



# Violence Reduction Network Quarterly Newsletter

Strategic Solutions • Focused Actions • Reduced Violence

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## VRN Cumulative Statistics As of 3/31/17, VRN has provided:

Peer Exchanges	89
Resource Documents Cataloged	532
SME Hours Provided	2,000+
SSL Hours Provided	9,000+
Technical Assistance/ Resource Requests	557
Training Hours Delivered	43,400+
Training Deliveries	137
Training Participants	3,400+
Webinar/Podcast Deliveries	22
Webinar Participants	1,245
Website Documents Downloaded	16,441
Website Page Views	82,835
Weekly News Deliveries	155

## *Enhancing Crime Analysis Capacity Through Partnerships—Phase 1 Site Highlight*

An essential goal and VRN engagement focus area of alumni site Detroit, Michigan, was to develop common analytical approaches and information sharing strategies among partner criminal justice agencies and across local violence reduction initiatives. In 2015, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Michigan State University (MSU) established an embedded crime analyst placement program through which graduate students are placed as analysts in the Detroit Police Department, the Detroit Public Schools, the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, and the Michigan Department of Corrections. The analysts complement local violence reduction efforts with cutting-edge analytic techniques, such as social network analysis and risk terrain modeling.

The analysts develop intelligence briefings focused on defendants or suspects and their associates who are believed to be involved in violent crime. The analysts also develop products and conduct various analyses on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to support the agencies’ violence reduction efforts. The analysts review recent arrests daily to determine whether Operation Ceasefire clients were arrested and whether any documented gang members were involved in shootings. On a weekly basis, the analysts conduct social network analyses and compile intelligence from a weekly incident review of gun crimes to develop a summary of the groups most involved in gun crime. Criminal activity involving Ceasefire clients is tracked and documented monthly.

The intelligence briefings and analyses developed by the analysts are routinely used to drive focused enforcement efforts and have resulted in arrests, parole/probation compliance checks, and increased community-based outreach. For example, during this quarter, local law enforcement officers were faced with two individuals involved in a series of armed street robberies. The intelligence briefing developed by the analysts regarding the two individuals yielded an extensive network of 400+ associates connected in prior police incident reports, including 24 confirmed gang members and 42 individuals either under probation/parole supervision or incarcerated.

This data-driven program has been successful because of the collaboration and commitment among MSU, local VRN partners, and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). VRN can support other sites interested in establishing a similar partnership with local universities.

# The Cost of Crime

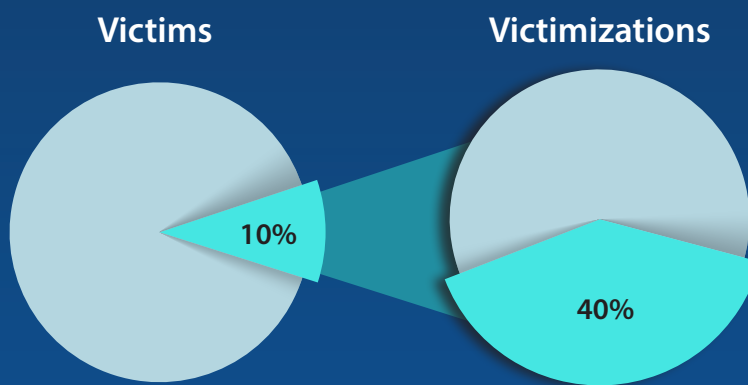
Though it can be difficult to estimate the intangible costs of violent crime, such as aspects related to the emotional and public safety elements of crime, all of the VRN sites recognize that the economic incentives for fighting violent crime are more concrete. Crime is expensive. While statistical and research methodologies differ, any effort to estimate the annual financial cost of crime in the United States reaches into billions of dollars. More than 23 million criminal offenses were committed in 2007, resulting in approximately \$15 billion in economic losses to the victims and \$179 billion in government expenditures on police protection, judicial and legal activities, and corrections.<sup>1</sup> The RAND Corporation summarized high-quality cost-of-crime research and calculated that on average, one murder imposes \$8,649,866 in both concrete and intangible costs.<sup>2</sup> For other Part One crimes, RAND calculated costs associated for single-event crimes: rape as \$217,866, robbery as \$67,277, aggravated assault (an offense using a weapon) as \$87,238, and burglary as \$13,096. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reports calculated that “victims of property crimes (excluding arson) suffered losses estimated at \$14.3 billion in 2015” and in an aggregate of expenses commonly associated with unlawful activity, put the cost at more than \$1 trillion per year.<sup>3</sup>

Generally, the cost of crime is priced into the larger economy, accepted as “the cost of doing business,” and largely intangible for most communities. In crime-prone neighborhoods, however, where “10 percent of the victims

are involved in 40 percent of victimizations . . . and 10 percent of the places are the sites of about 60 percent of crimes,<sup>4</sup> these costs are immediately and deeply felt. Beyond the suffering of residents and losses sustained by area businesses, chronic violence imposes penalties on the neighborhood as a whole.

