

The Mayor's Commission Against Gun Violence

November 13, 2023



Mayor Sylvester Turner

November 13, 2023



CITY OF HOUSTON
MAYOR'S COMMISSION
AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE



Houston Police Department
Chief of Police Troy Finner

November 13, 2023

One Safe Houston

Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)

- 8,300+ domestic violence victims contacted
- 4,300+ domestic violence victim referrals
- 1,300+ domestic violence suspects arrested

Victim Service Advocates

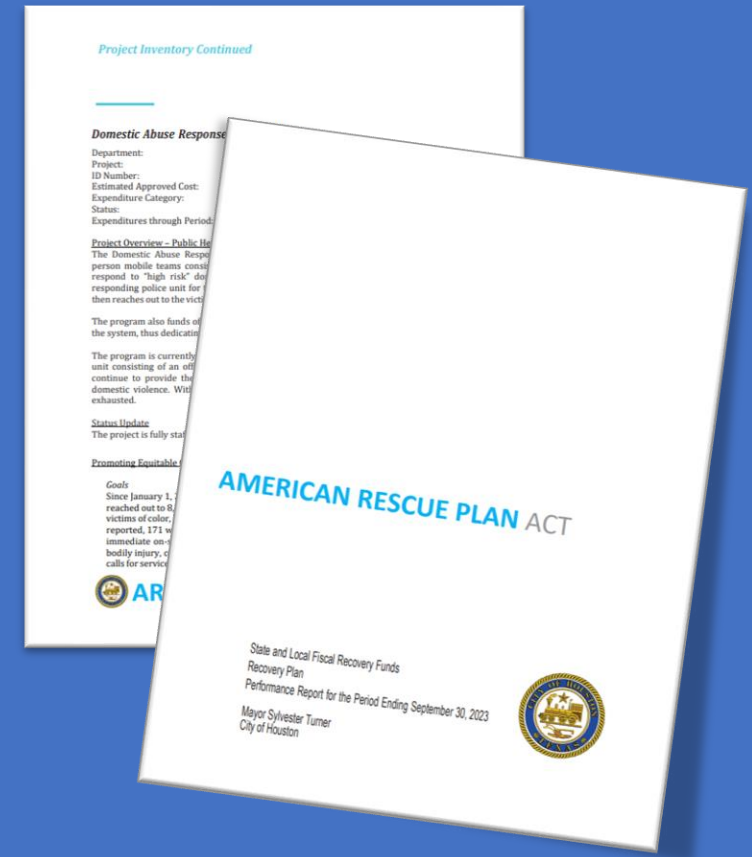
- 3,800+ domestic violence victims serviced by advocates

Emergency Housing Agreement with Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)

- Provides emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence under HPD's DART Program.
- Approved by City Council (November 8th)

Forensic Nurses

- Provides on-scene medical forensic exams to victims.
- On City Council Agenda for vote: November 15th



HPD is reporting a **16% reduction** in the number of Domestic Violence Related Homicides.

One Safe Houston

Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)

- 4,100+ crisis calls diverted from HPD call for service loop

Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)

- 1,500+ calls for service responded to by interdisciplinary mobile teams composed of psychiatrists, registered nurses, licensed clinicians, and psychiatric technicians specializing in crisis intervention

Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT)

- 2,000+ calls for service responded to by mental health clinician paired with a crisis intervention trained law enforcement officer
- 275 emergency detention orders
- 21 SWAT scene assists

Clinician Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)

- 80 officers per shift equipped with CORE tablets



Success through collaboration,
service with compassion.

Operational Initiatives

» Federal Partnerships and Gang
Violent Crime Indictments

» Targeted Violent Crime
Reduction



Firearm Safety

More than 3,500 guns are stolen from vehicles within the City of Houston each year and approximately 3,000 firearms have been reported stolen from vehicles in 2023.

With the support of our City Council, we continue to distribute gun safes and locks. As we approach the holiday season, we will also be launching a safe travel and shopping education campaign.



Year to Date Violent Crime Reductions

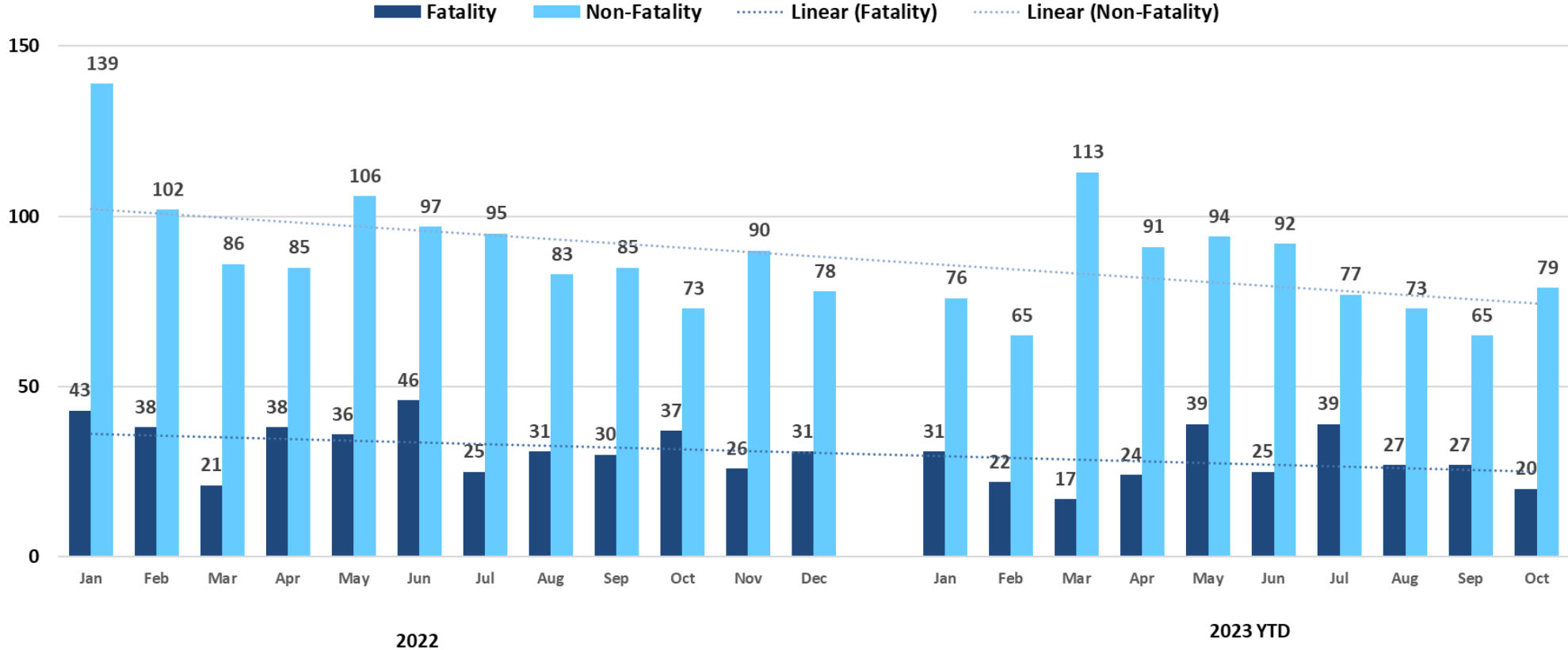
20.30%
Reduction in
Murder

7.90%
Reduction in
Aggravated
Assault

8.46%
Reduction in
Robbery

Preliminary violent crime totals for 2023 YTD are trending **7.79%** below last year.

Fatal & Non-Fatal Shootings



Preliminary YTD 2023 shooting incidents are trending **16.88%** below last year.

Line of Duty Injury & Death

Nationally

In 2023, 52 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. Twenty-five of those officers died as a result of being fatally shot.

Locally

Within our city, 7 officers have been killed since 2019. Four of those were members of the HPD ranks.

We thank Mayor Turner and this Commission for the work you are doing to help us keep our communities safe.



