



**National Network
For Safe Communities
at JOHN JAY COLLEGE**

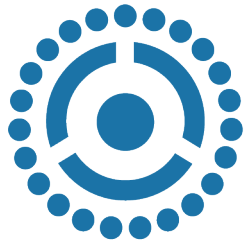
Louisville Metro Council Public Safety Committee

**LOUISVILLE, KY
NOV 3, 2021**

Overview of NNSC



NNSC is an action research center that implements proven strategic interventions worldwide to **reduce violence** and **improve public safety, minimize arrest** and incarceration, **strengthen communities, enhance legitimacy**, and **build partnerships** between law enforcement and the communities they serve.



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About the Group Violence
Intervention

Overview of the Group Violence Intervention

- Operational approach to **reduce violence** and **build trust** between communities and criminal justice agencies
- **Enhance legitimacy** by explicitly breaking with past practice of over-enforcement and under-protection
- Based on central fact that communities are not dangerous: violence is driven by a small number of people
- Recognizes power of **informal social control**
- Recognizes **the trauma and victimization** of people involved in violence and works to keep them safe and support them in their lives
- Uses law enforcement and sanctions as **strategically and sparingly** as possible
- “Safe, alive and free”

Scientific Consensus: GVI is widely effective at reducing violence

The National Academies of Sciences found that these innovations produce “consistent crime control impacts on gang violence, street crime driven by disorderly drug markets, and repeat individual offending.”

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Results: GVI achieves dramatic reductions in violence

63%

Reduction in
youth homicide
Boston, MA

73%

Reduction in
shootings
New Haven, CT

47%

Reduction in violence
for call-in participants
Detroit, MI



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NNSCommunities.org



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Traditional Violence Prevention,
Community Harm, &
Police Legitimacy

Police Legitimacy

Police legitimacy is the community's recognition of and agreement with police authority and the use of that authority.

- Main components:
 - Levels of **trust** in police
 - **Confidence** in police efficacy
 - **Approval** of police actions
 - **Willingness to partner** with police in the interest of public safety

Importance of Police Legitimacy

- Legitimacy is affected by **past and present harm** from police
- **Low legitimacy** ties directly to **high levels of violence**
 - When communities feel that they can't rely on or work with police, they take matters into their own hands (e.g. "stop snitching")
 - Victims are reluctant to come forward and seek help
 - This increases risks for victimization, retaliation, other violence
- Legitimacy can be strengthened by centering **procedural justice, effective violence prevention, & community input** (e.g. GVI, reconciliation)

Enhancing legitimacy is essential to violence prevention.



Successful violence intervention encourages police-community partnerships

- Police and communities must be willing to come to the table together and reach **mutual empathy and understanding**
- Because of their institutional and state power, **law enforcement must take the first step** in this process, and empower **communities as equal partners in public safety**
- Messaging to community members should **acknowledge harm**, commit to **reparative action**, and be **procedurally just**

This approach can enhance legitimacy and reduce violence

Theory of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is the structured process that public safety institutions and communities use to:

- ✓ **acknowledge and address institutional harm;**
- ✓ build relationships founded on **mutual trust, empathy, and understanding;**
- ✓ and using ongoing and collaborative **policy and practice change** to
- ✓ ultimately **strengthen legitimacy** and **reduce violence.**

Those with institutional power must take the first step



GVI and Reconciliation can help reduce harm & enhance legitimacy

- **Breaks with traditional approaches** to violence prevention, which have been ineffective, harmful to communities, and counterproductive for partnership
- Directly addresses group dynamics to proactively and effectively reduce violence
- Law enforcement **works closely with the community** to increase trust and collaboration towards shared goals

GVI and Reconciliation can help reduce harm & enhance legitimacy

Listening sessions generated transformative changes in BPD policy and practice, as well as community perceptions, as documented in the **Urban Institute's** 2019 evaluation of the National Initiative.

GVI and Reconciliation can help reduce harm & enhance legitimacy

Chief Eric Jones of Stockton, CA has credited his department's trust building work with NNSC for the city's **40%** drop in criminal homicide, **31%** reduction in nonfatal shootings, and a **68%** rise in his department's homicide clearance rate from 2017 to 2018.



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Questions & Discussion