Drilling into the economic impact of violent crime on neighborhoods, the Center for American Progress determined that “a reduced incidence of murders in a particular zip code is followed by a predictable and significant increase in housing values in the same zip code in the next year.”<sup>5</sup> Another study conducted by the Urban Institute supported this finding and also found that “an increase in gun homicides or gunfire in neighborhoods can lower the number of retail and service business establishments, the number of new jobs created, and the volume of sales in business establishments.”<sup>6</sup>

The costs of medical care for crime victims is a substantial burden. In



neighborhoods rife with gun violence, most victims are young, uninsured males; the costs of their care are absorbed by the public, either as uncompensated care for the uninsured or through Medicaid.<sup>7</sup> A Stanford Medical School analysis that reviewed

data pertaining to 267,265 patients admitted for firearm-related injuries during a nine-year period (2006–2014), reported “shootings of young and poor individuals insured by Medicaid comprised two-thirds of firearm injuries, and they were most often victims of assault . . . \$6.6 billion is only a fraction of the total hospital costs incurred by gunshot wounds: It does not include costs of emergency room visits—medical costs for patients who are treated and released or those who are treated but die before admission . . . the government bears 40 percent of the costs.” Absent intervention, high crime areas tend to stay that way.<sup>8</sup> Interventions that

reduce crime in these communities, reinforce informal social controls, and develop neighborhood public safety coproducer partnerships with law enforcement should generate substantial economic benefits. More tangibly, decreased crime will result in higher property values, reduced medical costs, decreased insurance premiums, increased investment, and additional employment opportunities.



# The VRN Experience

VRN and its partner agencies work to assist your local law enforcement agencies in deploying interventions and prevention efforts to reduce crime and increase public safety, ultimately resulting in safer communities and long-lasting relationships between communities and police. VRN offers training and technical assistance (TTA) that covers a wide range of evidence-based crime reduction programs and encourages collaboration and coordination of local violence reduction efforts with DOJ partner agencies, including the U.S. Attorneys, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). VRN encourages sites to identify focus areas for strategic and customized training and coordinates technical assistance as part of the overall program strategy. For example, Milwaukee's VRN strategy identifies a specific area of the city that experiences high levels of gun violence, the Center Street Corridor (CSC). By leading a coordinated and collaborative approach among local and federal partners to address firearm-related crime in the CSC, Milwaukee has successfully reported a reduction in overall violent crime in just one year of implementation. TTA can consist of on-site or remote training, assessments, customized technical assistance, subject-matter experts, or peer exchanges. To ensure that the TTA is appropriate, site-specific, outcome-oriented, and able to be evaluated, a specific VRN TTA Request Form has been created. The form captures information on the type of TTA request, points of contact for coordination and evaluation, goals/objectives, and desired outcomes. VRN Site Analysts and Strategic Site Liaisons (SSLs) can assist sites in completing the TTA request form if needed. The VRN strategy has proved successful in the existing sites, and we encourage sites to leverage lessons learned and to discuss the extensive resources available from the DOJ entities that can support your violence reduction strategy.

## Assessments



VRN offers to conduct several comprehensive assessments of various areas within the police department and/or local partners related to technology, homicide investigations, crime analysis, victim services, and overall violence issues in the city. Through these assessments, subject-matter experts (SMEs) provide insights and recommendations for enhancements and advise of future TTA opportunities available to support the agency's overall violence reduction strategy. We encourage site leaders to explore these opportunities with your SSL to determine whether a specific assessment will assist with your ongoing efforts to reduce crime and increase public safety in your communities.

## Peer Learning



VRN coordinates and facilitates delivery of peer learning opportunities to share various violence reduction promising practices, ideas, and strategies across the country.

VRN encourages you to work with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research® (IIR), your SSL, and your VRN Analyst to identify specific goals and objectives for these visits to ensure time during the visit is maximized. VRN will work with you and the hosting agency to develop an agenda that fits your needs and will drive the postvisit assessment and outcome collection process.



## Training and Technical Assistance

Through DOJ program offices and federal law enforcement agencies, VRN offers customized, expedited TTA opportunities to VRN sites. Once your site focus areas have been identified, visit the [Violence Reduction Clearinghouse](#) and talk with your VRN team about available TTA for your agency. If you do not see an existing resource that meets your needs, VRN can work with your agency to create a customized technical assistance plan or training opportunity to better serve your agency's specific needs.