One Safe Houston Update Continued

November 13, 2023



OP
RA



Office of Policing Reform and Accountability

Christina Nowak
Deputy Inspector General

Departments and Partners

Mayor & City Departments

- Mayor's Office of Communication
- Mayor's Office of Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking
- Mayor's Office of Community Relations
- City of Houston Legal Department
- Houston Health Department
- Houston Parks & Recreational Department

Houston Police Department

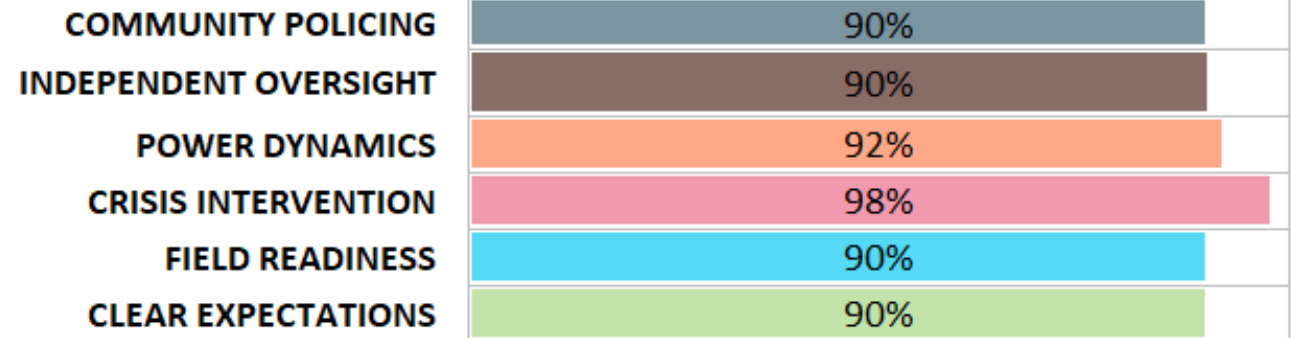
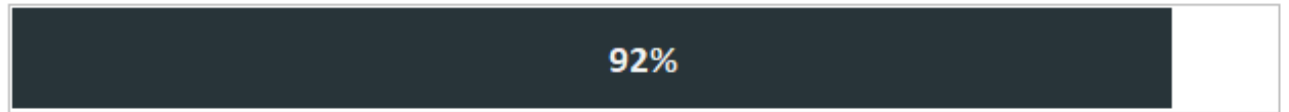
- Victim Services Division
- Office of Planning & Data Governance
- Media Relations Unit
- Office of Community Affairs
- Tactical Operations Division
- Mental Health Division
- Office of Legal Services
- Office of Technology Services

External Partners

- Harris County Sherriff's Office
- Harris Health
- Crime Stoppers
- Texas Anti-Gang Task Force
- Metro Police
- Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Taskforce
- FBI and, more!

Mayor's Task Force Recommendations

OVERALL PROJECT COMPLETION



8% of the 104 recommendations are currently pending due to policy changes or meet and confer.

ONE SAFE HOUSTON

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

ONE SAFE HOUSTON		Total
HHD	Community Violence Intervention - Credible Messenger	\$ 500,000.00
HHD	Community Violence Intervention - CURE Violence Interrupters	\$ 2,500,000.00
HHD	Community Re-Entry Program	\$ 1,000,000.00
HPD	Crisis Intervention Initiatives - Crisis Call Diversion Center (CCD)	\$ 816,420.00
HPD	Crisis Intervention Initiatives - Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)	\$ 11,871,469.00
HPD	Crisis Intervention - 2 additional Council MCOT teams (MCOT)	\$ 1,433,793.00
HPD	Crisis Intervention Initiatives - Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT)	\$ 6,152,664.00
HPD	Crisis Intervention Initiatives - Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)	\$ 2,543,625.00
HPD	Crisis Intervention Initiatives - Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)	\$ 3,615,822.00
HPD	Victim Services - Victim Advocates (5)	\$ 1,335,843.18
HPD	Victim Services- D.A.R.T. Forensic Nurses	\$ 730,712.00
HPD	Victim Services- Emergency Housing / Shelter	\$ 926,250.00
MYR/OHT&DV	Multicultural Outreach (\$2.5M + \$500K)	\$ 3,000,000.00
HPD	Violence Reduction/Crime Prevention Initiative OT	\$ 25,352,772.00
HPD	Gun Buyback Initiative	\$ 986,514.00
PRD	Park Rangers	\$ 1,915,200.00
HFSC	Backlog Funding FY23	\$ 3,000,000.00
HFSC	Backlog Funding FY24	\$ 1,950,000.00
HPD	Technology Enhancement - 5G Enablers	\$ 974,533.00
HPD	Cadet Retention	\$ 7,270,000.00
		\$ 77,875,617.18

ONE SAFE HOUSTON

INITIATIVES



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

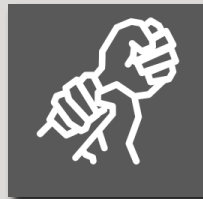
\$23 MILLION

Crisis Call Diversion (CCD) Program
Mobile crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)
Crisis Intervention Team (CIRT)
Clinician Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)



GUN BUYBACK INITIATIVE

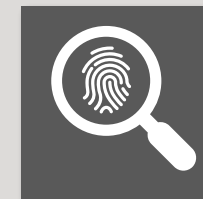
\$1 MILLION



DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE RESPONSES

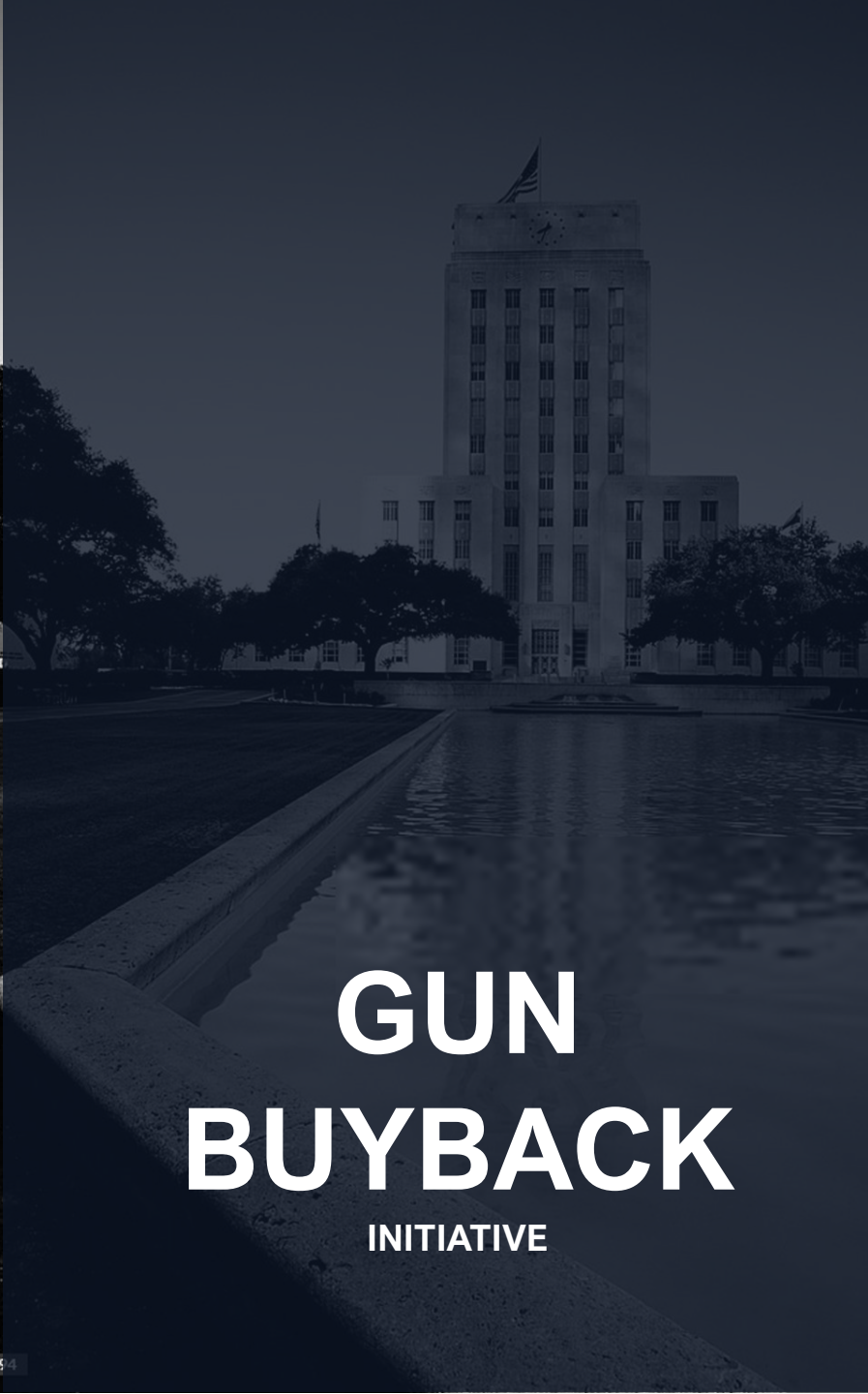
\$9.6 MILLION

Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)
Forensic Nurses
Emergency Shelter



HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER (HFSC)

\$4.9 MILLION



GUN BUYBACK INITIATIVE



GUN BUYBACK INITIATIVE \$1 MILLION

Gun Buyback Statistics			
	July 30, 2022	October 8, 2022	June 10, 2023
Shotguns	155	261	228
Rifles	126	213	
Rifle – Hunting			265
Semi-Automatic Rifle		103	188
Revolver		371	275
Pistols	433	20	
Semi-Automatic Pistols		284	
Semi-Automatic Handgun			490
3D Pistols	80		
Other		19	
Totals	794	1271	1446

Harris County Gun Buyback

When: November 18, 2023
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Where: Westchase Park &
Ride, located at
11050 Harwin
Drive, Houston, TX
77072**

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4
COMMISSIONER
LESLEY BRIONES

GUN BUYBACK

*Advancing opportunity
& justice in Precinct 4!*

HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ
METRO

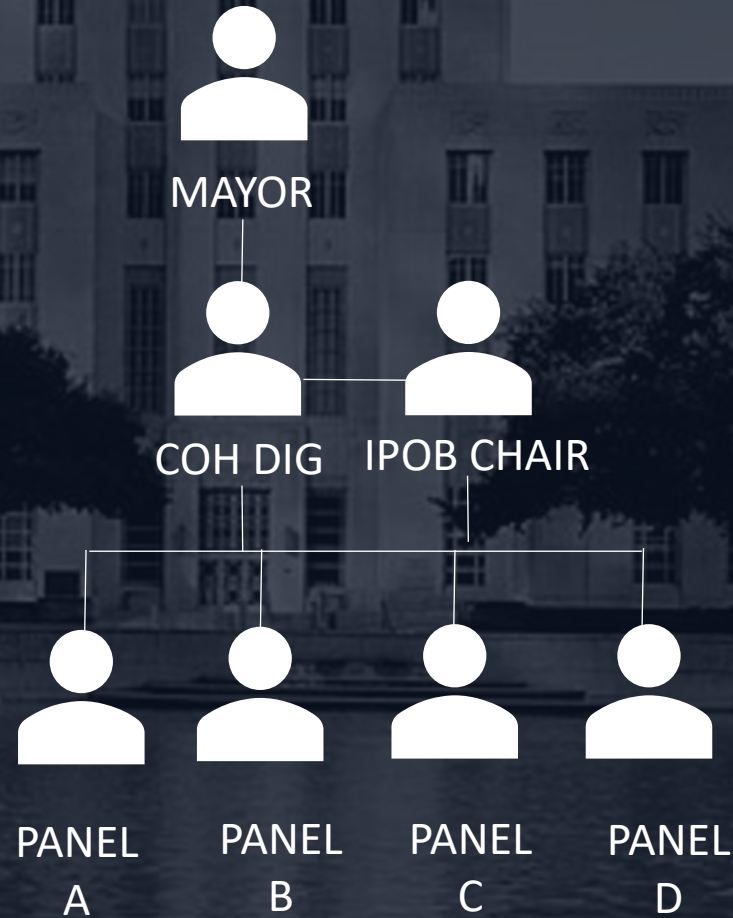
HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF ED GONZALEZ
METRO

IPOB OVERVIEW AND MISSION

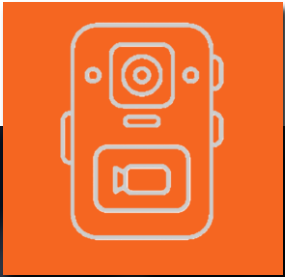


On May 15, 2011, by enactment of the Mayor's Executive Order 1-5, the IPOB was created. The Independent Police Oversight Board (IPOB) are volunteer members of the community appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council to review internal police investigations of possible misconduct by employees of the Houston Police Department.

To provide a system of increased accountability, transparency and to facilitate resident input into the internal investigative and disciplinary process of the Houston Police Department.



