

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

Hot Spots Evaluation Results

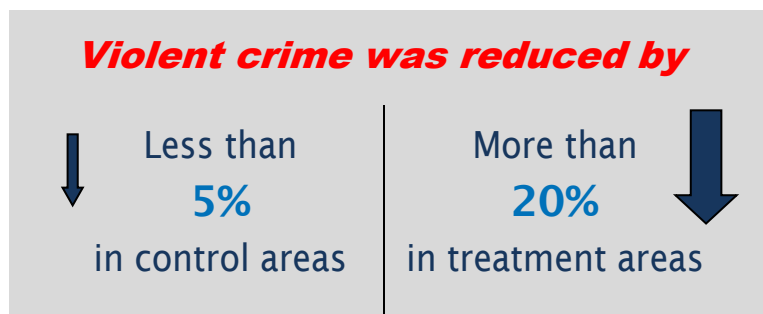
Hot spots policing is a strategy with strong evidence of reducing crime. Hot spots policing originated in the idea that crime is not random but concentrates in particular “hot spots” of crime. Evidence indicates that the concentration of police resources in these crime hot spots (allocated based on data) significantly contributes to short-term reductions in violent crime.

In this study, the International Association of Chiefs of Police/University of Cincinnati Center for Police Research and Policy (the IACP/UC Research Center) in conjunction with academic partners from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) measured the impact of hot spots policing strategies.

Researchers developed a hot spots strategy tailored to LVMPD. With LVMPD practitioners:

- They identified street segments within the city that had the largest volume of violent citizen-generated calls for police assistance. This included 22 high-crime treatment locations and 22 high-crime control locations.
- They implemented specific hot spots activities such as saturated patrol — deploying additional police patrols to hot spot treatment locations. In treatment locations, officers were instructed to patrol 2 hours each day at treatment locations in 15-minute increments. When in these locations, officers would either stay stationary with their car lights on or conduct foot patrols.
- They examined variables such as total crime incidents, total calls for service, violent crime incidents, violent crime calls for service, property crime incidents, and property crime calls for service to determine the effects of the implemented strategy.

Overall, hot spots policing showed a **consistent reduction in violence**. While both the treatment and control areas experienced reductions in violent crime compared to the year before, violent crime was reduced in the control areas by less than **5%**, while the reduction in the treatment areas was more than **20%**. There was also a smaller reduction in property crimes during the intervention period. In general, using stationary patrol lights was the most effective police activity while implementing the hot spots policing strategy.



However, data indicated that foot patrols were more effective in reducing property crimes. The results of this study demonstrate that additional patrols, above and beyond deployment already focused in hot spot areas, can help reduce crime.

For more information, see Corsaro, N., Engel, R., Herold, T., & Yildirim, M. (2019). Implementing Gang & Gun Violence Reduction Strategies in Las Vegas, Nevada: Hot Spots Evaluation Results. Available at <https://www.theiacp.org/research>.