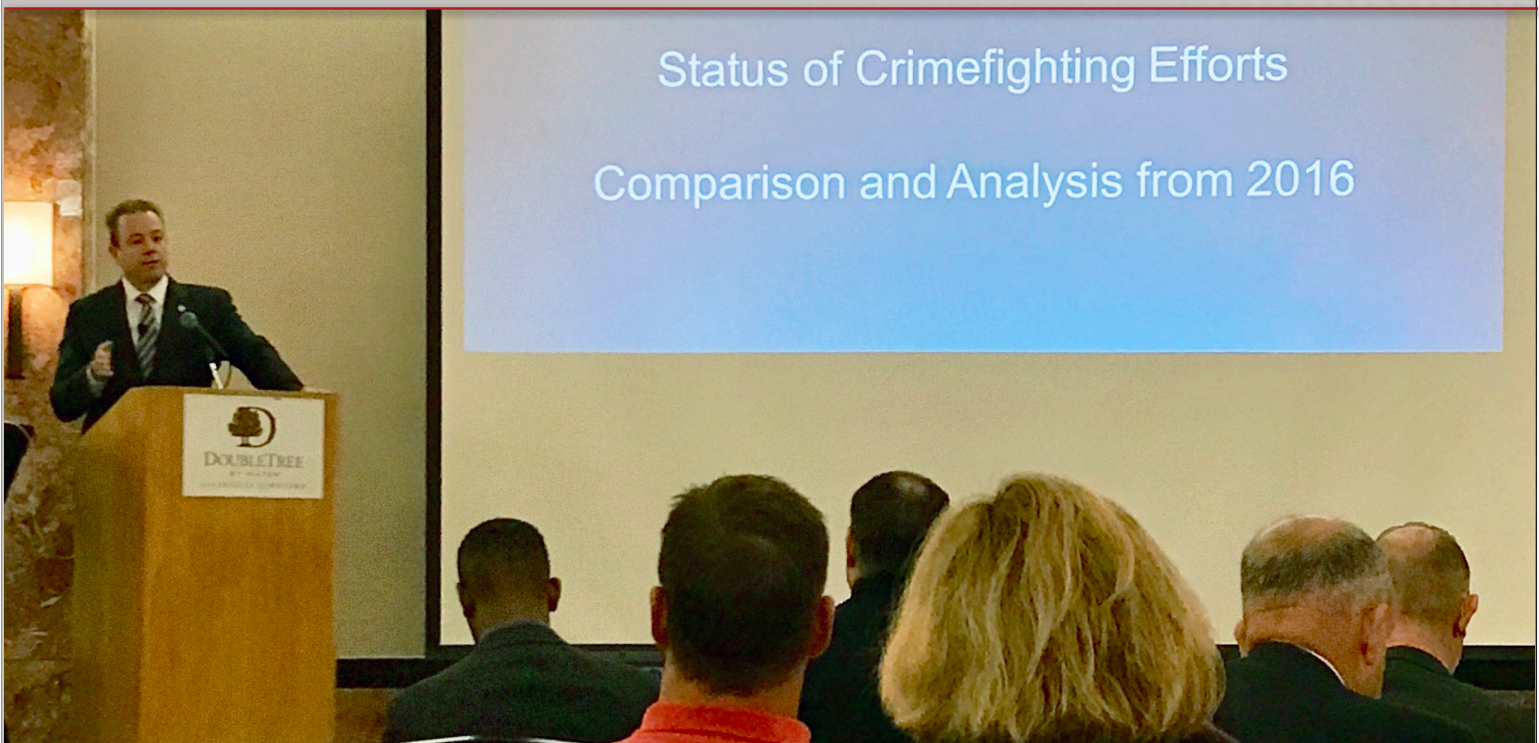
## VRN Team

VRN dedicates a site-specific team to support the partner agencies in navigating DOJ law enforcement and programmatic resources. Your SSL, Law Enforcement Champion, Program Champion, and VRN Analyst are available to assist you in identifying and coordinating DOJ-supported resources that fit your needs. DOJ, through VRN, encourages and supports the provision of TTA to VRN cities.

# Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Crimefighters Leadership Conference

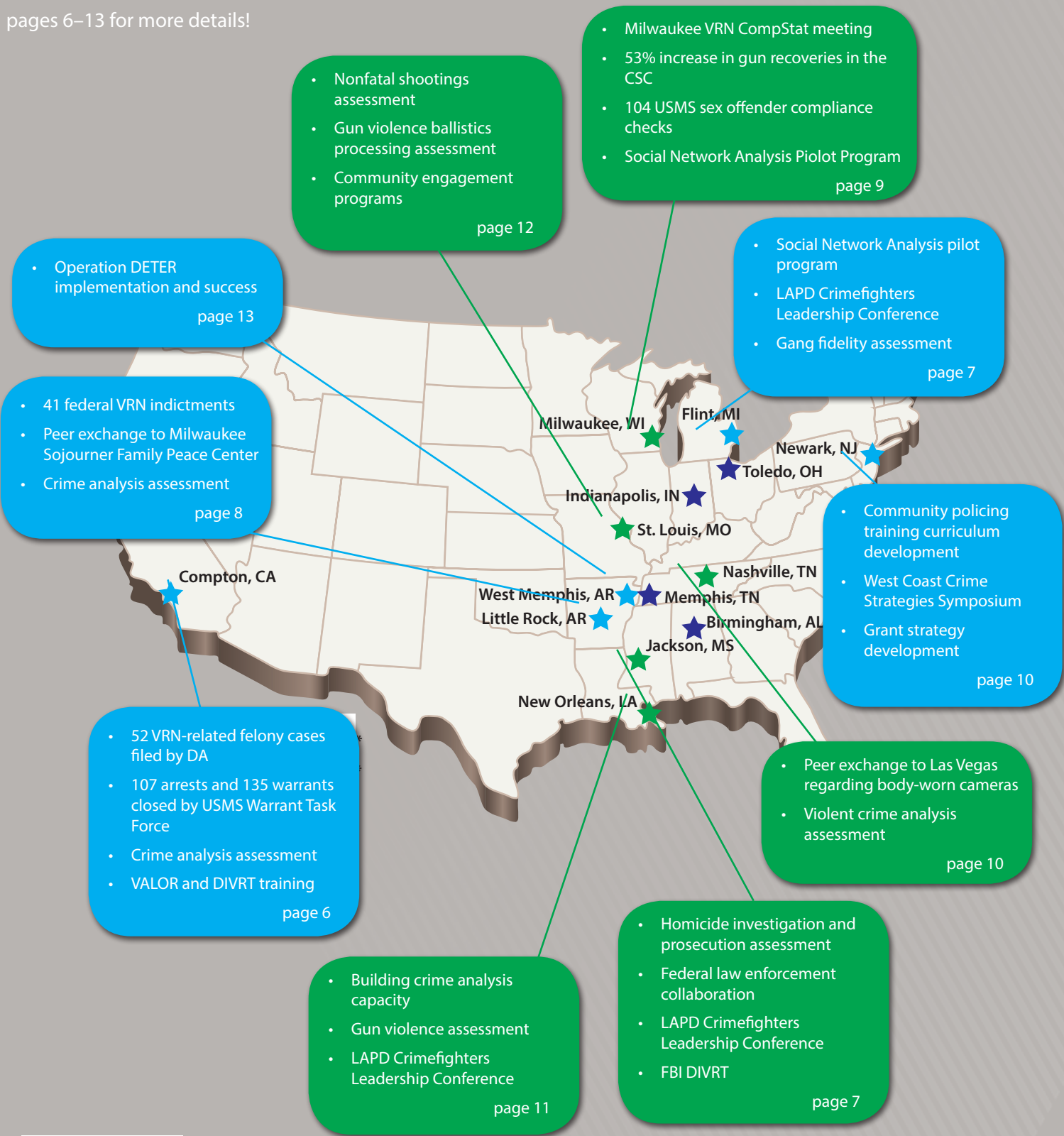
This quarter, nine VRN sites (Compton, Flint, Newark, West Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Jackson, and Nashville) attended the LAPD Crimefighters Leadership Conference in California. Some of the topics discussed at the conference were CompStat, officer-involved shootings and the LAPD review process, officer-involved shootings and the media, constitutional policing, use-of-force review, data-driven policing strategies, the Palantir dashboard, the LA Crime Gun Intelligence Center, in-depth homicide reporting, the homeless and HOPE, and mental health. Many of the sites have documented takeaways and lessons learned as a result of the strategies and information shared during this peer exchange. Below are some of the highlights of lessons learned and initial steps of implementation.

