



REDUCING VIOLENCE IN SAVANNAH

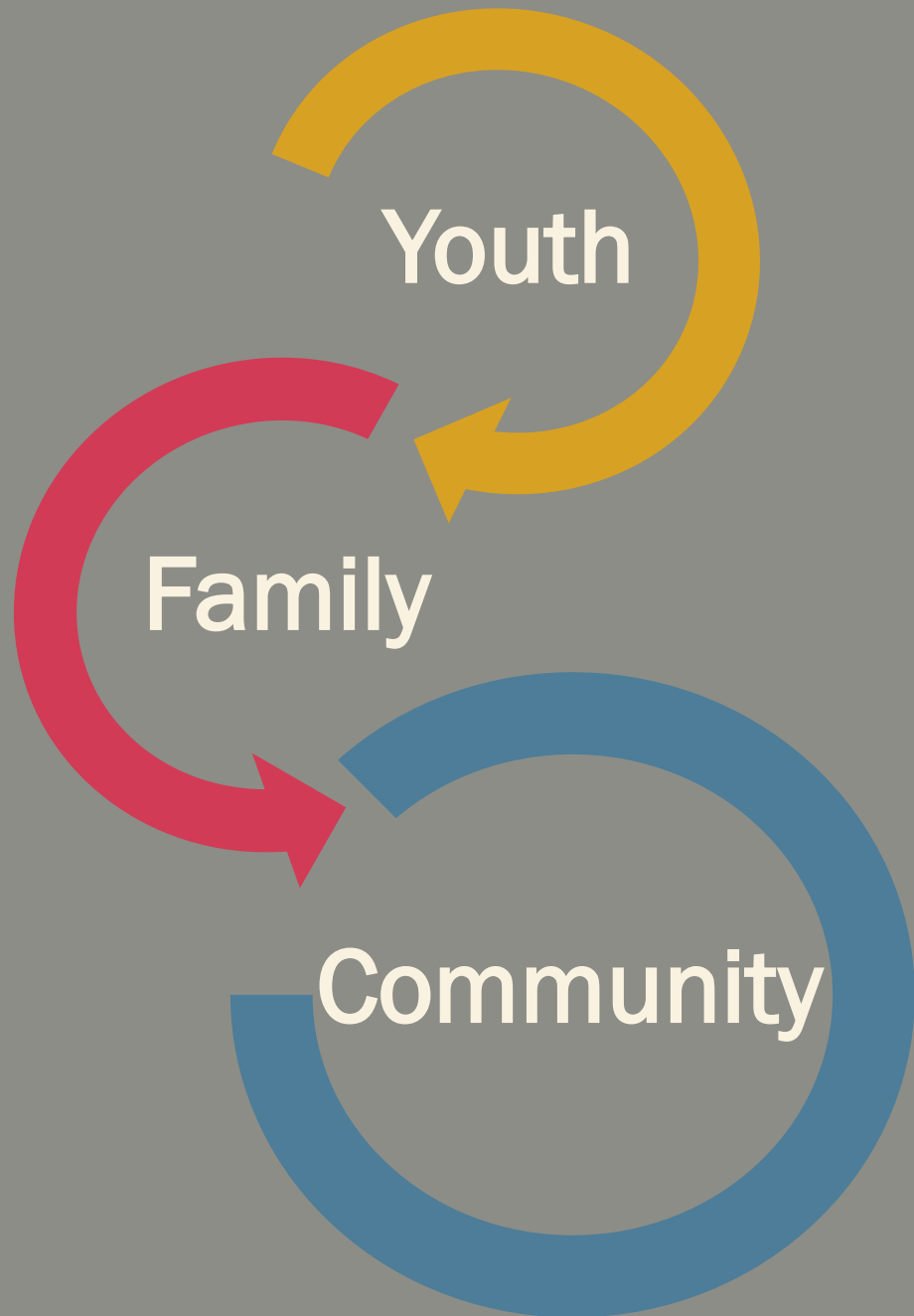
A Community-Wide Approach

Savannah City Council Workshop: June 9, 2022

Reducing Violence in Savannah

Two Part Presentation

1. Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) - Youth Safety & Violence Reduction Plan
2. Savannah Police Department (SPD) - Savannah Initiative to Reduce Violence





