Community-Based Violence Prevention Study of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative: An Intervention to Prevent Urban Gun Violence

Final Technical Report

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Introduction

While the federal government has been steadily increasing support for funding violence prevention activities in urban centers and among older youth involved with guns and gangs, very few states have made this type of violence the focus of their crime prevention efforts.[1] In 2010, Massachusetts invested in the Massachusetts Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), an initiative launched in eleven cities with the highest per capita rates of violent crime (Exhibit 1). SSYI aims to reduce violence and promote healthy development and outcomes among young males, ages 14-24 who are at the greatest risk for violent offending and victimization.

Exhibit 1. SSYI Cities

This report presents results from the Community-based Violence Prevention (CBVP) study of SSYI's impact on violent crime in Massachusetts. The overarching research question we examine is to what extent SSYI influenced changes in violent crime in SSYI communities and whether this influence is sustained over time. We also examine hypothesized factors related to SSYI effectiveness and resultant changes in violent crime. To explore our research questions we conducted: (1) analyses of changes in violent crime outcomes in SSYI communities in comparison with 30 other communities in Massachusetts; (2) examinations of community norms of violence and its relationship to police-community relations within each SSYI community; and, (3) investigations of the relationship between the myriad violence prevention and intervention efforts (including SSYI) and violent crime trends in Boston from 2007 to 2014.

Statement of the Problem

Violence in high risk communities does not look like violence in other places. Where more risk factors are present and potential mediators (e.g., collective efficacy, civic engagement) are not, one is more likely to find drug and firearm trafficking, gang proliferation, and higher rates of lethal and nonlethal violent crime. Homicide is concentrated in these high risk communities, where it was the leading cause of death for black men ages 15–34 in 2013.[2] Nearly all (92%) of these homicides were firearm homicides.[3] Despite the pervasive use of the term "high risk community" in relation to social and economic problems, there is no agreed-upon definition within violence prevention or in the broader fields of social or medical science, but there is compelling evidence that most of the characteristics that describe high risk communities are also risk factors for youth violence[4]. Moreover, these characteristics are also pervasive in areas of "concentrated poverty," a term defined by the Census as 40% or more of Census tract residents living below the Federal poverty threshold.[5]

The places where we grow up can have long-lasting effects on our behavior and well-being prospects. Since the United Kingdom's Black Report was released in 1980,[6] the evidence continues to grow that social factors, such as poverty, war, high crime, joblessness, weak ties to formal institutions and lack of access to basic resources have the power to determine a person's health prospects including their life expectancy. In the United States, communities marginalized by these social inequities also endure histories of disparate treatment based on race and ethnicity throughout childhood that results in greater use of exclusionary discipline practices in school, deeper involvement in the justice system and more children separated from their families and placed in the foster care system. Further, even when individuals from these hard-hit communities overcome the odds, excel in school, graduate from college, and move to more advantaged neighborhoods– they still earn less salary, on average, than their White peers.[7]

Further, the shared experiences we have within our communities may affect our expectations for what we consider to be "normal" behavior. Research has explored how neighborhood disadvantage can act as a moderator with negative impacts on cultural norms and deviant behavior. Building on previous work by Widom (1989), Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997),[8] and others, Wright and Fagan (2013)[9] reported that in neighborhoods where cultural norms were more accepting of crime, youth were more likely to report delinquent behavior. Social norms research examining the use of drugs and alcohol finds a similar effect, in that

college students are more likely to over-report their own binge drinking if they think their campus peers are themselves binge drinking at the same rate. However, the ways in which norms of delinquency have been measured in prior research relies on indicators of concentrated disadvantage that may be indistinguishable from indicators of increased risk for crime and violence, suggesting that both phenomena (crime and disadvantage) are being driven by a factor in common, rather than one leading to the other.

Relationships with formal institutions, such as schools and police, can also impact the ways in which a community responds to the formal sources of social control that are typically seen as beneficial from a risk and protective factors perspective. The relationships with police in communities hardest hit by crime and violence, and those with the highest levels of concentrated disadvantage, are often strained, with communities feeling targeted or even abandoned by the justice system. When police are seen as profiling specific types of people or neighborhoods and using suppression techniques, residents can withdraw from prevention behaviors, such as calling 911 or testifying in court. This may help explain why clearance rates for homicides in high crime cities are still disappointingly low. In each case the result is the same - violence continues, becoming a normal part of life. Some studies show little impact between police activities and neighborhood perceptions of crime.[10] But when police gain community trust and residents see police as partners to improve neighborhood conditions, preventive crime reporting to police can increase and neighborhood crime rates can fall.[11] In recent years, police legitimacy in the U.S. has dropped to new lows amid the rising documentation of both police brutality and legitimate use of force, made possible through the proliferation of smart phones and digital social networking tools. These technologies can capture interactions gone wrong in real time, and rapidly multiply the local fear and distrust such incidents spark in communities to other places and persons that have experienced historically fragile relationships with police and formal institutions for generations. The result has been a cascading effect of delegitimizing police and further deepening the divide between officers and individuals. During this same period, gun homicide rates have jumped to historic highs in some of the nation's most distressed cities further straining residents' already frayed nerves.

A leading strategy for reducing U.S. gun violence has been "focused deterrence" models that target high-risk offenders and their communities.[12] The logic of this approach lies in the fact that only a fraction of the population in any community commits most of the crime in a community,

and of this group an even smaller fraction commits the majority of *violent* crimes. Such crimes are usually committed among close associates, rivals, neighbors, and even relatives within very precise and relatively small street segments within a handful of neighborhoods within communities. These strategies typically utilize police suppression, offender notification, and referrals for supportive services to engage offenders who want to change their lives. A systematic review of quasi-experimental evaluations of focused deterrence strategies reported mixed results.[13] In 2015, our research team published results from a rapid evidence assessment of multisector strategies to address urban gun violence and located 11 quasi-experiments; 10 of these reported sizable violence reductions through the use of multi-partner collaboration, community mobilization, and street outreach workers.[14] None of the studies measured implementation fidelity or identified the role of each component on outcomes. Additional studies have since been published evaluating urban gun violence interventions; yet none contains an analysis of core components or implementation quality, and they use aggregate outcome measures.[15]

Given the human toll and exorbitant health and justice system costs from firearms violence, it is striking that urban gun violence research to date has rarely used experimental designs, and none have measured impact on individual offender behavior, or identified components within these interventions that bear replication, refinement, or abandonment. However, it is also fair to question whether experimental designs that rely on tightly controlled research-driven conditions are the best means to study violent crime, considering crime's deeply contextual nature and the difficulty accessing and measuring the critical on-off switch for producing violent behavior. Qualitative methods and ethnographic research designs will rarely be seen as rigorous enough to be published in top tier criminal justice journals, yet these might be the types of studies that can reveal the nuances of violence drivers within families, between intimates, or among gang members. They may also better reveal how larger social norms, exposure to past violence, the built environment, and access to firearms influences any violent act. As a result, cumulative knowledge on what works has thus far been limited to quasi-experimental, quantitatively-oriented studies of community-level changes in violent crime, using official data. Focused deterrence approaches perform the best among this class of research, suggesting community level reductions in violent crime, but still leave a very large gap in the question of causation. This gap exists both between the approach used and the changes in community crime and within

the approach itself, to connect experience with the approach (e.g., attending a call-in) with individual changes in behavior among those most likely to commit a future violent act.

Further complicating efforts to understand the most effective means to prevent further gun violence are the sheer number of crime prevention efforts underway in communities. For example, Boston has experienced steady declines in violent crime for many years now, first brought to light through the work of Braga and others who described the phenomenon as the "Boston Miracle".[16] Because of this success, more resources and programming continue to be diverted to Boston, hoping to use that experience to learn what works and how other cities can experience similar results. However, because of these many efforts, it is difficult to say that SSYI alone—or indeed any one intervention on its own—might be responsible for these declines over any period of time. Most of these preventive actions are never evaluated and when they are, they are typically researched in isolation, making it impossible to determine impacts relative to one another. Research has not been able to keep pace with the need to unravel and explain the singular and cumulative impacts of these interventions.[17] Untangling the impact of these comprehensive community initiatives is complicated when multiple funding streams support similar or even the same initiatives. Research has yet to study how the addition of multiple violence prevention strategies over time affects outcomes from any one initiative, or the collective impact on community-level crime and violence.

Added to these challenges is local capacity to collect and share data on individual-level dosage of particular gun violence intervention strategies, and on violent incidents themselves. Many police departments are not able to disaggregate their data by person, place, and incident and are thus unable to use the data to understand which individuals are most at risk for becoming victims or offenders and how they are connected to each other. Further, many departments are unable to help local prevention initiatives establish cause and effect between community-level crime statistics and individual and group-focused deterrence and intervention efforts.

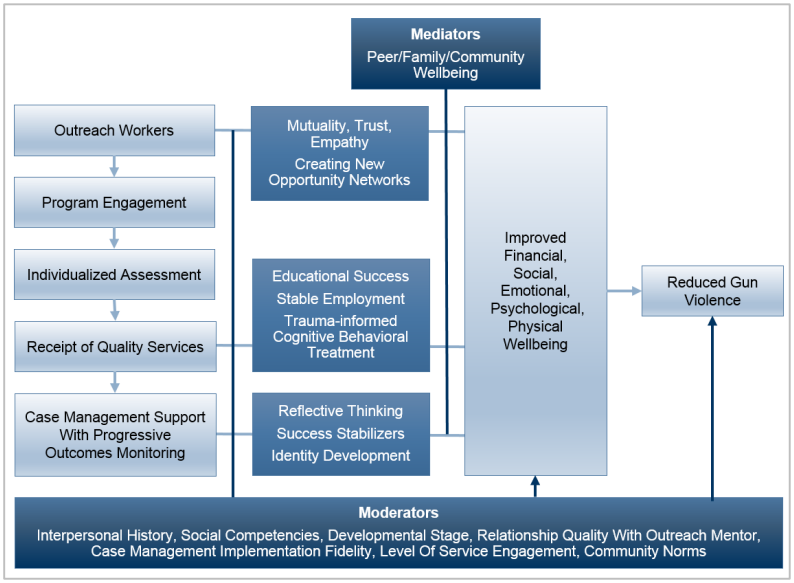
This study does not aim to answer all of these lingering questions and current research gaps, but does try to makes progress in understanding police legitimacy in areas where violent crime is greatest, in exploring the value of using different methodologies to study the complexities of urban gun violence strategies, and attempting to unpack some of the "stickiness" of violent crime within specific and concentrated situational contexts of persons and places. The study's results also aim to weigh the accumulated evidence of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI),

a secondary prevention approach implemented throughout the state of Massachusetts that, like focused deterrence approaches, focuses on reducing violence among "proven risk" individuals most likely to commit or be the victim of a violent gang or gun-involved crime. The distinguishing feature of SSYI is its lack of police suppression or police contact of any kind with young men who receive services, focusing instead on improving individual economic, physical, social, and emotional well-being through an intensive and ongoing case management and outreach process that is not time-bound and continues until the young men are self-sufficient and leading healthy, independent lives.

Safe and Successful Youth Initiative

The SSYI works with young men, at proven risk for violence, ages 17–25[1] who have been identified through data reviews by law enforcement and other local stakeholders (e.g., schools, child welfare agencies) as individuals who have already committed a gun or gang-related crime or have been victims of such crime—in many cases both are true of individuals in the program. SSYI is designed to affect a young man's individual capacities (e.g., build skills, address needs), relational experiences (e.g., role models, opportunities for prosocial development), and situational environment (e.g., employment, routine activities), based on the SSYI theory of change (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2. SSYI Theory of Change



[1] The program originally served young men ages 14-24, but changed the target population age in 2016.

Each SSYI site implements seven core components, in flexible ways that attempt to align the approach with the unique needs, assets, and context of each community (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3. The Major Components of the SSYI

1. **Identification** through local data of *high-impact males, aged 14–25*[18] who have committed or been the victim of a gun-related offense. A "list" of these individuals is then used to identify youth.
2. **Outreach** workers engage and serve as critical *agents* and informal mentors to build trusting relationships with the young men, engage them in programming, and continuously encourage and advise them.
3. **Assessment** of education history, work history, family situation (including whether they are parenting), and mental health needs to create individual service plans.
4. **Case Management** services in close collaboration with mental health clinicians to implement the individualized service plans. Case managers also provide progressive case monitoring to reinforce the success of clients reaching incremental outcomes, such as credit recovery in school as a milestone toward achieving a high school diploma.
5. **Behavioral Health** services including trauma treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and other practices to address underlying problems of youth with histories of involvement in violence; these can include substance abuse, depression, or posttraumatic stress disorder.
6. **Education** including traditional and nontraditional services for young men that include high school matriculation or GED attainment, vocational training, or certification programs.
7. **Workforce Development** that provides soft and hard skills training, including on-the-job training, to develop professional work skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

Communities were chosen to receive funding for SSYI through a focused, data-driven process using community violent crime data from police to identify those areas with the highest concentrations of violence, per capita, in the state. The top ten areas on this list have been receiving funding from SSYI since 2010, and began implementing in 2011, leading to more than six years of sustained service targeting the highest impact violent offenders in each community, Each SSYI program site contracts with local agencies that provide case management, outreach, and direct services (e.g., subsidized employment, behavioral health) to participants based on

individual needs identified at enrollment and as they emerge while in the program. Outreach workers are deployed from different agencies to contact potential participants and recruit them into the program. Program participation is voluntary. Participants who do enroll do not "come off" the list until they age out, meaning that young people may continue receiving support through SSYI through age 24. SSYI provides services and supports but does not involving aggressive policing as do other approaches we have studied (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4. Intervention Components of Effective Urban Gun Violence Programs and SSYI[19]

Program	Intervention Component								
	Targeted List	Aggressive Policing	Intensive Probation	Outreach Workers	Public Notice	Social Services	Post-Event Response	Media Spots	Mobilize Communit
SSYI	✓			✓		✓			
Indianapolis VRP	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Philadelphia YVRP	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Cincinnati IRV	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Boston CeaseFire		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Stockton (CA) Operation Peacekeeper		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Chicago CeaseFire				✓		✓		✓	✓
Chicago PSN		✓			✓	✓			
Lowell (MA) PSN		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Baltimore Safe Streets				✓		✓		✓	✓

Despite having no aggressive policing component like the majority of effective interventions reported in the community-based urban gun violence research literature, SSYI has been producing promising violence prevention results since its inception in 2010 by focusing its approach on improving well-being outcomes.[20] In the current study of SSYI—the focus of this report—demonstrates that the ten cities implementing the intervention[21] experienced a drop of 2.8 more violent crimes each month per 100,000 residents over an eight-year period compared with thirty other cities in the State (Exhibit 5). Like the other studies examining different effective urban gun violence interventions, explanations for SSYI's effectiveness are limited by a lack of information about the program's implementation. A propensity score matching study we

completed in 2014 with SSYI participants suggested that program engagement might reduce the likelihood of incarceration.[22]

Exhibit 5. Effect of SSYI on Average Monthly Crime Rates from 2007 to 2014

		SSYI Cities in MA (N=10)		*Non-SSYI Cities in MA (N=30)*	
		Mean	**SE**	**Mean**	**SE**
Violent Crime	***	-4.55	0.69	-1.75	0.34
Homicide	***	-0.11	0.02	-0.02	0.01
Aggravated Assault	**	-3.41	0.58	-1.50	0.33
Robbery		-0.62	0.48	-0.19	0.10
Nonviolent Crime		-2.70	0.73	-3.28	0.82
		* $p < .05$	** $p < .01$	*** $p < .001$	

Using NIBRS data, in 2014 our team conducted an interrupted time series analysis of violent victimizations over a three-year period and showed that a city with SSYI had approximately 5.0-5.7 fewer victims of violence each month, ages 14-24, for every 100,000 citizens,[2] over the entire post-intervention period. This represented 60 fewer victims of Part I violent crimes per year, per 100,000 citizens (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6. Summary of SSYI Impact on All Monthly City-Level Crime Victimization Rates of Young Persons, Ages 14–24 (Over time, Both Comparison Groups and Interruption Points)

Violent Crime Categories	**Impact on Monthly Number of Victims, Ages 142–4, per 100,000 Citizens Over the Post-Intervention Period**
All Part I Violent Crimes	5.0–5.7 fewer victims/month (60–68/year)
Homicide	.10–.15 fewer victims/month (1.2–1.8/year)
Aggravated Assault	2.1–2.4 fewer victims/month (25–29/year)

Research Questions

The overarching research question (RQ1) we are examining in this study is to what extent SSYI influences changes in violent crime in SSYI communities and the extent to which these changes are sustained over time. This work builds on earlier research findings from our team that showed decreases in violent crime *victimization* in SSYI cities between the years 2009 and 2012.