- ★ The Jackson Police Department's (JPD) biggest takeaway from the LAPD Crimefighters Conference was how LAPD uses analytics and crime mapping to help with smart policing. The FBI provided Digital Imaging Video Response Team (DIVRT) training to JPD and has offered assistance with intelligence capabilities based on lessons learned from the LAPD Crimefighters Leadership Conference.
- ★ Representatives from the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office attended the conference to learn more about evidence-based programs to reduce violent crime related to major crimes investigations, crime gun intelligence, mental health, use of force, and officer-involved shootings and about alternative prosecutorial strategies.
- ★ The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNP) attended the conference to learn new skills and improve existing techniques for building relationships with the community and developing community-based policing policies.
- ★ The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) attended to learn about how best to prioritize individuals as targets and identify new and innovative technology to help combat violent crime and group violence.
- ★ The Newark Police Department (NPD) attended to learn about innovative strategies used to investigate violent crime, analyze gun crime, and address mental health and responses to officer-involved shootings that could also supplement the goals of their consent decree.
- ★ The West Memphis Police Department (WMPD) is working on its violence reduction strategy based on LAPD's LASR strategy deploying in the SMART Policing Initiative. WMPD attended this conference to follow up with LAPD commanders on their use of data monitoring, identify processes in evaluating new areas of the city to deploy resources, and collaborate with SMEs and other LAPD officers on the processes for sustaining a violence reduction strategy.



# VRN Site Highlights This Quarter

See the Site Highlights on pages 6–13 for more details!



Phase 2 VRN Sites\*  
Phase 3 VRN Sites\*

### Compton, California

- ★ As a result of VRN engagement, the Los Angeles District Attorney's (LADA) Office designated a Deputy District Attorney to review and file all VRN cases and developed special protocols to ensure timely processing. As of early 2017, LADA filed a total of 52 VRN-related felony cases alleging violations of the California Penal Code against 54 defendants. These violations include weapons possession, attempted murder, and assault on a peace officer.
- ★ A USMS Warrant Task Force was created as a joint operation among the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), the LADA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of State, the California Highway Patrol, and ATF. As of March 2017, this multiagency task force has arrested 107 individuals, seized numerous weapons, and closed 135 warrants. The DEA has dedicated two agents to a VRN law enforcement task force to focus on case adoptions leading to federal indictment and to address developing cases, with the goal of disrupting narcotics trafficking into Compton. Through this quarter, the FBI and USMS have collectively seized more than 50 weapons in Compton.
- ★ During this quarter, crime analysis subject-matter expert (SME) Julie Wartell conducted a site visit to Compton to meet with local analysts and provide TTA related to enhancing analytic capacity within the Compton Station. As follow-up to the visit, Ms. Wartell will provide recommendations for future TTA to support Compton in building and enhancing crime and intelligence analysis capabilities. The FBI sent an intelligence analyst to meet with the Compton Station crime analyst. The analyst from Compton Station provided feedback that it was extremely helpful to learn about the other intelligence resources and capabilities that the FBI can assist with.
- ★ Compton participated in BJA VALOR officer safety training in Mesa, Arizona, to learn about tools to enhance professionalism while utilizing techniques for preventing and de-escalating situations that may result in a violent encounter. Compton also attended FBI DIVRT training this quarter to increase skills regarding exploitation of video evidence to produce crime commercials for social and traditional media.



### SSL Spotlight—Bill Lansdowne

"As a police professional with 50 years of law enforcement experience, I could not be happier to be part of the VRN team as the SSL in Compton. The VRN program has built the best working relationship between our federal partners and the community of Compton that I have ever experienced in my law enforcement career. This working relationship has resulted in additional training, peer-to-peer visits, the enhanced use of technology, and 21st century policing for Compton. This year, Compton had no homicides for the first three months of 2017, the longest time period without a homicide since the sheriff took over policing in Compton in 2000, and had a 32 percent decrease in gang shooting for 2017. The city is truly safer because of the VRN Program."