YOUTH SAFETY & VIOLENCE REDUCTION

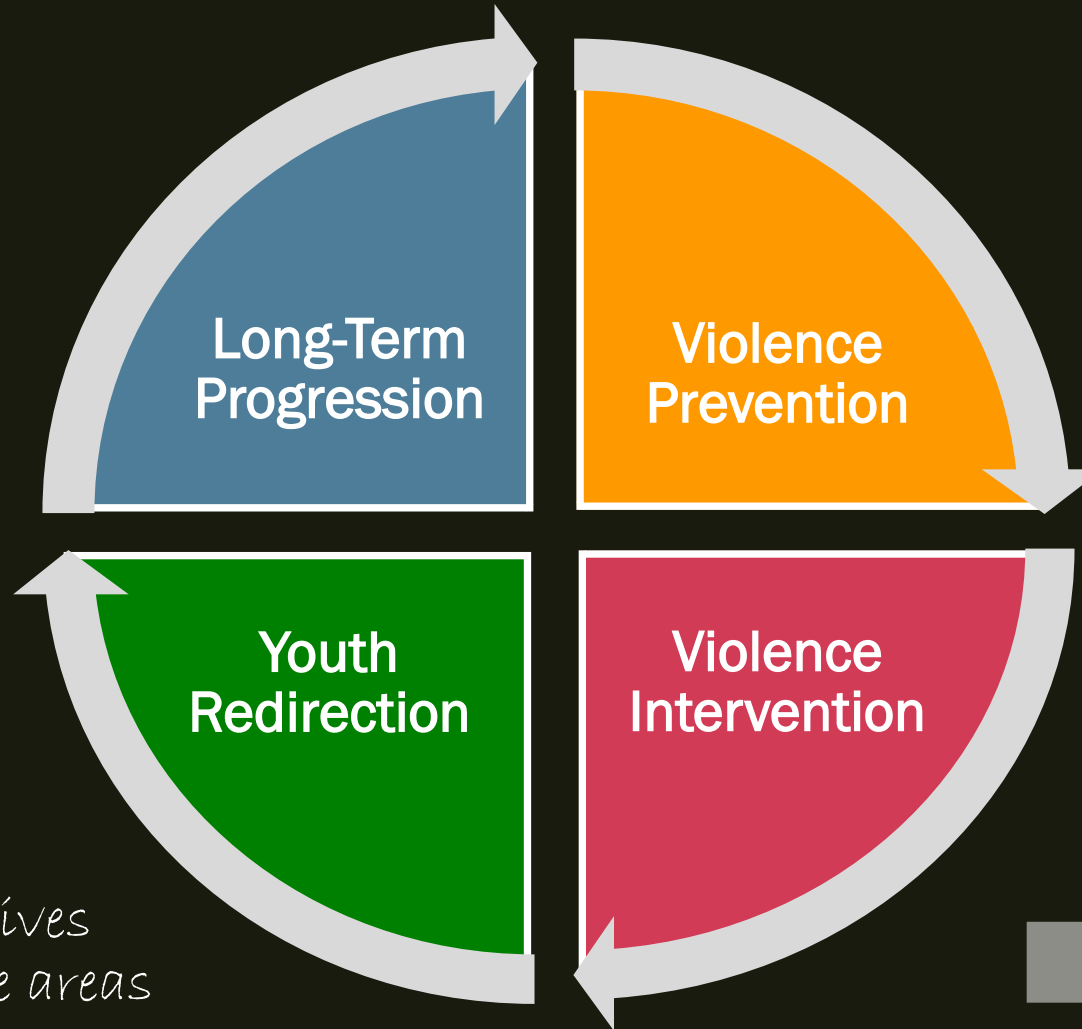
Overarching Goal:

**Keeping young people
alive, out of jail, and
safe at home, school or
the workplace**

ADDRESSING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Four Priority Areas

Increasing
Youth
Success



Decreasing
Youth
Violence

*Programs and initiatives
may address multiple areas*

I. VIOLENCE PREVENTION

STRATEGIES



Prevention: *The act of stopping something from happening or arising.*

- 1) Keep Youth Engaged in Positive Activities**
Offer activities that interest youth and keep them engaged and connected to positive role models.
- 2) Build Youth Leadership & Empowerment**
Provide youth with the tools to become effective leaders among their peers, create opportunities for them to lead, and recognize and reward them for doing the right thing.
- 3) Increase Family & Community Involvement**
Parental Involvement: *Build parenting skills and pursue avenues for increasing parental responsibility.*
Community Involvement: *Launch campaigns to get the community involved in helping to deter youth crime, such as securing weapons and reporting them when they are lost or stolen, building neighborhood pride, and volunteering to work with youth.*

Intervention: *The process of taking action on something in order to affect its outcome.*

II. VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

1) Violence Interruption

Engage Cultural/Outreach Liaisons: *To outreach to families and communities affected by violence*

Engage Violence Interrupters: *To intervene in active situations and work with violence-involved individuals.*