POLICE TRANSPARENCY HUB



Traffic Stops

Start date of 1/1/2020 - updated on the second day of each month

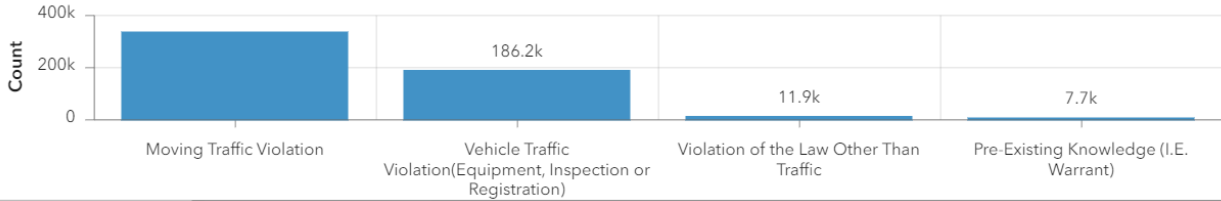
Officer Involved:
All

Date Range:
1/1/2022 - 11/9/2023

Total Stops

541,075

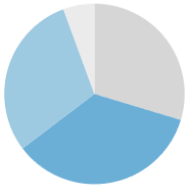
Reason For Stop



Reason for Stop

Reason for Search

Subject Race or Ethnicity

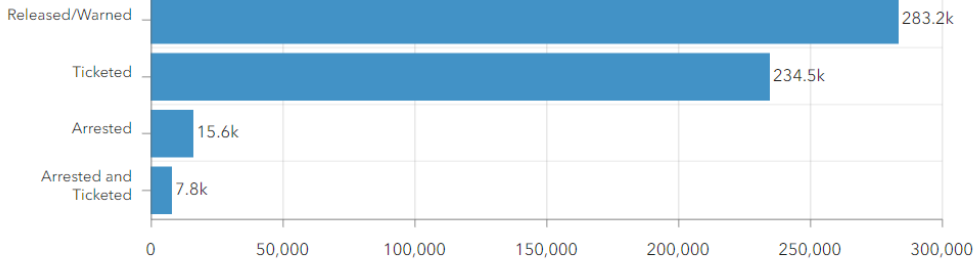


- Hispanic 29.65%
- Black 35.02%
- White 29.73%
- Other 5.6%

Race/Ethnicity

Gender

Results of Traffic Stop



OP
RA

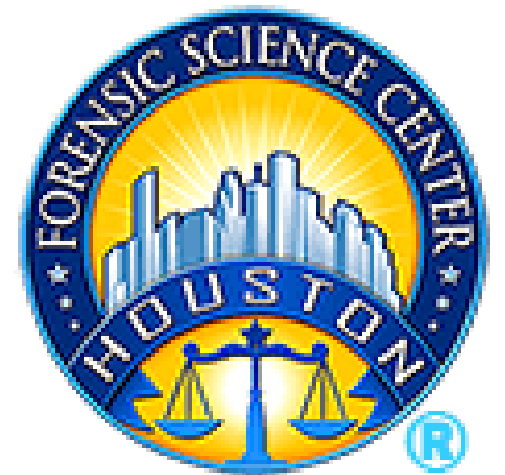


Office of Policing Reform and Accountability

HFSC Backlog and Firearms Update

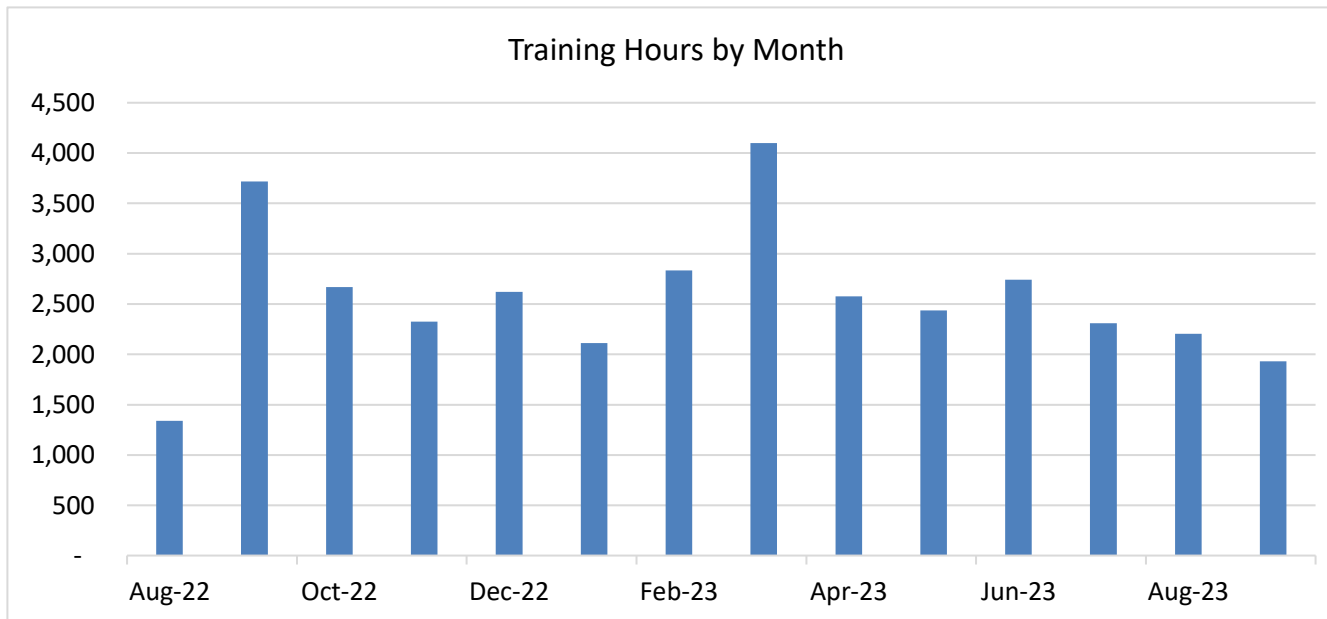
Dr. Peter Stout

*Houston Forensic Science Center
November 13, 2023*



ARPA funding impact

	6/30/2022	6/30/2023	9/30/2023	Reduction	%
Toxicology	1,371	407	319	1,052	77%
Latent prints	2,171	615	394	1,777	82%



- **35,916 training hours provided** under ARPA through Sept '23
- **15 staff members** completed training under ARPA
- **2 firearms examiners** are in external training under ARPA
- **2 3D scopes in procurement** under ARPA

Requests over 30 days old (last 12 months)

Reduced by 16% from 4964 in October 2022 to 4194 in October 2023

CSU reduced by 92% (currently 22)

Latent Print Comparison reduced by 97% (currently 32)

Drug Toxicology reduced by 82% (currently 181)

Digital Multimedia reduced by 92% (currently 25)

Latent Print Processing reduced by 77% (currently 171)

Current backlogs are updated as of 10/31/2023

Requests over 30 days old

Seized Drugs increased by 55% in the past year (currently 1,635)

Firearms increased by 75% in the past year (currently 322)

Forensic Biology increased by 28% in the past year (1,217)

- The increase is due to increased time at commercial labs for SAKs
- In house backlog has decreased by 6%

HFSC at a Glance

AVERAGE Time to Report Common Requests^{1,2} (Updated: 11/6/2023)

¹ Priority assignment for cases is determined in collaboration with other stakeholders and weighing the risks and benefits for that request with other pending requests. Requests for prioritization can be made in the Request Portal.

² Times reflect typical expected time from request to report for cases that do not have a court date, investigative priority, urgent public safety risk.

Seized Drugs

- In-Jail Cases: **32 days**
- Regular Cases: **188 days**
- Marijuana Cases: **140 Days**

Toxicology

- Blood Alcohol Only: **47 days**
- Alcohol & Drug Cases: **230 days**

DNA

- Sexual Assault Kits (SAK): **202 days**

Firearm Examinations

- Comparison Cases: **256 days**

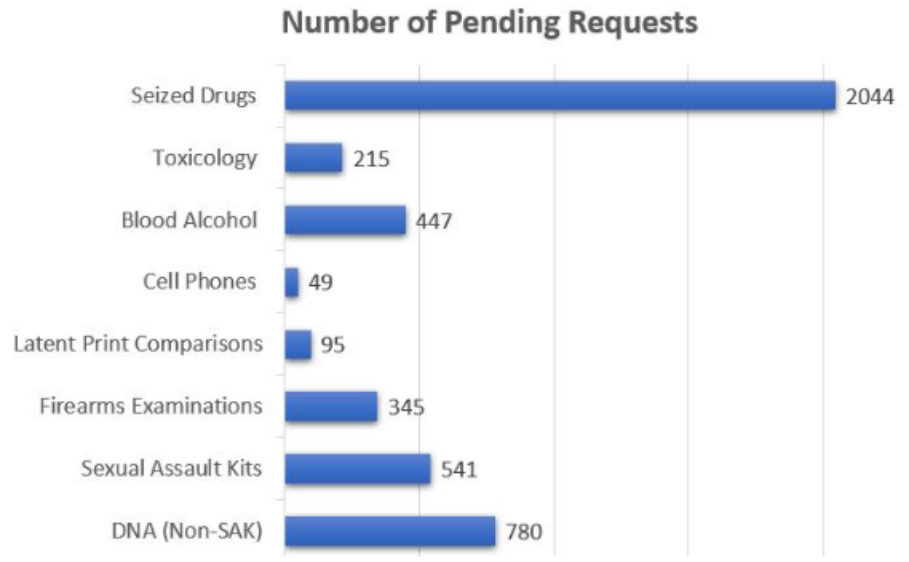
Latent Prints

- Comparison Cases: **47 days**

Cell Phones

- Homicide With Phone Unlocked*: **7 days**

*If unlocking is needed, time will vary greatly.



What goes into a firearms exam?

Typical case has ~10 items



Were any or all of these fired from this gun?

