



Focused Deterrence

Strategies to Address Violent Crime



Speakers



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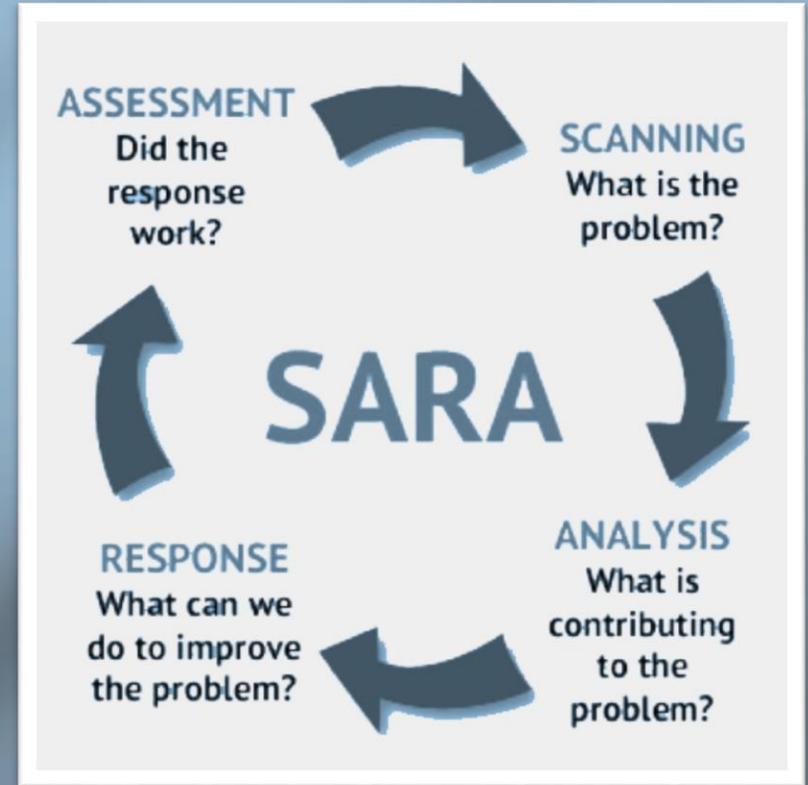
- **Senior Manager**, Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR)
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Focused Deterrence

- Approach
- Accountability
- Compliance with the law (not arrests)
- Crime is prevented through the threat of punishment
 - Severity
 - Swiftiness
 - Certainty

Steps

1. Identification of the problem
2. Convene working group
3. Research and intelligence
4. Communication and moral engagement
5. Group enforcement



Problem Identification



SOURCE: Braga et al., 2018, Table 1

Violent Crime Rates per 100K (2016)

Violent Crime		Homicides ¹		Aggravated Assault	
Detroit	2,047	St. Louis	59.8	Detroit	1,475.6
St. Louis	1,913	Baltimore	51.4	Memphis	1,223.1
Memphis	1,820	Detroit	45.2	St. Louis	1,156.1
Baltimore	1,780	New Orleans	43.8	Kansas City	1,145.8
Kansas City	1,655	Newark	35.5	Stockton	979.1
Cleveland	1,631	Cleveland	35.0	Milwaukee	883.0
Milwaukee	1,533	Memphis	29.9	Baltimore	833.9
Oakland	1,426	San Bernardino	28.5	Lubbock	825.2
Stockton	1,421	Chicago	28.1	San Bernardino	823.7
Indianapolis	1,374	Kansas City	27.0	Indianapolis	819.4
Big City Average	748		11.0		432.7

Steps

1. Identification of the problem
- 2. Convene working group**
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Working Group

- Police department
- State/county prosecutor
- Federal partners
(USAO and law enforcement)
- Probation
- Elected officials
- Social services
- Moral voice of the community
(clergy, advocates)



