

Stephanie Settanni MEd⁺, Therese S. Richmond PhD, CRNP^{*+}, Rose A. Cheney PhD⁺, Michael Grossman MD⁺⁺
 Firearm & Injury Center at Penn, School of Medicine⁺, & School of Nursing^{*}, University of Pennsylvania;
 St. Luke's Regional Resource - Level I Trauma Center & Hospital⁺⁺

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to:

- Use a detailed violent death dataset to identify community specific firearm homicide themes.
- Link themes with targeted strategies to inform gun crime enforcement initiatives at the community level.
- Provide clear and concise information to a law enforcement-led Task Force.

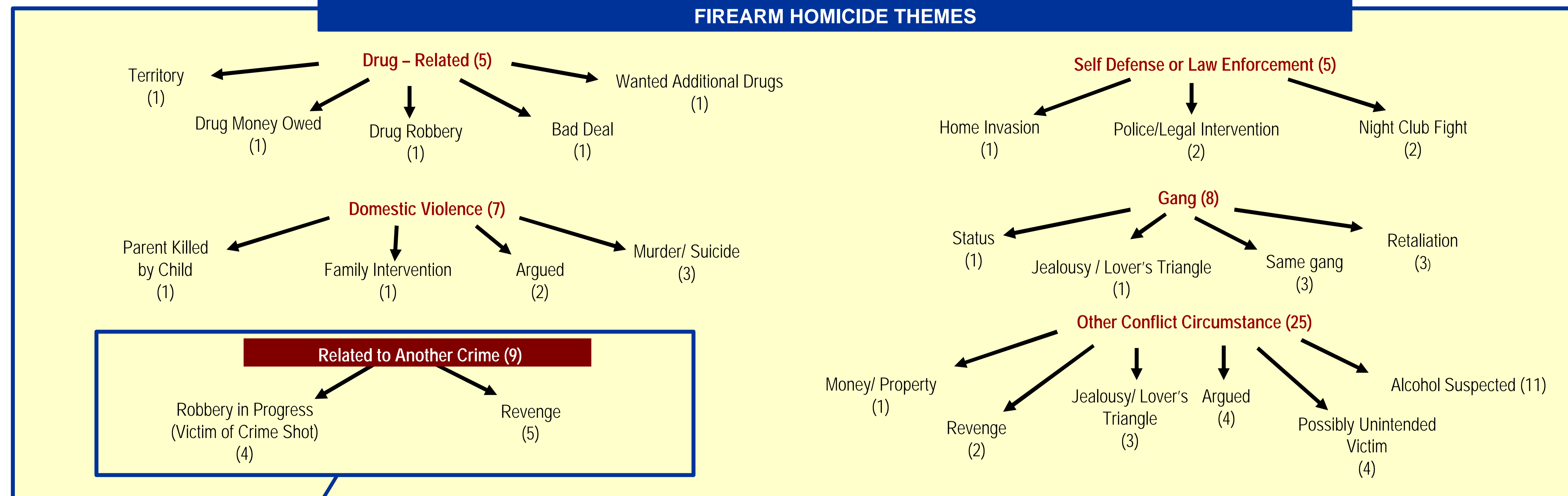
METHODS

- Firearm homicide data for the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania were collected for 1994 – 2002 from medical examiners/coroners and law enforcement on all Lehigh Valley firearm deaths. This data collection served as a pilot to the National Violent Death Reporting System.
- Data from 1999 to 2002 were qualitatively reviewed, identified and grouped by the main themes of each firearm homicide, resulting in 6 different themes.
- A matrix was developed linking these firearm homicide themes, potential intervention points, and published reviews of intervention effectiveness.

RESULTS

- Six themes of firearm homicide in the Lehigh Valley emerged: 1) homicide sparked by another crime 2) self defense or law enforcement 3) gang related 4) drug related 5) domestic violence and 6) other conflicts.
- These data were paired with possible intervention points. Promising or effective interventions were identified, creating a matrix of potential strategies.

We would like to acknowledge our collaboration with the US Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Project Safe Neighborhood and support from The Joyce Foundation



MATRIX EXAMPLE:

Intervention Points	INTERVENTION MATRIX											
	Victim			Offender			Means (Firearm)			Environment		
	Pre Event	Event	Post Event	Pre Event	Event	Post Event	Pre Event	Event	Post Event	Pre Event	Event	Post Event
THEME: Related to Another Crime			9	1,15		2,9,10,11,12,16,17	1			3,4,5,6,7,8,13,14,18,19,20		2,11,12,16,17

PROMISING

1. Reducing Gun Carrying in Public – Policing and Crime. Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising (What Works). 1997
2. Proactive Arrests: Repeat Offenders – Policing and Crime. What Works. 1997
3. Residences – Places and Crime. What Works. 1997
4. Child Access Prevention Laws – Firearm Laws and Prevention of Violence. Community Preventive Services. 2003
5. Airports – Places and Crime. What Works. 1997
6. Open Public Places – Places and Crime. What Works. 1997
7. Public Coin Machines – Crime and Places. What Works. 1997
8. Directed Patrol – Policing and Crime. What Works. 1997

NO EFFECT

9. Problem Oriented Policing: Separating Potential Victims and Offenders – Policing and Crime. What Works. 1997
10. Fines and Recidivism – Criminal Justice and Crime. What Works. 1997
11. Home Confinement and Electronic Monitoring – Criminal Justice and Crime. What Works. 1997
12. Juvenile Boot Camps and Recidivism – Criminal Justice and Crime. What Works. 1997

NO EFFECT (continued)

13. Random Patrol – Policing and Crime. What Works. 1997
14. Neighborhood Watch – Policing and Crime. What Works. 1997

HARMFUL

15. Scared Straight and Other Juvenile Awareness Programs for Preventing Juvenile Delinquency. Campbell Collaboration. 2003

MIXED

16. Intensive Supervision Probation/Parole (ISP) – Criminal Justice and Crime. What Works. 1997
17. Correctional Boot Camps – Criminal Justice and Crime. What Works. 1997
18. Places and Crime – Retail Stores. What Works. 1997
19. Places and Crime – Public Transportation Facilities. What Works. 1997
20. Places and Crime – Parking Facilities. What Works. 1997

CONCLUSIONS

- Detailed violent death data can be used to identify community-specific firearm homicide themes.
- These themes, when partnered with targeted strategies, can inform gun crime enforcement initiatives in addressing firearm violence at the community level.
- Next steps: Incorporate relevant theories to provide theory driven guidance in the absence of research-based interventions.