### Flint, Michigan

- ★ Following ongoing participation in the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Social Network Analysis (SNA) trainings during VRN engagement, Flint VRN expressed interest in continuing technical assistance related to SNA to support their local violence reduction efforts. Through the VRN program, Flint and Milwaukee were selected as pilot sites for an SNA TTA program led by VRN SMEs Dr. Andrew Fox and Chief Joseph McHale, with support from the NPS. This pilot program proposes to fully implement SNA into the agency, training the analysts from data collection to using SNA to drive enforcement and deployment. The proposed engagement will last 9 months. Throughout this quarter, Flint VRN law enforcement partners worked with the SMEs, the VRN team, and partner sites to prepare for planning meetings that will take place next quarter.
- ★ In February, SMEs Dr. Charles Katz and Dr. Andrew Fox explored the feasibility of a gang assessment. The SMEs interviewed available stakeholders, including representatives from VRN stakeholder agencies; assessed their analytical needs; conducted a data inventory; and assessed current strengths and challenges facing Flint concerning conducting a gang assessment. As a result of this evaluation, it was proposed that a gang assessment combining SNA and a gang audit be conducted within the Flint Police Department (FPD).
- ★ As follow-up to their participation in the LAPD Crimefighters Leadership Conference, Flint representatives plan to visit the Tampa Police Department to explore violence reduction strategies and programs that can be replicated in smaller agencies. FPD also participated in BJA's VALOR Officer Safety training.



### SSL Spotlight— Jane Castor

“VRN is an outstanding initiative that assists municipalities that are struggling with violent crime and, in most cases, a lack of resources to address this issue. FPD has benefited immeasurably from the guidance, technical assistance, and best-practice exposure and peer exchanges provided through the program. The opportunities and exposure FPD has experienced under VRN are reflected in a considerable reduction in violent crime, as well as all other crime categories. In my 31 years of law enforcement experience, VRN is the best program I have been exposed to for helping lift struggling cities out of a cycle of violence.”

### Jackson, Mississippi

- ★ This quarter, VRN SMEs John Skaggs and John Colello conducted a homicide investigation and prosecution assessment of the Jackson Police Department (JPD). The purpose of this assessment was to identify the gaps in these areas and recommend strategies to implement to correct these, with the goal of improving outcomes for homicide investigations.
- ★ Federal law enforcement partners continue to be actively engaged in local violence reduction efforts in Jackson. This quarter, ATF offered pole camera technologies to JPD to help determine areas of gunfire in the local communities. The partners hope to identify locations for the pole cams and install them next quarter. JPD is working with DEA on focused joint investigations to address the opioid crisis. In addition, the FBI is working with JPD on latent fingerprint processing assistance out of the Quantico lab. Next quarter, Jackson VRN partners will attend a BJA VALOR officer safety training, homicide investigations training, and the NPS SNA Symposium.

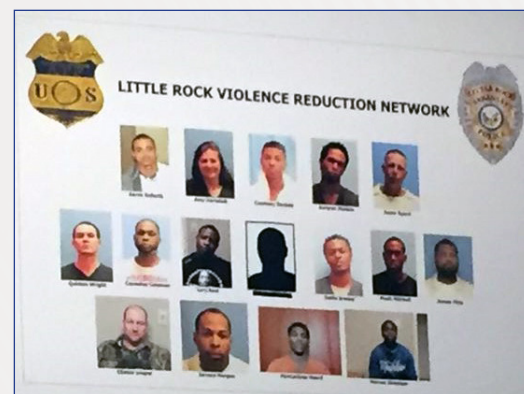


### SSL Spotlight— Dan Isom

“The Jackson Police Department has thoroughly immersed its city in the Violence Reduction Network. In the first six months, JPD has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of its efforts to reduce violent crime. It is building a strong foundation to enhance its existing strategies and leveraging VRN resources to make the city safer.”

### Little Rock, Arkansas

- ★ In February, the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), Eastern District of Arkansas, announced 41 federal indictments through the VRN program. These indictments charged some of the area's most violent offenders with various gun and drug crimes. This effort was as a result of collaboration among the USAO, ATF, the Prosecuting Attorney for the Sixth Judicial District, the FBI, the Little Rock Police Department (LRPD), and the North Little Rock Police Department.
- ★ LRPD focused on intelligence-based policing this quarter and created a new unit to analyze crime data and map specific areas for deployment. The unit began patrolling in early February and within a few weeks had made 15 arrests, 2 of them felonies; recovered narcotics and stolen cars; and seized nine weapons. Little Rock participated in a peer exchange to the Milwaukee Sojourner Family Peace Center to explore the planning process for family justice centers (FJC), what makes them successful, and the feasibility of the FJC model for the Little Rock community. SME Chris Bruce visited LRPD from March 28 to 30, 2017, to conduct a crime analysis capability assessment. As a result of the visit, Mr. Bruce identified a number of strengths and recommendations for LRPD related to crime analysis management, training, and development; data and technology; CompStat; and more.
- ★ Next quarter, LRPD will visit the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) to observe and participate in its officer wellness training program. IMPD's Office of Professional Development and Wellness is recognized by DOJ as a national model for Police Officer Resiliency and Wellness. LRPD plans to establish an Officer Wellness Unit by the end of 2017. This peer exchange will serve as an opportunity for LRPD officers to observe an established officer wellness program, assist in the development and implementation, and learn what components make it effective and successful in anticipation of creating their own.