Test fires from the gun– about a half day

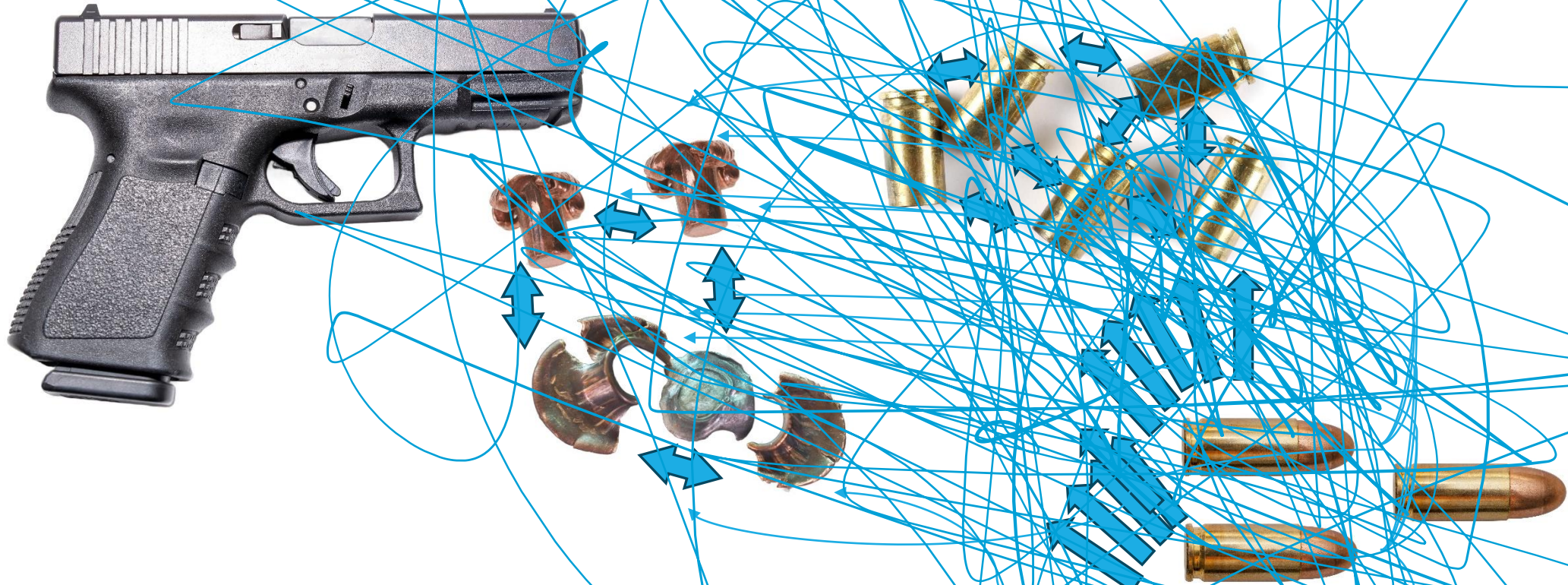


3 test fires gives 3 projectiles and 3 casings

Comparisons

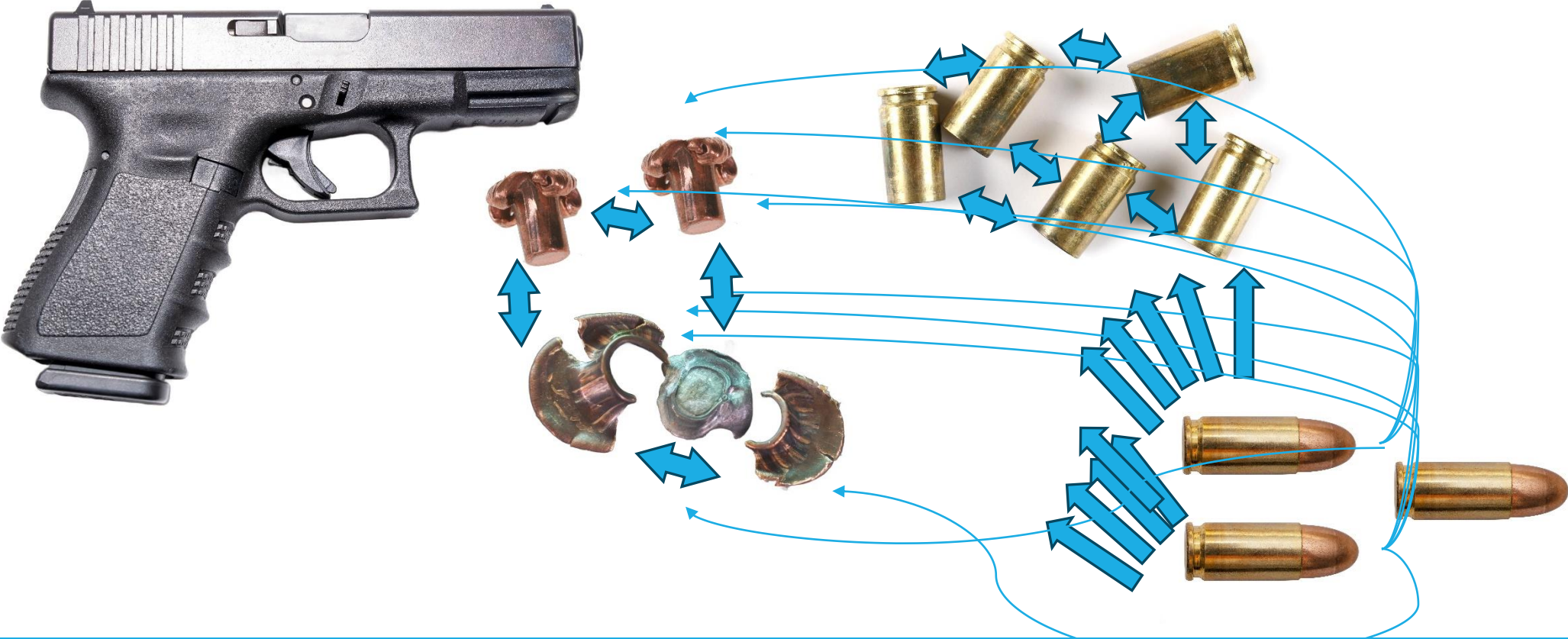
upwards of 30 comparisons

Typical case has ~10 items



Each comparison is about a day

Typical case has ~10 items



One case may be--

4 labor hours prep

20 comparisons x 8 hours each = 160 labor hours

Second examiner to do the same = 160 labor hours

Reviewers and reporting = 10 hours

Routinely ~350 labor hours per modestly complex case

Where we are at:

7 examiners = 14,000 labor hours per year

About 400 requests per year x (70hr low complexity,
350hr modest complexity) =

28,000 – 140,000 labor hours demand not including court

Options??

No option to outsource firearms examinations

- Occasional urgent case to Tarrant County or TX DPS

Must manage existing capacity to accommodate BOTH urgent investigative needs and court priorities

- Means effective and timely communications of priority needs and when cases are disposed
- Also, effective targeting of essential testing and avoiding a “test everything” mentality

Currently, ~1,000 firearms examiners *in the world*

Training new examiners takes about 2 years

ARPA dollars used for training

- 2 currently in training about 10-18 months out
- 3 more to start next May so about 18-25 months out

