



Violence Reduction Network Quarterly Newsletter

Strategic Solutions • Focused Actions • Reduced Violence

Table of Contents

- 2016 Year in Review*, page 2
- Outlook on 2017*, page 3
- Site Highlights*, pages 4–9
- VRN Community Corner*, pages 10–11
- VRN Web site, Clearinghouse, and Contact Us*, page 12

VRN Cumulative Statistics As of 12/31/16, VRN has provided:

Customer Satisfaction Rating*	4.7/5.0
Peer Exchanges	73
Research Partner Connections Supported	11
Resource Documents Cataloged	490
SME Hours Provided	1,850+
SSL Hours Provided	8,000+
Technical Assistance/ Resource Requests	481
Training Hours Delivered	39,500+
Training Deliveries	128
Training Participants	3,240+
Webinar/Podcast Deliveries	20
Webinar Participants	1,209
Web Site Documents Downloaded	12,781
Web Site Page Views	72,006
Weekly News Deliveries	142
Weekly News Overall Rating*	4.2/5.0

*Feedback on VRN activities through 12/31/16.

This edition of the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter* features a reflection on 2016, a prospective outlook on proposed VRN activities in 2017, an overview on site resource deliveries, and a new community corner spotlighting local efforts occurring in VRN site communities. 2016 represented a year of Network expansion, outcomes, and development and sustainment of violence reduction strategies. As the Network continues to expand, VRN remains committed to building upon violence reduction efforts under way in the VRN sites by providing customized training, technical assistance, and other resources that fit the unique needs of each site. By leveraging lessons learned and fostering relationships between local and federal stakeholders and subject-matter experts, VRN strives to deliver resources that help sites fight crime and maintain safer communities nationwide.

The Site Highlights section features various violence reduction training and technical assistance activities that occurred in the current VRN sites within the last quarter, including:

- ★ Development of a strategic plan
- ★ Social network analysis
- ★ Gang assessment
- ★ Grant development technical assistance
- ★ Blue Courage training
- ★ Peer exchanges
- ★ DEA Emerging Technologies training
- ★ VRN team site visits
- ★ VALOR training
- ★ VRN CompStat
- ★ Technology assessment

2016 Year in Review

Crimefighters Conference

FEB



On February 23–24, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Charlie Beck hosted VRN leadership and site representatives for the annual Crimefighters Leadership Conference, which focused on building trust and improving effectiveness of police. Participants learned about LAPD's data-driven strategies and crimefighting efforts.



VRN Fall Summit

SEP

On September 26, DOJ announced the expansion of VRN to Jackson, MS, and Nashville, TN, to complete the Phase 3 cohort. VRN Phase 1 sites (Camden, NJ; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Oakland/Richmond, CA; and Wilmington, DE) conclude formal engagement in the program and become the first class of "alumni" sites. At the summit, Phase 1 leaders presented their sustainability plans.

Resource Delivery Plans

NOV

Following the VRN Fall Summit, VRN Phase 2 and Phase 3 site representatives worked with VRN Strategic Site Liaisons and VRN Analysts to develop strategic resource delivery plans for VRN activities to be delivered in the coming months. Site leaders discussed violence reduction efforts planned for 2017 during a VRN Webinar on November 28.



MAR

VRN Spring Summit

On March 1–2, the Department of Justice announced the expansion of VRN to Phase 3, welcoming three new cities: Milwaukee, WI; New Orleans, LA; and St. Louis, MO.

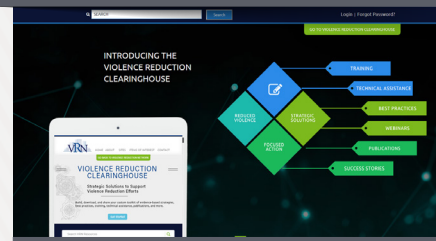
MAY

Sustainability Workshop

On May 20, VRN leadership hosted the Phase 1 (2014) site leaders and team members for a workshop to discuss concrete changes that have taken place locally as a result of VRN and to begin to develop sustainable plans to continue lessons learned through VRN following the conclusion of the formal two-year engagement period.