[2] Rates in the tables and analyses were based on crime victimization per 10,000 citizens. However, to help provide more interpretable findings at the city-level, and particularly given the very small rates for homicide, we converted the impact estimate to the anticipated number of victims prevented each month per 100,000 citizens.

In the current analysis we examine incident, offender, and victim data from the beginning of 2007 through the end of 2014. If SSYI is effective, we should see an impact for *offenses by persons ages 14–24*. We also examine the same outcomes for offenders *ages 35 and older.* Positive impacts for both groups would suggest that larger violence prevention initiatives unique to the funded SSYI sites are exerting influence or that SSYI has spillover effects that need further investigation.

Related questions we examine are:

- Do norms of violence vary according to levels of concentrated disadvantage in different SSYI communities (RQ2)?
- How does police involvement impact norms of violence[23] in the neighborhoods where the SSYI is located (RQ3)?
- Did the introduction of SSYI in Boston accelerate predicted changes in violent crime influenced by the myriad violence prevention efforts targeting that city (RQ4)?

Methodology

This is a mixed-methods study that uses three different research designs to examine each of our research questions. We incorporate official crime data and census tract data with information on police engagement and neighborhood norms gathered through key informant interviews, youth and community focus groups and surveys, police interviews, and program records to help explain, clarify, and corroborate findings.[24] A regression discontinuity design was used to assess the impact of the SSYI on the prevention of youth violence. To do this we collected National Incident-based Reporting System (NIBRS) data on violent offenses committed by males ages 14–24 and 35 and older in all project sites and in 30 comparison cities from 2007 through the end of 2014. To examine the relationship between norms of violence, relationships with police, and concentrated disadvantage in SSYI communities we utilized a non-experimental multiple case study design wherein we conducted focus groups, surveys, observations, and document review of program activities. We examined police interactions with the community and collected data on experiences with gun violence and with police from diverse perspectives from local business owners in the SSYI service area, community adults from the SSYI service area, non-SSYI youth from the broader community beyond SSYI served areas, SSYI participants, and their family members. In the city of Boston, we implemented a within-case interrupted time series

methodology to test the influence of each new additional violence prevention initiative implemented between 2007 and 2014. For this particular analysis, we measured levels of community violence before, during, and after the introduction of these initiatives.[25] We also conducted a media review to examine the influence of other high profile violent crime incidents during this same time period.

Data Sources

National Incident-Based Reporting System

The National Incident-based Reporting System (NIBRS) data is a federal data system comprised of local-level criminal incidents. The data system is not aggregate data for each department (such as in the earlier Uniform Crime Reports), but is a relational data set comprised of several segments that represent the characteristics of an incident (i.e., incident, offenses, victims, offenders, and arrestees). Each segment includes certain variables related to the incident. For example, the Offense segment includes the date, location, and type of offenses within an incident, whether an offense included a weapon, and several other characteristics. The Victim, Offender, and Arrestee segments capture information such as gender, race, ethnicity, and age of individuals involved in an incident, whether there was injury to the victim, and the relationship between victims and offenders.

Reporting agencies in Massachusetts follow a standardized set of guidelines to record and report NIBRS data to the Massachusetts State Police, who then report the state's data to the FBI. The NIBRS data specifications are based on guidelines set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in their NIBRS user manual.[26] As described above, NIBRS is not contained in a flat file, but rather in a series of files that are linked to an incident using a unique identifier. For each incident, there may be multiple offense, victim, offender, and arrestee records. To analyze data for this study, a series of transformations were required and include merging, collapsing, and aggregating incident data. The result is an aggregated summary file that is described in more detail below. The NIBRS data file used in the analysis includes over 1.5 million incidents between 2007 and 2014 across 41 cities. Police departments that did not report NIBRS data to the state police as of 2011 (the start of the SSYI intervention) include Boston and Lawrence. Boston's data are described below. Lawrence lacked the resources to provide a data file approximating NIBRS-type data, so it was not included in these analyses. A comprehensive listing of all NIBRS variables used in the study can be found in Exhibit A-1 in the appendix.

BPD Criminal Incident Data

The Boston Police Department (BPD) did not report to NIBRS at the time of this study, but were able to provide proxy data that aligned to NIBRS specifications so they could be included in these analyses. Similar to NIBRS, the BPD incident data is not a flat file, but rather a set of relational data sets linked through a unique identifier. For the current study, BPD provided a data set on offense characteristics and a data set comprised of all individuals involved in the incident (e.g., offender and victim). Again, similar to NIBRS, a series of transformations were required and include merging, collapsing, and aggregating incident data. The result is an aggregated summary file that is described in more detail below. The BPD data set used for analysis include all incidents in which a victim or offender was identified, with nearly 900,000 incidents captured for the data file between 2007 and 2014. We detail variables within the Boston crime dataset in Exhibit A-2.

U.S. Census Data

The census data used to create a measure of concentrated disadvantage was derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) 2010-2014 five-year estimates. The ACS is an annual survey of households in the United States to generate estimates representative of the population at various unit-levels in areas of employment, education, housing, socioeconomic characteristics, and other topics. The data are available in one-, three-, and five-year estimates. The five-year estimates provide reliable and precise estimates for smaller geographical units such as cities, towns, and census tracts. The data used for this study are at the city or community unit-level and described in detail below.

Surveys and Focus Groups

Surveys were collected from five different target populations in 10 of the 11 SSYI communities. Each survey was four pages in length and was presented as a two-page, double-sided booklet to participants, along with a manila envelope they could use to hold their confidential survey once completed. Survey questions were drawn, from validated instruments in the literature wherever possible, and focus on community cohesion, norms of violence, relationships with police, and social determinants of health.[27] The surveys also asked for participant demographic information, individual and familial experience with the juvenile or adult justice and child welfare systems, experience with public assistance programs such as SNAP/Food Stamps or Section 8 housing through HUD, and their zip code and closest cross

streets to the place where they were living. Despite extensive outreach, the city of New Bedford was unable to participate in the survey or focus group aspects of the study. A copy of the survey tool is provided in Appendix B-1. Focus groups were conducted with the same individuals who completed surveys. Project resources were not adequate to field a community-level survey across the 11 SSYI cities. The focus groups were used as an opportunity to survey individuals on the same topics later discussed in greater detail during the focus group. The survey acted as a priming tool for the focus group, so the focus group should be seen as an extension of the survey, rather than an independent data collection method. Each focus group lasted for approximately 90 minutes, with the first 30 minutes dedicated to completion of the survey instrument. A copy of the focus group protocol and questions is included in Appendix B-2.

SSYI Site Descriptions

Each SSYI coordinator was interviewed for the study to learn more about the services offered to participants, identify the partner agencies involved, examine the methods for outreach and case management, and to understand the overarching operation of the program and the larger community context. Program documents were also reviewed, including logic models, program plans, and performance reports to the Commonwealth. We did not review information on individual program participants, as this was beyond the scope of our community-level study. Included in the programmatic review of SSYI was a review of police practices, in relation to the program. Interviews were done with a handful of police partners, along with a limited number of observations of police interacting with the community while carrying out routine police work and also during non-enforcement events, such as community meetings. We also reviewed police websites and hard copy literature for information on SSYI and for information on how police engage with the community and local youth.

Boston Program, Policy, and Practice Data

An environmental scan was done to identify violence prevention and intervention programs, practices, and policies implemented in Boston from 2007 through 2014. Data were collected by using keyword searches of the following sources:

- Commonwealth websites and funding award listings
- U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services websites and funding award listings

- Boston-area non-governmental organization websites and annual reports (e.g. United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs)
- Boston-area hospitals and public health-related providers websites and annual reports,
- Boston-area Foundations websites and annual reports
- Governmental agencies within Boston (e.g., Mayor's Office, Boston Police Department)
- Published violence-prevention or intervention research reports where Boston was named as a study site
- Local media website archives (e.g., newspaper, television)

Where data were incomplete, such as missing a start date, population served, or program focus, follow-up emails, and phone calls were made to fill gaps. The environmental scan protocol is included in Appendix B-3.

Data Collection

NIBRS

The NIBRS data were provided as a raw data export directly from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). The challenge with raw data exports is that the data are not "clean[28]" upon arrival. To guide data cleaning, we used the syntax and recommended procedures provided by Justice Research and Statistics (JRSA) Incident-Based Reporting Resource Center for state analysts handling their own NIBRS data.[29] There were many variables in the initial data set that correspond with the complete segments defined in the NIBRS user manual (see link in footnote 1 for more detail). For the analyses here, the following variables were constructed:

- Serious violent offense[30]
- Non-violent offense[31]
- Homicide
- Aggravated assault
- Robbery
- Offender Age
- Offender Gender
- Agency ID

A first edition of the data was obtained from the EOPSS in 2013-2014 for preliminary analyses. The final data file was obtained from the EOPSS Data Information Manager in Fall 2016. Data were provided in individual segment files for the Offense, Victim, Offender, and Arrestee level data in *comma delineated values* (.csv) format and transferred to SPSS and Stata for transformation and analysis.

BPD Criminal Incident Data

The BPD Criminal Incident data used in this study were provided as a semi-cleaned data export received directly from a BPD research analyst. The data were semi-clean in that BPD provided a data set with only a subset of variables required for the current study, and had cleaned certain variables for interpretation and analyses. For example, the type of weapon used in an offense includes many types of weapons that would not be useful for our intended analyses. The research analyst provided a computed variable for weapon type to include only a few major categories, such as firearm, knife, or "other" weapon.

The BPD data variables identified for the current study include:

- Serious violent offense[32]
- Non-violent offense[33]
- Homicide
- Aggravated assault
- Robbery
- Offender Age
- Offender Gender

Data were provided for both offenses and persons for each year between 2007 and 2015, however to be consistent with the rest of the state NIBRS data we limit our analysis to 2007 through 2014 in this study. The data were provided in *common delineated values* (.csv) format and transferred to SPSS and Stata for transformation and analysis.

U.S. Census Data

The 2010-2014 American Community Survey five-year estimates were hand retrieved from the Census website[34] in a clean format. Variables needed to construct a measure of concentrated disadvantage were retrieved from the Census website. The variables identified for the current study include:

- Percent of residents unemployed
- Percent of residents below poverty line
- Percent of residents receiving public assistance
- Percent of households headed by a single female
- Percent of residents under 18 years old.

The variables that comprise concentrated disadvantage for these analyses, and the process used to create the measure, are described in detail in the 'Analyses' section below.

Surveys and Focus Groups

Surveys were fielded in-person by research staff with SSYI participants, with adult family members of SSYI participants, with adult community members, with community youth who were not SSYI participants, and with local business owners. Surveys were completed before each focus group began and were anonymous. Of the 495 individuals who participated across the 55 focus groups, 370 agreed to complete the survey (74% response rate). SSYI coordinators in each city worked with the research team to recruit participants for the focus groups and to secure space for the sessions. Recruitment flyers were also created in English and Spanish using the local SSYI program's unique branding, which varied from city to city. Those expressing interest in participating were contacted by the research team who provided one-page consent forms for adults and for parents of any young person under the age of eighteen. Reminders were delivered to participants by email and phone before the focus group to ensure a strong turnout. Focus groups were held in a variety of different settings, such as an empty city hall hearing chamber, an unoccupied building undergoing renovation, and a conference room within a local Boys and Girls Club. Locations were primarily chosen based on their convenience for participants to encourage participation.

Analyses

To assess the impact of the Massachusetts SSYI on the prevention of youth violence in funded cities, the research team employed an *indirect* regression discontinuity design to measure differences in youth and community levels of violence in the 10 SSYI communities compared with 32[35] other communities in Massachusetts that fall just below the cut-off score for violent offending as defined by SSYI. The following section describes the variables, sample, and analytic model used to assess the impact of SSYI.

Variables

Concentrated Disadvantage Index

City level census data from the ACS were used to construct a measure of concentrated disadvantage. The concentrated disadvantage index is a composite scale in which the variables were standardized and then summed together[36]. The final scale score (*CD_Index)* was then an average of the summed individual standardized scores. The individual variables that contribute to the measure of concentrated disadvantage are shown in the analysis section of this report (Exhibit 3).

Offense Data

Offense data were collected from the Massachusetts State Police (NIBRS Unit) and BPD as described above. The data from BPD were recoded to ensure the values for each variable were consistent with the NIBRS data set. For example, if 'Homicide' had a value of '2' in BPD and '1' in NIBRS, that variable's value was recoded to be '1' in the BPD data set. Once the two data sets were standardized, a merging procedure was used to append BPD data with the NIBRS data. The full data set represented over 2 million distinct incidents across the eight-year sample period.[37] To create the final set of variables for analysis, the incident-level data were run through a series of transformations. First, binary indicators for *Violent Crime* and *Non-Violent Crime* counts were computed using the most serious offense committed within an offense. If an offense included homicide, rape, aggravated assault or robbery as the most serious offense, the incident was coded as a violent crime. If an offense included larceny, breaking & entering, or motor vehicle theft as the most serious offense, the incident was coded as a non-violent crime. The same approach was used to create binary indicators for the individual crimes of *Homicide*, *Aggravated Assault*, and *Robbery*. Each offense variable was coded '1' if the incident include the offender and code '0' otherwise.

Next, a binary indicator was created for whether a given offense include at least one male offender. Any offense without a male offender was dropped from the data file[38]. Then, a binary indicator for whether the offense was before or after January 1, 2011 was computed to identify the pre and post intervention periods for SSYI.[39] Finally, to identify whether a crime was committed by a person within the target age range of SSYI (14-24 years old), the average age of offenders within an offense was calculated and a categorical variable was computed to include five categories of age.[40] A binary indicator was also computed for target age. *Offender_1424* was

coded '1' to indicate that the average age of all suspected offenders for a particular crime is between 14-24 and coded '0' otherwise. The same approach was used to create *Offender_35older* to indicate that the average age of all suspected offenders for a particular crime is 35 or older. Once the offense data set was finalized, census data were merged into the final analytic file using a numeric indicator for *Agency_Name* (i.e., town or city name). In addition, the RDD score--count of violent crimes in 2010--along with a binary indicator for whether a city is a treatment (i.e., SSYI) or comparison city were merged into the final analytic file. The final analytic file included the following variables on over 2 million individual incidents:

- Agency Name
- Year and Month of incident
- Binary indicator for:
    - Violent or Non-Violent Crime
    - Homicide
    - Aggravated Assault
    - Robbery
    - Offender 14-24
    - Offender 35 or older
    - SSYI or non-SSYI site
    - Pre or Post treatment period
    - City of high concentrated disadvantage
- RDD Score (violent crime count in 2010)
- Percent of residents unemployed
- Percent of residents below poverty line
- Percent of residents receiving public assistance
- Percent of households headed by a single female
- Percent of residents under 18 years of age
- Concentrated Disadvantage Index

The binary indicators for age were used to create separate analytic files for youthful (14-24) and older (35 and older) offenders before additional transformations were performed. The

transformations described below were the same for both files. The incident level variables were first aggregated to create monthly crime counts by type while retaining original values for the remaining variables. A variable for each city's 2010 population was then merged into the analytic file and used to compute monthly crime rates. Crime rates for each crime type were computed using:

*Monthly Crime Rate = ((Monthly Crime Count/Population)*100000)*

Next, the monthly crime rates for the 48 months in the pre-intervention period were averaged to create on overall average pre-intervention monthly crime rate, and the same aggregation was completed for the monthly crime rates in the 48 months in the post-intervention period. Finally, changes in average monthly crime rates were computed by subtracting the means in the post treatment period from those in the pretreatment period. The final analytic file contained aggregate data on crime rates and rate changes for the 42 cities included in the study sample.

