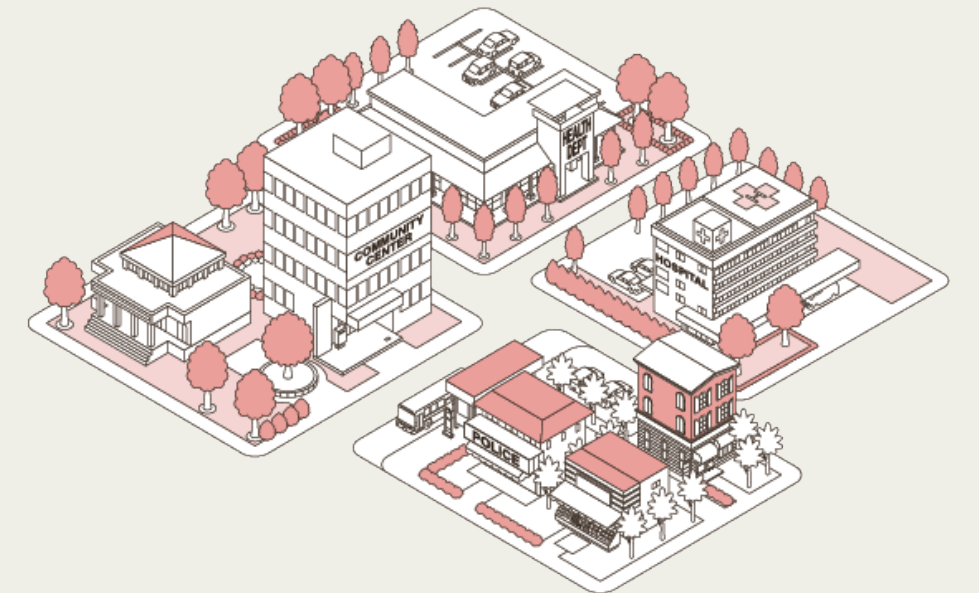


# Violence Reduction Councils

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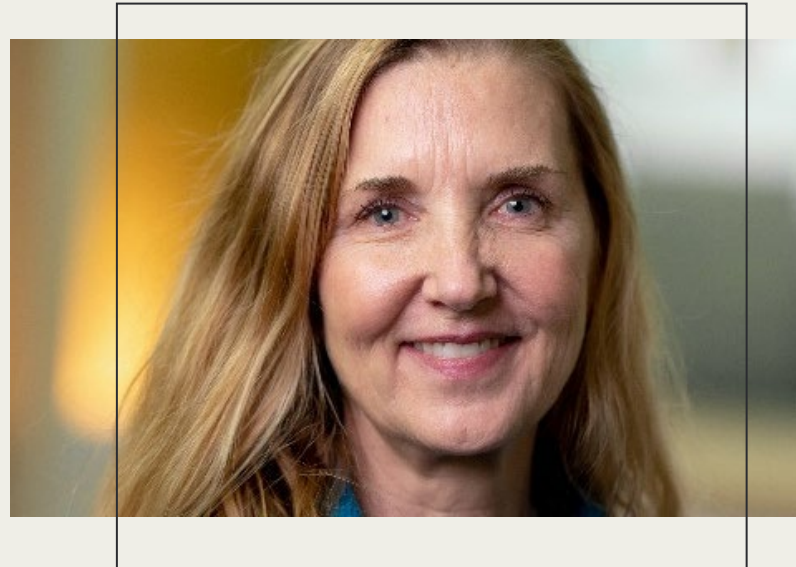
A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO REDUCING VIOLENCE

Mallory O'Brien, PhD  
Center for Gun Violence Solutions  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
OCTOBER 2024



