



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- The Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office's researchers are using seven predictive risk assessment factors to determine potential offender risk. Turn to page 3 to learn about them.
- Turn to page 5 to learn about how prosecutors at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office are using the Disney movie Zootopia to engage the community and reduce crime.
- The Essex County Prosecutor's Office and its researchers are busy identifying treatment and control group cases. Turn to page 5 to learn how many cases have been identified.
- The San Diego City Attorney's Office is working with the city and other partners to build an in-house recovery treatment center for 80 individuals per year. Find out when the center will be open on page 4.

CONTACT US

Tammy Brown, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance
US Department of Justice
 tammy.m.brown@usdoj.gov

TTA Providers:

Beth Merachnik, Director
 beth.merachnik@APAINc.org

Margo Badawy, Attorney
 margo.badawy@APAINc.org

Kristi Barksdale, Associate
 kristi.barksdale@APAINc.org

Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
 11 DuPont Circle, Suite 240
 Washington, DC 20036

Connect with us on the web:
 innovativeprosecution.apainc.org | APAINc.org
 @APASmartPros | @APAINc

Please contact us to recommend articles for inclusion in the upcoming Smart Prosecution Weekly News.

This newsletter was supported by Grant No. 2014-YX-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



King County Prosecutor's Office: Mapping Shots Fired to Control Violent Crime in and around Seattle

In the spring of 2016, the supervisor of the Homicide and Violent Crimes Unit of the King County Prosecutor's Office asked a simple question: "How many people were shot in King County last year?" No one across Seattle's 40 law enforcement agencies could answer. Thus, that question became the basis of KCPAO's application for a Police-Prosecution Partnership Initiative ("3PI") grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The grant was awarded on September 30, 2016 and on October 1, the KCPAO began implementing the broad goals of 3PI. Named the "Shots Fired" grant, the project aims to collect standardized shooting data from seven of the jurisdiction's forty law enforcement partners, and use that data to inform evidence-based approaches to reduce firearm violence. One of the first objectives under the grant was to form a Crime Strategies Unit ("CSU"), a unit that focuses on connecting prosecutors with law enforcement and the community to identify groups and individuals most responsible for committing violent crime. (CSUs had previously been developed in prosecutors' offices in Manhattan and San Francisco). KCPAO's

CSU is composed of two prosecutors and newly-hired analyst. Karissa Taylor, a prosecutor who has focused on gang and gun violence for the past eight years, serves as the Project Lead for 3PI. Dan Carew, a prosecutor who has public policy experience, is the Deputy Lead. The grant allowed CSU to hire its first ever crime analyst, Rafael Serrano, who joined the CSU in February 2017.

To collect shots fired data, a standard definition of "shots fired" had to be agreed upon by the law enforcement agencies. Starting in January 2017, each law enforcement agency began tracking and sharing with CSU any shot fired that met the following definition: injury to person, including homicide; injury to property; or corroboration by eyewitness or forensic evidence, such as shell casings, bullets, or a gun. The focus on shots fired data will hopefully inform both police and prosecution strategies: for instance, hot spot locations and the identification of shooters and likely victims. One of the working theories surrounding firearm violence was that this violence was moving from Seattle into South King County. Because five of the seven law enforcement partners are located in South King County, collecting and analyzing shots fired data has corroborated that theory.

Although King County has 40 law enforcement jurisdictions, seven of those agencies (who are part of the 3PI) account for approximately 94% of firearm violence. Those agencies include Seattle Police Department, King County Sheriff's Office, Kent Police Department, Renton Police Department, Tukwila Police Department, Auburn Police Department and Federal Way Police Department.

Each day, these seven agencies send CSU a summary of every firearm-related incident in their jurisdiction over the previous 24 hours. That information is summarized into a concise Power Point and emailed out to a law enforcement listserv for immediate use as intelligence in ongoing investigations. According to Dan Carew, this timely information helps "identify who are the most prolific firearm offenders so we can come up with appropriate law enforcement and prosecution strategies based on this data." To supplement the Daily Violence Review, CSU hosts an intel meeting every two weeks, bringing in not only the seven partner jurisdictions, but also ATF, Washington State Patrol, Washington State Fusion Center, and other local law enforcement agencies to discuss cases, trends, priority offenders, and to share information relevant to firearm violence.

Ms. Taylor explains that studying shots fired (and not just homicides) allows the team to visualize trends related to people, places, behaviors, and even the usage of a specific firearm. According to her, focusing on homicide alone does not give prosecutors information on all gun crimes, and a lot of information is lost when prosecutors don't consider assaults and attempted homicides. She explains that a lot of assault cases could easily have become homicides. Both she and Dan Carew credit first responders, paramedics, and the staff at Harborview Hospital from preventing First Degree Assault cases from becoming homicide cases.