SEP

Clearinghouse Launch



At the fall summit, VRN officially launched the Violence Reduction Clearinghouse Web site, an interactive resource library available to jurisdictions across the country. Through the Clearinghouse, users can explore training, technical assistance, model programs and practices, success stories, and more—to ultimately build a customized toolkit that meets individual violence reduction needs. Access the Clearinghouse at www.VRNetwork.org/Clearinghouse.

Outlook on 2017

As the Phase 2 sites have entered their final year of formal engagement with the program, we encourage the sites to continue working with their Strategic Site Liaisons and VRN team members on identifying key strategies for sustainment of lessons learned and available training and technical assistance opportunities. VRN promotes a community of practice model and recognizes that as sites complete the formal engagement with the program, they will continue to be a part of the Network. VRN strives to foster development of new relationships through peer learning opportunities, annual summits, and VRN training and technical assistance deliveries.

In the coming months, DOJ leadership will begin the vetting process for potential cities to join the Network. DOJ hopes to invite new cities to expand the Network to Phase 4, to be launched at the September 2017 summit. If authorized, the Phase 4 cohort will be formally supported by VRN through 2019.



SAVE THE DATES

MAR 14

VRN Sustainability Webinar

VRN will host a Webinar to introduce Phase 2 to sustainability principles in preparation for the in-person workshop in May.

VRN will host a workshop for Phase 2 sites to discuss sustainable strategies for each site to focus on VRN once the formal two-year engagement period concludes in September 2017.

VRN Sustainability Workshop

SEP 11-13

VRN Summit

The 5th VRN summit will convene in New Orleans, Louisiana, this September. Additional details are forthcoming as this event is pending official DOJ approval.

MAY 24

Compton, California

- ★ A VRN priority for Compton partners this quarter was developing a strategic plan for the city of Compton. VRN Strategic Site Liaison and subject-matter expert Nola Joyce provided extensive assistance to the Compton local and federal partners this quarter to develop a five-year violence reduction strategic plan. During the quarter, Ms. Joyce conducted multiple site visits and developed the customized plan for Compton's consideration. This strategic plan is the first for the city of Compton and has three primary goals (reduced crime, increased community collaboration, and locally driven economic growth). This process will serve as a model for other jurisdictions without a documented strategy. The site plans to finalize the strategic plan this coming quarter.
- ★ The city of Compton has 50 identified gangs and approximately 3,700 identified gang members who contribute to a significant amount of the violent crime. Nearly all homicides in Compton are gang-related. Throughout this quarter, Compton partners continued engagement with Dr. Charles Katz regarding the gang assessment. The assessment process will assist the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Compton Station in reducing gang violence across the city in a comprehensive strategy, focusing on prevention, intervention, and suppression.
- ★ The Compton partners began working with subject-matter expert Julie Wartell on development, implementation, and analysis of community surveys. This assistance will help Compton obtain crucial feedback from citizens on various policing activities and engagement efforts to improve services and increase community engagement.
- ★ Next quarter, Compton VRN will explore the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Emerging Technologies training, FBI Digital Imaging Video Response Team (DIVRT) training, Office of Justice Programs Grant 101 training, grant technical assistance, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) VALOR training.