A similar approach was used to manipulate the BPD offense data for analysis in Boston. Here we used a within-case interrupted time series design to examine the differential effects of violence intervention and prevention efforts implemented between 2008 and 2013, that might otherwise explain changes in violence during the SSYI implementation period, which began in 2010. Our criteria for including a program, practice, or policy in this analysis included:

- The focus of the effort was aimed at the 14-24 year old age group
- The focus of the effort was targeting serious violence (e.g., gangs, guns) or firearms use
- The effort was implemented for at least one full implementation cycle
- The effort was implemented within the city of Boston as defined by census boundaries

We also included any media accounts of violent incidents, or public responses to violent incidents, if the account was represented in multiple local and/or national media outlets and reported on over a sustained period of time (i.e., weeks of months). Only one incident, the Boston Marathon Bombing, satisfied these criteria for inclusion.

To prepare our data for analysis we aggregated BPD incident level variables to create monthly crime counts by type. We then inserted a variable for Boston's population across each year in the analysis to compute monthly crime rates. Rates were averaged across the 48-month

pre-intervention period to create an average pre-SSYI monthly crime rate, and the same aggregation was completed for the monthly crime rates in the 48 months in the post-intervention period. To compute changes in average monthly crime rates we subtracted means in the post treatment period from those in the pretreatment period. We repeated these procedures with each of the programs, practices, and policies implemented in Boston from 2008 through 2013 and for the Boston Marathon Bombing, which happened in April 2013.

Surveys

We first examined the reliability of our scaled survey items to determine how well they performed together to measure each concept of interest (Exhibit 7). We used Cronbach's Alpha as our reliability metric and examined items for their relative contributions to the overall reliability of the scale. A value of .80 or greater is considered as reliable. All concepts, except norms of violence, which has not previously been measured in this way, were assessed using preexisting survey items drawn from the literature, as described earlier.

Exhibit 7. Reliabilities and Means of Survey Items

Concept	Sample Size	Cronbach's Alpha	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Number of Items
Neighborhood Cohesion	370	0.83	2.39	1.81	4.17	5
Norms of Violence	370	0.81	1.37	1.17	1.65	4
Police Legitimacy	370	0.89	2.12	1.92	2.27	8
Police Cooperation	370	0.77	2.01	1.65	2.32	2

The norms of violence scale demonstrated improved reliability (.79 to .81) when attitudes toward fistfights was dropped from the analysis. The scale assessing police cooperation was strengthened (0.74 to 0.77) by eliminating the item for calling the police in an emergency situation, indicating that respondents did not find this situation to be equivalent with the behavior they use when reporting suspicious or problem behaviors, including crime, to police. All other survey items were analyzed using descriptive statistics to generate an overall picture of the sample and each community, and to identify items suitable for bivariate analysis. Correlational

tests were used to examine relationships between respondent characteristics (e.g. demographics, system involvement) and response to the scaled concepts relevant to our research questions.

Qualitative Materials

The data collected from program documents, focus groups, interviews, and observations were analyzed using open coding of transcribed text and qualitative data analysis software for organization and manipulation. We also conducted extensive analyses of these materials to determine to what extent we could translate the concepts of community cohesion, police legitimacy, norms of violence, and police cooperation to scaled variables that would complement the survey items measuring these same concepts. For focus groups, we reviewed the transcripts for each session and had two independent coders attempt to answer the survey questions using the information in each focus group from each community. For interviews with SSYI program coordinators, we coded responses into three broad categories: Structure (e.g., lead agency types, staffing levels/types of funding), Function (e.g., services provided, community partnerships), and Police Involvement (e.g., financial support, information sharing).

Sample

Massachusetts is a small and diverse state. The cities included in the study sample represent the 42 most violent cities in the state.[41] The cities vary in the number and rates of crime just as they vary in population and size. Exhibit 4 provides a description of the sample comparing crime in SSYI cities to comparison cities. The sample described below is for offenses with 14-24 year-old offenders. We limit the presentation of descriptive statistics to our population of interest for the impact analyses. Data for offenders 35 and older are presented in the impact estimates as a means of examining whether changes in crime are attributable to SSYI, which targets offenders 14-24 years old, or if the effects are part of some broader crime prevention effort. If the SSYI is effective, and given its focus on young male offenders, theoretically the strongest impact should be on offenses by persons ages 14-24, and less so for persons 35 and older. Similar positive impacts for both groups would suggest that larger violence prevention initiatives unique to the funded SSYI sites are exerting influence. It is also possible that there may be positive spillover effects ("diffusion of benefits") from SSYI, but that would need to be further investigated.[42]

Overall, cities engaged in SSYI are on average three times larger in population and experienced nearly 7.5 times more violent crimes in 2010 (RDD Score). The populations within these cities also vary between treatment (SSYI) and comparison (non-SSYI) cities. While the

number of residents under the age of 18 is similar to the rest of Massachusetts (21.1 percent[43]) for both groups, we find that there are nearly twice as many residents in SSYI cities living below the poverty line and receiving public assistance compared to non-SSYI cities, and 40 percent more residents within SSYI cities are unemployed relative to the comparison cities. Also, SSYI cities have nearly 70 percent more households headed by single females than comparison cities. SSYI communities also have more than four times the concentrated disadvantage of comparison cities (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8. Concentrated Disadvantage in Study Sample

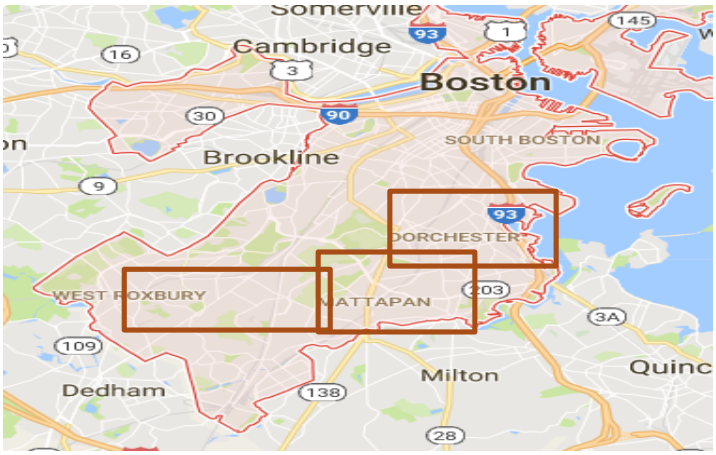
	SSYI		*Non-SSYI*	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Population (2010)	149232	170397	47249	19929
RDD Score	1604	1559	216	99
Poverty (%)	23.19	4.08	12.64	3.24
Public Assistance (%)	6.29	1.32	3.29	1.21
Female Headed Households (%)	21.81	3.62	12.86	3.69
Unemployed (%)	12.47	1.97	8.90	2.18
Residents under 18 years old (%)	23.36	3.14	18.74	3.22
Concentrated Disadvantage	1.18	0.60	-0.38	0.54

Just as the cities involved with SSYI are generally identified as more disadvantaged relative to comparison communities, they also experience more crime. The data (Exhibit 9) suggest about 2.5 times more violent crime per 100,000 residents and over six times the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in SSYI cities relative to comparison cities before the implementation of SSYI. The actual crime counts (see Appendix A) shows that SSYI cities averaged about one serious violent crime each day every month prior to SSYI compared to about one per week in comparison cities.

Exhibit 9. Average Monthly Crime Rates Pre-SSYI

Average monthly crime rates per 100k residents					
		SSYI (N=10)		Non-SSYI (N=32)	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Pre-SSYI	Violent Crime	20.34	3.17	8.96	4.16
	Homicide	0.26	0.10	.04	0.04
	Aggravated Assault	13.81	2.19	6.71	3.55
	Robbery	4.97	2.65	1.58	0.61
	Non-Violent Crime	22.97	11.70	19.18	10.90

Within the city of Boston, three areas produce the largest proportion of violent crime. These areas are Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury, as shown in the map below[3].



Concentrated disadvantage in these three areas is markedly different than other areas within this city, which has a very affluent segment that raises the overall average of city-wide indicators of disadvantage (exhibit 10).

Exhibit 10. Concentrated disadvantage in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury and Boston, 2015[4]

	Boston	Dorchester	Mattapan	Roxbury
	650,281	93,859	34,544	69,946
Living Below Poverty (%)	21.5	21.5	27.5	19.1
Public Assistance (%)	25.1	43.1	44.3	36.5

[3] Boxes are not drawn to scale

[4] There is disagreement over the boundaries between neighborhoods in Boston, making unilateral estimates subject to disagreement. http://archive.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/graphics/071811_boundaries/

Female Headed Households (%)	22.74	45.0	48.5	45.3
Unemployed (%)	6.3	9.6	14.2	9.9
Residents under 18 years old (%)	12.0	24.4	22.3	20.6

Violent crime in Boston has been declining for a number of years, reaching a ten-year low in 2016. Average monthly rates of violent crime in the city before SSYI are shown by offense type in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11. Average monthly crime rates (per 100,000) in Boston, 2007

Population: 622,748		**Mean**
Pre-SSYI	Violent Crime	91.51
	Homicide	0.88
	Aggravated Assault	29.98
	Robbery	56.92
	Non-Violent Crime	343.95

Analytic Model

The current study used an indirect regression discontinuity design to examine the impact of SSYI in treatment cities compared to other violent communities in Massachusetts. The strongest design for controlling internal validity threats is the randomized controlled trial (e.g., Weisburd, Petrosino & Fronius, 2014)[44], but the SSYI cities were already selected before the evaluation was commissioned, making randomization impossible. How cities were selected for SSYI, however, provided a unique opportunity for implementing a rigorous quasi-experimental method known as the regression discontinuity design (RDD).[45] RDD is considered one of the more rigorous quasi-experimental methods, and meets minimum standards for evaluation for establishing program impacts set by Crime Solutions and other evidence-based registries. Because the program did not solely make selections into SSYI on the basis of a quantitative "score" or indicator, the design is referred to here as an "indirect regression discontinuity design." However, in an indirect RDD, because there is a clean break on the "score" between the eleven communities assigned to SSYI and those that were not, the analysis can proceed in similar fashion as if a quantitative score was solely used to make program selections.

In Massachusetts, the 11 cities with the most violent crimes reported to the police in 2010 received SSYI funding. There is a clear break (discontinuity) between communities with SSYI funding and those without: all jurisdictions reporting 477 or more violent offenses to the police in 2010 were included in SSYI. No jurisdiction with 476 or fewer violent offenses reported to the police in 2010 received SSYI funding. RDD in practice does not require that the quantitative assignment variable was explicitly used for assignment, provided that the cutoff "score" is sharp.[46] In this instance, the cutoff above 477 or more violent crimes reported provides a sharp distinction between funded and unfunded communities.

The primary statistical approach in the analyses was multivariate linear regression. We used regression analysis to examine the impact of SSYI on the change in average monthly violent crime rates before and after the implementation of the initiative controlling for the RDD cut score (i.e., violent crime count in 2010) and community-level concentrated disadvantage. To determine whether the changes in crime experienced by SSYI cities were limited to individuals in the SSYI target age range, we also use the indirect regression discontinuity approach to examine violent offenses by older persons, ages 35 and above (we use 35, as it is not likely that witnesses or victims can effectively distinguish someone who is 24 from someone who is 26, which is the second most common way that such identifiers are included in police files behind instances with an actual arrest). Further, we examine the non-violent offenses for each group to see if the effects of preventing violent crimes has a spillover effect on non-violent crimes. If the SSYI is effective, we should see a greater positive impact for offenses by persons ages 14-24 than for persons 35 and older. Again, similar positive impacts for both groups would suggest that larger violence prevention initiatives unique to the funded SSYI sites are exerting influence.

Results

RQ1: To what extent is SSYI associated with changes in violent crime?

The offense data indicate that SSYI cities are more violent relative to comparison cities, but to assess the impact of the program, it is critical to examine the change in crime rates before and after the intervention was introduced. The SSYI cities are considerably more violent than comparison cities, so it would not be a fair comparison to examine changes in the actual number of offenses per month. We instead standardize this comparison by using average monthly rates per 100,000 residents. We start with a comparison of means in the average monthly crime rates

from before and after implementation of SSYI to determine if true differences exist between groups. We attempt to triangulate these findings by examining the same differences among offenses (robberies and non-violent crimes) and persons (offenders 35 and older) not expected to be as positively impacted by the intervention. The results of the comparison of means (Exhibit 12) show that among incidents committed by offenders 14-24 years old, there are significant between group differences in the rate changes for violent crime, homicide, and aggravated assaults. The differences for robberies and non-violent crime are not significant.

Exhibit 12. A comparison of means between treatment and comparison groups in changes of average monthly crime rates from pre- to post-intervention period (14-24 years old)

		SSYI (N=10)		*Non-SSYI (N=30)*	
		Mean	**SE**	**Mean**	**SE**
Violent Crime	***	-4.55	0.69	-1.75	0.34
Homicide	***	-0.11	0.02	-0.02	0.01
Aggravated Assault	**	-3.41	0.58	-1.50	0.33
Robbery		-0.62	0.48	-0.19	0.10
Non-violent Crime		-2.70	0.73	-3.28	0.82
		* p < .05	** p <.01	*** p < .001	

The study team then examined the same difference for incidents committed by individuals 35 and older. The results (Exhibit 13) show that while there are still significant between group differences in the rate changes for violent crime and aggravated assaults, homicide is no longer statistically significant. Interestingly, the one crime for which rates increased after the introduction of SSYI are robbery and non-violent crimes for offenders 35 and older across both SSYI and comparison cities.

Exhibit 13. A comparison of means between treatment and comparison groups in changes of average monthly crime rates from pre- to post-intervention period (35 and older)

		SSYI (N=10)		*Non-SSYI (N=30)*	
		Mean	**SE**	**Mean**	**SE**
Violent Crime	*	-3.43	1.71	0.22	0.67
Homicide		-0.06	0.04	-0.03	0.02
Aggravated Assault	*	-3.37	1.68	0.01	0.61
Robbery		0.48	0.60	0.18	0.15

Non-violent Crime	5.20	3.41	4.00	1.20
	* p < .05	** p < .01	*** p < .001	

Impact of SSYI

Although the differences in crime rate changes for SSYI cities relative to comparison cities was significant, this does not mean that SSYI involvement predicts greater reductions in community crime rates – other confounding factors may be at play. To examine the impact of the program, the study team conducted three statistical analyses using multivariate linear regression. Model 1 examines the impact of SSYI on changes to violent and non-violent crime rates from pre- to post-intervention periods without controlling for selection criteria (RDD_Score). To examine unbiased estimates of the treatment effect, Model 2 introduces the cut score (RDD_Score) that serves as an indirect selection criterion for participation in SSYI. Finally, Model 3 examines how community well-being, measured as concentrated disadvantage, may mediate the relationship between SSYI and changes to crime rates.

Exhibit 14 presents the estimates for treatment effects among the population of youthful male offenders targeted by SSYI (i.e., 14-24 year old offenders). The results of Model 1 suggest that relative to comparison cities, cities participating in SSYI experienced an average drop of 2.8 violent crimes each month per 100,000 residents in the post-intervention period than comparison group cities. The treatment effect remains significant after introducing the selection criteria (RDD Score); these estimates from Model 2 suggest that participation in SSYI results in 2.1 fewer violent crimes each month per 100,000 residents in the post-intervention period compared to cities who do not experience the program. However, Model 3 shows that this apparent treatment effect may be influenced in some way by the relative level of concentrated disadvantage within the community. There are no significant treatment effects found for changes in non-violent crimes.