The research partner of the 3PI grant, Dr. Andrew Fox from California State University - Fresno, is using Social Network Analysis to create a regional look at firearms violence. Using two years of co-arrest crime data from each of the 7 law enforcement agencies, Dr. Fox is building a multi-jurisdictional network that can be used to inform strategies. Using this network, police and prosecutors can hopefully identify those responsible for gun crimes, and those most at risk for becoming a victim of firearm violence. This network can assist with both suppression and prevention efforts. Dr. Fox adds that team began seeing geographic shifts in violent crime and the need for agencies to share violent crime data to better understand the changes.

Dr. Fox explains that once the 3PI team was able to combine all the networks through quantitative data processing, they began seeing networks—"1000s of people connected to each other"—associated with gun violence. He explained it was "fascinating to see how crime spreads throughout networks in Seattle and its suburbs, and that over the next year, the team will identify strategies to break up these connections over the seven jurisdictions."

The 3PI team also determined that a large network of juveniles was connected to violent crime drivers, but had not yet committed any gun crimes. That discovery provided a good framework to engage community organizations for early intervention with these juveniles. Dr. Fox refers to this process of reaching out to targeted groups as "customized notification," an established way to deliver an important message to an identified group. He explains how prosecutors can provide customized notification to juveniles: sit down with them and their families and explain how many years' incarceration they may face if they are caught with a gun and then connect them to the services that are available in the community.

The KCPAO CSU team credits many stakeholders to their success. In addition to the seven law enforcement agencies and Dr. Fox, other stakeholders include King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg, Senior Deputy Prosecutors Mark Larson, Erin Ehlert, Jeff Baird, and Amy Montgomery, all of whom form their Oversight Committee; The King County Public Health Department for their partnership on Child Death Reviews; and ATF.

ATF and the Crime Gun Intelligence Center ("CGIC") were not original partners in the 3PI grant, but after months of meetings and coffee, ATF and KCPAO signed a data sharing MOU and are working to establish an analyst work group to evaluate NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) Leads. ATF sends every NIBIN Lead to CSU to help coordinate investigations across King County. KCPAO then works with law enforcement to share incident reports and intelligence in hopes of solving related crimes. Dr. Fox recently hired a graduate student to conduct Social Network Analysis on the NIBIN Leads. This project is the first of its kind in the country and is intended to assist in identifying shooters.

KCPAO is also partnering with King County-Seattle Public Health to spearhead an initiative to conduct Firearm Reviews, similar to the Milwaukie Homicide Reviews. Currently, Public Health conducts Child Death Reviews on any firearm-related death of a youth under 18 years of age. This new initiative would expand the Review process to individuals between the ages of 18-25 years old.

Public Health is also part of the 3PI focus on community engagement as the Firearm Review process would incorporate a community review. The KCPAO already has prosecutors dedicated to community partnerships, and 3PI has begun working alongside them and attending community meetings and reaching out to community stakeholders. In the next year, the CSU hopes to continue meeting with community stakeholders on issues of juvenile rehabilitation, community diversion, and mentoring.

One of the early successes of the grant has been training opportunities for CSU and for the crime analysts from each of the partner law enforcement jurisdictions. Dr. Fox has led three different trainings on Social Network Analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the analysts, in hopes that that skill would continue to be utilized with law enforcement agencies to map site incidents and locations and people associated with shots fired. Subject Matter Expert Julie Wartell trained the crime analysts on ArcGIS mapping, and led a discussion of how to combine SNA and mapping for a better understanding of shots fired. CSU has had the opportunity to travel to San Francisco and learn from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office CSU about a variety of issues, including how they use their analysts, community engagement, and how they use data to inform prosecution priorities.

In the next year, the CSU team hopes to continue establishing a close working relationship with each partner law enforcement jurisdiction. With the data collection efforts underway, the next step with each agency will be finding ways to use the data to enhance police priorities; such as identifying juveniles for early outreach, identifying priority offenders for prosecution, and using mapping and shots fired data to refine hot spot policing. Additionally, the CSU team hopes to use the data to inform KCPAO priorities, looking to identify individuals for priority prosecution, and others for alternatives to the standard criminal justice model. Now that processes have been put in place, the CSU team is excited to begin thinking about implementation.