Flint, Michigan

- ★ This quarter, representatives from the Flint Police Department (FPD) participated in social network analysis (SNA) training at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in November to further develop skills for collecting data and implementing SNA in the police department. In efforts to build analytic capacity within FPD, Flint VRN partners worked together to adjust funding to hire a full-time crime analyst. The analyst will focus on domestic violence crimes and implementing SNA into violence reduction efforts. In addition, VRN sites Flint, Milwaukee, and St. Louis are working with SNA subject-matter experts and the NPS to pilot a training and technical assistance program. The goal of this pilot is to establish and fully implement SNA processes and protocols that can be replicated from data collection to enforcement.
- ★ Next quarter, Dr. Charles Katz and Dr. Andrew Fox will conduct a gang feasibility study site visit. During the site visit, Dr. Katz and Dr. Fox will interview stakeholders, including representatives from VRN stakeholder agencies; assess their analytical needs; conduct a data inventory; and assess current strengths and challenges facing Flint in conducting a gang assessment. Following the visit, a report will be developed on the feasibility of completing a gang assessment, identifying areas of strength, areas for improvement, and a potential strategy for completing a gang assessment. In addition, Flint will explore assistance related to a property room assessment to examine Flint's evidence storage processes.



Little Rock, Arkansas

- ★ During this quarter, grant expert Joan Brody continued working with the Little Rock VRN partners on developing grant strategies.
- ★ The Little Rock Police Department (LRPD) participated in Blue Courage training in October. This training is a transformational leadership development course that educates participants on the importance of creating a culture of resilience and respect in the law enforcement environment.
- ★ Little Rock partners explored police/researcher partnership opportunities to reduce violence in the community. VRN subject-matter expert Dr. Craig Uchida met with local university and police partners to engage in dialogue and identify strategies for collaboration and coordination between the two entities moving forward.
- ★ Next quarter, Little Rock partners will visit the Milwaukee Sojourner Family Peace Center, which provides services for domestic violence victims, including victim advocates, counseling, shelter, and other family services. This peer exchange is in follow-up to Little Rock's visit to the San Diego Family Justice Center last quarter. In addition, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will provide assistance to LRPD related to the trauma-informed approach in working with victims, and LRPD will work with subject-matter experts on enhancing crime analysis capacity.

“The VRN has provided excellent training for our department and encouraged strong collaboration with our federal partners and local prosecutors. This partnership has benefitted us in a multitude of ways. We have been able to focus on violent crime and develop new strategies with all of our partners to reduce violent crime rates in the city of Little Rock.”

*—Assistant Chief of Police Alice Fulk,
Little Rock Police Department*

Newark, New Jersey

- ★ In October, DEA provided Emerging Technologies training to 15 representatives from the Newark Police Department (NPD). This training educates law enforcement officers in various emerging technologies, such as social media, smartphones, and the Internet, and provides techniques for extracting data and translating digital information into formats acceptable for prosecution.
- ★ The VRN team continued working with NPD this quarter to fulfill training requirements of the consent decree, including community policing training.
- ★ In December, NPD and the Camden County Police Department participated in a peer exchange to Denver, Colorado, to visit the Denver Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Division, the Denver Police Department Crime Lab, and the Denver Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). Participants learned about forensic-led policing strategies, utilization of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) in the crime lab, successes and challenges in establishing the CGIC, and NIBIN considerations from a prosecutorial perspective.
- ★ Next quarter, NPD plans to continue its focus on training in the areas of community policing and use of force.



Newark and Camden representatives at the peer exchange to Denver

West Memphis, Arkansas

- ★ This quarter, the West Memphis VRN team focused on the development of a new violence reduction program titled Operation “Data Enhanced Targeted Enforcement and Restoration,” or Operation “DETER,” which is a collaboration between the West Memphis Police Department (WMPD) and VRN. Through use of a variety of analytic tools, problem-solving techniques, evidence-based strategies, and evaluation, DETER will seek to identify and focus on chronic hot spot locations and chronic offenders. This program incorporates strategies and lessons learned from the Los Angeles’ Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program (Operation LASER) out of LAPD and its research partner, Justice & Security Strategies, Inc.