Exhibit 14. Regression estimates for impact of SSYI on changes in average monthly violent and non-violent crime rates among 14-24 year old offenders

		Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
		B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Violent Crime Rate	SSYI	-2.80***	0.71	-2.12*	.91	-0.68	1.37
	RDD Score			-.0004	.0004	-.0006	.0004

	CD Index					-0.75	0.57
Non-Violent Crime Rate	SSYI	0.58	1.49	-0.18	1.93	2.10	2.90
	RDD Score			.0005	.008	.0003	.008
	CD Index					-1.15	0.88

* p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

To triangulate the findings, the study team applied the same models for incidents committed by persons 35 and older. The result of these estimates (Exhibit 15) suggest that while there appears to be a similar treatment effect regardless of age, these effects are no longer significant when controlling for selection into the treatment group. While not significant, the results of Model 2 suggest that relative to comparison cities, cities participating in SSYI experienced an average drop of 3.76 more violent crimes each month per 100,000 residents in the post-intervention period. Again, there are no significant treatment effects found for changes in non-violent crimes, which suggest that offenders who commit violent offenses, regardless of age, may not be at the same risk for committing certain non-violent offenses.

Exhibit 15. Regression estimates for impact of SSYI on changes in average monthly violent and non-violent crime rates among offenders, ages 35 and older

		Model 1		**Model 2**		**Model 3**	
		B	SE				
Violent Crime Rate	SSYI	-3.65*	1.52	-3.76	2.28	-2.05	3.511
	RDD Score			.00001	.00001	-.0001	.0001
	CD Index					-0.96	1.29
Non-Violent Crime Rate	SSYI	1.20	2.84	3.48	3.65	0.43	5.73
	RDD Score			-.002	.002	-.001	.002
	CD Index					1.69	2.38

* p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001

RQ2: Do norms of violence vary according to levels of concentrated disadvantage in different SSYI communities?

Across sites, each of the four norms of violence survey questions were highly correlated with one another, showing significance at the .001 level (two-tailed) (Appendix A-4). As described in the results just presented, concentrated disadvantage is more closely associated with SSYI

communities than in other cities across the Commonwealth. Chi Square calculations confirm that norms of violence do not vary according to SSYI site (Exhibit 16).

Exhibit 16. Norms of Violence by SSYI Site

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	388.788[a]	480	.999
Likelihood Ratio	306.291	480	1.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.420	1	.233
N of Valid Cases	370		

a. 526 cells (98.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .01.

Despite the similarities between norms of violence survey responses in the SSYI communities, we did find during subsequent focus groups with survey participants that norms of violence were a bit more complicated than our five survey items would otherwise indicate. For example, youth and adult focus group participants described violence by police in their local community or as reported in the media (e.g. rioting after the Freddy Gray incident in Baltimore) as no different or somehow related to interpersonal violence they might experience in their community. Often, these sentiments were expressed through common threads of race and place, which was described in terms of poverty, employment status, and family structure; in many ways matching the variables used to construct our concentrated disadvantage index. (Exhibit 17)

Exhibit 17. Quotations Describing Violence, Race, and Place

"Police just go door to door in my building, it seems every week. They literally kicked down my door looking for someone and my children were terrified we would be shot. Someone was dead on the 2nd floor of the building and I guess they were looking for who did it. Would they investigate a murder in a rich neighborhood that way? I don't think so."

"Not all police are racist – but a lot are."

"One cop would wait for my husband to leave his shift. He would pull him over and question him because our car was in my name not his. The cop knows we are married, but I'm Hispanic and my husband is Black and I guess this cop has a problem with that. We decided to sell the car and the new car is in both our names. We did it to stop the harassment."

"Inmates come clean up in my neighborhood. Poor people don't clean up after themselves and neither do their landlords. Landlords won't let you fix things, like broken screen doors, so it all stays run down looking."

"The gang unit drives around the neighborhood all the time a bunch of them (police) crammed in the car. It's become a joke. You know they are here because they yell out of their windows. Things like "Hey you little shitheads what shit are you in now?" They call us niggers, scumbags. We're just standing there. It's like they want to pick a fight with us and then we are the ones arrested. They are like their own little gang."

To further examine these within-community beliefs, we focus our analysis on differences in norms of violence and community cohesion from survey items and focus group results from across the sample, with specific emphasis on subgroup analysis (e.g. SSYI youth, business owners). We did not find statistically significant variation across sites between norms of violence, neighborhood cohesion, or police legitimacy, but did see substantial differences between communities on the matter of public cooperation with police (Exhibit 18).

Exhibit 18. Between-Site Differences in Norms, Cohesion, Legitimacy, & Cooperation

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Cooperation with Police	266.779	8	33.347	3.122	.002
Police Legitimacy	596.502	50	11.930	1.081	.338
Norms of Violence	370.415	21	17.639	1.648	.037
Neighborhood Cohesion	458.458	40	11.461	1.039	.411

Focus group discussion on the topic of cooperation with police revolved around three key themes (Exhibit 19) related to police responsiveness, a belief that police only make matters worse when they are asked for help, and local retaliation for snitching, or reporting about a problem. There did not seem to be an obvious reason distinguishing sites from one another (e.g., population size, SSYI program structure) in terms of their willingness to cooperate with police, suggesting that local variation in experiences with police may be driving attitudes toward cooperation.

Exhibit 19. Quotations Describing Cooperation with Police

"I learned not to involve the police-I will call the police only if an ambulance is needed."

"My neighbor, we saw them argue and the wife stabbed hubby in the back and we were watching out the window – my parents said it was none of their business – they didn't call cops."

"People mind their business and won't try to help others because people wouldn't help them."

"Brother's best friend got shot. They question them to see – what was experience – cops where respectful but they didn't want to really talk to them."

"At a party and heard a noise and someone pulled out a gun – police asked her if she wanted to make a statement but she didn't."

"Playing football – a person came and started shooting and one hit the coach - police came to player's house to ask if he saw anything – he said no."

"It doesn't matter what neighborhood it is. We had a women screaming that she needed help. We all called police. And waited for 45 minutes until a cruiser rolled up. WE had already taken her to the hospital."

"We waited for 2 hours before police showed up after we called about a robbery."

When looking at differences between participant groups (e.g. SSYI youth, Business Leaders) across sites, more contrast is found concerning youth attitudes about the police, neighborhood cohesion and cooperation with police; however, like concentrated disadvantage, norms of violence appear to be relatively stable regardless of youth type across SSYI sites (Exhibit 20). Business owners held views consistent with other community adults who were not related to SSYI participants, but differed in their view of community cohesion. This was to be expected because business owners often reported living in a different part of the community than where their business is located and where most participants and other members of the sample live.

Exhibit 20. Participant Group Differences: Norms, Cohesion, Legitimacy, & Cooperation

Participant Group (across sites)	F (Sig.)[a]			
	Cohesion	Norms	Legitimacy	Cooperation
SSYI Youth Non-SSYI Youth	8.84 (.003)	4.13 (.043)	11.072 (.001)	12.427 (.001)
SSYI Adult Family Members Community Adults	.098 (.775)	1.192 (.277)	1.479 (.226)	.380 (.538)
Business Owners Community Adults	8.422 (.004)	.040 (.842)	.103 (.749)	4.194 (.043)

a. $p < .05$

Focus group conversations were strikingly similar within subgroups of participants (e.g., SSYI youth, business leaders) across sites, across the range of topics related of norms of violence and interactions with police. Youth, whether involved in SSYI or not had uniformly negative views on police (Exhibit 21).

Exhibit 21. Sample of comments from youth across sites on norms of violence and police

Youth (SSYI and non-SSYI)	
Boston	"*Cops are the biggest gang in Boston"* *"Cops watched the kid die-waited until after to intervene-did not intervene-watched, did not save kid"* *"I don't like anything about Dorchester-violence and abuse-those fun and games when you were doing stupid shit-folks losing their lives-I get tired about looking over my shoulder-might be the last time leaving my crib-need to move-I was a stupid kid-now I know better"*
Youth (SSYI and non-SSYI)	
Fall River	*"The police think they're above the law. You can't trust them. They shout things from their car, calling us names, provoking us. Sometimes it's like they are the gang coming into our neighborhood to pick a fight."* *"Crime and pop-up gangs have gotten worse ever since the jobs went away. Even when there are jobs, people with any kind of record can't find decent work because of the CORI requirements. Even juveniles can't get their records wiped clean."*
Holyoke	*"Kids see crime and don't think it's wrong they see it as cool. Can't get away from crime. people in my block sell drugs."* *"Police aren't good help - they take too long…people bleed out waiting for them."* *"Parents did not call the police – they were home when they were robbed and had to watch."*
Lawrence	*"Parents have done violence to put us where we are."* *"I live very close to a park, always violence there, arguing, looks like people come off the highway to argue there. My parents, they call the cops but they never come. As time moves on they get tired of calling the cops so they don't do it anymore. If city cops are not doing anything why should they?"* *"We see cops not so much as good people, we see them as the enemy. Every situation you call the cops in, the ration is 1 to 10 that they will help you out. All the other times they warn you about something, getting too loud. They get involved but in the wrong way. They don't see what we see. They go to get a paycheck."*
Worcester	*"It depends on the neighborhood. We got robbed and reported it, but no one from the police ever showed up. We called later and they said they had no record of our report."* *"Who polices the cops when they are bad? Why are they so unfair and demanding and intimidating? Why can't they treat us like human beings and help us when we need it?"*

However, negative views about police were not reserved for youth. Adults in our focus groups, including business leaders were also dissatisfied with police performance (Exhibit 22).

Exhibit 22. Sample of comments from adults across sites on norms of violence and police

Adults (community members, family members of SSYI participants, business owners/managers)	
Brockton	*"We have a large undocumented Cape Verdian, Guatemalian, and Peruvian population and there is a lot of fear they will be sent back to their country if they report crime."* *"We have a lot of domestic violence here but people are afraid to call the police."* *"In the past the police worked like a gang for the political powers here, rounding kids up just because they knew they were on probation."* *"It's very dangerous working with the kids who need the most help. I don't want to get shot which is why I don't work with the police- they don't come into my building."*
Chelsea	*"Less confidence in the police. A lot is overlooked by law enforcement"* *"The consensus is that people are not confident in the police because they don't know the police or the community."* *"Victims do not report – most are scared to do so."* *"Kids do not respect police, and this makes prevention a challenge."* *"Some business will call the police and communicate with the police; however, business owners are less likely to testify openly in court."*
Springfield	*"We live near the police station but that doesn't stop crime at all. Needles in the park, glass on the sidewalk. It's dangerous and the police are right there. More should be done."*

Youth and adults shared similar attitudes about the cohesion of their neighborhoods and norms of violence, both community-level variables that are theoretically shared in common based on where people live. But, found variation in attitudes and behaviors related to cooperation with police and police legitimacy, which might be influenced more by individual and family/friend experiences than community-wide experiences. Here we saw divergence between youth and adult attitudes among those involved with SSYI, but not among non-SSYI youth and adults (Exhibit 23).

Exhibit 23. Cohesion, Norms, Legitimacy, and Cooperation - Youth and Adults

Participant Group (across sites)	F (Sig.)[a]			
	Cohesion	Norms	Legitimacy	Cooperation
SSYI Youth SSYI Adult Family Members	1.962 (.164)	.037 (.849)	5.944 (.016)	13.921 (.000)

Non-SSYI Youth Community Adults	.355 (.552)	.000 (.996)	1.502 (.222)	4.865 (.029)

[a] $p < .05$

RQ3: How is police legitimacy and involvement associated with norms of violence[47] in the neighborhoods where the SSYI is located?

We conducted a within-site analysis of data from each SSYI community to examine reports of police behaviors and relationships with the community alongside norms of violence reported by youth, adults, and local business leaders. We found that those youth and adults who viewed police more favorably were also more likely to believe that violence involving weapons or gang activity was wrong. We did not see similar relationships between views on violence against women or against children (Exhibit 24). Interestingly, the only inverse correlation we found between items was for views on police fairness and accountability, and beliefs about child abuse and neglect, but neither of these results was statistically significant.

Exhibit 24. Norms of violence and beliefs about police

	How wrong is it to use a weapon to solve a dispute?	How wrong is involvement in a gang?	How wrong is violence against women?	How wrong is child abuse or neglect?
	Pearson's Correlations(Sig. [two-tailed])			
I have a lot of respect for police	115* (.029)	.187* (.000)	n.s	n.s
On the whole, police officers are honest	n.s.	. n.s	n.s	n.s
I feel proud of the police	n.s	.180** (.001)	n.s	n.s
I am very supportive of the police	n.s	.197** (.000)	n.s	n.s
The police treat people fairly	.107* (.044)	n.s	n.s	n.s
I have confidence in the police	n.s	n.s	n.s	n.s
I think the police perform their job responsibly	n.s	n.s	n.s	n.s
I think the police do their job well	n.s	.108* (.041)	n.s	n.s

** $p < 0.01$ * $p < 0.05$ n.s. = not significant

We also examined cooperation with police in reference to attitudes about police behavior overall, finding very strong relationships between the two. We found weaker relationships

between norms of violence and cooperation with police although some of these relationships were statistically significant (Exhibit 25).

Exhibit 25. Cooperation with Police

	How likely is it that **you would call the police if you had a complaint** against someone causing problems on your block?	How likely is it that **you would call the police if you saw suspicious activity** on your block?
	Pearson's Correlations (Sig. [two-tailed])	
I have a lot of respect for police	.238** (.000)	.222** (.000)
On the whole, police officers are honest	.275** (.000)	.279** (.000)
I feel proud of the police	.292** (.000)	.259** (.000)
I am very supportive of the police	.282** (.000)	.296 (.000)
The police treat people fairly	.253** (.000)	.281** (.000)
I have confidence in the police	.254** (.000)	.257** (.000)
I think the police perform their job responsibly	.190** (.000)	.154** (.000)
I think the police do their job well	.245** (.000)	.129* (.014)
How wrong is it to use a weapon to solve a dispute?	n.s.	.106* (.046)
How wrong is involvement in a gang?	.148** (.005)	.169* (.001)
How wrong is violence against women?	n.s	.114* (.031)
How wrong is child abuse or neglect?	n.s.	n.s.

** p < 0.01 * p < 0.05 n.s. = not significant

During the focus groups we assessed norms of violence through three different scenarios describing gang activity, student bullying, and domestic violence, and asked participants to describe what they would do if they were to witness each situation. Exhibits 26 provides breakdowns of predominant themes, across sites and subgroups, on each of these topics.

Exhibit 26. Cross-site/subgroup themes on behaviors in response to violence scenarios

Focus Group Question	**Dominant Themes**
Conflict between family members	• Would call the police only if it was obvious that an ambulance is needed • None of anyone's business what happens in someone's family

Student bullied walking from school	• Would ignore unless they knew the victim and then would jump in to the fight • Would film it on their phone and share with friends, but not give the video to police or media • If they don't know the person they would not get involved because they might have a gun
Gang conflict outside a business	• There's no point calling police. By the time police get there crime is over • Don't get involved they will just target my business the next time • I would call police but not say who I was or give a report later on.

Resources that support healthy development and provide youth with positive exposure to prosocial opportunities were universally seen as lacking in SSYI communities, as was access to reliable transportation, quality schools, and jobs that pay a living wage (Exhibit 27).