# MEET THE TEAM

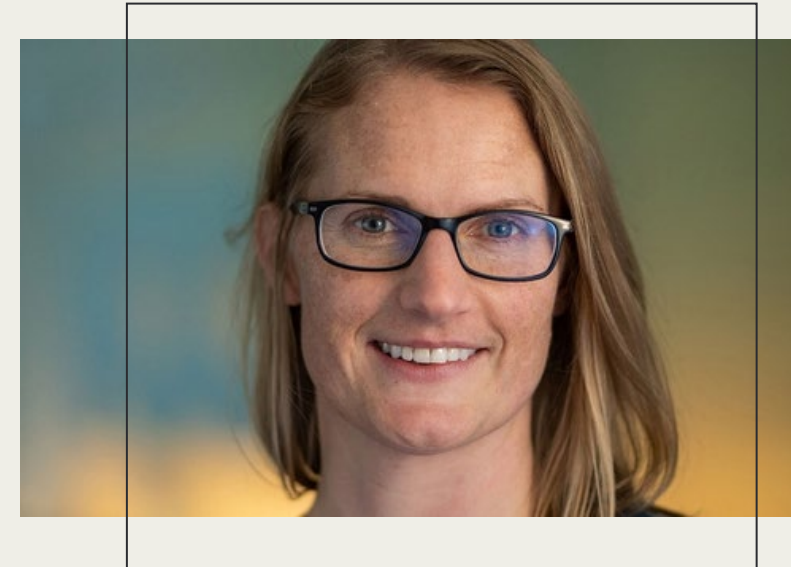
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*Co-Author*

**Mallory O'Brien**

Dr. Mallory O'Brien is an Associate Scientist in the department of Health Policy and Management. She is core faculty in the Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Dr. O'Brien's research focuses on the intersection of public health and public safety in firearm and overdose epidemiology and prevention.



*Co-Author*

**Cassandra Crifasi**

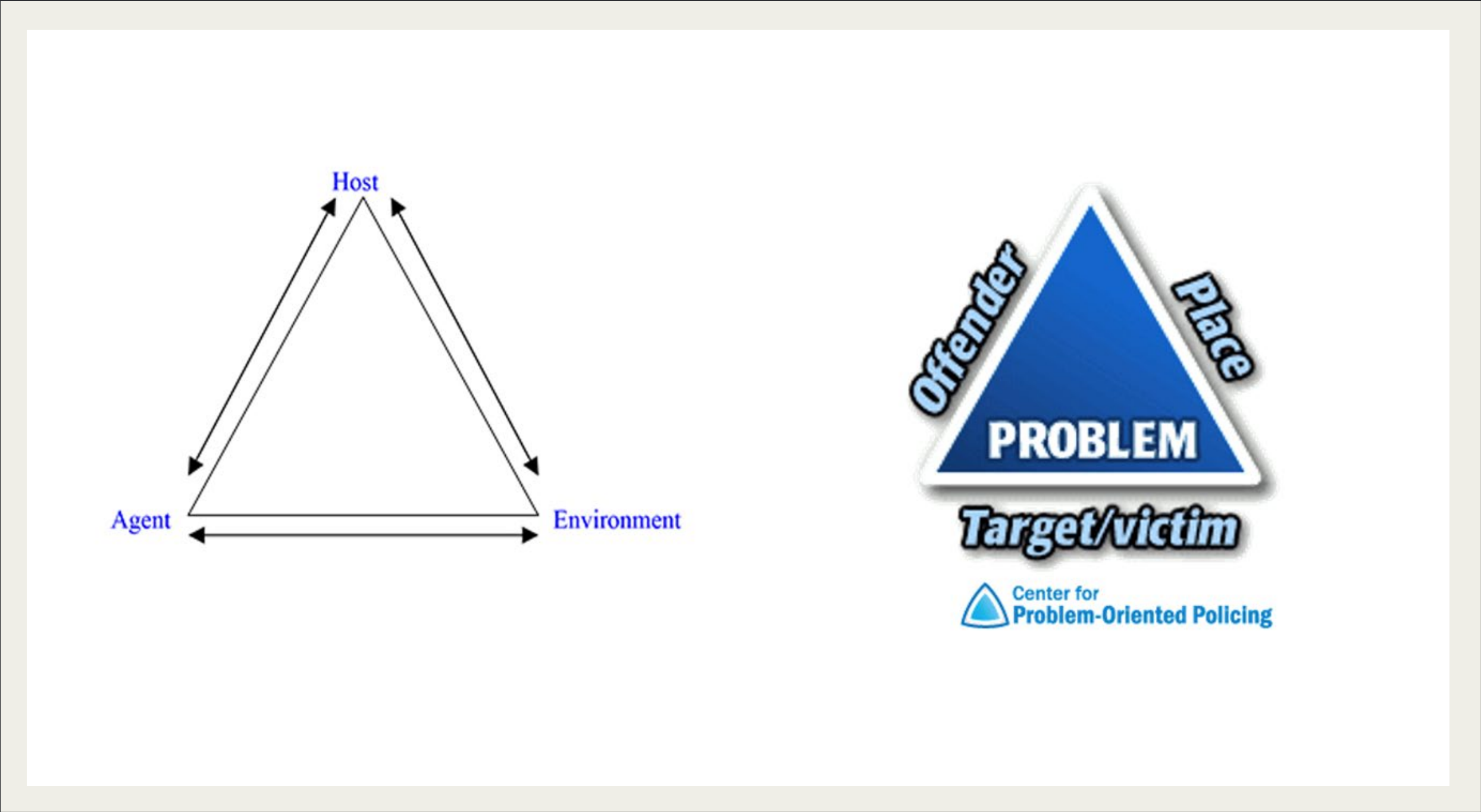
Dr. Cassandra Crifasi is an Associate Professor in the department of Health Policy and Management. She serves as the Co-Director of the Center for Gun Violence Solutions and is core faculty in the Center for Injury Research and Policy and the Center for Health Disparities Solutions. Dr. Crifasi's research focuses on the intersection of public health and public safety including injury epidemiology and prevention, gun violence and policy, and attitudes and public opinion regarding gun violence solutions.

# PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

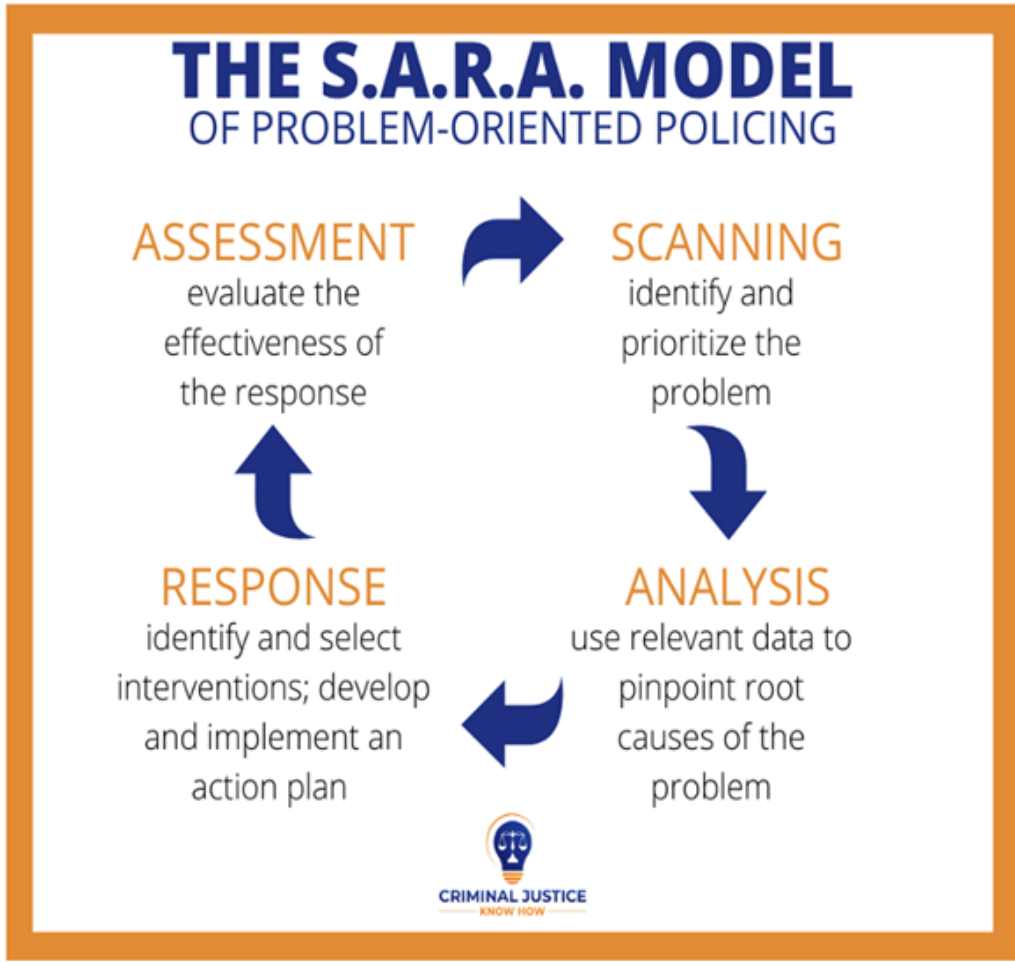
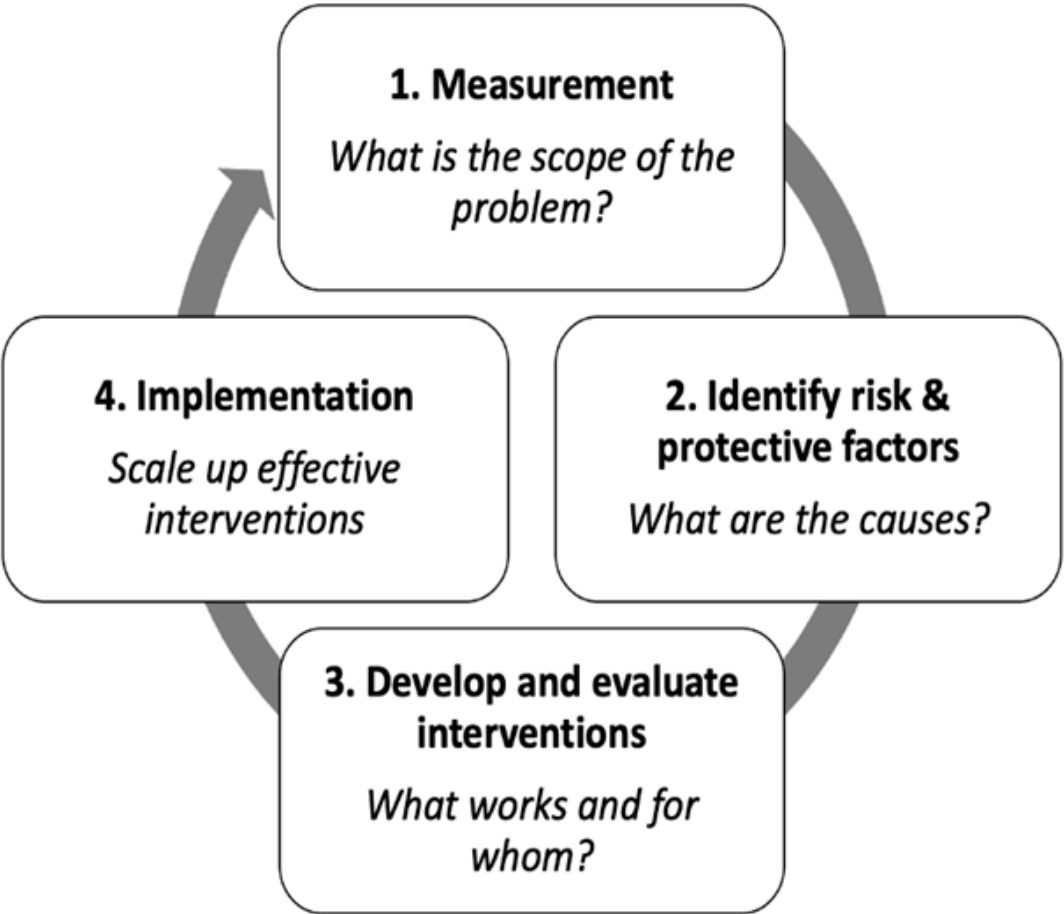
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- Why?
  - Systems face shared challenges
  - Cross-system collaboration is rare
  - Community needs often relevant for both health and safety
  - Environmental, social, and political factors perpetuating poor safety outcomes also contribute to poor health
- Challenges
  - Speak different ‘languages’
  - Track different outcomes
  - Operate in silos

# DIFFERENT LANGUAGE



# DIFFERENT LANGUAGE



# THE FRAMEWORK

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- Brings together the best practices and lessons learned from jurisdictions across the country, longstanding public health and criminal justice research on topics related to:
  - Homicide Review Process
  - Shoot Reviews
  - Overdose Fatality Reviews
  - Sentinel Event Reviews

