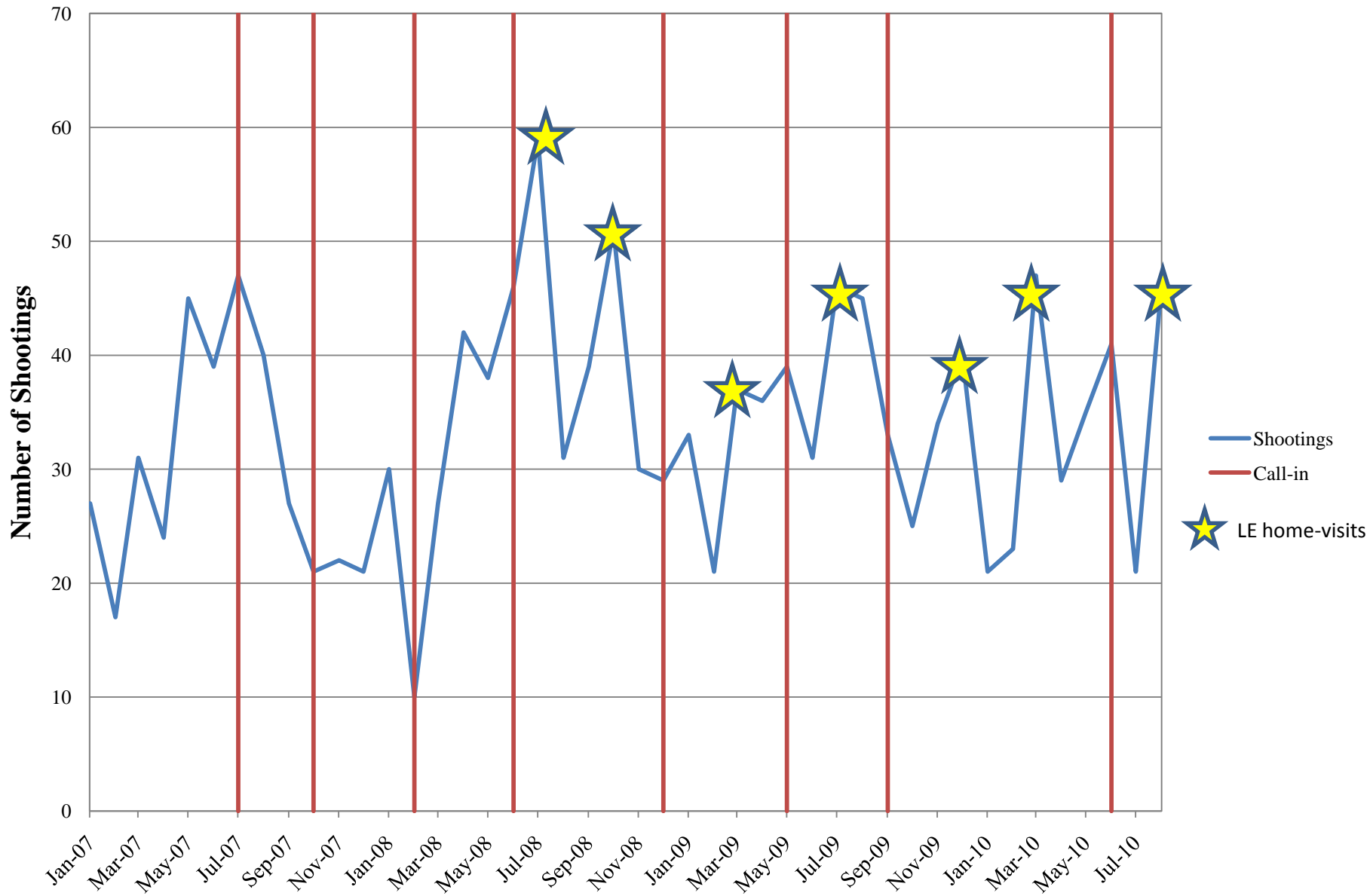
## Home/Street Visits with Impact Players

- Identify groups; identify key influential members of groups (street intelligence)
- Use street officers; police executives; community members; probation parole
- Find impact player at home; in the street; reiterate key messages
- Can layer in use of street intelligence, custom legal notice, etc.
- Can help maintain “dosage” between classic call-ins

# Cincinnati Shootings by Month: Jan 2007 – Aug 2010



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## **Prison/Jail Notifications**

- Find group/gang members likely to be released to city/neighborhood
- Hold modified call-in in correctional setting
- “Captive” audience; often receptive
- Able to monitor feedback to street
- Lebanon Call-In; Boston; Chicago