Site Activity

FY '14 Sites

Harris County (Houston)

Project: *Survivors Acquiring Freedom and Empowerment (SAFE) Court*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The SAFE Court program utilizes supervised, targeted intervention, and treatment designed upon a therapeutic-based model for young adults between the ages of 17 and 25 years old, charged with misdemeanor prostitution. Safe Court meets twice monthly.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Human trafficking is a hidden aftermath of natural disasters
...[Read Full Article](#)

Los Angeles

Project: *Introducing New Tools Using Evidence and Risk Assessment to Confirm Eligibility for Prosecution Treatment (INTERCEPT)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office continues utilizing best practices and evidence-based tools to successfully develop better-informed engagement plans for pre-filing restorative justice diversion participants. Each participant's obligations are based on their own unique history and needs.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Los Angeles County Launches "Just in Reach" Supportive Housing Program to Break Cycles of Homelessness and Reincarceration
...[Read Full Article](#)

Cook County (Chicago)

PROJECT: *Misdemeanor Deferred Enhancement Prosecution Project (MDEPP)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

BJA funded the Cook County State's Attorney's Office Smart Prosecution Initiative, MDPEP, to defer defendants, charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses, from prosecution, and utilize a risk and needs assessment for appropriate referrals to treatment and other resources for case dismissal upon successful program completion..

WEEKLY NEWS:

Trauma Center Head Advocates for Treating Violence as a Disease
...[Read Full Article](#)

San Francisco

PROJECT: *Crime Strategies Unit (CSU)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The CSU promotes predictive analytics for strategic prosecution, using analytic tools to make connections between criminal events, defendants, witnesses, and victims to facilitate more effective investigations, charging decisions, and case dispositions.

WEEKLY NEWS:

San Francisco To Build 250 Modular Housing Units For Homeless In SoMa...[Read Full Article](#)

FY '15 Sites

Baltimore

Project: *Implementing Evidence-Based Risk Assessment during the Pretrial Phase*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site continues to develop an automated risk assessment for charging prosecutors to determine appropriate release or hold recommendations for the Bail Commission and Court. The State's Attorney's Office, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and research partners are collaborating to develop a uniform risk assessment to be used by both agencies. Throughout the spring and summer, the team has been meeting with officials at DPSCS to discuss pretrial risk assessment for use by the State's Attorney's Office and Pretrial Services.

The team continues meeting with Circuit Court judges and bail commissioners to educate the judiciary about the initiative and strengthen positive buy-in. The site is also attending community meetings to engage stakeholders and discuss a community buy-in plan.

The site continues to collaborate with DPSCS for data sharing. The Research Partner, Applied Research Services (ARS) is collaborating with DPSCS' research partner to determine predictive factors to be used for the risk assessment. The researchers focused on seven predictive factors for the risk assessment: gender, age, previous drug or property offenses, prior felony arrests, prior probation or violation charges, prior failure to appear (FTA) in court, and prior convictions.

The researchers are also working to standardize the risk assessment into five risk categories, from "very low" to "well above average" risk.

WEEKLY NEWS:

On patrol in Baltimore: 'There would be a lot less order if we weren't around'...[Read Full Article](#)

Kings County (Brooklyn)

Project: *The Brooklyn Young Adult Justice Initiative*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

As of September 19, the site reports 1,729 open cases pending in the Adolescent Diversion Court Part, and 215 open cases in KCDA's specialized unit. BYAC offers diversion instead of prosecution for young adults, 16-24 years old, charged with misdemeanor offenses, who are at the greatest risk for re-offending and/or are facing more serious criminal consequences.

The site welcomes Jonathan Monsalve, Interim Project Director, Brooklyn Justice Initiatives at the Center for Court Innovation (CCI). Mr. Monsalve's goal is to increase intake and services to clients who are arraigned at nights and weekends. These clients will join weekday clients who receive vocational and educational counseling services available at the courthouse following arraignment and acceptance into the program.

From June 26—September 19, the site has handed out 70 gift cards to encourage voluntary compliance with the Procedural Justice Program Participant Survey. The site expects to distribute more gift cards as the program moves forward. This incentive is working: between August 15—September 19, more than 50 participants completed surveys and received gift cards and the site anticipates even more completions in the forthcoming months.