Throughout the past six months, WMPD has worked with VRN subject-matter experts Dr. Craig Uchida of Justice & Security Strategies, Inc., and LAPD Officer Gamero to share key strategies, success, and challenges from Operation LASER for implementation into Operation DETER. In the coming months, WMPD will start a pilot project in an area of West Memphis that has shown a high concentration of violent and firearms-related crimes through data analysis conducted by the VRN Analyst assigned to West Memphis. WMPD will officially launch Operation DETER in early 2017.

- ★ WMPD continues to make organizational changes to support a progressive and problem-oriented style of policing. Based on the analysis of its resources, the department revised its patrol shift schedule. This schedule will accommodate its current staffing resources, in addition to providing additional coverage during peak crime times. Furthermore, patrol personnel will be supporting Operation DETER through augmented patrol routines and community interaction.

Jackson, Mississippi

- ★ As follow-up to the VRN Summit, VRN Strategic Site Liaison Chief Daniel Isom, Program Office Champion Kate McNamee, Law Enforcement Champion Darryl Gilbert, and Analyst Vivian Elliott conducted a site visit to meet with local partners, observe CompStat, discuss grant strategies with expert Joan Brody, and strategize how VRN can assist the partners in their efforts to reduce violence moving forward. As a result of this site visit, Jackson VRN developed a resource delivery plan for potential training and technical assistance deliveries for the next six months.
- ★ In addition, in November, BJA technology experts conducted a technology assessment of the Jackson Police Department (JPD) and later (January 2017) provided a report with findings and recommendations for enhancement.
- ★ In December, VRN subject-matter experts Julie Wartell and Dr. Andrew Fox met with local, county, and federal Jackson partners to conduct a violent crime analysis and assessment. The goal of this assessment is to understand the scope and nature of violence in Jackson. Existing data is being analyzed to better understand the geographic and social structure of violence in the city. This analysis will be used by Jackson partners to enhance their comprehensive response to violence, including prevention, intervention and suppression strategies.
- ★ Next quarter, Jackson will participate in the FBI’s DIVRT training and continue grant strategies assistance. In addition, VRN homicide investigations experts John Skaggs and John Colello will conduct a homicide investigations assessment of JPD next quarter.



VRN team members observe JPD’s CompStat meeting and discuss VRN activities.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- ★ During this quarter, Milwaukee VRN partners continued the VRN CompStat program and violence reduction strategy, which has become a model for other VRN sites and communities nationwide. VRN partner activities include proactive beat patrols, community engagement, intelligence gathering, targeted enforcement, and case tracking. Through the Milwaukee VRN strategy and as a result of the collaboration of local, federal, and community partners, the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) reported a 7 percent decrease in homicides and a 28 percent decrease in nonfatal shootings in the Center Street Corridor (VRN focus area) in 2016 compared to 2015. MPD also reported a 3 percent reduction in homicide and a 12 percent reduction in nonfatal shootings citywide in 2016 compared to 2015.



Milwaukee participates in BJA VALOR training.

- ★ In December, Chief Edward Flynn presented Milwaukee's VRN strategy at the Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center Symposium on 21st Century Violence Reduction Strategies, where he shared lessons learned and success of the program with 20 cities from across the country.
- ★ Milwaukee participated in BJA VALOR Essentials training, which focuses on essential skills to enhance professionalism, prevent and de-escalate situations that may result in a violent encounter, and ultimately promote officer safety and resiliency. Over 100 officers were in attendance from MPD and surrounding jurisdictions.
- ★ Next quarter, Milwaukee will serve as host to multiple VRN site leaders through peer exchanges. VRN sites St. Louis and Chicago will meet with Milwaukee leaders to observe the VRN CompStat process, and Little Rock will tour the Milwaukee Sojourner Family Peace Center. In addition, MPD will participate in Blue Courage training.