*"The Little Rock Police Department is proud of our relationships with the U.S. Attorney's Office and all of our federal partners. We have at least one officer assigned to ATF, FBI, DEA, USMS, and IRS. These relationships are essential to providing public safety in the capitol city."*

*— Chief Kenton Buckner,  
Little Rock Police Department*

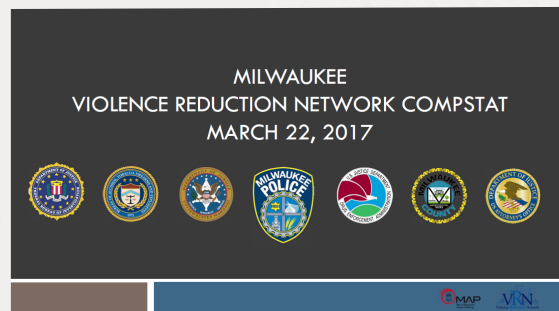
### SSL Spotlight—Dr. Theron Bowman



"Working in the VRN with the Little Rock team has been one of my greatest professional honors. The Little Rock team, from the police department and federal law enforcement partners to the U.S. Attorney's and County Prosecutor's Offices, are among the friendliest and most dedicated public servants I've ever met. This remarkable journey with the Little Rock team, the CNA analyst, and federal program and law enforcement champions has reminded us that greatness emerges when we subordinate personal interests to the collective mission. Most of us entered public service to "make a difference." VRN undoubtedly matters, especially to the thousands of people whose lives and hope will not be shattered by violent crime."



### Milwaukee, Wisconsin



- ★ The Center Street Corridor (CSC), the VRN strategy area for the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) and federal partners, was the focus of multiple successful operations during this quarter. MPD, in collaboration with federal partners, conducted a sweep in the corridor in March, and the FBI experienced success in a long-term gang investigation that will impact the corridor. From January 1 to March 8, the USMS conducted 104 sex offender compliance checks in collaboration with corrections. MPD Districts 3, 5, and 7 held 55 combined community events in the CSC this quarter (through March 8), including tours of the MPD, meetings with business owners and community organizers, Black History Month art contest, and conversations with inmates about release expectations. Milwaukee partners reported 49 gun recoveries between January 1 and March 8, a 53 percent increase from the same period in 2016. Milwaukee also reported a 69 percent decrease in carjackings in the CSC for the same time period and a 50 percent decrease in carjackings citywide. All VRN partners agreed to expand the CSC to a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -square-mile area near the current area effective in March.
- ★ This quarter, 25 MPD officers attended the International Homicide Investigators Association Conference to learn about topics such as crime scene analysis and processing, homicide types and offender motivation, investigative resources and techniques, and media relations.
- ★ MPD also hosted leadership from St. Louis and Chicago to share strategies from MPD's Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC), Project Safe Neighborhoods, and VRN CompStat. Milwaukee's CGIC is based on a model developed by the Denver, Colorado, Police Department and ATF. CGICs are a collaborative, interagency effort to process and analyze crime gun evidence, with the goal of identifying and targeting armed violence offenders to reduce and prevent violence. Since the implementation of a CGIC in Denver, three other cities, including Milwaukee, were awarded grant funding to replicate the Denver CGIC model. Milwaukee's selection as an early pilot city for the CGIC model enables it to serve as a learning site for other VRN cities regarding crime gun evidence collection and ballistics processing.
- ★ Next quarter, MPD and the Flint Police Department will continue planning efforts for the VRN SNA pilot TTA program. MPD also plans to attend Blue Courage training and HUMINT training concerning confidential informant tactics, participate in a peer exchange with the Oakland Police Department in California regarding its shooting review process, and develop a community survey.



#### SSL Spotlight—Terry Gainer

"Focused on an agreed area of the city experiencing significant violent crime, the combined efforts of the Milwaukee PD, federal law enforcement partners, and city and federal prosecutors have made significant progress in reducing nonfatal shootings while enhancing community trust. They have leveraged a variety of available TTA, peer-to-peer exchanges, and SME advice as they opened their doors to others in the VRN program. Great team work, yet the work is not done."



# Site Highlights

## Nashville and Newark

### Nashville, Tennessee

- ★ A key highlight this quarter for Nashville VRN was the peer exchange to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). In anticipation of receiving 2,000 body-worn cameras and over 500 in-car camera systems, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNP) participated in a peer exchange site visit with the LVMPD to review its body-worn camera program, including its Project Management and Video Bureau, which has been recognized by DOJ for its program management, processing and handling of videos, and policy implementation. During the peer exchange, LVMPD officers met with MNP officers to address various aspects of body-worn camera programs, including their patrol perspectives and daily execution; policy violations, union challenges, and how they are dealt with; budgeting and financial impact; concept, development, and implementation; managing the program and its challenges; partnering with stakeholders and community concerns; and how officers are trained and monitored. MNP officers were also able to tour the Real Time Crime Center. Because of the experience with the LVMPD peer exchange, MNP feels “greatly prepared with an outline of very critical aspects of usage and implementation.”
- ★ In addition to the body-worn camera peer exchange this quarter, MNP is currently exploring opportunities for assistance with the Office for Victims of Crime related to domestic violence, human trafficking, and witness protection services.
- ★ Next quarter, Nashville will participate in several peer exchanges, including to DEA’s El Paso Intelligence Center and BJA’s Body-Worn Camera Conference in New Orleans. Nashville will attend the NPS SNA training in May.



### SSL Spotlight— Commissioner Robert Haas

“VRN provides an important pathway designed to foster a stronger collaborative relationship between local authorities and their federal partners. This has been particularly evident by some of the creative approaches that have already been initiated to address the causative factors driving crime within Nashville.”