Training means experienced, authorized analysts off case work to do training



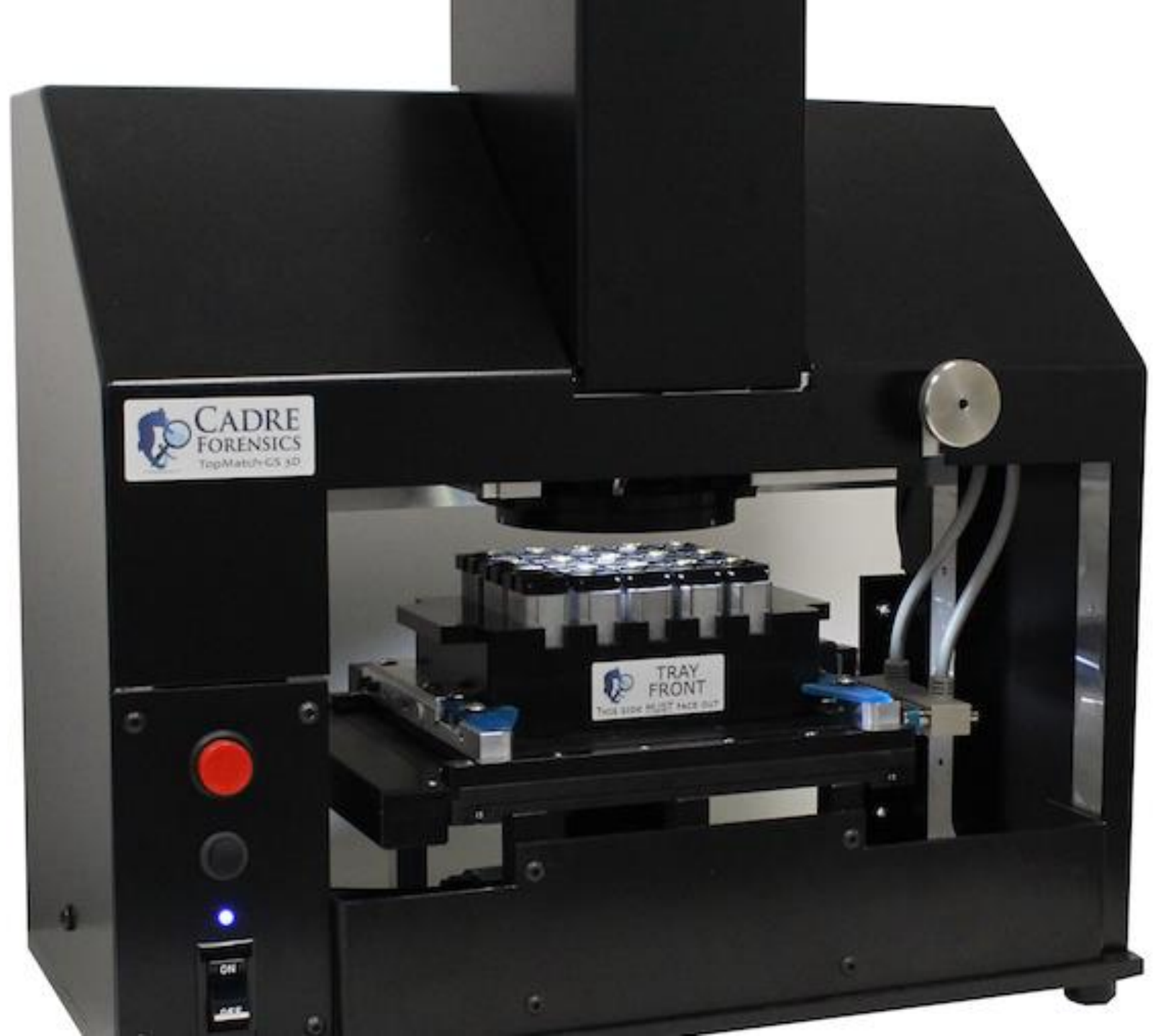
PNAS

Special Feature

**Science, Evidence, Law,
and Justice**

3D imaging scopes

- Procuring 3
 - 1 on NIJ grant
 - 2 on ARPA
- 24-30 months to get into production
- Data to address criticisms
- NOT likely to be faster



A panoramic view of the Houston skyline at dusk, with various skyscrapers and buildings illuminated against a blue and purple sky. The foreground shows a green park area with trees.

Gun Violence Report

Sonia Corrales

*Houston Area Women's Center
November 13, 2023*

HAWC | Houston Area
Women's Center
Ending domestic and sexual violence for **ALL**

Firearm Injury Dashboard and Next Steps

Bindi Naik-Mathuria, MD, MPH

MCAGC Chair

November 13, 2023

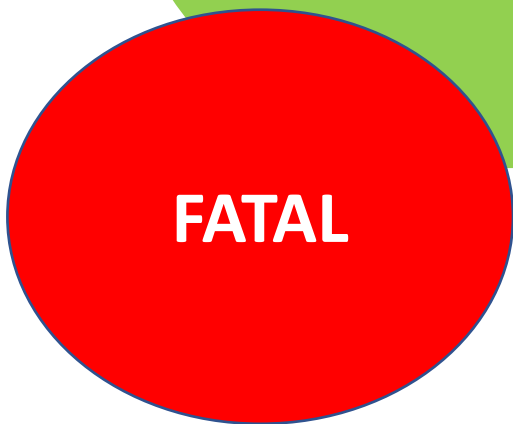
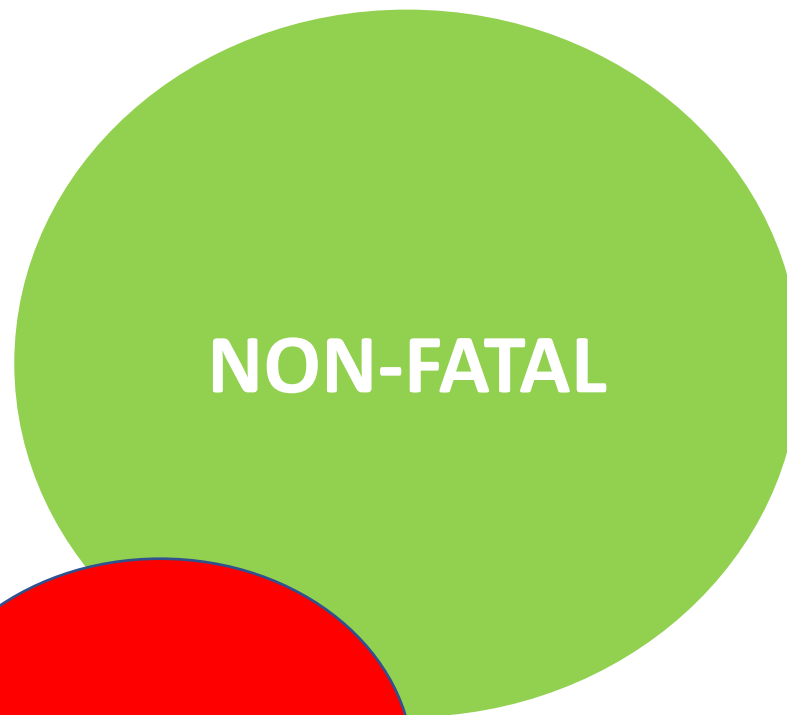




**ASSAULT / HOMICIDE
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE
MASS SHOOTINGS**



**SUICIDE
INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM**



**UNINTENTIONAL
ACCIDENTAL**



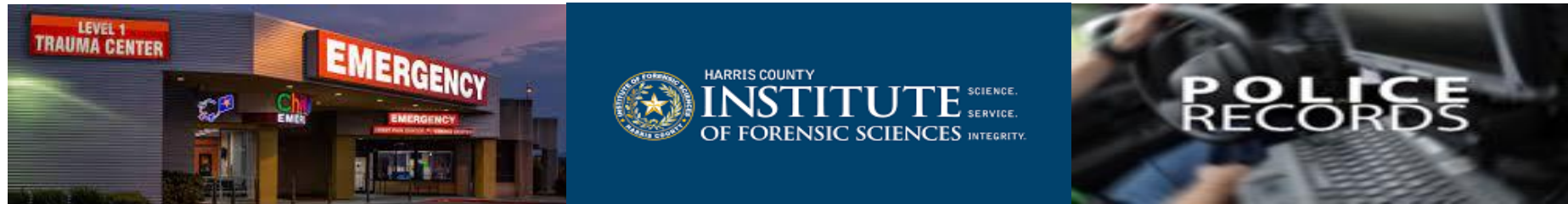
**BYSTANDER
STRAY BULLET**

Data-driven approaches have been key to implementing successful prevention/intervention efforts, not just for violence:

- City of Houston COVID-19 Response
 - Integrated positivity, vaccination, and wastewater data to identify and address geographical hotspots and populations to target efforts.
- City of Houston, Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA)/Bystander CPR
 - Identified hotspots of high OHCA, low bystander CPR rates, and high-risk demographics to effectively target culturally appropriate community-based intervention planning

This approach provides timely integrated data that can be brought together quickly that can be actionable.