# GUIDING PRINCIPALS

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- A common goal of reducing firearm deaths and injuries
- Firearm injuries and deaths are preventable
- Responsible use of multisector data to inform response strategies
- Continuous improvement

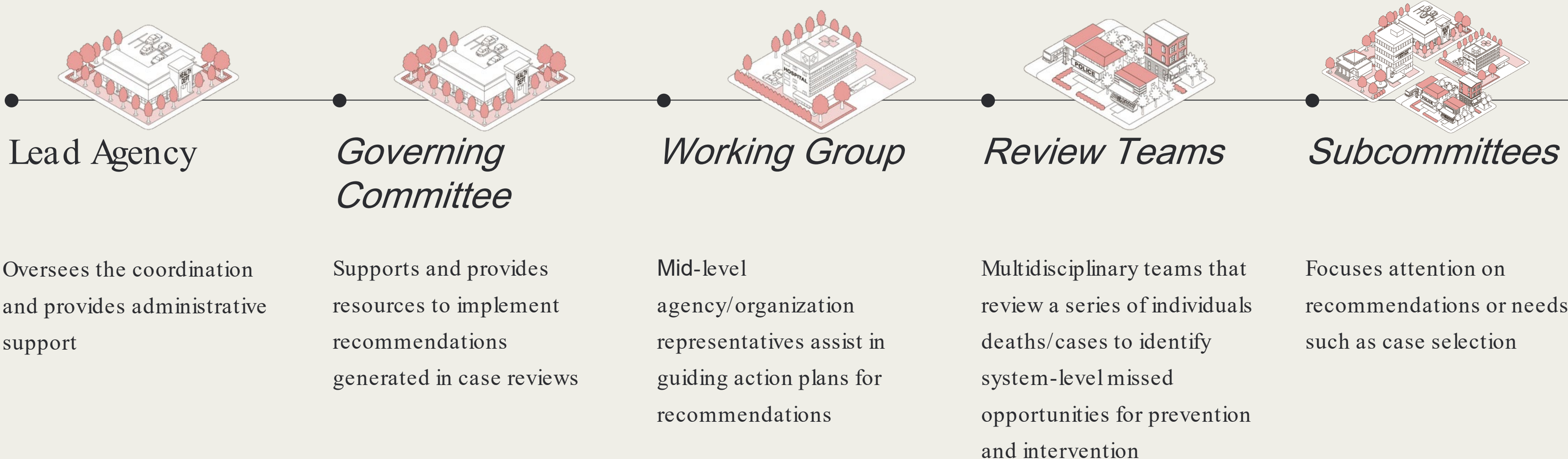


S. O. S.

Shared understanding | Optimized Capacity | Shared accountability



# IMPLEMENTING A VIOLENCE REDUCTION COUNCIL



# MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION

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- Public Health
- Office of Violence Prevention
- Police
- Community Based Organizations (CVI, DV, Neighborhood, etc.)
- Prosecution
- City/County Leadership
- Corrections
- Judiciary
- Schools
- Housing
- Victim services

\*Personnel participation varies by team

# VIOLENCE REDUCTION COUNCILS: A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO SAVING LIVES

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- Toolkit
  - Framework/ structure
  - Data and Information Sharing
  - Build trust and Accountability
  - Develop solutions across sectors
  - Evaluation Tools
  - VRC Data System
- Violence Reduction Council Guide