### Newark, New Jersey

- ★ In March, representatives from the Newark Police Department (NPD) and Essex County Prosecutor’s Office participated in the West Coast Crime Strategies Symposium, hosted by the San Francisco, California, District Attorney’s Office and the New York County District Attorney’s Office. Through this event, participants learned how to apply technology and data toward the prosecution of criminals and heard from SMEs from San Francisco; New York City; St. Louis, Missouri; and King County, Washington.
- ★ NPD continued work with grant strategist Joan Brody this quarter to explore grant opportunities and research partnerships. Next quarter, NPD will participate in a peer exchange with New Orleans regarding consent decrees, attend the National Body-Worn Camera Conference, and continue development of training curriculums and fulfilling consent decree requirements.
- ★ In response to DOJ consent decree recommendations and through an agreement with the Virginia Center for Police Innovation (VCPI), NPD has finalized a curriculum for community policing and bias-free policing training. Currently, the DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is reviewing the curriculum. NPD plans to roll out the training to all officers. Each officer will receive 16 hours of training over two days. NPD plans to keep training sessions to about 30 officers and conduct three sessions a week.
- ★ In addition, NPD is involved in a variety of community engagement initiatives and activities, including Coffee with a Cop, clergy ride along, community CompStat meetings, Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.), Cops and Kids, the Public Safety Citizen Clergy Academy, Neighborhood Block Watch, presentations at local schools, community affairs committee meetings, and summer youth academies. NPD is also planning a youth roundtable to facilitate communication between high school students and police.



### SSL Spotlight—Larry Loesch

“The combination of the change in command and the introduction of the VRN tools and training have had a positive impact on the development and success of violence reduction strategies in the city of Newark. The availability and implementation of excellent and focused training coupled with the development of a collaboration of local federal partnerships has put Newark on the books for record crime reduction. VRN has provided this new team the tools to ensure better-trained professional police officers and a sustained focus on crime reduction strategies in the Newark PD for years to come.”

### New Orleans, Louisiana

- ★ The New Orleans VRN team conducted a site visit in January to meet with VRN partners regarding crime analysis, community surveys, and focused deterrence. Through this visit, it was suggested that both a crime analysis assessment and community engagement assistance might be helpful for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD).
- ★ Throughout VRN engagement, NOPD has focused on increasing crime analysis capacity. This quarter, NOPD hired two crime analysts, and SME Chris Bruce conducted a crime analysis assessment to prepare for the new analysts and help NOPD establish focus areas and strategies to maximize the analytical expertise.
- ★ SME Garrett Zimmerman conducted an assessment of NOPD's Criminal Case Management System (CCMS), its use by case detectives and detective supervisors, and prioritization of cases. This was done to evaluate the effectiveness of NOPD's current detective function, operations, case management approach, and leadership structure.
- ★ In efforts to reduce and prevent gun violence in the city, BJA's VALOR Officer Safety program conducted a gun violence assessment in March. During this assessment, VALOR SMEs met with representatives from NOPD, the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, ATF New Orleans, and the USAO. The purpose of this assessment was to explore current gun violence prevention, intervention, police response, and prosecution strategies and practices. The SMEs discussed various topics, such as department manpower, organizational structure, patrol and tactical deployment, criminal investigations, crime analysis, gun crime deployment methods, firearms laboratory and processing protocols, prosecution protocols, case review processes, and firearms case life cycle. The SMEs will use findings from this assessment to provide a report with recommendations for future enhancement, training, or technical assistance opportunities and will use the assessment to develop a customized training curriculum to be provided to NOPD this summer.
- ★ During this quarter, NOPD created a new unit whose specific purpose is to target gun violence. NOPD also engaged in hot spot policing and focused deterrence, concentrating its efforts on the 6th District to reduce gang violence. Chief Noel attributed an increase in collaboration internally and externally to VRN.
- ★ Next quarter, NOPD will host a peer exchange on promising practices and lessons learned from experiencing a consent decree, attend the NPS SNA Symposium, focus on training opportunities for its new crime analysts, and explore community policing strategies.



#### SSL Spotlight—Nola Joyce

"The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and its federal partners are working diligently to combat violent crime. This work focuses on improving investigations, focusing on violent crime areas, sharing information, and coordinating efforts. As its SSL, it is satisfying to know that I am contributing to their efforts by offering advice and bringing federal programs and resources to NOPD."



### St. Louis, Missouri

★ One of the priorities of St. Louis VRN is to improve police morale and community engagement within the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD). To support this effort, in July 2016, SLMPD participated in a peer exchange with the Boston Police Department to observe its CompStat practices, its community engagement initiatives, and how it incorporates community policing into CompStat. As follow-up to the Boston peer exchange and based on lessons learned, over the last several months, SLMPD implemented new programs to better engage with the community. Through one of these new programs, the Gentleman's Club, SLMPD officers serve as mentors to juvenile men in a detention facility. Through the Man Up Club, which was created as an extension of the Gentleman's Club, officers and the young men from the detention facility meet with high school students to encourage positive alternatives to crime and talk about their experiences and lessons learned. SLMPD visits the detention center and the high school weekly to continue mentoring and building positive relationships.



*St. Louis high school students and SLMPD officers from the Man Up Club*

★ At the request of SLMPD, the Circuit Attorney's Office, and the Office of the Mayor, IIR conducted a nonfatal shootings and gun violence reduction assessment in early March. The purpose of this assessment was to support SLMPD's ongoing efforts in reducing violent crime by building its capacity to conduct high-quality investigations of nonfatal shootings and ultimately to reduce gun violence. The assessment team prepared a report for the agency partners, including recommendations and action steps moving forward to enhance capacity and improve investigative processes.

### SSL Spotlight—John Skinner



"The city of St. Louis has truly embraced the spirit of community learning within the VRN program. We all grow stronger and more resilient through the sharing of innovative ideas and best practices. It has been a tremendous honor working with the experienced and committed leadership in St. Louis."