Working Group

Governing Board

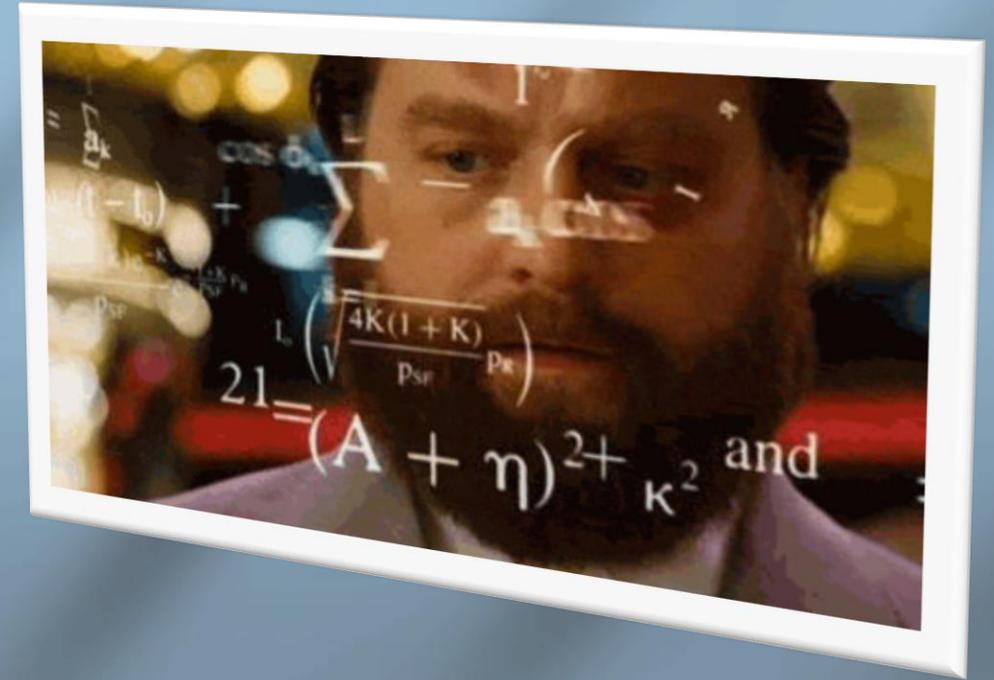
- Agency leaders
- Meets regularly
- Sets agendas, the mission, goals, and time lines
- Allocates resources