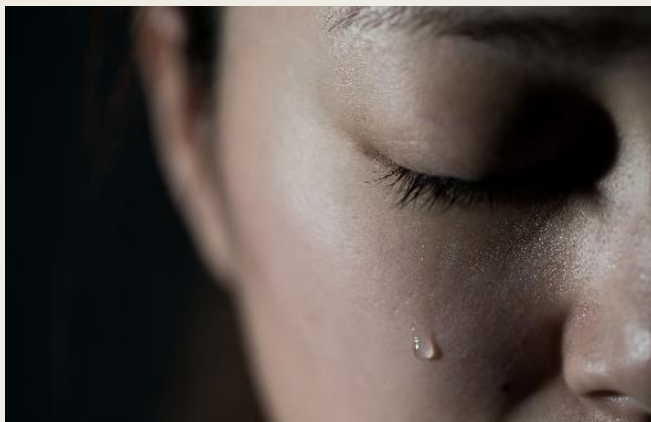
Primary Interventions: *Hospital-based, School-based, Neighborhood-based*

2) De-escalation and Conflict Resolution

Work with Youth and Community Partners: *To lower tensions and emotions, identify individuals who may engage in additional violence, and work towards alternative solutions that keep youth safe and alive.*

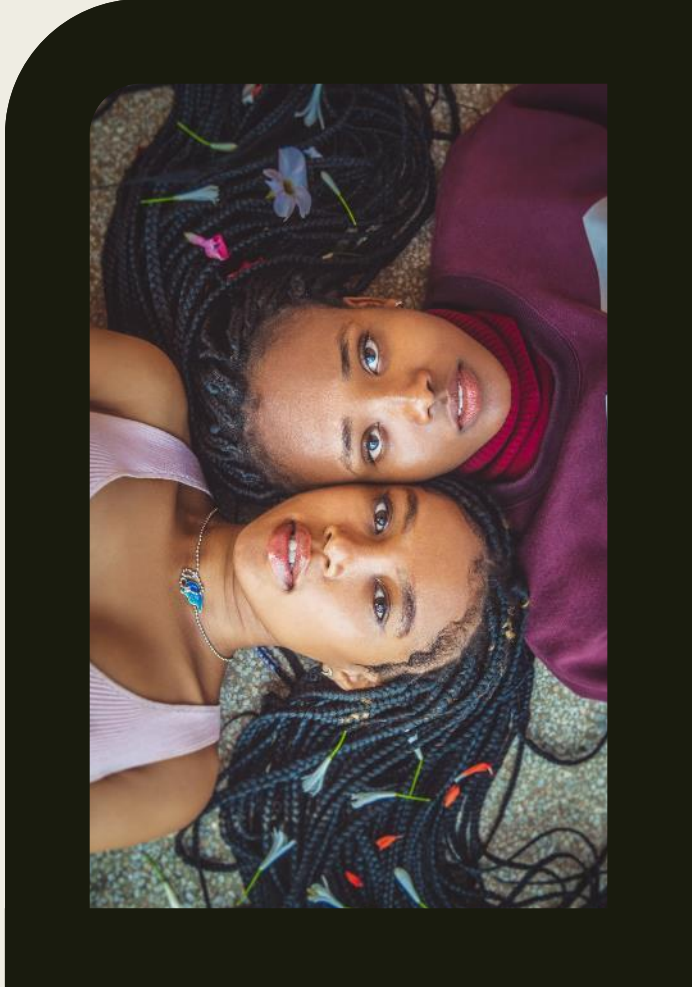
3) Trauma and Healing

Promote and support efforts to help victims, families and communities recover and heal after trauma.



REDIRECTION

Redirection: The act of assigning or directing something to a new or different place or purpose.



STRATEGIES

1) Connect Youth to Critical Supports

Counseling and Mental Health: To help youth and families work through trauma from incidents as well as other life challenges.

Other Youth and Family Needs: Evaluate youth and family needs to identify and connect other services and supports.