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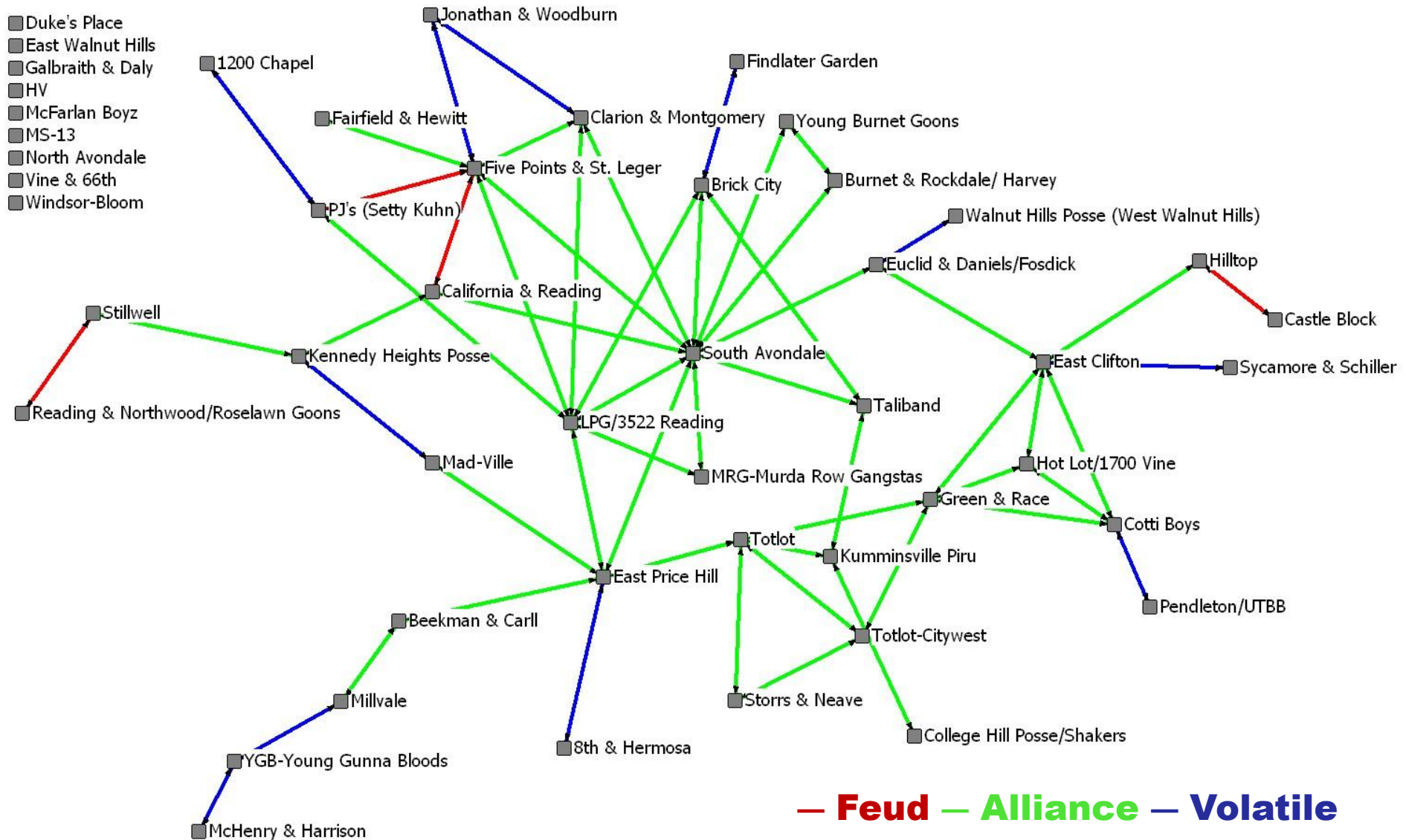
## **Voluntary Call-Ins**

- Recently, jurisdictions experimenting with voluntary call-ins
- Can mix with classic version, or not
- If invitation can be hand delivered, from right messenger, in presence of influential, attendance rate fairly good
- Cincinnati, Boston, Providence, probably elsewhere



# Cincinnati Violent Street Groups – August 2010

- Duke's Place
- East Walnut Hills
- Galbraith & Daly
- HV
- McFarlan Boyz
- MS-13
- North Avondale
- Vine & 66th
- Windsor-Bloom



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## NEW DIRECTIONS

- Custom Legal Assessments
- Use of Social Network Analysis
- Mothers of Murdered Children
- Gang Account Managers
- Notifying Up and Notifying Down

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## **Custom Legal Notifications**

- Custom legal notifications would identify some number of impact players
- Prosecutors assess the individual legal vulnerabilities to future prosecution for a range of likely crimes
- “Custom briefs” would then be hand delivered in a classic call-in or home visit format

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## **Parents of Murdered Children**

- Mothers/parents of murdered children or other victims can speak to the community pain with unique credibility
- Enormous source of community moral authority
- Critical mass exist in most affected communities
- Already key element in classic call-ins
- Could be harnessed as groups to engage with impact players, impact players' "influentials," others in classic call-ins, home visits, other ways.

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## **Gang Account Managers**

- Account managers assigned to one group or gang and responsible for tracking and communicating with that group on a regular basis
  - Keep them informed of partnership's actions/responses to violence
  - intervene when possible feuds or beefs arise
  - Reinforce the partnerships basic messages
  - Communicate opportunities; see what else they need.
  - Protect groups from enemies
  - Communicate information from these groups/gangs back to the partnership.

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## Notifying up/Notifying down

- Notifying down: “you’re accountable for your people”
  - Lowell: juvenile Asian street shootings, controlled by raiding older gang members’ gambling operations *and saying why*
  - Winston-Salem: “don’t involve juveniles in your drug crews”
- Notifying up: “continued offending will make us look for higher-ups”
  - Nobody’s tried this yet
  - For example, posters reading “Continued drug dealing in this area will lead to federal attention to mid-level dealers supplying this area.”

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