

STOPPING VIOLENCE, SAVING LIVES

Thomas Abt | Founding Director | Center for the Study and
Practice of Violence Reduction

SUMMER
2024



Our mission is simple:
to save lives by
stopping violence,
using science.

Gun violence is a major challenge in the U.S.

- Gun violence now the leading cause of death for youth ages 1-28, eclipsing car accidents and drug overdoses (Goldstick et al., 2022)
- Community gun violence in particular – violence perpetrated in community setting with firearms – accounts for majority of violent deaths (Schleimer et al., 2021)
- This violence continues to claim lives, fill prisons, and exacerbate division in an already polarized society

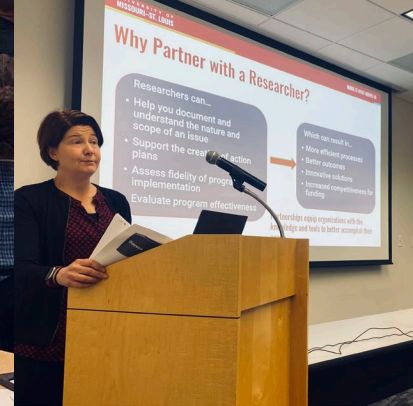
The Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction – the VRC

- The VRC offers solutions to community gun violence by combining rigorous research with practical know-how
 - Review research, summarize it, and then make it available in accessible, easy-to-use formats
 - Provide practical instruction to cities on how to choose the right combination of strategies for their jurisdiction
 - Convene policymakers, practitioners, academics, and community leaders on issues of strategic importance
- Everything we do, we do for free

Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction

- VRC's Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction: on-site, in-person, 4-5 day workshop for participating cities
- Brings together high-level representatives of government, civic and community groups, service providers, others
- Trains participants in selecting right combination of evidence-informed strategies, then guides development of “plan to plan”
- After practicum, VRC supports remotely to help produce final plan and jumpstart implementation
- Currently working with Knoxville, St. Louis region, and Boston







Our mayor-led theory of change

- Violence reduction is a team sport; every team needs a good coach; mayor is that coach – no one else can provide same leadership
- Cities need a clear vision and plan for saving lives – only mayors can articulate vision and lead plan implementation
- The best anti-violence plans have enforcement and non-enforcement components – only mayors can ensure non-enforcement stakeholders at table and contributing
- The best plans are informed by sound evidence and reliable data – if mayors don't rely on such information, others won't either