2) Help Youth Chart a New Path Forward

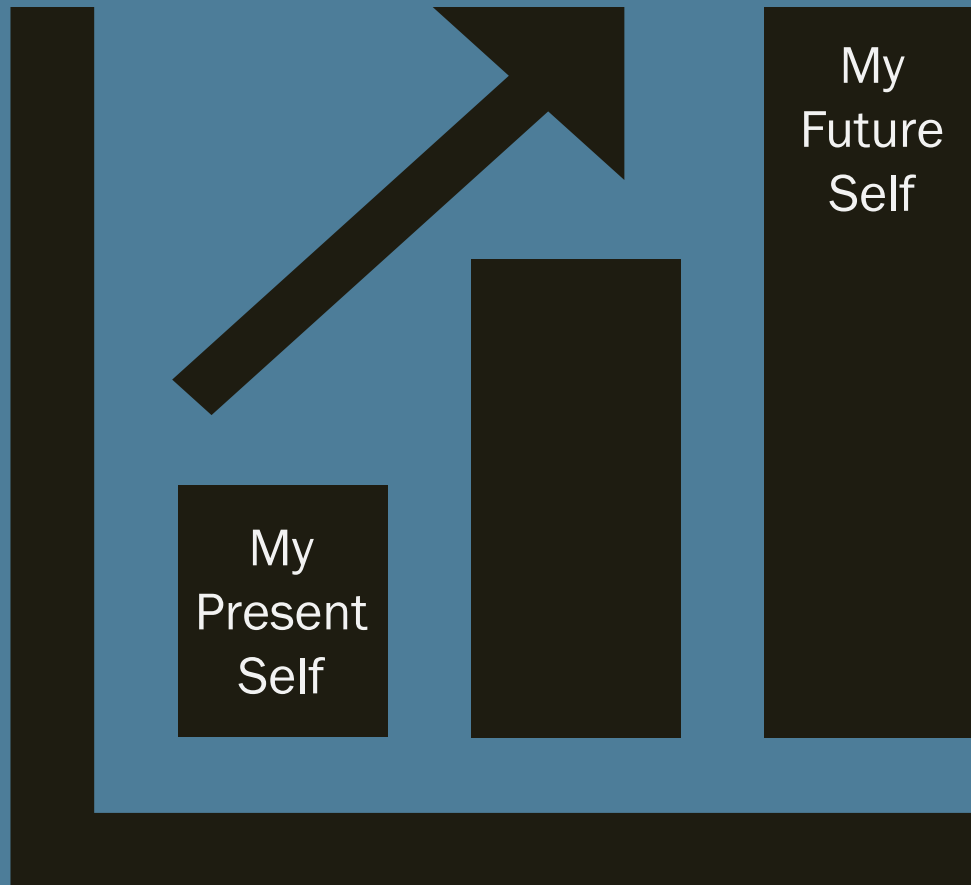
Connect youth to people and programs that help them envision a different future, identify and build on youth talents, and provide the ongoing support and encouragement needed to stay on course.

3) Provide In-School and Out-of-School Support

Work with educators and after-school programs to provide the support and assistance youth need to get and stay on track academically.

IV. LONG-TERM PROGRESSION

STRATEGIES



*Progression:
Moving gradually towards a more advanced state; forward or onward movement.*

Position Youth for Long-Term Success

1) Support Lasting Mentors & Community Connections

Work with the community to keep youth engaged and connect youth to long-term relationships with individuals who will provide encouragement and support in the days and years to come.

2) Address Barriers to Economic Advancement

Support programs that address barriers to economic stability:

- *Housing, Education, Employment & Transportation*

3) Case Manage and Track Youth Long-Term

Secure Case Management Software to help track youth long-term and keep them connected to supports.

Youth Safety & Violence Reduction –

What's Happening Now

Putting the Plan Into Action



PROGRESS TO DATE:

ONSE
*Early
Numbers*

Coordinated by ONSE and Partners

- 300+** At-Risk Youth Impacted by Services
- 24** Active Partner Agencies

Resulting In:

- 18** Victims Assistance Contacts
- 12** Job Referrals
- 9** Referrals for Services
- 1** Weapon voluntarily relinquished by a youth

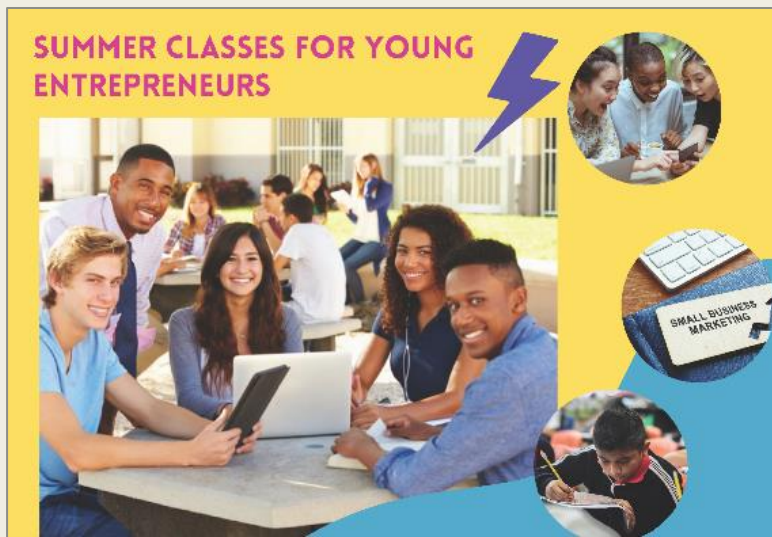
SUMMER 2022

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Summer Fun & Safety Initiative

- Summer Camps: arts, business, career, recreation
- Entrepreneurship & Employment Opportunities
- Swimming Pools and Pop-Up Activities

SUMMER CLASSES FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS



SMALL BUSINESS MARKETING

Summer Youth Employment & Internship Program

Make up to \$4500 this Summer

Ages 16-24

Application deadline: May 27

Sponsored by: WorkSource Coastal



SUMMER ARTS CAMPS

June 13 - July 8, 2022
at the Savannah Cultural Arts Center



SUMMER 2022

VIOLENCE PREVENTION/INTERVENTION

Immediate Efforts to Connect Youth to Focused Violence Reduction Activities

ONSE is partnering with organizations to connect youth from age 6 to 21 to more targeted violence reduction activities and impact youth violence norms NOW.