Organizational Structure



Steps

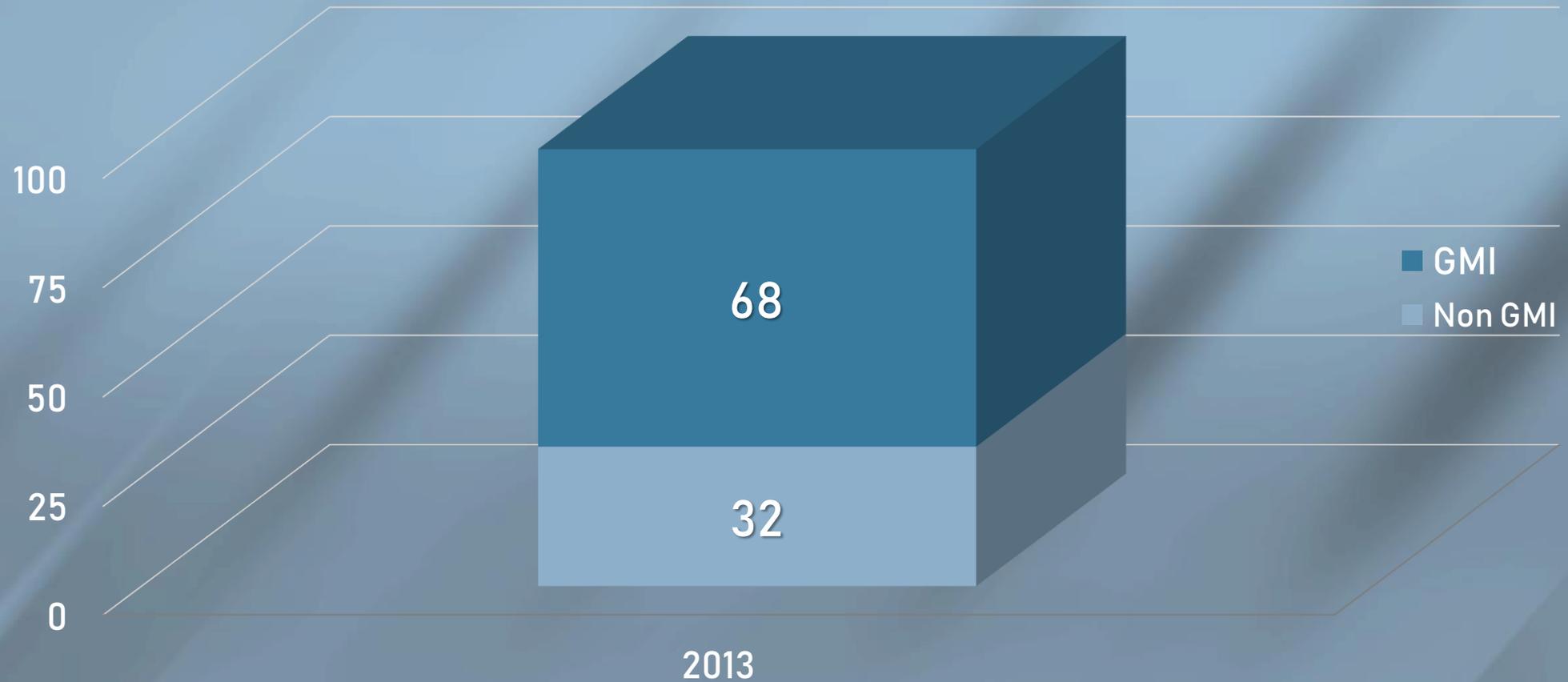
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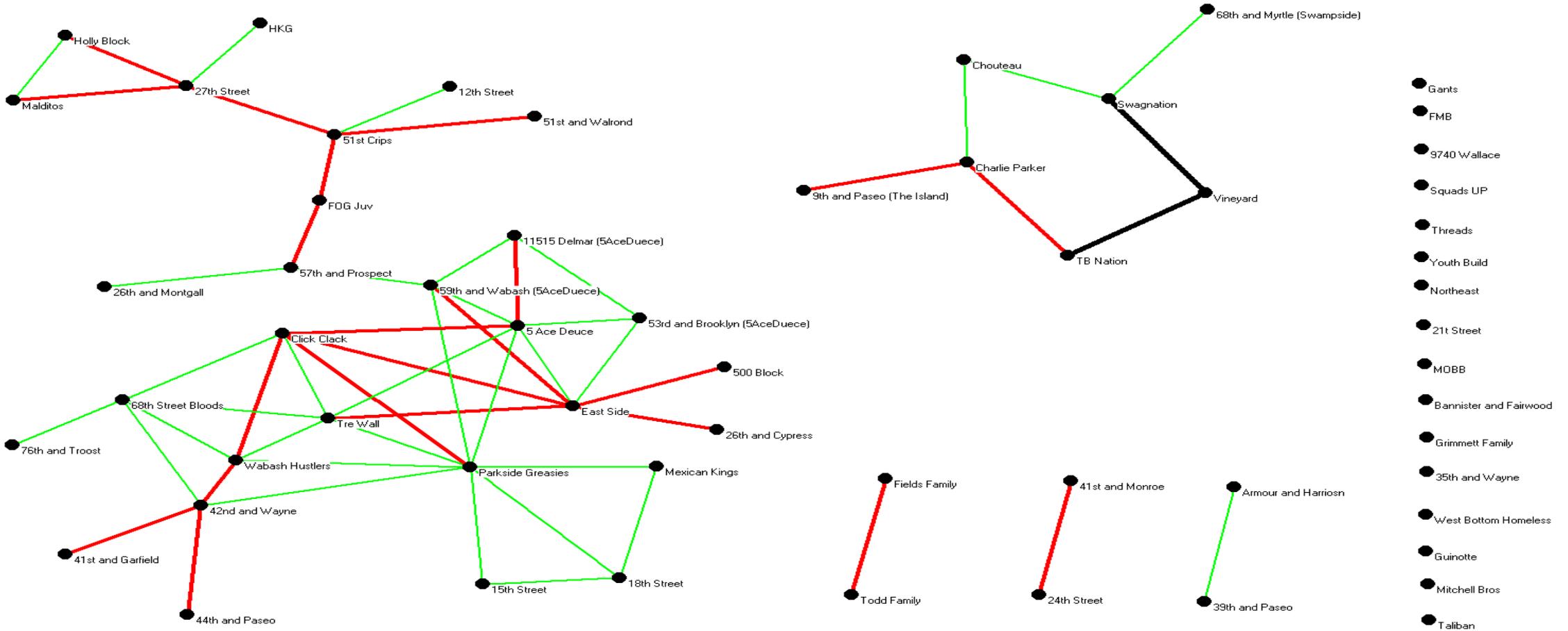
Individual Offender-Based Focused Deterrence



Group vs. Nongroup Involvement



Group Social Structures



Steps

1. Identification of the problem
2. Convene working group
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Procedural Justice?