Exhibit 27. Resources and supports in SSYI communities

(N = 370)	**We do not have enough of these**
Jobs that pay enough to live on	92%
Safe schools that have high expectations	70%
Employment or job training programs	78%
Resources to keep young people busy	81%
Public transportation options	51%
Affordable housing	73%
Health services (including mental health)	57%
Substance abuse and AA services	70%
Library, arts, and music programs	68%
Safe parks and athletic spaces	70%

SSYI participants and their family members did not have anything negative to say about the SSYI programs in their communities, although participants rarely used the term "SSYI" because the programs had been branded locally with different names, such as PACT in Boston – which was the name of the preexisting initiative there before SSYI was created by the state. Commonly cited benefits of the SSYI program across sites included:

- Access to paying jobs that provided work every day on a consistent basis (unlike day labor)
- Outreach staff who "have been there" and "got out" of the neighborhoods where youth live
- Outreach staff who youth can depend on to help them out and "keep them going"

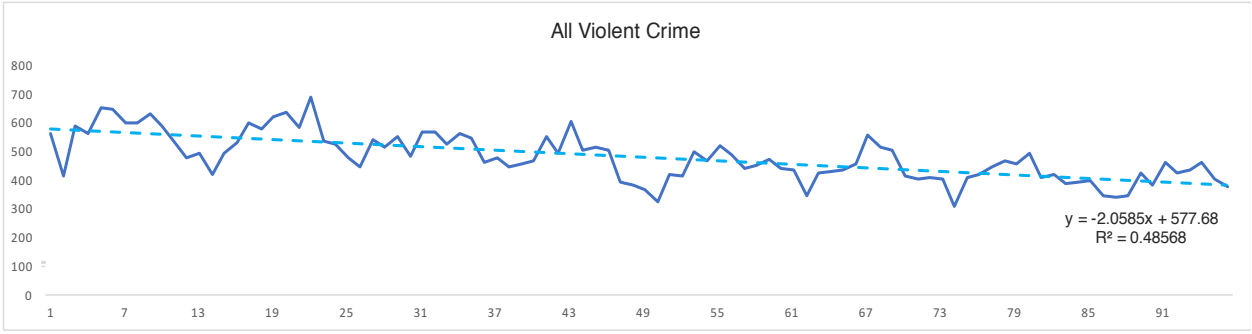
- No pressure to come to the program; if you're not ready "they will wait" and you can come back.

Participants did not believe police were involved in the program and expressed the sentiment that they would not be involved in SSYI if police were there or part of the process. Program staff expressed a similar sentiment; with some even believing their own safety would be compromised if police were seen coming into the SSYI offices. Staff also described having youth from rival gangs working without incident next to each other in GED training classes or working to assemble cosmetic brushes as part of a subsidized work program through the local jail, which had partnered with the SSYI site. Some SSYI sites also provided services to the girlfriends and children of SSYI participants and these sites believed that their investment in these other family members allowed them to engage more fully with the young men who were the primary targets for the program. Related to this, several SSYI participants did express their belief that becoming a parent had changed the way they thought about the future, caring about their child in a way that changed the decisions they make that affect their own and their child's future together.

RQ4: How did the introduction of SSYI in Boston accelerate predicted changes in violent crime influenced by other violence prevention efforts?

Violent crime in Boston followed the same pattern of decline seen in the other SSYI cities from 2007 through 2014 (Exhibit 28).

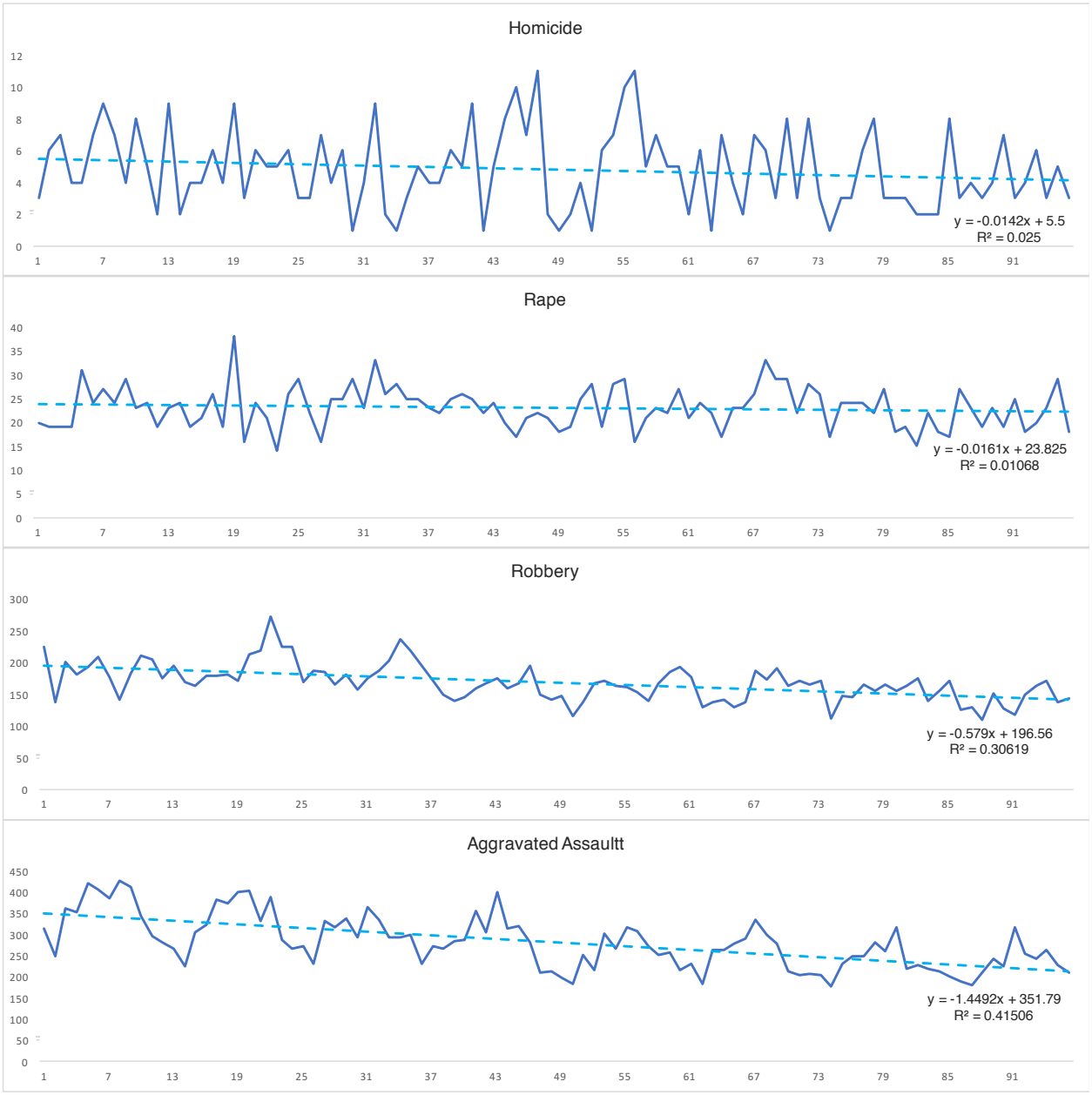
Exhibit 28. Changes in Monthly Violent Crime: Boston January 2007 through December 31, 2014



2007 2014

Declines in aggravated assault had the largest influence on decreasing incidents of violence (Exhibit 29).

Exhibit 29. Changes by Violent Crime Type: Boston Jan. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2014



Violence Prevention Program, Policy, and Practice Interruptions

To examine different intervention interruption points that might explain these decreasing trends, we organized data on violence prevention programs, policies, and practices—as well as high profile violence or policing-related events (e.g. Boston Marathon Bombing)—by start date, duration, violence type (e.g. bullying, gangs), prevention type (e.g. primary, secondary), population focus, and implementation level (e.g., one to one, community-wide). We removed

from consideration any interruption that did not have a presence in the Boston community for at least a 12-month period. Policy efforts were defined as those directed at changing organizational behavior (e.g. housing policies for former gang/criminal offenders) whereas practice efforts were defined as those aimed at changing professional behavior (e.g. police officer practices). Programs were considered to be efforts aimed at changing behavior of those most likely to commit or be victims of violence.

While we could find evidence that many different programs, policies, and practices existed during different points of time over the study period (2007–2014), we found that recordkeeping within organizations and public documentation (including state-level funding reports) of these efforts was very inconsistent, limiting the utility of analysis for our study. For example, of the 47 violence programs identified over the eight-year period, only six could provide clear start and end dates, an age-specific description of the target population, a theory of change that specified the level of prevention (e.g. primary), and implementation level. Many programs believed their work was reaching others beyond those in the program (e.g. friends of youth), yet could not connect this belief back to their program implementation process or any report on program results. Results were even less complete for policies (N = 12) and practices (N = 16), with only three of the 28 producing clear documentation of how, when, and with whom the policy or practice was implemented. For example, a Boston newspaper reported that a religious institution had hired a person to do preventive outreach with teenagers who might be susceptible to recruitment by Islamic extremists. Yet when asked about this practice and its start date, or if it was ongoing, staff at the religious institution could not speak specifically to this reported practice and instead said they had a variety of youth prevention activities in place to "prevent all kinds of harms, like drugs and family conflict, not exclusively terrorism." While it might be interesting to look more deeply at those programs, practices, and policies that could produce documentation of their existence, process, and purpose, this type of analysis does not enable us to understand whether it is SSYI alone or SSYI in combination with the other violence prevention efforts that is related to decreased violence in Boston between 2007 to 2014.

Discussion

Cities implementing SSYI saw statistically significant reductions in crime among the population of young adults ages 14-25 who are targeted by the program when compared with 32 other cities in the state that did not have SSYI available to them. In Boston the reductions in violent crime could not be explained by SSYI alone, but models that contained SSYI were stronger than those that did not contain SSYI. Concentrated disadvantage was higher in the SSYI cities than in the other 32 comparison cities that did not use SSYI, and could not be explained through correlational errors. Norms of violence could not be distinguished by concentrated disadvantage levels in SSYI cities because of the similarity in disadvantage across sites. And, norms of violence themselves took on very consistent patterns from the perspective of how individuals would respond if they witnessed a violent incident, with the vast majority of youth and adults declining to intervene or call police – unless there was a medical emergency requiring an ambulance. And even then, great doubt was expressed that a response would come in time to provide needed medical assistance.

Police relationships in the SSYI communities are unilaterally poor and often entangled with issues of race, poverty, and place. Police behaviors were often described in terms of harassment and bullying, treating residents like criminals or as though they were somehow not good enough to receive protection from the police. Kinder views described police as burned out or departments as understaffed, but all agreed that the end results was the same – the community does not respect the police and the police do not seem to care about the community. This was true even for those coming from higher income neighborhoods, who said that police responsiveness and rudeness was a problem. Youth and adults alike cite a lack of prosocial resources for youth (e.g., clean parks, activities) as well as deficits in safe housing, quality schools, and jobs that pay enough to allow parents to be at home when youth come back from school – rather than parents having to work multiple jobs, often around the clock. Police legitimacy and norms of violence were similarly consistent across the SSYI communities and though we cannot make any claims as to the relationship between the two in terms of cause and effect, the fact that this consistency is present in communities where crime and violence is also greatest suggests more studies should be done to examine in what ways these characteristics are driving or related with one another to aid crime prevention efforts.

Related to this, while focused deterrence approaches have shown promise in the literature, it is clear from our study that in cities like those implementing SSYI where police legitimacy is very low and relationships with police are so poor focused deterrence approaches would be very challenging, and perhaps even harmful, to implement. To this point, youth in SSYI commented that if police were involved in SSYI they would not have agreed to participate. In contrast, SSYI was universally seen as a positive presence in each community, and often the only support that gun and gang-involved youth could access. The jobs provided through SSYI were its most lauded service, although many youth would like to see fewer jobs that focused on manual labor (e.g., construction work) and more jobs that lead to professional careers in the arts or technology. Aside from jobs, youth and adults involved in the program praised the outreach workers for inspiring young people to join and stick with the program. These individuals were described like coaches or mentors who youth looked up to. In Boston, we could not establish SSYI as the only positive support available to assist youth involved with gangs and guns. Other programs were mentioned by youth and adults that collaborate with SSYI to provide housing and other services that were valued by SSYI participants.

Limitations

The survey and focus group data, while rich and informative, were collected at just one point in time, were drawn from a small sample of individuals within each SSYI community, and do not contain any comparison communities from areas that did not implement the SSYI. Given the budget constraints and multiple research questions in our study, however, it was not possible to extend the data collection beyond this very targeted group of individuals for more than one data collection round. Still, the information from these 55 focus groups and 370 surveys represents the richest data collected to date on the experiences of individuals living within communities at heightened risk of gun violence, their relationships with police, norms of violence, and a view into the resource environment that is available in areas of concentrated disadvantage to support or depress positive youth development opportunities.

The findings from the RDD are generally consistent with other outcomes in the current study and prior studies conducted on the SSYI by the evaluation team. While the findings support the notion that there is evidence of program impact in the communities that implement SSYI, it is important to take note of limitations to the study when considering its findings. The limitations

for the RDD component of the study are generally tied to the source of data and the methods used to examine the data. The primary sources of data for the RDD study were the Boston Police Department (BPD) and the Massachusetts State Police (MSP). Each data source provided unique limitations within the procurement process, but common themes emerged. Staff turnover was a challenge in Boston and at the state. Analysts who provided the original data files left their respective agencies during the study, which required the evaluation team and departments to repeat development and procurement discussions in order to replicate the data files provided in the original data requests.

Data alignment was also a key challenge. Boston, the largest city in our study, and in the state, does not submit data to NIBRS. In this case, we had to work directly with the Boston Police Department (BPD) to access the needed data. This required additional work with the BPDs data analysts (who changed twice over the course of the project) to review what data they had, determine which data would align with the data needs for the study and align with the other cities in the sample, and clean the data so it was useful for analysis. For example, the data entered into their system is based largely on open-response incident reports, which requires substantial coding by the research team to align with the complex coding structures set forth within the NIBRS system.

Missing data is also an issue not unique to the study, but one that posed a challenge to our analyses. Official crime data is often plagued by a variety of missing data. The data missing in our current study were due to participation in NIBRS, incident reports, and true missing data. Certain cities did not begin reporting to NIBRS until well into the study period. This required the study team to drop two comparison cities from the analyses, because there was no pre-intervention data available for analysis. In addition, Lawrence, MA is an SSYI city that does not report to NIBRS and did not have the capacity to provide proxy data for the evaluation, and was therefore dropped from analysis. For data that was available, the study team was at the mercy of the accuracy and reliability of the incident reports from agencies. Finally, there is true missing data that is an issue with all crime data. The majority of crimes other than homicide are not cleared by arrest, which means characteristics of the offender are either missing or based on victim and bystander statements. This was a particular issue to the current study, because the analyses relied on age-based categories for benchmark and secondary analyses. For incidents in which a valid age was reported for the offender or arrestee, the approach was to average the age

across all known offenders. If victim's age was known, but offender age was missing, we imputed the average victim age as a proxy. While this is a limitation, it is based on the understanding that most violent crimes occur between victims and offenders with similar characteristics, including age.

The methodological design used to examine the impact of SSYI is a regression discontinuity design (RDD) controlling for city-level concentrated disadvantage. There are limitations to this design and the units used in the analysis that have implications for future research in this area. First, the RDD relies on a cut score that separates all treatment units from comparison units. Traditionally, this cut score is used to assign treatment. In the current study, the RDD cut score was established as the 2010 violent crime counts in Massachusetts cities. All SSYI cities fell above 477 violent crimes and all other cities fell below this score, thus making for a clean RDD cut score. For the study, the next 32 violent cities were selected as comparison units. However, while the RDD is a valid design given the scoring, it is important to consider the contextual differences between the groups. SSYI funding is provided to mid-to-large (by state standard) cities with high levels of violence and poverty. In contrast, the comparison cities are generally smaller, much less violent, slightly more affluent, and may have other types of crime (e.g., drug and non-violent crimes) that are more significant issues for residents. Therefore, it is important to consider if it is valid to compare communities that may not share the same propensity for violence as those who received the intervention even if the design is methodological valid. The results for the study did parallel those found using other statistical approaches (e.g., interrupted time series), which provided the study team with some confidence in their appropriateness.