- **Verbal and Visual Intervention Program** – Program targets 10 system-impacted, court referred Savannah males ages 12-21 in four intense weeks of verbalization, visualization, mediation, and reconciliation. The program addresses guns and gang violence and the impact on youth lives and futures.
- **Saturday Morning Academy** – A 16-week academy engaging 100 of Savannah’s younger children ages 6-12 in education and skill-building sessions, mentor match-ups and age-appropriate youth violence prevention activities.
- **Youth Conflict Mediation Training** - ONSE is partnering with the Mediation Center to offer youth training in decision-making and conflict management skills beginning June 2022.
- **Youth Advocate Program (YAP) Violence Intervention Contract**
YAP utilizes a hybrid approach of violence reduction strategies including the Cure Violence model. Anticipated start – August 2022



SUMMER 2022

YOUTH REDIRECTION/PROGRESSION

Immediate Efforts to Connect Youth to Focused Violence Reduction Activities

- **Resiliency Summer Camp** – Program will use the Community Resiliency Model as the evidence-based foundation to engage 30-120 Savannah youth ages 12-18 in a 5-day resiliency camp providing participants with practical, repeatable wellness skills proven to support an individual's ability to better navigate stress, conflict, and adversity.
- **50 Week Mentorship Program** – Program will engage 25 youth ages 11-18 in year-long weekly sessions to build self-confidence, critical thinking, decision-making and youth empowerment. Mentors will help youth recognize their personal power and develop leadership skills among youth who typically do not have opportunities to lead.



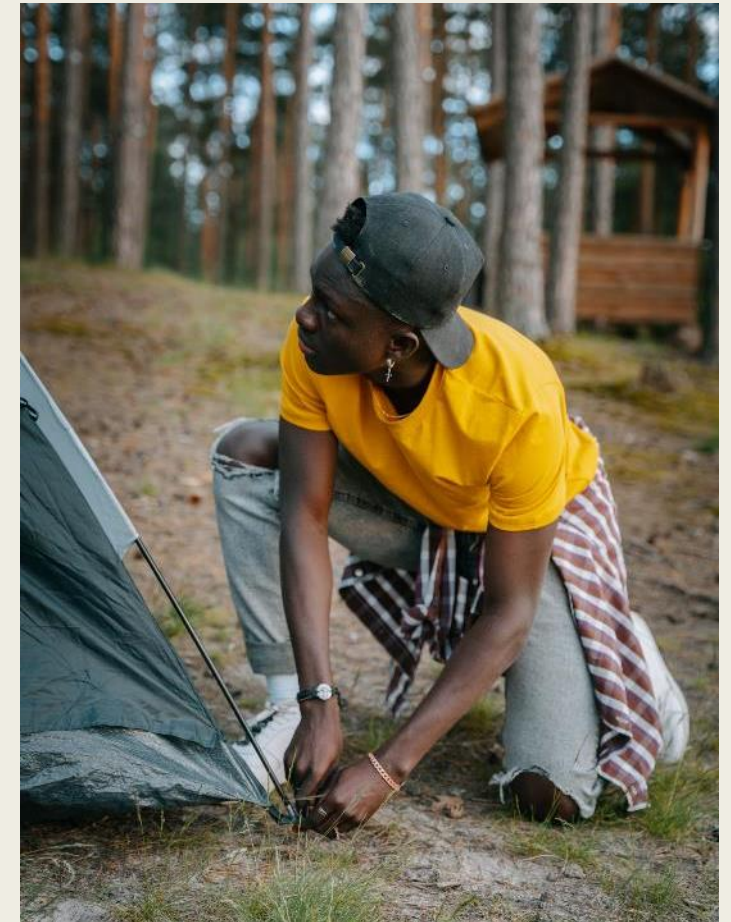
SUMMER 2022

YOUTH REDIRECTION/PROGRESSION

- Youth Reconnection Retreat

Specialized Youth Camp

- *ONSE will host a specialized one-week camp, with partner agencies, in an **out-of-town camp setting** specifically designed to engage 30 high-risk male youth, ages 12-17, in 60 intense hours of self-reflection, group discussion, resolution and growth activities.*
- *Youth will learn about themselves, problem-solving and decision-making, and set personal goals to achieve more positive outcomes.*
- *Youth will be paired with mentors who will stay connected to mentees for a year, to encourage and support their efforts to live up to the goals they established for themselves during camp.*