- Credible community moral message against violence
- Prior notice of legal consequences for further violence
- Genuine offer of support for those who want it



Genuine Offer of Support for Those Who Want It

- Education/job training
- Medical/dental assistance
- Substance abuse, mental health, and anger management referrals
- Job leads
- Bus passes
- Housing/transitional living
- City/state court assistance
- Resume/application/email
- ID documents

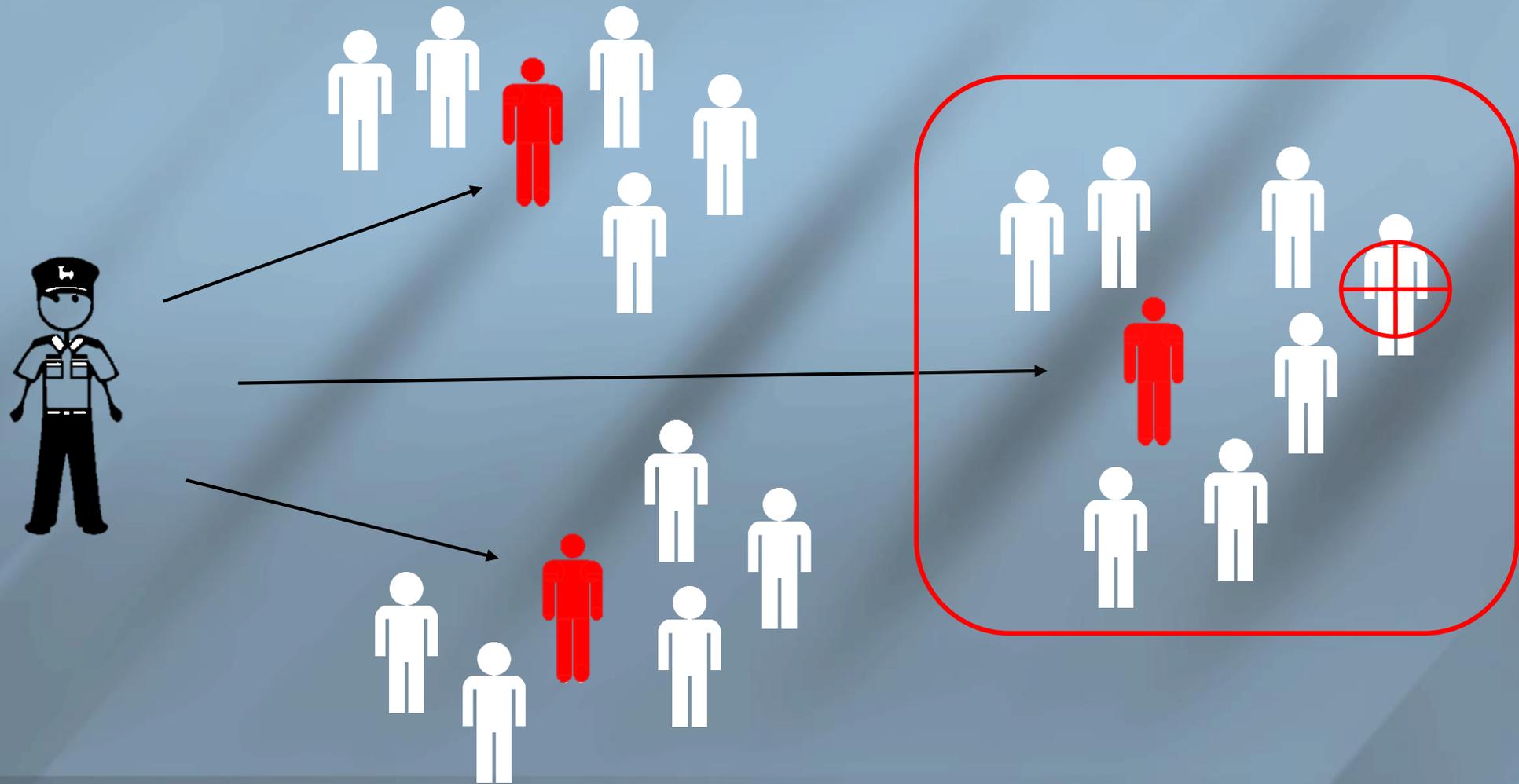


Moral Engagement With Offenders

- Challenge the code of the street
- “We need you safe, alive, and out of prison”
- “You are better than this”
- “We hate the violence”



Communication to Groups



Steps