Finally, the impact estimates present three models. The third model controls for concentrated disadvantage and baseline violent crime in addition to the RDD score. While data checks for multicollinearity between the independent variables did not yield significant results, there is strong contextual overlap between these variables. It is possible that the coefficients estimated by this model are less precise when including concentrated disadvantage as a covariate in addition to violent crime.

Implications

In short, this study and those done on other multi-sector urban gun violence strategies, including Cure Violence and CeaseFire, try to associate individual level behavior with outcomes

that are only being measured in the aggregate at different geographic levels of crime and violence, be that within neighborhoods and street segments or at the municipal level. Our impact study examined community-level crime and violence changes, because the intervention is intended to be a community-level initiative. However, the reality as we know from the literature is that crime is concentrated in certain neighborhoods; even within violent communities. It is possible that examining the impact of the initiative at the community-level somehow masks the true impact within areas particularly afflicted by violence and likely targeted with the initiative's resources. Future studies may consider implications for analyzing crime prevention initiatives within certain neighborhoods at the highest risk for violence or above some common threshold for disadvantage.

Overall, this study and those like studying community-based urban gun violence approaches often suffer from a mismatch between the object of prevention (individual behavior) and prevention results (community crime reduction) and is often the result of having poor or nonexistent implementation information or guidance to those implementing the strategies or programs in use[48] and the limitations of official crime data that cannot drill down into person-specific details. Related to this, our study tried to fill this gap to some extent by presenting the association between treatment and reduction in violence for offenders ages 14–25 (the age group targeted by SSYI) and for offenders ages 35 and older. It is possible that the imputation for missing age data could result in contamination between these groups. That is, if the offender age was missing from the data file and the victim age was 35, it is possible that the offender was coded as 35 even if he was younger; potentially even 24 or younger. This could lead to underestimates or inflated estimates in the model, but it is unlikely that this type of error was large enough to influence the statistical significance of any finding.

The unintended positive consequence of encountering limitations with official crime data from BPD was providing an opportunity for our team to work with the BPD analyst to examine what incident/offender/victim data they had—which they do not routinely use otherwise—and enabled BPD for the first time to link demographic data on offenders with incident level data on offenses. In the future, when community-based research studies are done with police data, efforts should be made to use proactively use project resources to build the capacity of the police to improve on the usefulness of their data for their own and future research purposes, while also benefitting the quality and precision of the research as well.

Clearly, there is a nexus between areas of concentrated disadvantage and areas of heightened crime and violence. While individuals will vary in their risk to engage in crime and violence based on criminogenic risk factors, and many individuals from these communities will never engage in criminal or violent behaviors, their risk of exposure to crime and violence in these communities is much less variable. Questions remain on the best means to construct the idea of concentrated disadvantage and to understand its relationship to crime and violence. It is possible that concentrated disadvantage masks other issues that are driving the crime problem in these communities, and confound attempts to measure the association between interventions and community violence. These factors might not be within the scale for concentrated disadvantage. There may be other important factors that influence the likelihood of a treatment effect (e.g., community readiness to implement effective prevention strategies) that may be a consequence of concentrated disadvantage or an independent factor; which, if included, may improve the precision of these estimates and should be examined in future studies. Related to this, it may be beneficial to examine the role of social determinants of health in relation to crime and violence in these communities, rather than limit the discussion to poverty-related characteristics.

This study attempted to address knowledge in the field of urban gun violence prevention approaches by improving the individual-level specificity of incident data within BPD and by examining the qualitative context of the settings, relationships, and experiences of SSYI participants, who represent that small slice of the population in Massachusetts that has been responsible for almost all of the violent crime that state has experienced since 2012. More multi-method studies are needed that combine detailed and specific individual-level, official crime data on violence with more precise intervention implementation, participant dosage, and well-being outcomes from these efforts, and qualitative data into the nuanced contextual interfaces between person, place, and behavior as they relate to sticky issue of urban gun violence.

Lastly, the SSYI approach is now associated with substantial and sustained reductions in community-level violence in communities that implemented the approach. In an era where police-community relationships are strained or even flaring into conflict, and policing itself is an expensive enterprise, the SSYI approach could be a valuable alternative to consider, since it does not include police suppression tactics. However, implementation-level study must be done to identify what core components of SSYI may be leading to the individual level changes in behavior that are driving population-level changes among the most violent offenders in the community.

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[29] For more information on JSRA, and the guidance they provide to analysts, see http://www.jrsa.org/ibrrc/.

[30] The variable is based on the most serious offense in a given incident. Serious violent crime include homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery.

[31] The variable is based on the most serious offense in a given incident.

[32] Serious violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, or robbery.

[33] Non-violent crime includes larceny, breaking & entering, or motor vehicle theft.

[34] https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

[35] Two comparison group cities, Framingham and Salem, did not contribute any data to NIBRS for the pre-intervention period and were dropped from the impact estimates described below.

36 Individual scores were standardized by subtracting the mean of the distribution from the variable value and dividing the difference by the standard deviation of the distribution (Z = (score - mean)/standard deviation).

[37] While the state contributed 9 years of NIBRS data, the study team was limited to the 8 years provided by Boston.

[38] The primary interest of these analyses is the impact of SSYI. SSYI focused specifically on male offenders, and so we limited our data to include offenses with at least one male offender.

[39] It is possible to define the start of SSYI as January 2010 or 2011. All communities were informed of funding in 2010, but it is likely that implementation did not fully start until 2011.

[40] The categories for age include 13 and younger; 14-24 years old; 25-24 years old; 35-64 years old; 65 and older.

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Appendix A. Data Exhibits

Exhibit A-1: NIBRS Data Variables

Exhibit A-2: Boston Police Department Data Variables

Exhibit A-3: Final Data Variables

Exhibit A-4: Between City Estimates by Individual Offense Type (SSYI and non-SSYI)

Exhibit A-5: Norms of Violence Item Correlations

Exhibit A-1: NIBRS Raw Data File Codebook

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
ibr_rec	IBR Record Type	Nominal		Header information
rdw	Record dscriptor word	Scale		
action	Action type	Nominal		
tapemo	Month	Nominal		
tapeyr	Year	Scale		
city	City - not used	Nominal		
ori	Agency ORI	Nominal		Incident Record Information Record Type 1
inc_num	Incident number	Nominal		
inc_date	Incident date	Scale		
inc_yr	Incident year	Scale		
inc_mo	Incident month	Nominal		
inc_dy	Incident day	Scale		
inc_hr	Incident hour	Scale		
rptdate	Report date (if different from incident date	Nominal		
excp_clr	Exceptional clearance date	Nominal		
exclr_yr	Exceptional clearance year	Scale		
exclr_mo	Exceptional clearnace month	Nominal		
exclr_dy	Exceptional clearance day	Scale		
incoff1	Incident offense(s)	Nominal		
lat	Latitude	Scale		
long	Longitude	Scale		
st_num	Street Number	Nominal		
st_name	Street Name	Nominal		
add_inf	Additional address information	Nominal		

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
loc_name	Local name (i.e., Business Name or School)	Nominal		
off_code	Offense	Nominal		Offense Record Information Record Type 2
att_comp	Indicator of Attempted or Completed	Nominal	""	
suspuse1	Offender suspected of using (Alcohol, Drugs, Computer Equipment)	Nominal	Alcohol Computer Equipment Drugs/Narcotics Not Applicable	
off_loc	Offense location	Nominal		
prem_ent	# of premises entered	Scale		
meth_ent	Method of entry	Nominal		
crimact1	Type of criminal activity	Nominal	Buying Cultivating/Manufacturing/Publishing Distributing/Selling Exploiting Children Other Gang Juvenile Gang None/unknown Operating/Promoting/Assisting Possessing/Concealing Transporting/Transmitting/Importing Using/Consuming	

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
weapon 1	Weapon(s)	Nominal	Firearm Handgun Rifle Shotgun Other Firearm Knife/Cutting Instrument Blunt Object Motor Vehicle Personal Weapons Poison Explosives Fire/Incendiary Device Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills Asphyxiation Other Unknown None	
autowpn1	Automatic Weapon indicator	Nominal		
bias1	Bias motivation	Nominal		
losstype	Type of loss	Nominal	None Burned (includes damage caused in fighting the fire) Counterfeited/Forged Destroyed/Damaged/Vandalized Recovered (to impound property that was previously stolen) Seized (to impound property that was not previously stolen) Stolen/Etc. (includes bribed, defrauded, embezzled, extorted, ransomed, robbed, etc.) Unknown	Property Record Information Record Type 3

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
p_desc1	Property description(s)	Nominal	41 values in NIBRS	
p_valu1	Property value(s)	Scale		
p_date1	Recovery date(s)	Scale		
MVT_num	# of stolen MV	Nominal		
mvt_reco	# of recovered MV	Nominal		
drugtyp1	Drug type(s)	Nominal		
wholqua1	Drug quantity(ies)	Scale		
fracqua1	Drug quantity factional amount(s)	Scale		
typmeas1	Drug measure(s)	Nominal		
p_off1	Property offense #1	Nominal		
vic_num	Victim Number	Scale		Victim Record Information Record Type 4
v_off1	Victim offense(s)	Nominal		
v_type	Victim type	Nominal	Business Financial Institution Government Individual Other Religious Organization Society/Public Unknown	
vic_age	Victim age	Nominal		
v_sex	Victim gender	Nominal		
v_race	Victim race	Nominal	Asian/Pacific Islander Black American Indian/Alaskan Native Unknown White	

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
v_ethnic	Victim ethnicity	Nominal		
v_resid	Victim residence status	Nominal	Nonresident Resident Unknown	
vcircum1	Agg Assault/homicide circumstance(s)	Nominal	Argument Assault on Law Enforcement Officer(s) Drug Dealing Gangland (Organized Crime Involvement) Juvenile Gang Lovers' Quarrel Mercy Killing (Not applicable to Aggravated Assault) Other Felony Involved Other Circumstances Unknown Circumstances Criminal Killed by Private Citizen Criminal Killed by Police Officer Child Playing With Weapon Gun-Cleaning Accident Hunting Accident Other Negligent Weapon Handling Other Negligent Killings	
vjustho m	Additional justifiable homicide circumstance	Nominal	Criminal Attacked Police Officer and That Officer Killed Criminal Criminal Attacked Police Officer and Criminal Killed by Another Police Officer Criminal Attacked a Civilian Criminal Attempted Flight From a Crime	

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
			Criminal Killed in Commission of a Crime Criminal Resisted Arrest Unable to Determine/Not Enough Information	
v_inj1	Injury(ies)	Nominal		
ofnseq1	Offender number(s) to be related	Nominal		
ovr1	Victim-offender relationship(s)	Nominal		
leo_typ	LEOKA type	Nominal		
leo_asgn	LEOKA assignment type	Nominal		
leo_act	LEOKA activity	Nominal		
ofnseq	Offender sequence number	Scale		Offender Record information Record Type 5
off_age	Offender age	Nominal		
off_sex	Offender gender	Nominal		
off_race	Offender race	Nominal		
arrseq	Arrest sequence number	Scale		Arrestee Record Information Record Type 6
atr	Arrestee transaction number (OBTN)	Nominal		
arr_yr	Arrest year	Scale		
arr_mo	Arrest month	Nominal		
arr_dy	Arrest day	Scale		
arr_type	Arrest type	Nominal		
msg	Multiple arrest indicator	Nominal		
arr_off	Arrest offense	Nominal	Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
			Forcible Rape Robbery Aggravated Assault Burglary/Breaking and Entering Motor Vehicle Theft Pocket-picking Purse-snatching Shoplifting Theft From Building Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device Theft From Motor Vehicle Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories All Other Larceny Simple Assault Intimidation Forcible Sodomy Sexual Assault With An Object Forcible Fondling Rape of a Male Kidnaping/Abduction Negligent Manslaughter Justifiable Homicide Arson Extortion/Blackmail Counterfeiting/Forgery False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud Impersonation Welfare Fraud Wire Fraud Embezzlement Stolen Property Offenses	

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
			Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property Drug/Narcotics Violations Drug Equipment Violations Incest Statutory Rape Pornography/Obscene Material Betting/Wagering Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling Gambling Equipment Violations Sports Tampering Prostitution Assisting or Promoting Prostitution Bribery Weapon Law Violations	
arr_wpn 1	Arrestee weapon	Nominal		
arr_age	Arrestee age	Scale		
arr_sex	Arrestee gender	Nominal		
arr_race	Arrestee race	Nominal		
arr_ethn	Arrestee ethnicity	Nominal		
arr_res	Arrestee residence status	Nominal		
arr_disp	Arrestee disposition (juvenile)	Nominal		
msvoff	Most serious offense	Scale		Computed Variables
mur	Count of murders in incident	Nominal		
rap	Count of rapes in incident	Nominal		

Variable Information				
NIBRS Variable	**Variable Description**	**Measurement Level**	**Response Values/Labels**	
rob	Count of robberies in incident	Nominal		
aggasl	Count of agg assaults in incident	Nominal		
bur	Count of burglaries in incident	Nominal		
lar	Count of larcenies in incident	Nominal		
mvt	Count of mvt in incidents	Nominal		
oth_asl	Count of other assaults in incident	Nominal		
firearm	Indicator of firearm in incident	Nominal		
closeovr	Closest offender to victim relationship	Nominal	Intimate partner Other domestic Non-domestic but known to victim Stranger Relationship unknown or missing	

Exhibit A-2: Boston Police RAW Data File Codebook

Variable Information		
Variable Name	**Variable Description**	**Response Values/Labels**
	Incident Date	
VIC_RELATE_NUM	Victim Offender Relationship	
WEAP_TYPE_NUM	Weapon Type	1 Firearm 2 Knife 3 Other 4 Unarmed
DOMESTIC_NUM	Flag for domestic incident	0 No 1 Yes
UCRPART_NUM	UCR Part Number	1 Other 2 Part One 3 Part three 4 Part Three 5 Part Two
REPTDISTRIC_NUM	Reporting District	1 A1 2 A15 3 A7 4 B2 5 B3 6 C11 7 C6 8 CCU 9 D14 10 D4 11 DVU 12 E13 13 E18 14 E5 15 HTU
COMPUTEDCRIMECODE_NUM	Criminal Code	
GEOID10_NUM	Geographical ID	
PERSONTYPE_NUM	Flag for Offender or Victim	2 OFFENDER 3 VICTIM

Variable Information		
Variable Name	**Variable Description**	**Response Values/Labels**
RACE_NUM	Race	2 ASIAN 3 BLACK HISPANIC 4 BLACK NON-HISPANIC 5 EAST INDIAN 6 N/A 7 NATIVE AMERICAN 8 UNKNOWN 9 WHITE HISPANIC 10 WHITE NON-HISPANIC
GENDER_NUM	Gender	2 FEMALE 3 MALE 4 MALE TO 5 N/A 6 UNKNOWN
AGE	Age	

Exhibit A-3: Final Data Variables

Variable Name	Variable Label	Response Label
Agency_Name	Agency Name	1 Attleboro 2 Barnstable 3 Beverly 4 Boston 5 Brockton 6 Brookline 7 Cambridge 8 Chelsea 9 Chicopee 10 Everett 11 Fall River 12 Falmouth 13 Fitchburg 14 Framingham 15 Greenfield 16 Haverhill 17 Holyoke 18 Leominster 19 Lowell 20 Lynn 21 Malden 22 Marlborough 23 Methuen 24 New Bedford 25 North Adams 26 Northampton 27 Peabody 28 Pittsfield 29 Plymouth 30 Quincy 31 Randolph 32 Revere 33 Salem 34 Somerville 35 Springfield 36 Stoughton 37 Taunton 38 Waltham 39 Wareham 40 West Springfield 41 Weymouth 42 Worcester
Post_Monthly_Violent_Crime	Post SSYI Violent Crime Count	
Post_Monthly_Homicide	Post SSYI Homicide Count	
Post_Monthly_AggAssault	Post SSYI Aggrevated Assault Count	
Post_Monthly_Robbery	Post SSYI Robbery Count	