Nashville, Tennessee

- ★ As a kickoff to VRN activities in Nashville, Strategic Site Liaison Commissioner Bob Haas, Analyst Lauren Frey, and Program Office Champion John Markovic conducted a site visit in Nashville to discuss VRN training and technical assistance opportunities and to learn about Nashville's local violence reduction efforts and needs.
- ★ In conjunction with this VRN team site visit, subject-matter expert Dr. Craig Uchida met with Nashville partners to begin implementation of a Neighborhood Capacity Assessment. The assessment will outline a strategy to identify crime drivers by administering community surveys and systematic social observations. Dr. Uchida will work with the VRN partners in Nashville in the coming months to complete this assessment. In addition, grant strategist Joan Brody also participated in the site visit to provide grant development and strategy technical assistance to Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's (MNP) Strategic Development Division.
- ★ In the coming months, Nashville will explore body-worn camera assistance and participate in the FBI's Basic Homicide training and a peer exchange to DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center.

New Orleans, Louisiana

- ★ Through increased collaboration in VRN, the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) changed its approach to armed-robbery response to incorporate intelligence-led strategies, which led to a 12 percent decrease in armed robbery in 2016.
- ★ NOPD worked with VRN to refine the technology assessment report related to jail integration, CompStat, and information.
- ★ In addition, in November, VRN Program Champion Laura Wyckoff and Analyst Tom Woodmansee conducted a site visit to observe the NOPD Management Analytics for eXcellence (MAX) performance management meeting and to discuss community policing and community engagement strategies. In the coming months, NOPD plans to focus on and coordinate community policing and community engagement strategies with VRN focused-deterrence efforts. VRN will assist NOPD in developing a crime analyst program by providing technical assistance and training to integrate crime analysis into the departmental strategy.
- ★ Next quarter, VRN team members will conduct a site visit in January to discuss technical assistance opportunities related to community policing, gun violence reduction, crime analysis support, and grants.



St. Louis, Missouri

- ★ During this quarter, St. Louis VRN partners participated in Blue Courage train-the-trainer training and plan to train the rest of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) in 2017.
- ★ BJA technology experts conducted a technology assessment of the St. Louis VRN partners last quarter and finalized their report with findings and recommendations at the end of 2016. SLMPD plans to incorporate recommendations into training and technical assistance to be provided in 2017.
- ★ Grant strategist Joan Brody continued to provide technical assistance to St. Louis this quarter related to grant development and strategy. Ms. Brody conducted a site visit and met with various SLMPD departmental teams to share grants that pertain to their respective work.
- ★ VRN St. Louis team members John Skinner (Strategic Site Liaison) and VRN Analyst Dominique Burton conducted a site visit to St. Louis this November. The team participated in the SLMPD CompStat meeting, met with SLMPD's police foundation and crime analysis units, and discussed grant strategies and upcoming VRN activities.
- ★ St. Louis VRN partners continue to explore the potential establishment of a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board for the city. Dr. Neil Websdale, director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, conducted a site visit in December to discuss strategies and implementation requirements in creating a review board.
- ★ Next quarter, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) will conduct an on-site investigative assessment to examine SLMPD's investigative and prosecutorial processes involving nonfatal shootings and homicides. The assessment will lead to findings and recommendations on current practices and strategies to increase clearance rates and enhance investigative processes. In addition, St. Louis will explore social network analysis technical assistance and plans to participate in a peer exchange to the Milwaukee Police Department to observe Milwaukee's VRN CompStat process.



VRN Community Corner



West Memphis PD teaches kids about safety and shows how the police PA works. WMPD Facebook 11/01/2016



Children say hello to the Newark PD mounted officers and horses. @NewarkNJPolice, 11/26/2016



Flint PD Captain Collin Birnie helps distribute toys to community members at a Toys for Tots event. MLive.com 12/9/2016

Highlighting the Impact of Law Enforcement in the Community



Little Rock PD debuts its first pink patrol car to raise awareness in support of LRPD Officer and breast cancer survivor Laura Pritchett. @LRPolice 10/13/2016



Students visit the Compton Youth Activity League and learn about the importance of community relations. LASD Compton Station NIXLE 9/15/2016

VRN Community Corner



Jackson Police Department Officer at a Toy Drive Giveaway for children in the community. @JacksonMSPolice, 12/23/2016



Metropolitan Nashville Police Department partners with NFL Titans to sponsor "Bring a kid to practice day!" @MNPDNashville 12/10/2016



St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Operation Polar Cops in action! Free ice cream for community members. @SLMPD 12/28/2016

Do you have a photo or story you would like to share?

Contact VRNteam@iir.com



New Orleans Police Department shooting hoops with kids in the community. @NOPDNews 12/12/2016



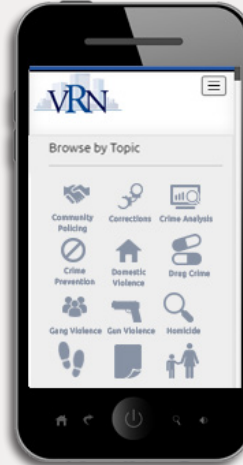
Milwaukee Police Department officers meet with community members during National Coffee With a Cop Day. @MilwaukeePolice 10/07/2016

VRN Web Site

- ★ An extensive resource library of violence reduction-related materials.
- ★ Items of interest, including research briefs, previous editions of the *VRN Weekly Site News* and the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter*, and more.
- ★ Secure access to VRN site technical assistance and resource delivery tracking, site team calendars, contact information, and more.

Violence Reduction Clearinghouse

This innovative new tool will change the way you find, save, and share violence reduction resources. Designed to leverage the One-DOJ approach to violence reduction, the Clearinghouse has hundreds of resources available at your fingertips. Best of all, the Clearinghouse is interactive and allows you to develop a customized toolkit based on your city's unique challenges and opportunities.



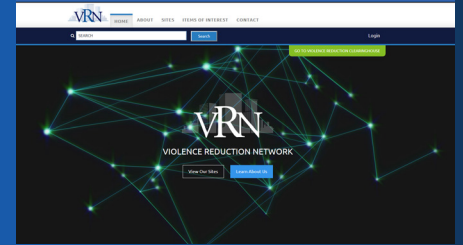
Types of Resources Available

- ★ Evidence-Based Strategies
- ★ Model Programs
- ★ Training
- ★ Technical Assistance
- ★ Webinars
- ★ VRN Success Stories
- ★ Publications
- ★ Podcasts
- ★ Videos

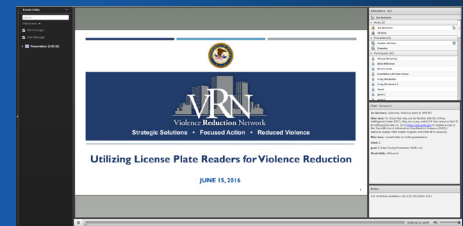


Contact Us

To access these and other resources, visit VRNetwork.org



To access all of the VRN Webinars, visit the VRN Web site at <https://vrnetwork.org/Home/ItemsOfInterest/VRNWebinars>



Follow us on Twitter!
@VRNteam

VRN Leadership

Kristen Mahoney

Deputy Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
(202) 616-5139
kristen.mahoney@usdoj.gov

Kristie Brackens

VRN Co-Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
(202) 305-1229
kristie.brackens@usdoj.gov

Sarah Steffick

VRN Co-Director
DEA Detailee to BJA
(202) 207-3450
sarah.a.steffick@usdoj.gov

Teddy Miller

VRN Federal Law Enforcement
Operations Liaison
(917) 295-9866
theodore.miller@ic.fbi.gov

CNA

Chip Coldren

(708) 804-1001
coldrej@cna.org

Vivian Elliott

(703) 587-9722
elliottv@cna.org

IIR

Gina Hartsfield

(850) 385-0600, Ext. 334
ghartsfield@iir.com

Carolyn Binder

(850) 385-0600, Ext. 362
cbinder@iir.com



This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-DG-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.