1. Identification of the problem
2. Convene working group
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Promises Made, Promises Kept

- First group, worst group
- Pulling all possible levers on the entire group
- Group accountability
- Coordinate among all partners
- Communicate why you did what you did

Benefits?

- Reductions in crime
- Violence is de-normalized
- Improved police-community relations

Evidence?

**“Focused deterrence . . . has the largest direct impact on crime and violence, by far, of any intervention in this report.”
(Abt & Winship 2016, p. 13)**

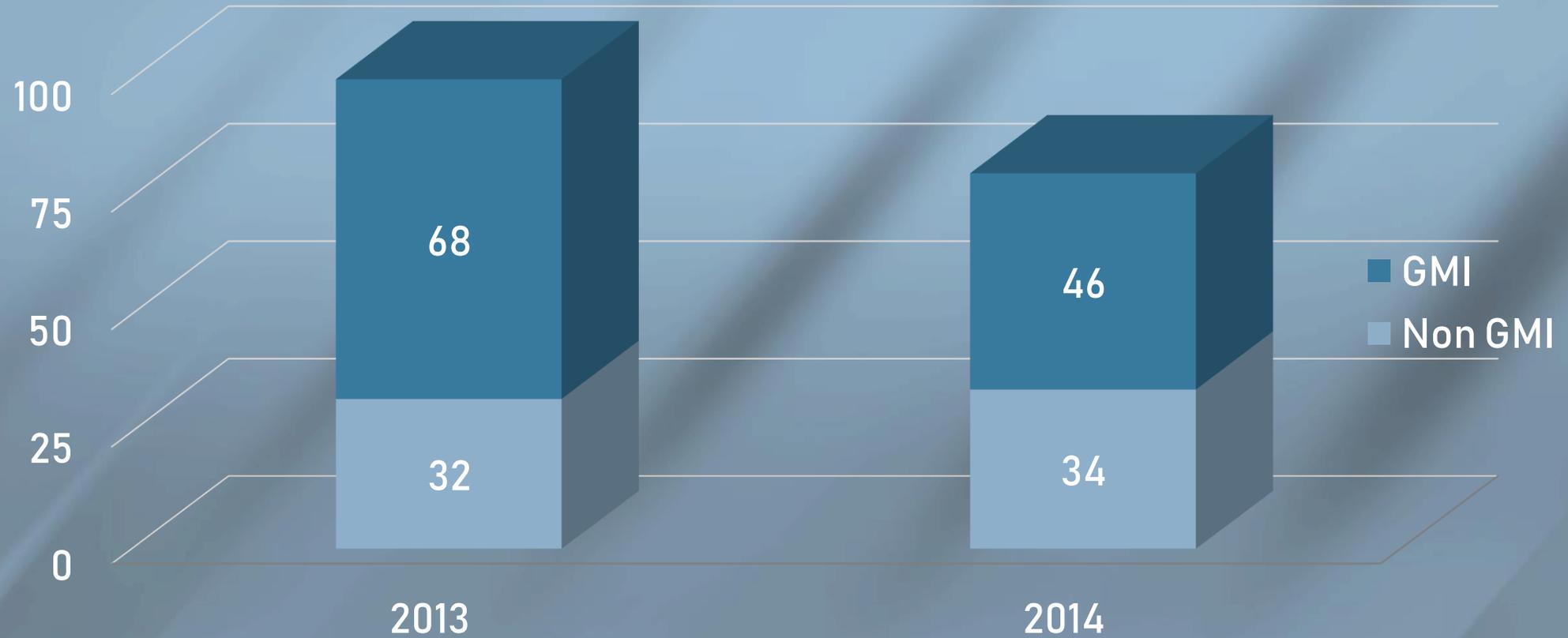
**Meta-analysis—19/24 demonstrated significant reductions in crime
(Braga et al. 2018)**