WHAT'S NEXT

GRANT PROGRAMS

- Grants for Neighborhoods - Youth Summer Employment)
 - *ONSE is partnering with Human Services to award grants up to \$15,000 to registered neighborhood associations to hire Neighborhood Improvement Teams comprised of youth ages 15 to 19 to work in their neighborhoods this summer.*
 - *40 Youth will earn \$10/hour assisting with clean-ups/litter collection, minor painting, outdoor chores for elderly and persons living with disabilities, beautification and other neighborhood improvement projects. Wages also include weekly youth violence reduction training.*
- Violence Reduction Grants (\$500,000)
 - *ONSE will accept proposals **June 20th** through **August 5th** (training will be provided)*
 - *Grants up to \$75,000 will be awarded to non-profit 501c3 nonprofit organizations to implement credible violence reduction activities among youth/young adults, with priority given to services targeting youth ages 12 to 24, identified as being involved or at high-risk of involvement in gun violence.*



SAVANNAH INITIATIVE TO REDUCE VIOLENCE (SIRV)



**SAVANNAH
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



POLICE EXECUTIVE
RESEARCH FORUM



PERF

National Police Issues

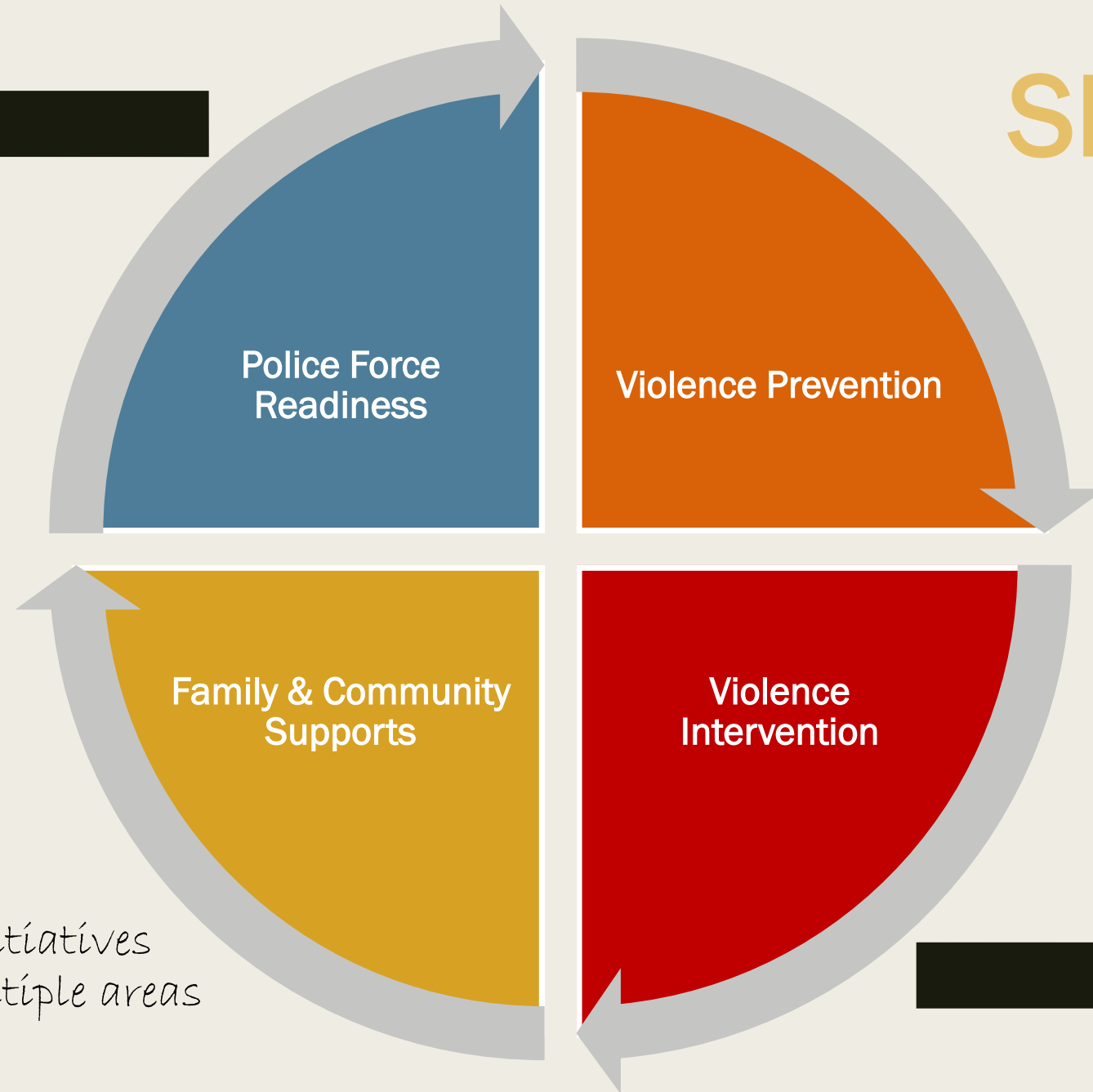
- Recruitment/Retention
- Violent Crime/Juvenile Crime
- Homelessness/Mental Health Issues
- Officer Wellness
- Gun Trafficking
- Use of Force/Deadly Force

