

Four Recommendations to Better Understand and Address Current Gun Violence Patterns in Seattle

PRESENTATION TO THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 27, 2025



“Our city government is a learning organization...”

-Mayor’s Office Response Letter
Natalie Walton-Anderson,
Chief Public Safety Officer
March 6, 2025



Natalie Walton-Anderson speaking at the Pho Dep (Beautiful Neighborhood) Community Kick-Off Event, February 27, 2025
Photo: Office of City Auditor



<https://www.seattle.gov/cityauditor/reports>

Free Federal Technical Assistance:

- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Violent Crime Reduction Roadmap Program
- Police Executive Research Forum and Dr. Lexi Gill, University of South Florida

Custom Analyses Provided by:

- Seattle Police Department, Performance, Analytics, and Research
- Police Executive Research Forum in collaboration with King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Crime Strategies Unit

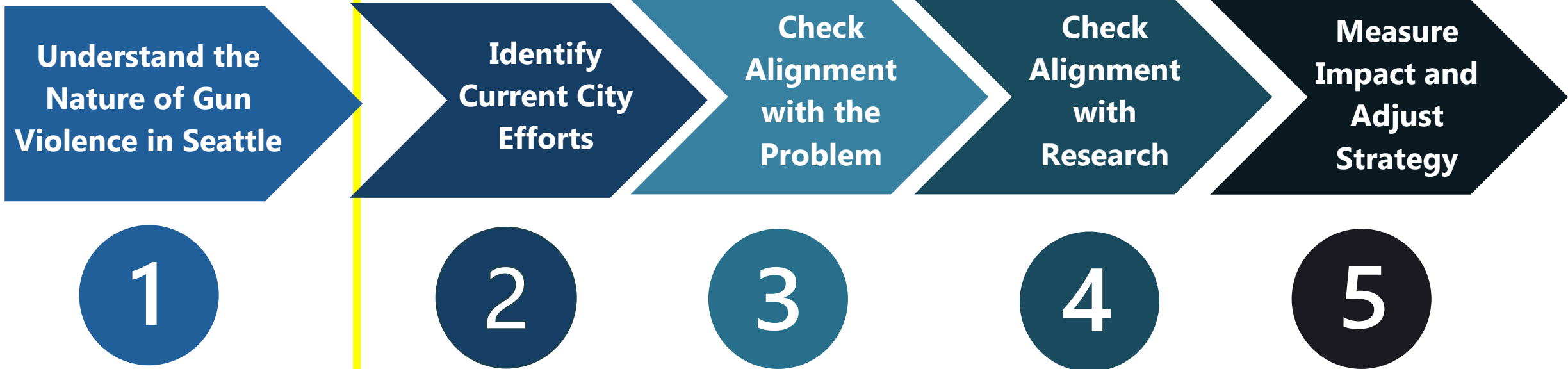
Report Reviewed by:

Mayor's Office, Seattle Police Department, Human Services Department, Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department, and King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office



A First Step the City Could Take to Ensure Its Gun Violence Investments are Effective

This audit report:



Use a Systematic Framework for Reporting Patterns of Gun Violence

Indianapolis



Baltimore

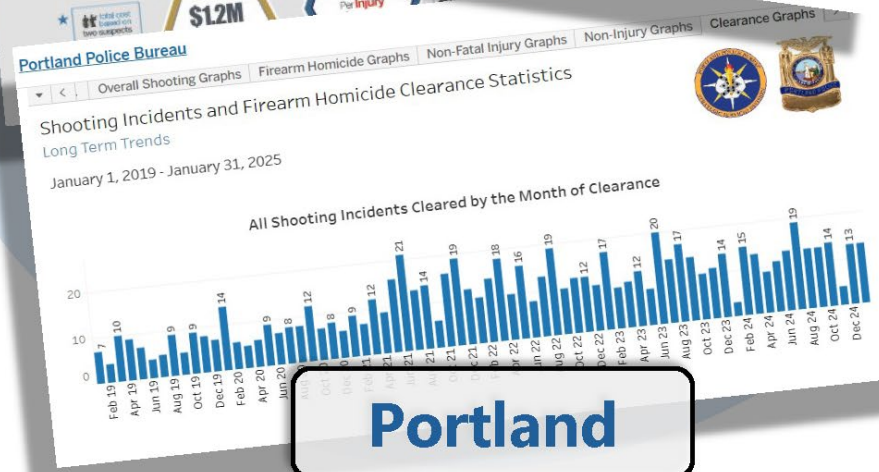
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Reports and Resources