The site's research partners at CCI will begin entering the survey responses on a database and report they are on track to have a suitable sample size by year's end.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Big Drops in Gun Crime Reported in NYC Neighborhoods Where 'Violence Interrupters' Patrol...[Read Full Article](#)

St. Louis

PROJECT: *Young Adult Felony Offender Diversion Program*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office is developing a Prosecutor-led Young Adult Felony Offender Diversion Program, offering first and near first-time, non-violent felony offenders, ages 17-25 years old, the ability to participate in a comprehensive program, which includes robust supervision and services referral component, in lieu of traditional court processing. Stakeholders—such as prosecutors, the defense bar, and law enforcement— will identify potential participants. After an initial case screen, potentially eligible young adults will participate in the ORAS (Ohio Risk Assessment System) to determine risk level. The program is geared to individuals scoring medium to moderate risk level. The initiative will afford opportunities for program participants to: (1) obtain future employment, (2) pursue educational and vocational prospects, (3) provide a means to prevent future recidivism, and (4) become a law-abiding citizen.

On September 28, the site met with APA to discuss program development and implementation. Topics included program eligibility requirements, case flow mapping, staffing and technical assistance.

WEEKLY NEWS:

For many, the homeless in St. Louis are a public nuisance. For two men, they are 'our children'...[Read Full Article](#)

San Diego

Project: *The Community Justice Initiative (CJI)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

CJI uses data and evidence-based practices to restore justice and increase effectiveness and efficiency through a post-plea, city-wide diversion initiative to provide accountability, early intervention, and swift consequences for participants charged with eligible misdemeanor offenses.

As of September 20, the site reports that: 4,117 offers made; 2,758 offers accepted; 1,359 offers rejected; 2,162 offers completed; and 483 participants failed out of the program. These numbers reflect enrollment since November 2016.

The site is considering the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT) tool from its probation partner for use post-data collection for the initiative. The assessment is currently being piloted in the county.

The site continues working on its software platform/Kiosk for client screening. On September 20, members of the site attended a software platform user planning session, and plan to have additional training sessions with their partners.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office launched its San Diego Misdemeanants At-Risk Track (SMART) Program on December 1, 2016 (unaffiliated with IPS). Due to increased grant funding, the program will provide in-house recovery treatment for 80 individuals per year (up from 10 individuals when it began in December 2016). The city of San Diego recently agreed to purchase a 42-room hotel for housing expansion. The site hopes to have the hotel available to clients by July 1, 2018, if not sooner.

The site's researchers at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) have begun working on a final report, now that data collection is coming to an end.

WEEKLY NEWS:

San Diego legalizes local supply chain for marijuana ...[Read Full Article](#)

FY '16 Sites

District of Columbia

PROJECT: *Using Our Brains: Reducing Recidivism Among Youth and Young Adults*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site is furthering collaboration with the DC US Attorney's Office (USAO). Both offices plan to develop a diversion-based initiative, using restorative justice, for youth (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-24) who commit certain crimes, such as theft, destruction of property and non-injury simple assault cases with victim consent. The site has begun diverting juvenile cases into Restorative Justice panels instead of traditional prosecution, and is evaluating USAO data for program development.

At the beginning of September, the site received a signed MOU from the DC U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO). The USAO will refer deferred sentencing individuals to the initiative. Since these individuals will have convictions, the site believes they will be "highly incentivized" to partake in Restorative Justice to have their records expunged.

The team has provided trainings to its office's juvenile section and new prosecutors. The site is looking at a refresher training for prosecutors in its office, as well as training the USAO, defense bar, and judges. The site envisions including video vignette testimonials to promote information sharing and buy-in during the upcoming months.

The OAG and its research partners at CCI continue to evaluate data to determine suitable candidates for potential diversion.

WEEKLY NEWS:

D.C. affordable housing mapped in new interactive tool
...[Read Full Article](#)

Jackson County (Kansas City)

PROJECT: *Jackson County Missouri Prosecutor's Office Smart Prosecution Initiative*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The geographic-based initiative focuses on five hot spots in the East Patrol Division, the most violent area within Kansas City, Missouri. Team members collaborate with law enforcement, community partnership specialists, and community members to assess crime-related problems in the five hot spots and implement strategies to address them.

The site is busy enlarging victim services and fostering community initiatives, and is working closely with Kansas City Police Department's community officer. The team is planning to host community events in every hotspot, such as "door knocks" for community building. On September 15, the site hosted a back-to-school screening of the movie "Zootopia" in one of its hotspot neighborhoods, and will plan other community events aimed at "engaging the community while saying we know you need more attention" at the other hotspot locations.

The site also continues working on its Abandoned Housing Project and is contacting Legal Aid about housing rehabilitation and demolition of problem, vacated structures. The site has also chosen a Restorative Justice training facilitator to select and train 6-10 community members who will staff Neighborhood Accountability Boards and adjudicate some lower-level crimes in each of the five hot spot communities. The Restorative Justice training facilitator is in place and ready for cases.