Variable Name	Variable Label	Response Label
Post_Monthly_NonVC	Post SSYI Non-violent Crime Count	
Pre_Monthly_Violent_Crime	Pre SSYI Violent Crime Count	
Pre_Monthly_Homicide	Pre SSYI Homicide Count	
Pre_Monthly_AggAssault	Pre SSYI Aggrevated Assault Count	
Pre_Monthly_Robbery	Pre SSYI Robbery Count	
Pre_Monthly_NonVC	Pre SSYI Non-violent Crime Count	
Post_Monthly_Violent_Crime_Rate	Post SSYI Violent Crime Rate	
Post_Monthly_Homicide_Rate	Post SSYI Homicide Rate	
Post_Monthly_AggAssault_Rate	Post SSYI Aggrevated Assault Rate	
Post_Monthly_Robbery_Rate	Post SSYI Robbery Rate	
Post_Monthly_NonVC_Rate	Post SSYI Non-violent Crime Rate	
Pre_Monthly_Violent_Crime_Rate	Pre SSYI Violent Crime Rate	
Pre_Monthly_Homicide_Rate	Pre SSYI Homicide Rate	
Pre_Monthly_AggAssault_Rate	Pre SSYI Aggrevated Assault Rate	

Variable Name	Variable Label	Response Label
Pre_Monthly_Robbery_Rate	Pre SSYI Robbery Rate	
Pre_Monthly_NonVC_Rate	Pre SSYI Non-violent Crime Rate	
Firearm_Bin	Flag for firearm used in incident	0,No 1,Yes
Population	City Population (2010)	
RDD_Score	RDD Score	
Poverty_Percent	Percent of residents below poverty line	
Assistance_Percent	Percent of residents on public assistance	
FHH_Percent	Percent of female-headed households	
Unemployed_Percent	Percent of residents unemployed	
U18_Percent	Percent of residents under 18 years old	
CD_Index	Concentrated Disadvantage Index	
ssyi	Flag for SSYI city	0,No 1,Yes
Violent_Crime_Rate_Change	Pre/Post Violent Crime Rate Change	

Variable Name	Variable Label	Response Label
Homicide_Rate_Change	Pre/Post Homicide Rate Change	
AggAssault_Rate_Change	Pre/Post Aggrevated Assault Rate Change	
Robbery_Rate_Change	Pre/Post Robbery Rate Change	
NonVC_Rate_Change	Pre/Post Non-violent Crime Rate Change	

Appendix B: Data Collection Instruments

Exhibit B-1: Survey Protocol and Instrument

Exhibit B-2: Focus Group Protocol and Questions

Exhibit B-3: Key Informant Interview Protocol

Exhibit B-4: Observation Protocol

Exhibit B-5: Consent/Assent Forms

Exhibit B-6: Environmental Scan Protocol

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)

Survey Protocol

Purpose: These surveys will be used to collect information from focus group participants who consent to participate in a research study involving the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), a violence prevention program implemented in eleven cities in the state of Massachusetts. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The questions will be used to measure community norms of violence, relationship with the police, involvement in the SSYI program and demographic information.

Sample: Participants will be recruited through each SSYI's site coordinator and the partner agencies associated with the initiative. At each site there will be 5 separate focus groups convened, consisting of program and non-program youth (2 groups), program parents/caregivers and non-program adults (2 groups), and local business persons (1 group) to solicit feedback from a variety of perspectives. A quota sampling process will be used to generate enough participants for each of the five (5) different focus groups in each SSYI community, based on the characteristics of persons we are trying to recruit for this study. Because of this on-random sampling approach, not every person in the community has an equal probability of being selected.

Consent: Upon arriving at the focus group location, participants will be asked to review and sign consent and assent forms (for youth under age 18). The consent form clearly describes the purpose of the study, what participants will be asked to do, benefits and risks of participation, and information they can use to contact the researchers, the IRB, their freedom to refuse to respond to any question or to withdraw at any time from the study. Participants will be offered an unsigned copy of the consent form to take with them.

Method: There will be two tables set up for participants to visit when they arrive. One will have the consent forms and staff will be present to help them fill those out. The other will have the survey tools, including paper surveys and pencils, and staff will also be able to help participants with that process. Participants will have a comfortable and semi-private place to sit and complete the survey. The survey is one page (double-sided) in length and will take less than five (5) minutes to complete. The survey will be available in English and any other language that the SSYI site coordinator believes is needed. The survey will be in pencil and paper form and once completed participants will be asked to place the survey in a manila envelope they will seal before giving to the researchers on site. After all participants complete the survey, the focus group will begin.

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FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY	
Date:	Location:

Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Focus Group Participant Survey

Directions: The following survey questions ask for information that will help the researchers compare the experiences and views of focus group participants across the eleven different cities where the study is happening. Your answers are confidential and anonymous. After you complete both sides of this form please place it in the provided envelope and seal it before handing it to the researcher. Do not place your name or any other identifying information on this form.

Thank you for completing the survey and for participating in the focus group that follows.

Part 1- Neighborhood Environment

Directions: Below are statements about things that people in your neighborhood may or may not think or do. For each of these statements, please check the appropriate box, if you "strongly agree", "agree", "disagree", "strongly disagree" or "don't know".

	Strongly agree	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**	**Don't know**	**Refused**
This is a close-knit neighborhood	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
People around here are willing to help their neighbors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
People in this neighborhood generally don't get along with each other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
People in this neighborhood do not share the same values	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
People in this neighborhood can be trusted	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 2-Youth Behaviors

Directions: People have different opinions about how wrong things are. For each of the following activities, please indicate how wrong (Extremely wrong, very wrong, wrong, a little wrong or not wrong at all) you think it is for teenagers/young adults around nineteen years to do the following:

	Extremely wrong	Very wrong	Wrong	A little wrong	Not wrong at all	Don't know	Refused
Getting into fist fights	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Using a weapon to settle a dispute	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Involvement in a gang	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Violence against women	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Child abuse or neglect	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 3. Role of Police

Directions: Please tell me if you "strongly agree", "agree", "disagree", or "strongly disagree with the following statements about the local police.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Refused
I have a lot of respect for the [city] police.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
On the whole [city] police officers are honest.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel proud of the [city] police.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am very supportive of the [city] police.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The [city] police treat people fairly.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have confidence in the [city] police.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think the [city] police perform their job professionally.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think the [city] police do their job well.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY	
Date:	Location:

Construct: Police Cooperation

Directions: How likely is it that you would call the police if each of the following situations happened tomorrow?

	Very likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know	Refused
You have a complaint against someone causing problems on your block?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
You have an emergency situation?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
You see suspicious activity on your block?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 4-Community Resources: Below is a list of general resources for community residents. For each, please check the appropriate box to show if your city has enough of these things to meet the community's needs.

	We have enough of these	We don't have enough of these	Don't know	Refused
Resources to keep young people busy	☐	☐	☐	☐
Jobs that pay enough to live on	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safe schools that have high expectations	☐	☐	☐	☐
Employment/job training programs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public transportation options	☐	☐	☐	☐
Affordable housing	☐	☐	☐	☐
Health services (Including mental health)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Substance abuse and AA services	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library, arts and music programs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Safe Parks and Athletic Spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐

What are the most important resources your community needs to keep young people away from crime? _____
_____

Part 5. About You

Instructions: These last few questions are important because they help the researchers group together answers from similar people (like males and females) to understand the different views of each group. None of your answers are connected to who you are, which is why your name is not on this form. All of this information is protected by the researchers and kept private, which is why you will put the form in the sealed envelope when you're done.

1. Are you involved in the (City name here) Safe and Successful Youth Initiative – SSYI? (Please select **ONE**)

☐	I am a youth participant or former participant
☐	I am a relative of someone involved/was involved in SSYI
☐	I am a youth with no involvement in SSYI
☐	I am a community member/business person with no involvement in SSYI
☐	I am a community member/business person involved in SSYI
☐	Refused

Where were you born?
☐ United States OR ☐ Outside the United States , in _____(Name of country)

How do you describe your race and ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

Race		**Ethnicity**	
☐	American Indian or Alaskan Native		
☐	Native Hawaiian (or other Pacific Islander)		
☐	Asian		
☐	Black or African American	☐	Hispanic
☐	White	☐	Non-Hispanic
☐	Refused		

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FOR RESEARCH USE ONLY	
Date:	Location:

What language do you usually use at home?

☐ English OR ☐Spanish OR ☐Portuguese OR ☐Arabic OR ☐Other:_____ OR ☐ Refused

What is your gender?

☐ Male OR ☐Female OR ☐Transgender (Male to Female) OR ☐Transgender (Female to Male) OR ☐ Refused

What is your sexual orientation?

☐Gay OR ☐Lesbian OR ☐ Heterosexual (Straight) OR ☐Questioning/Undecided OR ☐ Bisexual OR ☐ Refused

Which describes your current housing circumstances?

Lives in Family's Rented Home/Apt	Lives in Family's Owned Home	Lives on the Streets or in a Homeless Shelter	Lives in Group Home	Group Home	Lives at Various Friend's Houses	Other	Refused
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Which of these describe you best?

Didn't Finish High School	Still in High School	Graduated High School/Earned G.E.D.	Currently in College/Technical School	Completed College/Technical Program	Completed a Graduate or Professional Degree	Refused
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Do you receive any of the following? Please check ALL that apply.

TANF/ TAFDC	SNAP/Food Stamps	Medicaid	Refugee Resettlement	SSDI	SSI	WIC	Section 8/HUD	Refused
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Which of these describes your current situation? Please select ALL that apply

Working full-time	Working part-time	Unemployed	Student	Retired	Unable to Work	Refused
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What is your total household income - from all family members and payment sources?

Less than $5,000	$5,000 to $14,999	$15,000 to $24,999	$25,000 to $34,999	$35,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $74,999	$75,000 to $99,000	$100,00 or more	Don't Know	Refused
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What is your personal experience with the following?

☐ Have or had a case with the Department of Youth Services (DYS)
☐ Have or had a case in Adult Criminal Court OR Juvenile Court
☐ I have no personal experience with DYS, Adult Criminal Court or Juvenile Court

What year were you born? 19 ___ ___ **or 2 0** ___ ___

What's the Zip Code where you live? _____ **What's the Name of Your Neighborhood?** _____

Closest Cross-Streets to where you live? _____

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Focus Group Protocol

Purpose: These focus groups will be used to collect information for a research study involving the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), a violence prevention program implemented in eleven cities in Massachusetts. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The questions will be used to understand the SSYI's operation in each community and the role of the police in community violence prevention efforts.

Sampling: Participants will be recruited through each SSYI's site coordinator and the partner agencies associated with the initiative. At each site there will be 5 separate focus groups convened, consisting of program and non-program youth (2 groups), program parents/caregivers and non-program adults (2 groups), and local business persons (1 group) to solicit feedback from a variety of perspectives. A quota sampling process will be used to generate enough participants for each of the five (5) different focus groups in each SSYI community.

PREPARING FOR THE FOCUS GROUP

Developing a question set

The CBVP research team has developed a set of questions that will:

- ensure that each group is given adequate opportunity to discuss all the key issues in a similar fashion
- help the facilitator to stay on track and on time

Types of questions

In order to encourage open exchanges and discussion among focus group participants, the set of questions will include:

- ***Introductory questions***: These questions are intended to get participants discussing the issue in general before honing in on particular issues.
- ***Linking questions***: These questions enable the facilitator to move from the broad general discussion, following the introductory questions, to more specific areas of interest.
- ***Key questions***: These questions will address the key issues for the focus group session.

Invitation to participants and briefing note

We will send written invitations to participants at least two weeks in advance of the focus groups and a reminder by email or phone the day before they are to take place. Invitations will include a briefing note that:

- Explains the purpose of the focus groups
- Describes what taking part in the focus groups will involve for the individual participant
- Explains how issues of confidentiality will be dealt with
- Makes clear that participation is voluntary and offers alternative options for expressing their views where appropriate
- Discusses how one can withdraw from participating at any time and can refuse to answer any question
- Describes how results will be analyzed and reported
- Explains that individual responses will not be attributable
- Describes what will be done with outputs, suggestions for action etc.
- Offers a contact point for further information

The facilitator and recorder

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We will have two research staff at the focus group, a facilitator and recorder. The recorder will take notes to capture the discussion, and the session will be tape recorded. The facilitator will lead the focus group. This involves:

- Setting the scene, explaining the purpose of the focus group;
- Introducing participants to the topics for discussion;
- Keeping the group on time and focused on the topics;
- Encouraging participation from all the group members;
- Instructing participants not to use their names so they don't end up on the recording/transcript
- Providing a summary of the discussion from time to time to check appropriate understanding of participants' comments; and
- Ensuring that all the key issues are addressed.

How long will the focus group last?
Each focus group will last approximately 90 minutes.

Location
Focus group locations will be convened in community locations at each SSYI site using the following criteria:

- Participants will meet in a neutral location where they feel safe;
- Participants will be free from interruptions and distractions;
- Participants will be able to see each other and hear each other easily. U-shaped seating arrangements or arrangements where everyone is around one table tend to work best; and
- The facilities are easy to get to on public transportation, have free parking, and are a comfortable place for participants to sit and talk to each other.

RUNNING THE FOCUS GROUP

Materials needed
We will assure that we have materials as needed on hand to run the focus group, such as:

- Notepads and pens or pencils;
- Flip chart and markers;
- Cards (or badges, stickers etc) for participants' names;
- A watch or clock; and
- Focus group questions.

Preparation / set up
The facilitator will arrive at the location before the participants and ensure that:

- Any refreshments are in place;
- The room and seating arrangements enable participants to see and hear one another; and
- The venue is comfortable and conducive to discussion.

Welcoming the participants and introductory briefing
After welcoming the participants to the group session, the facilitator will:

- Introduce him/herself and the recorder to the group, explain their unique roles, and also go over housekeeping, timescales, etc.;
- Ask people to introduce themselves, when not already known to one another or to the facilitator;
- Explain once more the purpose of the focus groups and re-iterate the points covered in the briefing note, particularly:
    - The fact that the main focus will be on understanding how youth, neighbors, and businesses are working together with police and prevention programs like SSYI to reduce violent crime in the community.
    - That an individual's responses are anonymous as no names will be noted in any reports.
- Explain how the session will operate:
    - Beginning with open discussion;
    - Focusing in on certain questions; and ideally,
    - Finishing with suggestions for action/improvement.
- Ask for any questions or issues that need to be clarified.

Focus Group Questions

1. Every neighborhood is different. What is it like to live/have a business in your neighborhood?
   (Prompts, as needed)
   a. Have residents lived /business operated there for a long time or do people/businesses move in and out a lot?
   b. What kind of businesses are in your neighborhood?
   c. Do neighbors/business owners know each other well?
   d. What do you appreciate about the neighborhood where you live/have your business?
   e. What kinds of challenges does your neighborhood face?
   f. Are there enough resources for what youth, community members, and businesses need to succeed?

2. How has your business/neighborhood, or the community around your business/neighborhood, been impacted by violence since you've lived/had your business there?
   (Prompts, as needed)
   a. Have things gotten better or worse over the past two years?
   b. How do people respond when there is a violent incident?
   c. Are residents/businesses likely to call the police? Under what circumstances?
   d. Are residents/businesses likely to testify in court against someone? Under what circumstances?

3. How has your business/neighborhood, or the community around your business/neighborhood, benefitted from violence prevention activities since you've lived/had your business there?
   (Prompts, as needed)
   a. Has there been an increase in prevention activities in the past two years?
   b. How have young people/residents/businesses worked together to prevent violence?
   c. Have other community development improvements been happening over the past two years?
   d. What improvements have made the biggest difference for increasing the quality of life overall where you live/run a business?

