

Implementing Gang & Gun Violence Reduction Strategies in Las Vegas, Nevada:

Evaluation of Offender Notification Meetings

This research study was conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police/University of Cincinnati Center for Police Research and Policy (the IACP/UC Research Center) along with partners from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), and the Nevada Department of Public Safety (Division of Parole and Probation, shortened to NPP). It was an effort to evaluate a violence reduction strategy in the city of Las Vegas known as **offender notification meetings** or “**call-in**” **sessions** that center on the concept of **focused deterrence**.

Offender notification meetings communicated to the offenders that their future violent behaviors (and those of their affiliated groups/gangs) would be responded to in a swift and predictable manner. Meetings included community messaging that described the harm violence caused to individual victims and the larger community. These messages were designed to alert offenders and alter their decision-making by conveying possible sanctions while, at the same time, offering available services for support.

The direct influence of call-in sessions on individual-level behavior (recidivism) was assessed in Las Vegas in the Spring and Fall of 2018, using a total of 516 probationers/parolees.

Analysis led to the following conclusions:

1. **Attendance at call-in sessions had no overall impact on the likelihood of recidivism** among treated Las Vegas probationers and parolees.
2. **Risk classification (low, low/moderate, moderate, and high-risk) mattered to the likelihood of recidivism.** For low/moderate-risk offenders, attendance at at least one offender notification meeting decreased their likelihood of recidivism by 26% to 44% compared to probationers/parolees at similar risk who did not attend an offender notification meeting.
3. **Call-in sessions had different impact on different types of offenders based on risk classification.** Call-in sessions showed the most benefit for individuals who were not prone to violence themselves but who were affiliated with groups that engaged in violence.

The findings demonstrate that any violence-reduction intervention should be tailored to the specific offender group. What works best for one group of offenders may not work for another. Nonetheless, further research is needed in order to determine the most effective tactics.

From this research, the IACP/UC Research Center provided policy implications and recommendations to the leadership at the LVMPD and NPP. Some of the suggestions included:

- **Fuller implementation of focused deterrence** that integrates offender notification meetings with specific gang enforcement activities, continuous law enforcement follow-up with at-risk offenders, provision of social services, and coordinated community engagement.
- **Focusing on specific call-in interventions on low/moderate-risk offenders** — the group shown most likely to respond positively.
- **Reallocation of resources to groups most likely to benefit from offender notification meetings** – with less emphasis on both low-risk (not affiliated with a violent gang, and no history of violent arrest) and high-risk (affiliated with a violent gang and have a violent arrest history) offenders.

For more information, see Engel, R., Corsaro, N., & Herold, T. (2020). Implementing Gang & Gun Violence Reduction Strategies in Las Vegas, Nevada: Evaluation of Offender Notification Meetings. Available at <https://www.theiacp.org/research>.