# VIOLENCE REDUCTION COUNCILS: A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO SAVING LIVES

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## Modules

Violence Reduction Council Structure

Building a Violence Reduction Council

Forming Partnerships Across Agencies and in the Community

Fostering involvement from Communities Disproportionately impacted by Violence

Planning your VRC Meeting

Facilitating your VRC Meeting

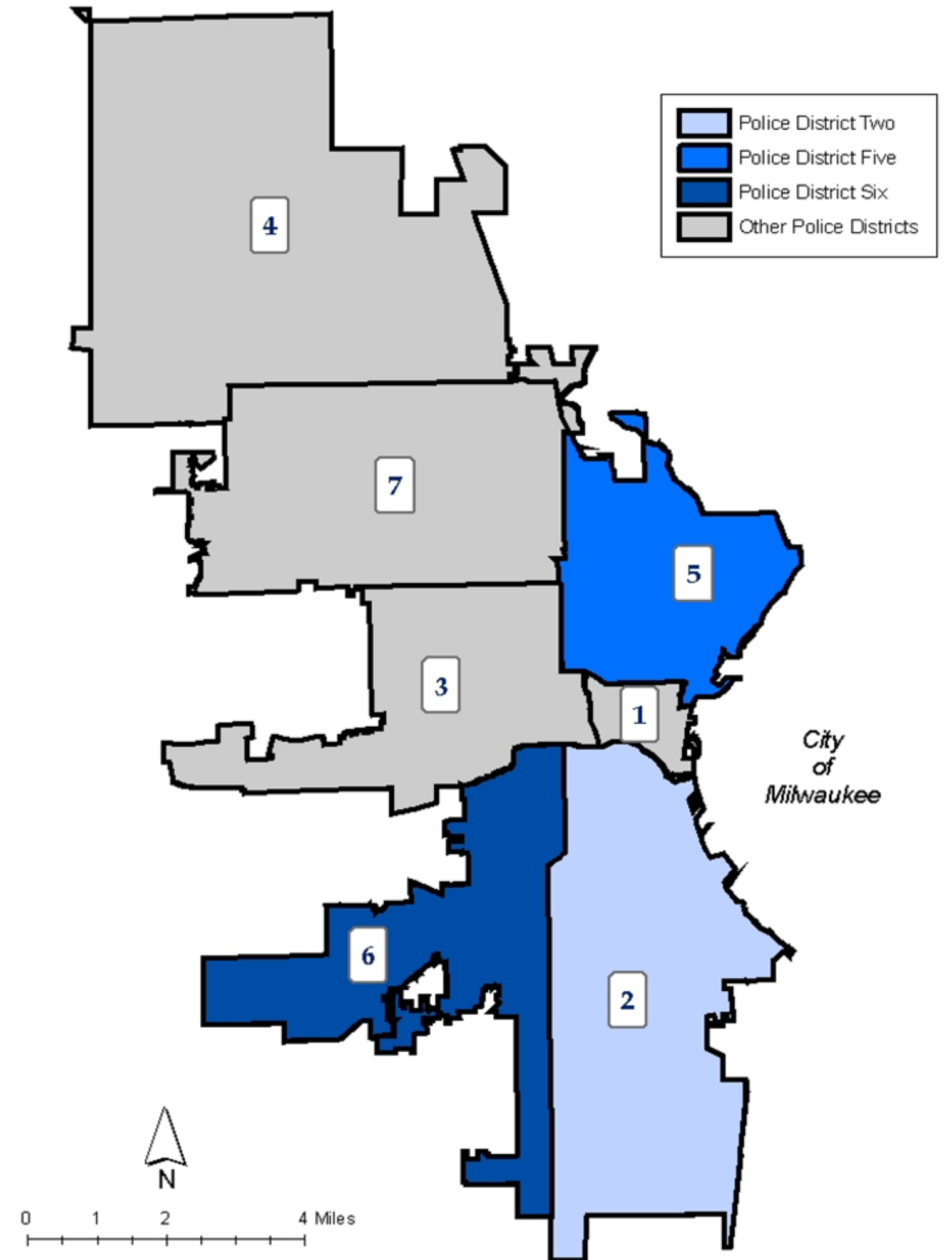
Collecting VRC Data

Building Recommendation Plan

# Does it work?

# NIJ EVALUATION

- Blue = Intervention Districts
- Grey = Control Districts
- Intervention Districts
  - 52% decrease (statistically significant) in the monthly count of homicide
- Control Districts
  - 9.2% decrease in homicide, (non significant) controlling for the other covariates.
- CrimeSolutions.org
  - The homicide review model is cited as “effective,” the highest rating, by both CrimeSolutions



Participants credited the implementation of the recommendations with improving both criminal justice and community provider capacity to prevent violence. A key to this increased capacity was the improved communication, information sharing and cooperation both within and between criminal justice agencies, community service providers and community members.”

Azrael, Deborah, Anthony A. Braga, and Mallory O'Brien. 2012. *Developing the Capacity to Understand and Prevent Homicide: An Evaluation of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

# Thank you!

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<https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/vrc>

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