4. How do you think people in your neighborhood would respond in each of these situations:
   a. An adult neighbor seeing family members hitting and yelling at each other
   b. A businessperson seeing a fight between rival gang members in front of their store
   c. A young person walking home from high school seeing someone getting assaulted and robbed

5. How are police viewed by youth/residents/businesses?
   a. What do the police do well?
   b. What could the police do better?
   c. Have police been doing better or worse in the last two years?
   d. What's the relationship like between police…
      i. and local young people?
      ii. with adult residents?
      iii. with businesses?
   e. How are police involved in violence prevention efforts?
   f. How do police support victims of crime, including youth as victims?

6. The SSYI is called different things in different communities. Please describe what you know about the SSYI program in your own words.
   (Prompts, as needed)
   a. What are the goals of the program?
   b. Which young people are being served by SSYI in your community?
   c. How are youth referred and recruited into the program?
   d. What is done to engage youth?
   e. What services are provided?

7. What kinds of results has SSYI produced?
   (Prompts, as needed)
   a. Which strategies seem to be successful?
   b. Which have not been successful?
   c. How should success be measured?

8. What would you tell others about the SSYI?
   a. Would you advise them to get involved?
   b. What improvements would make SSYI more effective?

9. Is there anything else you want to share about your experience living/working in your neighborhood that you think is important for understanding and preventing violent crime?

Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)

Key Informant Interview Protocol

Purpose: These interviews will be used to collect information for a research study involving the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), a violence prevention program implemented in eleven cities in the state of Massachusetts. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The questions will be used to understand the SSYI's operation in each community and the role of the police in community violence prevention efforts.

Protocol: Individuals will be interviewed separately either by telephone or in person. Interviews will be based on the questions shown in this protocol. Interviews will be recorded, if respondents provide verbal permission to do so, and then transcribed, and edited into a report for review by the individuals who were interviewed.

Key Informants to be interviewed in 2014 include:

- Chiefs of Police and designated officers they recommend for interview in the following cities:

  Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Springfield, Worcester.

- SSYI site coordinators and key partners they recommend for interviews in the following cities:

  Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Springfield

Key Informant Questions Will Include:

- How is the SSYI List Developed?
- What Outreach is done to Engage Youth?
- Who Are the Partners?
- How Are Police Engaged?
- What Services Are Provided?
- How is the Community Engaged?

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Police Observation Protocol

Purpose: Observations of police behavior in the community will be used to collect information for a research study involving the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), a violence prevention program implemented in eleven cities in the state of Massachusetts. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The goal of this study is to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence.

Sample: Researchers will ask Police Chiefs and SSYI police department liaisons in each SSYI community to provide recommendations for observing officers working in the field. Officers must be working directly with SSYI or must be serving areas where SSYI is active, as a routine part of their police activity. At least two officers will be observed in each SSYI community, which can vary in police force and population size from relatively small (Chelsea: pop. 35,000) to much larger (Boston: pop. 617,000).

Consent: Before each observation session we will obtain informed consent from each officer. This will be accomplished by giving the officer the informed consent form and explaining the study and the informed consent elements. Officers will be informed that if they agree to participate, they always have the option of withdrawing from participation at any time or choosing not to answer specific questions the researcher may pose in the course of the observation session. We will also answer any questions they have about the study. Officers will be told that they can keep a copy of the informed consent document, and that they have the option of signing the informed consent document or not signing it. This option will be given to them because it is the experience of many field observers that requiring officers to sign a document increases their anxiety about creating a signed document that is a written record of their participation (Mastrofski et al., 1998).

Method: The researchers will join the officers selected for our sample on ride-alongs, walking beats, department meetings, or community meetings the officer convenes. One researcher will observe the selected officer at any given time, accompanying him/her throughout the work shift (which may vary by city). We anticipate a total of no more than 30 observation sessions will be conducted during the project. During the observation period, the assigned researcher will observe all activities carried out by the police officer, taking brief field notes at a time and place that will not distract the citizens encountered or interfere with the officer's work. The researcher will complete and comply with any departmental liability or risk-related policies or paperwork before and during the observation sessions. The focus of data collection will be on face-to-face encounters between police and citizens. An encounter occurs when a police officer interacts face-to-face with a citizen that lasts at least one minute, involves three (3) verbal exchanges, or significant physical contact. The following sorts of information will be noted about each encounter: the time and location of the encounter, the type of problem/issue presented to the officer and other aspects of the situation (visibility, presence of bystanders, etc.), the characteristics and actions of the citizens involved, and the actions of the officer. At a convenient time and location following a particular police-citizen encounter, the observer will conduct a debriefing, asking the officer about his/her understanding of the encounter/event and the officer's decision making process. Data will be recorded in both qualitative and quantitative forms by observers within 24-48 hours of completion of the observation session. Qualitative data will be plain text narrative accounts of the various encounters between officers and citizens, along with the observer's general impressions of the observed officer's background, views, and style of policing. The quantitative data will be recorded via a data entry program that compiles the number of encounters with citizens during each observation, the length of encounters, the place of encounters, the time of day, and any other data that are quantitative in nature and helps to organize the field notes for comparison across observations within one city as well as across observations across cities.

References

Mastrofski, S. D., Parks, R. B., Reiss Jr, A. J., Worden, R. E., DeJong, C., Snipes, J. B., & Terrill, W. (1998). Systematic Observation of Public Police: Applying Field Research Methods to Policy Issues. Series: Research Report.*NCJ*.

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Adult Consent for Participation in CBVP Study

Why am I being asked to participate?
Eleven cities are involved in the Massachusetts Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), an initiative that aims to reduce violence and promote healthy development and outcomes among young males, ages 14-24. Your city is part of SSYI and is participating in a study over the next three years to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence. The study is being conducted by American Institutes for Research (AIR)—an international research organization based in Washington, D.C. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. You were invited to participate because you are a member of the community in one of these eleven SSYI cities:

Boston	Brockton	Chelsea	Fall River	Holyoke	Lawrence
Lowell	Lynn	New Bedford	Springfield	Worcester	

Please read this form and ask any questions you might have before you agree to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?
The goal of this study is to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence.

What procedures are involved?
If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to participate in a 90 minute focus group and complete an anonymous survey that asks about your background, past experiences, and attitudes about violence in your community. The survey will be available to you before the focus group begins and should take no longer than five (5) minutes to complete.

Is there any compensation for participating in the study?
Individuals participating in the study will be entered into a raffle to receive a $50 gift card after each focus group they participate in.

What are the potential risks to participating in the pilot study?
There are no foreseeable risks from taking part in the study. You may feel uncomfortable answering some of the questions in the survey or focus group. If that should happen at any point, you are free to skip questions you do not want to answer. You may also discuss your concerns with Dr. Campie, who is responsible for the study and whose contact information is given below.

What are the potential benefits to participating in the study?
Findings from the study will be used to help communities in Massachusetts and across the country understand how to prevent gun and gang violence.

What about privacy and confidentiality?
Along with the researchers, SSYI staff will know of your participation in the study. However, none of the information you provide on the surveys or in the focus group will be disclosed to anyone outside of the research team—not even the SSYI staff, local police, or other adults or youth in the community.

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All information that you provide on study surveys will be number-coded without your name or other identifying information (e.g., contact information) attached and will be kept in a secure location by the research team. Researchers will permanently retain the information from surveys and focus groups, but the surveys and focus group notes will be destroyed five years after the study ends. When results of the study are published or presented at conferences, no information will be included that would reveal your identity. Any information that is obtained in connection with your involvement in the study will remain confidential. The researchers have an approved Privacy Certificate on file with the U.S. Department of Justice that protects them from ever being forced by any criminal courts to release any identifying information on the participants from this study.

What are the costs for participating in this research?
You will not be charged for any costs in conducting this study.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?
You may withdraw from the study at any time without negative consequences of any kind. If you withdraw, you may ask that any information you provided in the survey or focus group is not used in the study and we will delete that data from our systems.

Who should I contact if I have questions?
The director for the study is Dr. Trish Campie. If you have any questions now or in the future, you may call Dr. Campie at (202) 403-5441 or send her an email at pcampie@air.org

What are my rights as a research subject?
If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chair of AIR's Institutional Review Board (which is responsible for the protection of project participants) at IRBChair@air.org, or call toll-free at (800) 634-0797.

How can I remember all the information on this form?
You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Assent for Youth Participation in CBVP Study

Eleven cities are involved in the Massachusetts Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), a program that works to reduce violence and promote healthy outcomes among young males, ages 14-24. Your city is part of SSYI and is participating in a research study over the next three years to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence.

Why did you get picked?
You were invited to participate because you are a member of the community in one of these eleven SSYI cities. In each city about 30 youth will be part of the research study for a total of about 325 youth participating across Massachusetts. Your parent/caregiver has given permission for you to be in the study, but it is still up to you to decide if you want to be involved.

What is the purpose of this study?
We are trying to learn how violent crime is influenced by the community's view of violence, their interactions with police, and experience with programs like SSYI.

What will you have to do?
If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to participate in a 90 minute focus group, which is like having a conversation with a group of youth all at once. Before the focus group we will also ask you to complete a confidential survey that asks about your background, past experiences, and attitudes about violence in your community. The survey will only take about five (5) minutes to complete.

Can something good happen if you are in the study?
We hope to learn how communities in Massachusetts and across the country can do a better job of preventing gun and gang violence. Every person completing the survey and focus group will be entered into a raffle to win a $50 gift card after each focus group they participate in.

Can something bad happen if you are in the study?
There may be some questions that we ask that you don't feel like answering or that might make you feel bad to think about. If that ever happens, you can just skip the questions. We will take steps working with each SSYI coordinator to make sure there are no safety concerns from your participation in the focus group.

Can you ever quit the study?
You may quit the study at any time—nothing bad will happen if you do that. You can also tell us to not use any information you already gave us before leaving the study.

What if you have questions?
If you have any questions now or at a later time, you may contact Dr. Trish Campie at (202) 403-5441 or by email at pcampie@air.org. There is also a Review Board that protects everyone in the study. You can contact them at IRBChair@air.org or call (800) 634-0797.

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Consent for Youth Participation in CBVP Study

Parent/Guardian Consent for Youth 17 Years Old or Younger

Your city is participating in a study over the next three years to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence. The purpose of this form is to tell you about this study to see if you would agree to allow your child to participate.

Why is my child being asked to participate?
Eleven cities are involved in the Massachusetts Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), an initiative that aims to reduce violence and promote healthy development and outcomes among young males, ages 14-24. Your city is part of SSYI and is participating in a study over the next three years to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence. The study is being conducted by American Institutes for Research (AIR)—an international research organization based in Washington, D.C. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Your child was invited to participate because they are a member of the community in one of these eleven SSYI cities:

Boston	Brockton	Chelsea	Fall River	Holyoke	Lawrence
Lowell	Lynn	New Bedford	Springfield	Worcester	

If you let your child take part in this study, s/he will be one of about 30 youth involved from this community. There will be about 325 youth in this study from 11 different cities in Massachusetts.

What is the purpose of the study?
The goal of this study to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence

What procedures are involved?
If you agree to let your child participate in this study, s/he will be asked to participate in a 90 minute focus group and complete a confidential survey that asks about their background, past experiences, and attitudes about violence in your community. The survey will be available to youth before the focus group begins and should take no longer than five (5) minutes to complete.

Is there any compensation for participating in the study?
Individuals participating in the study will be entered into a raffle to receive a $50 gift card after they attend the focus group.

What are the potential risks to participating in the pilot study?
There are no foreseeable risks from taking part in the study. Youth may feel uncomfortable answering

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some of the questions in the surveys or focus group. If that should happen at any point, youth are free to skip questions they do not want to answer. We will take steps working with each SSYI coordinator to make sure there are no safety concerns from your child's participation in the focus group. You or your child may also discuss any concerns with Dr. Campie, who is responsible for the study and whose contact information is given below.

What are the potential benefits to participating in the study?
Findings from the study will be used to help communities in Massachusetts and across the country understand how to prevent gun and gang violence.

What about privacy and confidentiality?
Along with the researchers, SSYI staff will know of your child's participation in the study. None of the information your child provides on the surveys or in the focus group will be disclosed to anyone outside of the research team—not the SSYI staff, local police, or other adults or youth in the community.

All information that youth provide on study surveys will be number-coded without your child's name or other identifying information (e.g., contact information) attached and will be kept in a secure location by the researchers. Researchers will permanently retain the information from surveys and focus groups, but the surveys and focus group notes will be destroyed five years after the study ends. . When results of the study are published or discussed in conferences, no information will ever be included that would reveal your child's identity. Any information that is obtained in connection with your child's involvement in the study will remain confidential. The researchers have an approved Privacy Certificate on file with the U.S. Department of Justice that protects them from ever being forced by any criminal courts to release any identifying information on the participants from this study.

What are the costs for participating in this research?
Neither you or your child will be charged for any costs in conducting this study.

Can my child or I withdraw or be removed from the study?
Your child may withdraw from the study at any time without negative consequences of any kind.

Who should I contact if I have questions?
The director for the study is Dr. Trish Campie. If you have any questions now or in the future, you may call Dr. Campie at (202) 403-5441 or send her an email at pcampie@air.org

What are my rights as a research subject?
If you have questions about your child's rights as a participant, you may contact the Chair of AIR's Institutional Review Board (they are responsible for protecting everyone taking part in the study) at IRBChair@air.org, or call toll-free at (800) 634-0797.

How can I remember all the information on this form?
You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.

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Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP)
Police Officer Consent for Participation in CBVP Study

Why am I being asked to participate?
Eleven cities are involved in the Massachusetts Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), an initiative that aims to reduce violence and promote healthy development and outcomes among young males, ages 14-24. Your city is part of SSYI and is participating in a study over the next three years to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence. The study is being conducted by American Institutes for Research (AIR)—an international research organization based in Washington, D.C. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. You were invited to participate because you are a member of the police department in one of these eleven SSYI cities:

Boston	Brockton	Chelsea	Fall River	Holyoke	Lawrence
Lowell	Lynn	New Bedford	Springfield	Worcester	

Please read this form and ask any questions you might have before you agree to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?
The goal of this study is to learn how communities are working with police and youth to prevent gun and gang violence.

What procedures are involved?
If you agree to be in this study, a researcher will accompany you over the course of one shift to observe routine activity during walking beats, morning meetings, car patrols, or citizen meetings.

Is there any compensation for participating in the study?
There is no compensation for participation.

What are the potential risks to participating in the pilot study?
This research poses no more than minimal risk of harm to police officers. The principal risk faced is any level of anxiety you may feel in being observed or answering the researcher's questions during the observation period.

What are the potential benefits to participating in the study?
There are no direct benefits to the participants of our study. Findings from the study will be used to help communities in Massachusetts and across the country better understand how to work effectively with police to prevent gun and gang violence.

What about privacy and confidentiality?
None of the information from the observation will be disclosed to anyone outside of the research team—including the SSYI staff, other police personnel, or other adults or youth in the community. Observations from each SSYI community will be grouped together to identify similarities and differences. No individual city or officer will be identified when results are presented from the study. The researchers have an approved Privacy Certificate on file with the U.S. Department of Justice that protects them from ever being forced by any criminal courts to release any identifying information on the participants from this study.

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What are the costs for participating in this research?
You will not be charged for any costs in conducting this study.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?
You may withdraw from the study at any time without negative consequences of any kind.

Who should I contact if I have questions?
The director for the study is Dr. Trish Campie. If you have any questions now or in the future, you may call Dr. Campie at (202) 403-5441 or send her an email at pcampie@air.org

What are my rights as a research subject?
If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chair of AIR's Institutional Review Board (which is responsible for the protection of project participants) at IRBChair@air.org, or call toll-free at (800) 634-0797.

How can I remember all the information on this form?
You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.

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