Homicides (2010–June 2015)



Group vs. Nongroup Involvement



What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



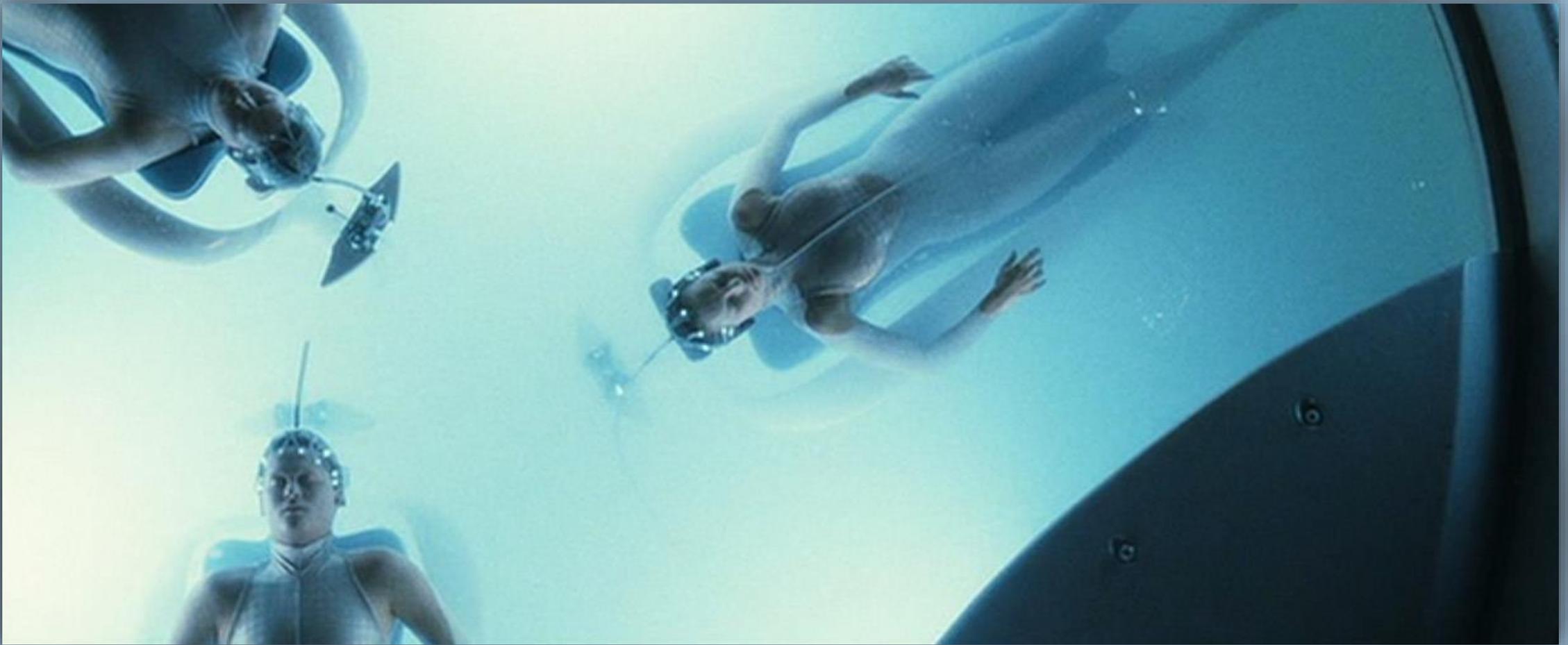
What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



What Focused Deterrence Is NOT



Stop and Think

Consider the following:

- Capacity
- Culture
- Commitment
- Community



Questions?

Contact Us



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Strategic Solutions • Focused Action • Reduced Violence

BJA

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

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National **Public Safety**
PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Solutions • Focused Action • Reduced Violence

THANK YOU!