The site and its researchers at California State-Fresno continue working on selecting violent crime cases for vertical and geographic-based prosecution from the five hotspot locations. The researchers continue hotspot analysis, where they consider prosecution and law enforcement data. They are also beginning to pull data for information on victims.

WEEKLY NEWS:

For every picture taken at this Kansas City mural, \$1 will go to a youth foundation...[Read Full Article](#)

Essex County (Newark)

PROJECT: *Essex County SMART Social Media Initiative*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

A specialized unit has been developed to investigate and prosecute cases based on suspects' usage of social media. The site has developed a systematic, proactive approach to social-media mining to reduce crime, empower victims, promote fair and impartial justice, and instill the public's confidence in criminal justice. The site targets violent crimes with a firearm component.

The site continues screening about 3-6 potential cases per week, and reports that most cases have a social media connection as many witnesses identify defendants through social media.

Site members met in late September with Naval Postgraduate School to discuss implementing software, the Academy's first prosecutor-driven initiative. The software provides a social network analysis (SNA) platform and Naval Intelligence Post Graduate Academy will provide training in the upcoming months to the prosecutors involved in the initiative. The SNA platform and training is the result of a proposal submitted by Essex County prosecutors to the Post Graduate Academy after attending their training program in May, in Monterey CA.

As of September 29, the site's researchers at Rutgers University report approximately 129 treatment cases, and have identified 238 control group cases that will likely populate the 3 control groups. The researchers expect to highlight social media investigations in their final report

WEEKLY NEWS:

Newark sues opioid makers, alleging deceptive advertising
...[Read Full Article](#)

Chatham County (Savannah)

PROJECT: *The Chatham County Smart Prosecution Program*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The initiative aims to reduce gun, local group, and gang violence by focusing on: identifying and targeting a geographic hotspot for gun violence in the Savannah area and most violent offenders within it; tracking and prioritizing prosecution and individuals within the hotspot; diverting non-essential cases (e.g. theft and simple drug possession) to alternative programs; and engaging with community groups within the hotspot through meetings, social media forums, and other outreach strategies.

As of August 28, the team has identified 39 non-violent, pre-trial diversion cases in the hot spot area. Prosecutors are combing through police reports to find more cases.

On September 15, prosecutors attended a metro police department meeting for gang war between "OTM" (Only the Mob) and the "1100s" gangs, which are comprised mostly of juveniles and young men in their early 20s. The site will collaborate with the police department and school board as well as the office's End Gun Violence Initiative. The End Gun Violence Initiative provides social services to young gang members to help them leave the gang lifestyle, through employment and education.

The site's researchers at Georgia Southern University recently finished community surveys in intervention and comparison hotspots to determine community cohesiveness, fears of crime, etc. They plan to send more surveys out to churches and community groups, with the initiative's social media accounts listed on the surveys. The surveys are anonymous and self-reporting.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announces reinvigoration of Project Safe Neighborhoods and other actions to reduce violent crime...[Read Full Article](#)

Miami

Project: *The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative places a team of prosecutors, investigators, and a community outreach and victim witness specialist to work directly with police and the community to combat shootings and homicides at the Northside District Station. The Initiative's four goals include: 1) prosecute and convict individuals involved in gun/gang related crimes to reduce crime and victimization in the Northside District; 2) rely on data-driven methods to proactively identify gang members and chronic offenders; 3) analyze data from law enforcement agencies and use geographic information systems (GIS) to target hotspots and crime generators in the Northside District; and 4) work with the community to dispel the "anti-snitch" mentality.

WEEKLY NEWS:

**Police Shoot, Kill Carjacker Who Led Them On Chase
...[Read Full Article](#)**

FY '16 3PI Site

KING COUNTY (SEATTLE)

PROJECT: *SHOTS FIRED*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The team continues its work to establish a Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) for its "Shots Fired" Initiative aimed at addressing increased firearm violence in the jurisdiction, through institutionalizing standardized intelligence gathering and sharing to concentrate resources on reducing shots-fired incidents and identifying those involving chronic victims and offenders in hotspot locations.

The site continues participating and hosting NIBIN working groups to discuss investigations. The prosecutors have access to every NIBIN lead since January 2016.

The site's researchers at California State- Fresno finished qualitative interviews for stakeholders this summer, and will complete the next round of qualitative interviews in January 2018. The researchers will soon begin network analysis, and will then complete a report about cross-jurisdictional networks.

For more details on Seattle's "Shots Fired" Initiative see Spotlight Article at page 1.

WEEKLY NEWS:

**Jewelry courier stabbed, robbed in Bellevue parking lot
...[Read Full Article](#)**