Data Collected Retroactively (2018-2020) Through CDC-Funded Grant



LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTERS

- Non-fatal injuries
- Fatal injuries
- Residence and shooting locations
- Shooting intent
- Social factors

MEDICAL EXAMINER RECORDS

- Fatal injuries
- Residence and shooting locations
- Shooting intent
- Social factors

POLICE RECORDS

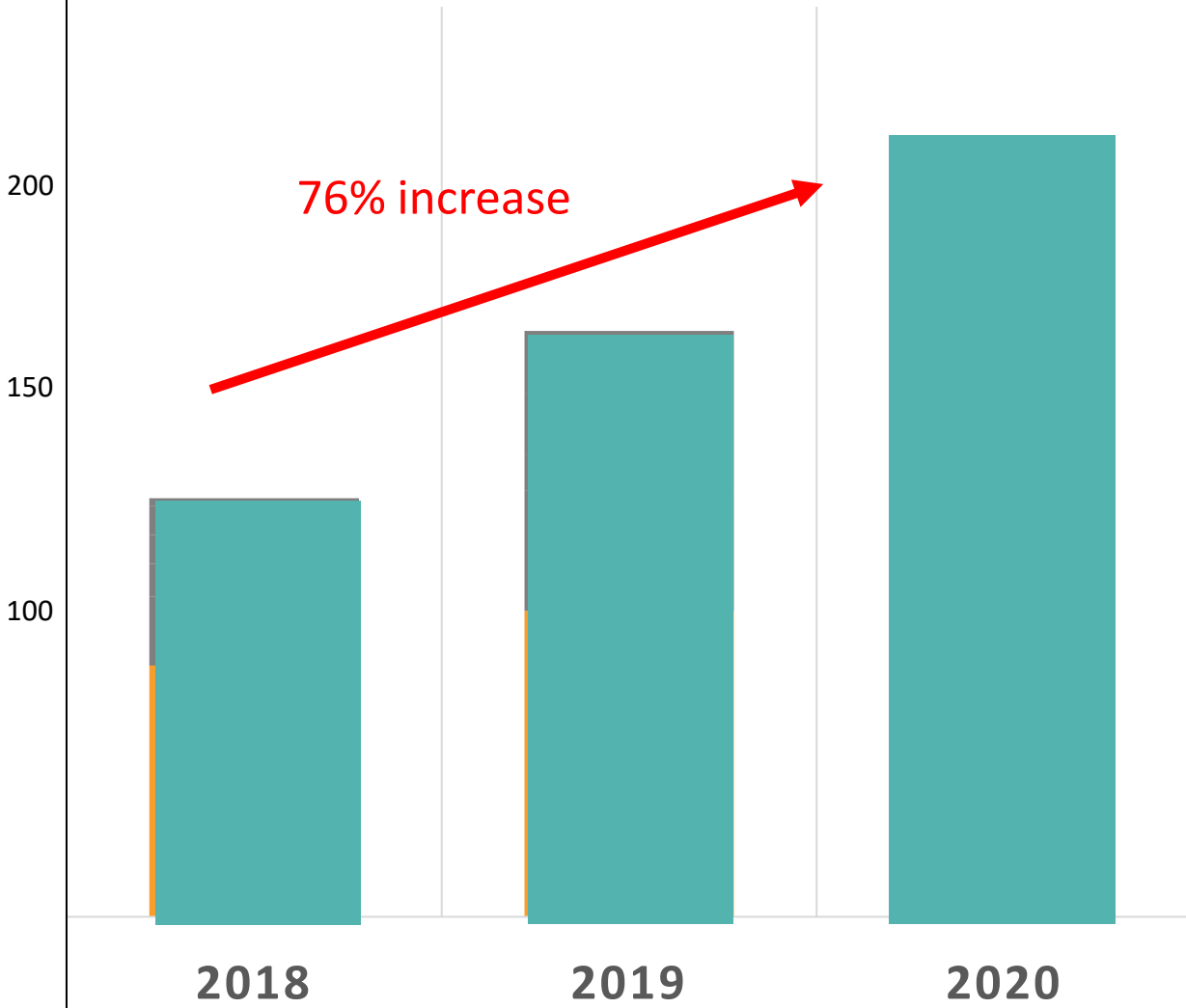
- All crimes involving guns
- Shooting locations



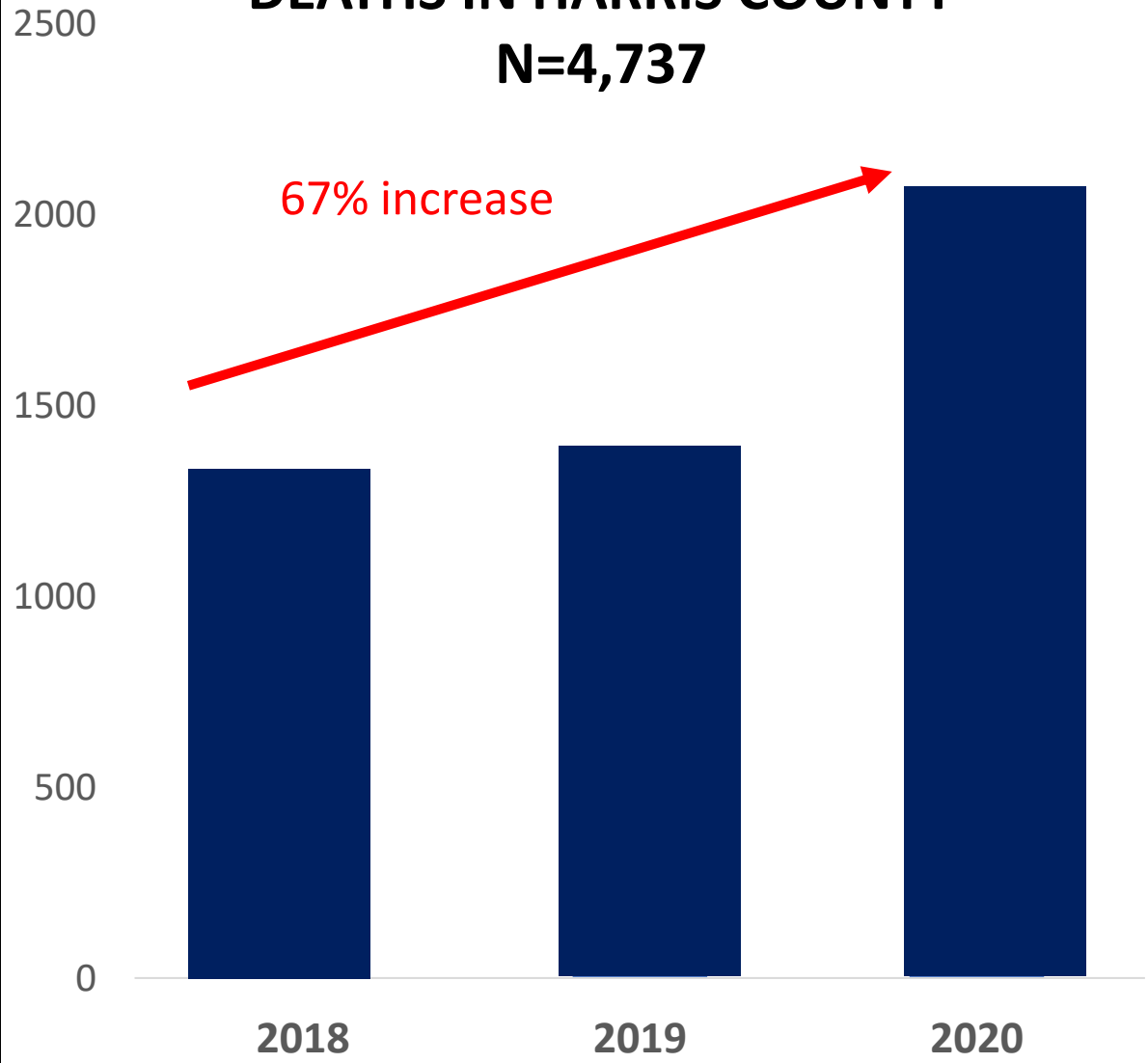
GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS USING CENSUS BUREAU AND PLANNING AGENCY (H-GAC)