Another violent weekend of mass shootings in the US leaves at least a dozen dead, over 60 injured

- **Philadelphia**, at least **two** people were killed and **11** others hit by gunfire at a bustling entertainment district. A third person who died might have been one of the shooters.
- **Chattanooga**, Tennessee, **two** people were killed and **14** were wounded at or near a nightclub.
- **Summerton, South Carolina**, **one** person was killed and at least **seven** others were wounded at a graduation party.
- **Phoenix**, **one** person was killed and **eight** others wounded at a strip mall. The slain victim was a 14-year-old girl.

SIRV PLAN

Priority Areas



Programs and initiatives may address multiple areas

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- 1) **Increase Visibility/Lighting/Cameras:** Increase police presence, visibility, and enhance environmental factors in areas that are heavily impacted by crime and violence.



- 2) **Address Violence in Schools:** Partner with the SCCPSS to address youth violence in schools.



- 3) **Strengthen Relations with the Community:** Participate in community meetings and activities and partner with the community to host joint, police-community programs throughout the year.

STOLEN GUNS

Guns Stolen from Entering Autos

January 1, 2022

to June 1, 2022

Locked Vehicles	Unlocked Vehicles
7	96

SIU UPDATE

Guns Recovered

April 1, 2022
to June 6, 2022

59



100 DAYS OF SUMMER

Violent Crime

June – August

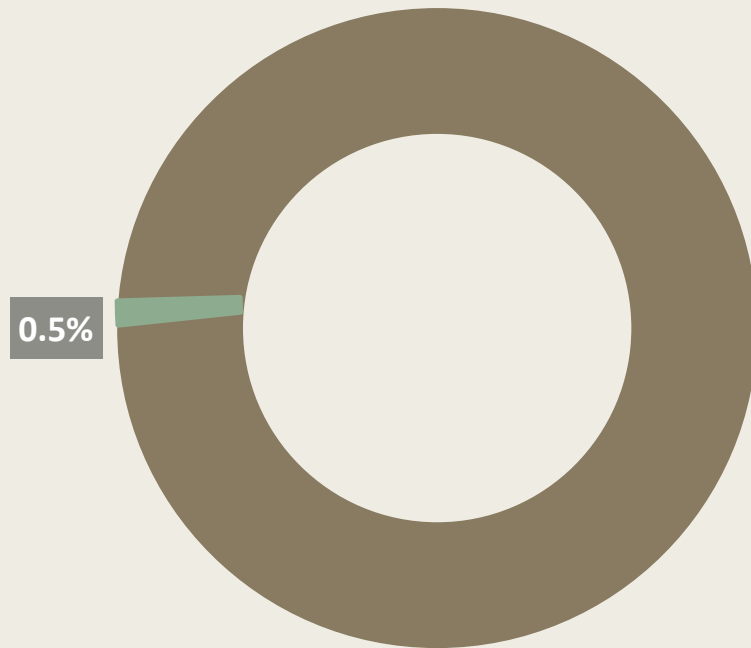
2019-2021

Crime Type	2019	2020	2021	% Change (20 to 21)
Rape (Carnal)	8	21	13	38% decrease
Rape (Other Penetration)	5	7	6	14% decrease
Commercial Robbery	18	18	6	67% decrease
Aggravated Assault w/ Gun	102	100	86	14% decrease
Aggravated Assault w/o Gun	127	128	122	5% decrease

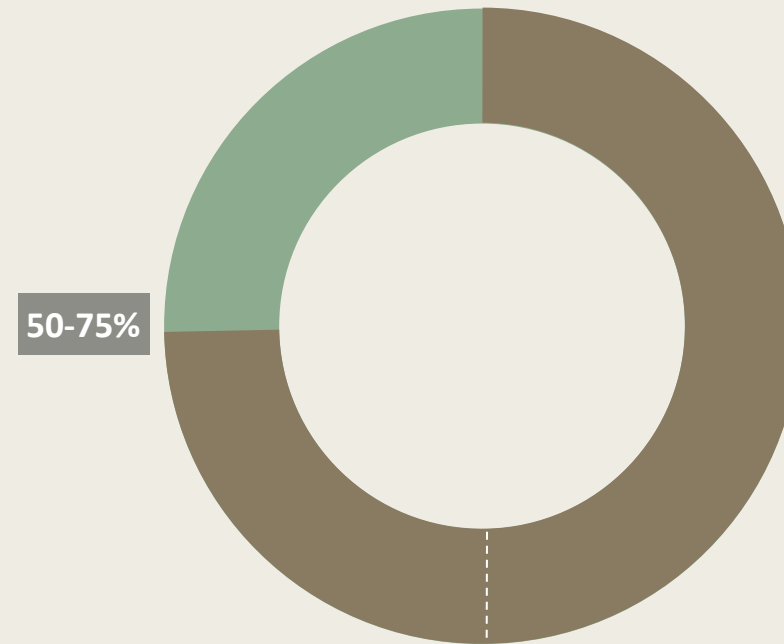
	2019	2020	2021	% Change (20 to 21)
Total Violent Crime	342	325	296	9% decrease