### West Memphis, Arkansas

- ★ Last quarter, the West Memphis Police Department (WMPD) and the West Memphis VRN team introduced a new violence reduction program titled Operation “Data Enhanced Targeted Enforcement and Restoration,” or Operation “DETER.” Through use of a variety of analytic tools, problem-solving techniques, evidence-based strategies, and evaluation, DETER seeks to identify and focus on chronic hot spot locations and offenders. The DETER program was piloted and implemented beginning February 1 and has already yielded positive results. Within only days of implementation, Operation DETER led to the arrest of a top-priority offender in West Memphis.
- ★ 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. Through Operation DETER, WMPD officers proactively patrol the pilot area and changed patrol schedules from 10-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts to increase staffing during times of day with more incidents of violent crime, shots fired, calls for service, etc.



### SSL Spotlight—Larry Larimore



“It has been a great pleasure to work with police leaders in developing and implementing a data-driven approach within the WMPD. Throughout this engagement, the department has been the proverbial sponge soaking up information and experiences provided by VRN. The key takeaways from their involvement are the cultural and operational changes in operations that can be sustained to address crime. Through the training, technical assistance, federally sponsored information summits, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities with other police agencies, West Memphis PD is better positioned to address violent crime in the community and continue with its first violent crime reduction strategy. Their continued work in developing better relationships within their community through outreach activities will assist them in preventing crime.”



# VRN Community Corner



Twitter: Flint PD officers out in the community giving free hugs to community members 2/5/17



Compton Sheriff's Station Facebook: Captain Mike Thatcher with community members at "Coffee with the Captain" event 2/23/17



@LRpolice: Little Rock Chief Buckner, Benton Chief Lane, and Pulaski County Sheriff Holladay promote quality #prek as crime prevention tool in AR 2/1/17

Highlighting the Impact of Law Enforcement in the Community



West Memphis Police Department Facebook: West Memphis police and fire representatives, including police dog "Rusty," cut ribbon for a local store opening 4/30/17



@CityofNewarkNJ: Bringing youth and police together to understand each other. Mayor Baraka and @AllStarsProject launch Cops & Kids program 4/6/17

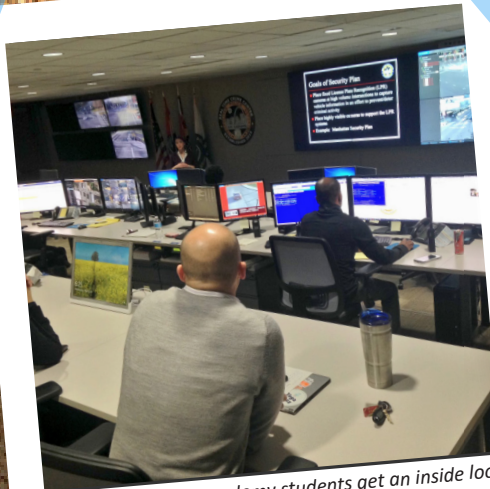
# VRN Community Corner



@MNPDNashville: Madison Precinct officers participated in Career Day at local elementary school, visiting with 500+ students 3/17/17



@JacksonMSPolice: JPD Officer participates in @JPSDistrict "Read Across America" 3/2/17

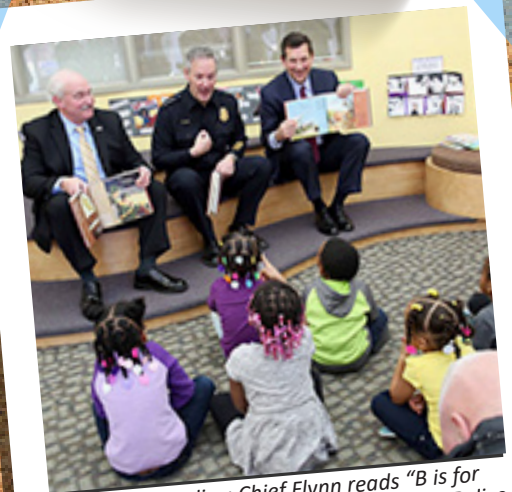


@SLMPD: Citizens Academy students get an inside look into SLMPD's Real Time Crime Center 3/22/17

Do you have a photo or story you would like to share?  
Contact  
[VRNteam@iir.com](mailto:VRNteam@iir.com)



@NOPDNews: Superintendent Harrison talks with community members during #CoffeeWithCops event 3/17/17



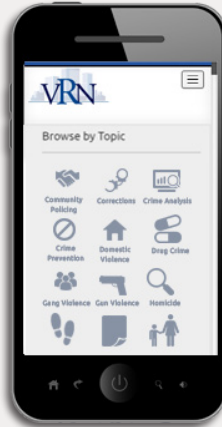
@MilwaukeePolice: Chief Flynn reads "B is for Badger" to kids...editing on the fly: P is for Police 3/8/17

## VRN Website

- ★ 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



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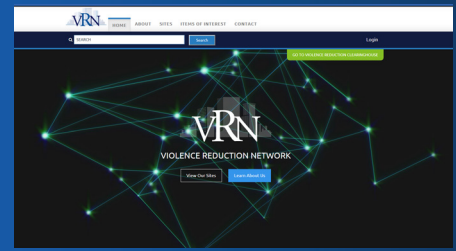
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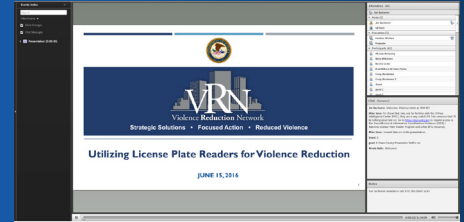


This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-DG-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, 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.

To access these and other resources, visit  
**VRNetwork.org**



To access all of the VRN webinars, visit the  
VRN website at [https://vrnetwork.org/](https://vrnetwork.org/Home/ItemsOfInterest/VRNWebinars)  
**Home/ItemsOfInterest/VRNWebinars**



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### Endnotes

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