MONSE's Reports and Resources page contains both regular reporting and special reports related to the agency's charge to implement Baltimore's all-hands-on-deck public safety strategy.

Baltimore's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan
April 2024 - [Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan \(CVPP\) Biennial Update](#)
July 2021 - [Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan \(CVPP\)](#)

Quarterly and Annual CVPP Reporting
FY 24 - Quarter 4 Report (Apr. 1, 2024 - Jun. 30, 2024)
FY 24 - Quarter 3 Report (Jan. 1, 2024 - Mar. 31, 2024)
FY 24 - Quarter 2 Report (Oct. 1, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2023)
FY 24 - Quarter 1 Report (Jul. 1, 2023 - Sep. 30, 2023)
FY 23 - Quarter 3 Report (Jan. 1, 2023 - Mar. 31, 2023)
FY 23 - Quarter 2 Report (Oct. 1, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2022)
FY 23 - Quarter 1 Report (Jul. 1, 2022 - Sep. 30, 2022)
July 2022 - [Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan Annual Report](#)
FY22 - Quarter 4 Report (Apr. 1, 2022 - Jun. 30, 2022)

Safe Streets Annual Reporting
[Safe Streets Baltimore 2024 Annual Report](#)
[Safe Streets Baltimore 2023 Annual Report](#)



Portland



Use Problem Analysis and “All-Hands-on-Deck”



Participants in a [Violence Reduction Council](#) analyze data on a neighborhood map. Cities including [Milwaukee, WI](#), [Toledo, OH](#), and [Norfolk, VA](#) use [Violence Reduction Councils](#) to address violent crime in a coordinated way.

Photo: Violence Reduction Councils, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Bloomberg American Health Initiative



Item for Council Consideration

2023 report found that SPD does not follow many best practices for investigative effectiveness.

“Even if the SPD returns to full personnel capacity, these organizational weaknesses will continue if unattended.”



Four Recommendations to Better Understand and Address Current Gun Violence Patterns in Seattle

1	2	3	4
<p>The City of Seattle should develop systematic reporting on gun violence patterns to City departments, other government agencies, elected officials, and the public/community stakeholders. The U.S. Department of Justice (through the Office of Justice Programs and the Police Executive Research Forum) is willing, as federal funding permits, to continue to provide technical assistance to Seattle to address this recommendation.</p>	<p>The Mayor’s Office should provide an update to the Seattle City Council on the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department’s ordinance-mandated new initiative to integrate the City’s violence intervention programs. This should include the feasibility of CARE to convene City departments and partners involved with violence prevention and response and to help disseminate systematic reporting on gun violence patterns.</p>	<p>The City of Seattle should improve its capacity for problem analysis to address gun violence, including 1.) implementing problem-oriented policing, 2.) exploring the use of problem analyses such as homicide reviews and place network investigations, and 3.) requiring organizations that receive City funding to address gun violence to complete evidence-based problem-solving training.</p>	<p>To address gun violence the City of Seattle should implement a framework for regular systematic coordination among City departments, other government entities, and community organizations.</p>



Comments on Audit Recommendations

- **Mayor's Office** – Natalie Walton-Anderson, Director of Public Safety
- **Seattle Police Department**– Rebecca Boatright, General Counsel, Executive Director Analytics and Research
- **King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office** – David Baker, Director of Data and Analytics