PRECISION POLICING

The most important finding here is simple: there is a profound connection between serious violence, and highly active criminal groups.



Representation in population



Representation in homicides

NORTHWEST PRECINCT

Neighborhood Decreases

January 1, 2022- June 4, 2022

Neighborhood	Beat	2021	2022	% Change
Bayview	22	14	13	7%
General MacIntosh	26	7	6	14%
Georgia Ports East	22	6	1	83%
Hutchinson Island	27	3	2	33%
Lynes Parkway/Industrial Park	23	13	8	38%
MLK/Indian St	27	31	23	26%
NE Historic District	26	64	62	3%
Savannah International/Travis Field	21	3	0	100%
SW Historic District	25	49	20	59%
W Victorian District	24	26	17	35%
West Savannah	22	45	41	9%
Woodsville/Bartow	22	13	10	23%

CENTRAL PRECINCT

Neighborhood Decreases

January 1, 2022- June 4, 2022

Neighborhood	Beat	2021	2022	% Change
Liberty City	35	55	29	47%
Metropolitan	33	52	48	8%
Salt Creek	36	4	0	100%
Sylvan Terrace	35	16	9	44%
Thomas Square	31	51	36	29%

SOUTHSIDE PRECINCT

Neighborhood Decreases

January 1, 2022- June 4, 2022

Neighborhood	Beat	2021	2022	% Change
Chippewa Plaza/Oglethorpe Plaza	43	32	25	21%
Georgetown	45	37	13	65%
Largo Woods	46	11	9	18%
Oakhurst	43	27	17	37%
Oglethorpe Mall	42	51	37	27%
Paradise Park	44	9	6	33%
Rose Dhu	45	2	1	50%
Southside Apartment Row	44	77	61	21%
Southside Commercial District	42	86	52	40%
Sweetwater Plantation	47	3	0	100%
White Bluff Estates	44	12	9	25%
White Bluff/West Abercorn	45	20	12	22%
Windsor Forest	45	9	7	7%

EASTSIDE PRECINCT

Neighborhood Decreases

January 1, 2022- June 4, 2022

Neighborhood	Beat	2021	2022	% Change
Bee Road/Whole Foods	55	14	10	29%
Fernwood/Parkwood	55	7	6	14%
Gordonston	54	11	9	18%
Magnolia Park/Blueberry	56	3	0	100%
Robin Woods	56	8	4	50%
Savannah Gardens	51	15	12	20%
Terrace Heights/Bacon Park	56	24	23	4%
Victory Square/Pinehurst	55	94	75	20%

PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

- 1) **Wraparound Services:** Connect youth and families involved in incidents of violence to wraparound services and resources to address trauma.
- 2) **Behavioral Health Unit (BHU):** Continue to support and enhance the BHU which responds to mental health and substance use issues and diverts individuals away from incarceration to needed services.
- 3) **Keep Track of Repeat Offenders** and connect them to needed services and supports, like job training and employment as an alternative to crime.
- 4) **Clergy Response Team:** Create a team of ministers and clergy who can be mobilized to respond to incidents of violence and assist in providing comfort, restoring calm and addressing trauma within the community.



PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

Roll Call in The Street



PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

Bike Patrols



YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORT

- 1) **Parent Education and Involvement:** Support policies and programs that increase parental skills, supports, involvement and accountability.
- 2) **Educate Officers about Resources:** Improve Police Officer training about local resources to assist youth and families.
- 3) **Build Public Awareness About Resources and Supports:** Educate the community about local resources through public awareness campaigns in communities with the greatest need.
- 4) **Address Socio-Economic Barriers:** Work with youth and families in communities hardest hit by violence to address socio-economic barriers to success.
- 5) **Conflict Mediation and Problem-Solving Services:** Work with agencies to connect with families affected by violence (offenders & victims) and work toward conflict resolution.



**PAL
SUMMER
CAMP**

AGES 8-14
BOYS CAMP - JUNE 20-24
GIRLS CAMP - JUNE 27-JULY 1

PAAL

10 AND UNDER 2ND PLACE RUNNER- UP CITY CHAMPIONS



PAAL

6 AND UNDER CITY CHAMPIONS



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU.