Tacoma Police Updates

City of Tacoma | Tacoma Police Department

City Council Study Session
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Presentation Type

Informational Only
OVERVIEW

- Violent Crime Reduction Plan Mid-Year 2 Results
Tacoma Violent Crime Reduction Plan
Mid-Year 2 Results

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Drawing from a substantial body of research on the evidence-based crime control strategies, the Tacoma Crime Plan includes three components:

1. A near-term hot spots policing strategy meant to substantially increase police visibility at addresses where violent crime is concentrated and prioritize street-level deterrence in these areas.

2. A mid-term strategy focused on violent places within the city using a Problem-Oriented, Place-Based Policing approach.

3. A longer-term Focused Deterrence strategy to help break the cycle of violence among the small number of repeat and high-risk offenders who are responsible for committing most of the violent crime in Tacoma.
Beginning early July 2022, TPD began executing its near-term, hot spots policing strategy:

- Focus is on violence-prone addresses by increasing police visibility at or near those locations (associated hundred blocks) to deter violent offenders

- Officers are dispatched to recommended hot spots during peak crime hours
  
  - Officers are instructed to be within sight of the hot spot address for least 15 minutes with all vehicle lights illuminated
  
  - Starting in Period 5 (May 2023), randomly assigned over half of hot spots to an “HV+” treatment that involved officers exiting their lighted patrol cars and foot patrolling in the immediate vicinity

- In recent periods most hot spots have been assigned HV+ treatment
July 2023 through December 2023

1. City-wide changes in violent street crime (murder, robbery, non-family violence aggravated assault)
   - Six-month period trend analysis by violent incidents, victimization, crime type

2. Hot spots analysis
   - Change in violent crime at hot spots compared to same months last year and 12-month averages
   - Contribution of hot spot crime to city-wide totals

3. Change in arrests and calls for service

4. Treatment fidelity: Alignment between expected and actual treatment at hot spots
Violent Incidents: Five Year Trend

Tacoma Violent Crime Incidents Per Month: Jan 2019 - Dec 2023

Average Violent Crime Incident Change
Jul 2022-Dec 2022 vs. Jul 2023-Dec 2023: 18.6% Reduction
Change by Crime Type: Treatment v. Last Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Jul 2022-Dec 22: Average Per Month</th>
<th>Jul 2023-Dec 23: Average Per Month</th>
<th>Incident Change</th>
<th>Same time last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>6.3% Increase</td>
<td>6.3% Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>25.2% Reduction</td>
<td>25.2% Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery: Individual</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>5.4% Reduction</td>
<td>5.4% Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery: Business</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>13.9% Increase</td>
<td>13.9% Increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average Murder Incident Change: Jul 2023-Dec 2023
Same time last year: 6.3% Increase

Average Aggravated Assault Incident Change: Jul 2023-Dec 2023
Same time last year: 25.2% Reduction

Average Robbery: Individual Incident Change: Jul 2023-Dec 2023
Same time last year: 5.4% Reduction

Average Robbery: Business Incident Change: Jul 2023-Dec 2023
Prior to the Crime Plan: 13.9% Increase
Violent Crime Change in Hot Spots

Year 2 Mid-Year: % Change in City-Wide, Treatment & Catchment Violent Crime Incidents
Same Months, Last Year: Solid Bars
Previous 12 Months: Hatched Bars
Change in Arrests

Comparison of Average Monthly Arrests: City-Wide and Treatment Locations

Note: These percent changes are based on very low incident numbers and should be interpreted with caution.

City-Wide Increase in Arrests: 2022 vs. 2023
City-Wide Decrease in Arrests: 2022 vs. 2023
Treatment Locations Increase in Arrests: 2022 vs. 2023
Treatment Locations Decrease in Arrests: 2022 vs. 2023
Change in Calls for Service

Comparison of Average Monthly Violent Calls For Service: City-Wide and Treatment Locations

City-Wide Decrease in VCFS: 2022 vs. 2023
-15.2%

Treatment Locations Decrease in VCFS: 2022 vs. 2023
-8.0%
## Treatment Fidelity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Periods</th>
<th>Fidelity Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 6</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 7</td>
<td>100.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 8</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mid-Term Strategy: Problem-Oriented, Place-Based Policing

Place-based strategy to reduce violence and the underlying conditions that create violent places
  • Focused on persistently violent places
  • Data-driven
  • Multi-disciplinary

In spring 2023, UTSA trained Tacoma department directors and designated working group members on the strategy.

By fall 2023, the working group developed a detailed operations plan to address violence at 8810/8820 Hosmer Street.
Solutions on Hosmer Street

- Code compliance by affected properties
- Homeless solutions
- Blight/trash removal
- Engagement with community stakeholders
## Impact on Hosmer Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8820 Hosmer Outcome Measure</th>
<th>Treatment (Oct – Dec 2023)</th>
<th>Last Year (Oct – Dec 2022)</th>
<th>Treatment v. Last Year: % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent Offenses</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-100%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless-Involved Crime</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-100%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls for Service</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-100%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent changes are based on small monthly averages and should be interpreted with caution.
Tacoma experienced a 18.6% decrease in violent street crime incidents during the last six months of 2023 compared to the same months (July – December) in 2022. Yearly violent crime counts remain substantially higher than they were prior to the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Violent crime in treated hot spots was down more than 13% compared to the same months last year, and it was down even more (-18.7%) in surrounding catchment areas, indicating that crime displacement did not occur as a result of the hot spots treatment.

Violence-related calls for service were down 15% city-wide and 8% in treated hot spots compared to last year.
During the two months of POPBP treatment at 8810/8820 Hosmer St., there were no recorded violent crimes or violence-related calls for service.

Taken together, these results provide strong evidence that the Crime Plan’s focus on hot spots was likely responsible for an 18.6% reduction in city-wide violent crime compared to the previous year.
Problem-Oriented, Place-Based Policing (POPBP)

- POPBP strategies are carefully tailored to address underlying conditions that contribute to recurring problems in crime-prone locations and can be more effective at reducing crime than merely increasing or intensifying traditional police activities.

Initial location: **8810/8820 Hosmer Street**

- POPBP Working Group has developed an operations plan for the area
- The working group has begun implementation, and data collection is underway
- Engagement with stakeholders and community members in the area have already produced improvements
- The site likely will move into a maintenance phase in the near future
- An additional site(s) will be identified soon
Next Steps

• Finalize plans for second POPBP site – E. 25th St.

• Begin discussions and planning for Phase 3 of the Crime Plan – Focused Deterrence
UTSA Evaluation

- Hot spot policing evaluation and reporting continues
- POPBP
  - Monitor data collection processes
  - Advise on any emerging issues or concerns
  - **Conduct process & impact evaluation** of second POPBP site
  - **Follow key outcome metrics over time** to track longer-term impacts
- **Analyze data and prepare Year 2 report on implementation and impact of the Tacoma Crime Plan**
Questions?

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