Neighborhood-level risk factors, hot spots

PEDIATRIC FIREARM INJURIES AND DEATHS DATA HARRIS COUNTY (0-17Y) N=485

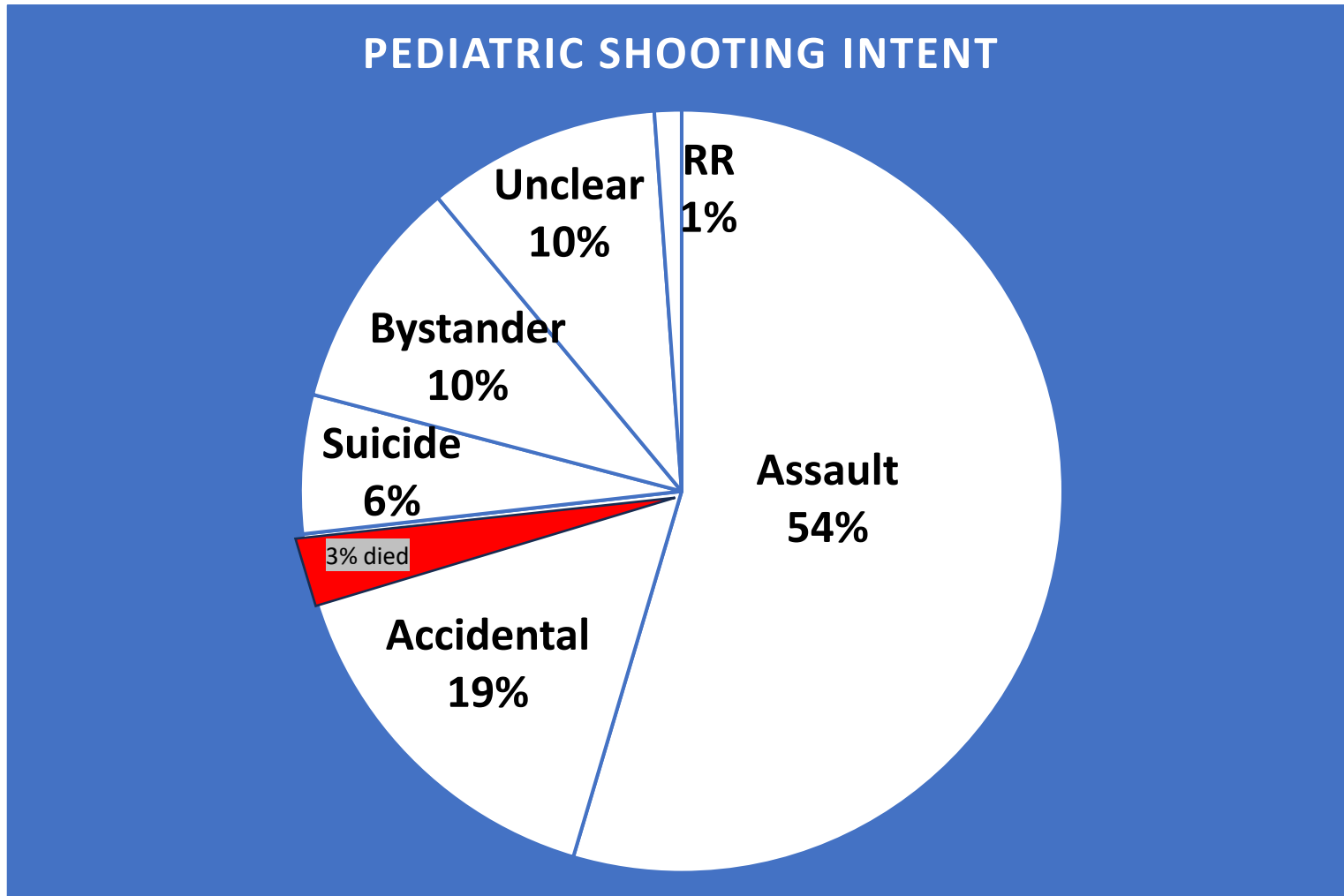


ADULT FIREARM INJURIES AND DEATHS IN HARRIS COUNTY N=4,737



DATA FROM ALL LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTERS AND ME OFFICE

Value of Combining Fatal and Non-Fatal Data

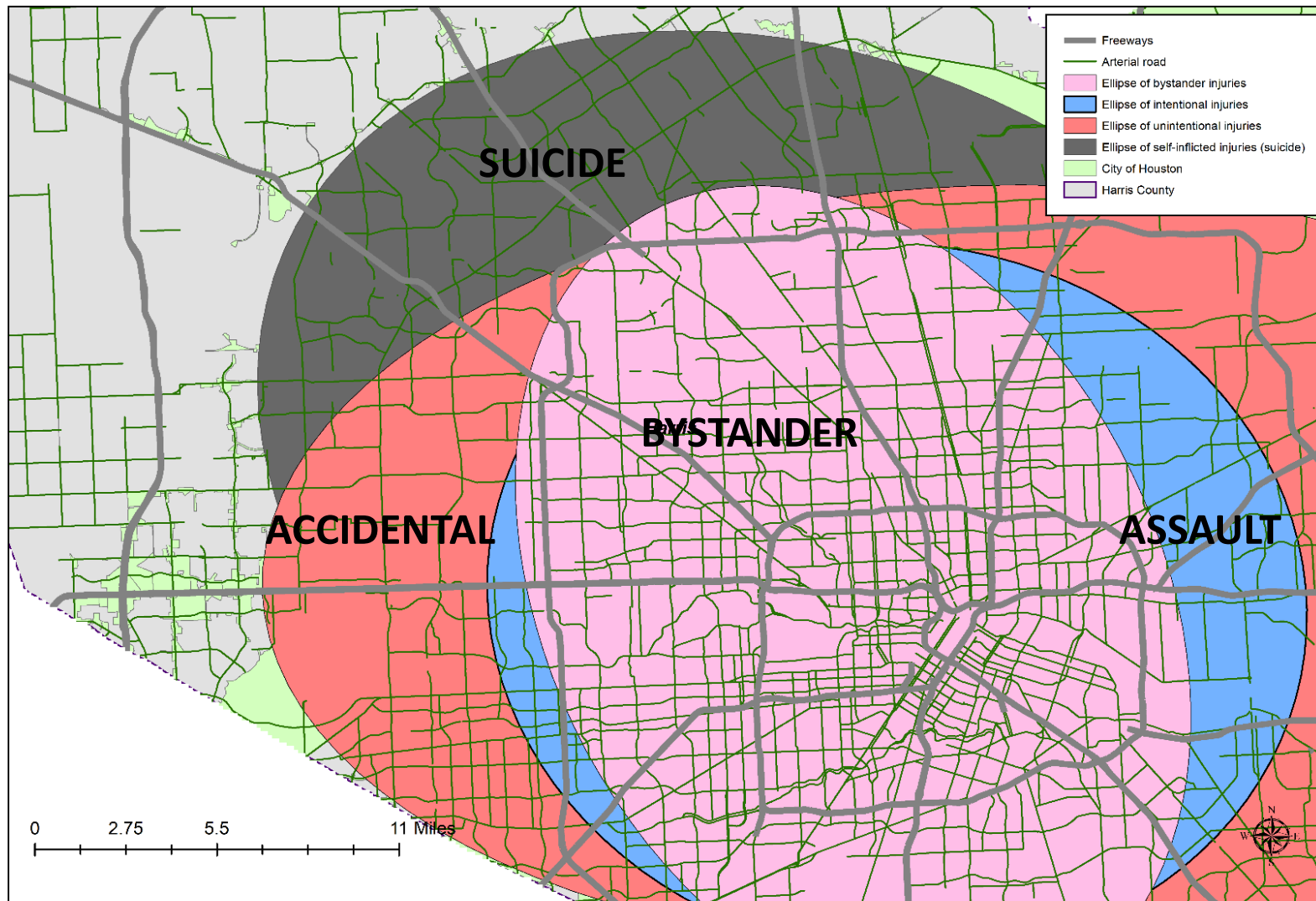


Since most suicide and accidental shootings occurred at home, **safe gun storage could have prevented 25% of pediatric firearm injury and death**

(Only 8% if fatal data only)

Shooting Location of Adult Firearm Injuries: 2018-2019

Standard Deviational Ellipse by Intent



Risk Factors

- 54% Black*
- 32% Hispanic
- 90% Male
- Mean age 32*
- 62% Unmarried
- 93% Low income
- 30% Alcohol abuse
- 40% Drug abuse

*Except for suicide: 59% White, non-Hispanic

*Young children are affected as well: 31% below age 15 y

Firearm Crimes in Harris County

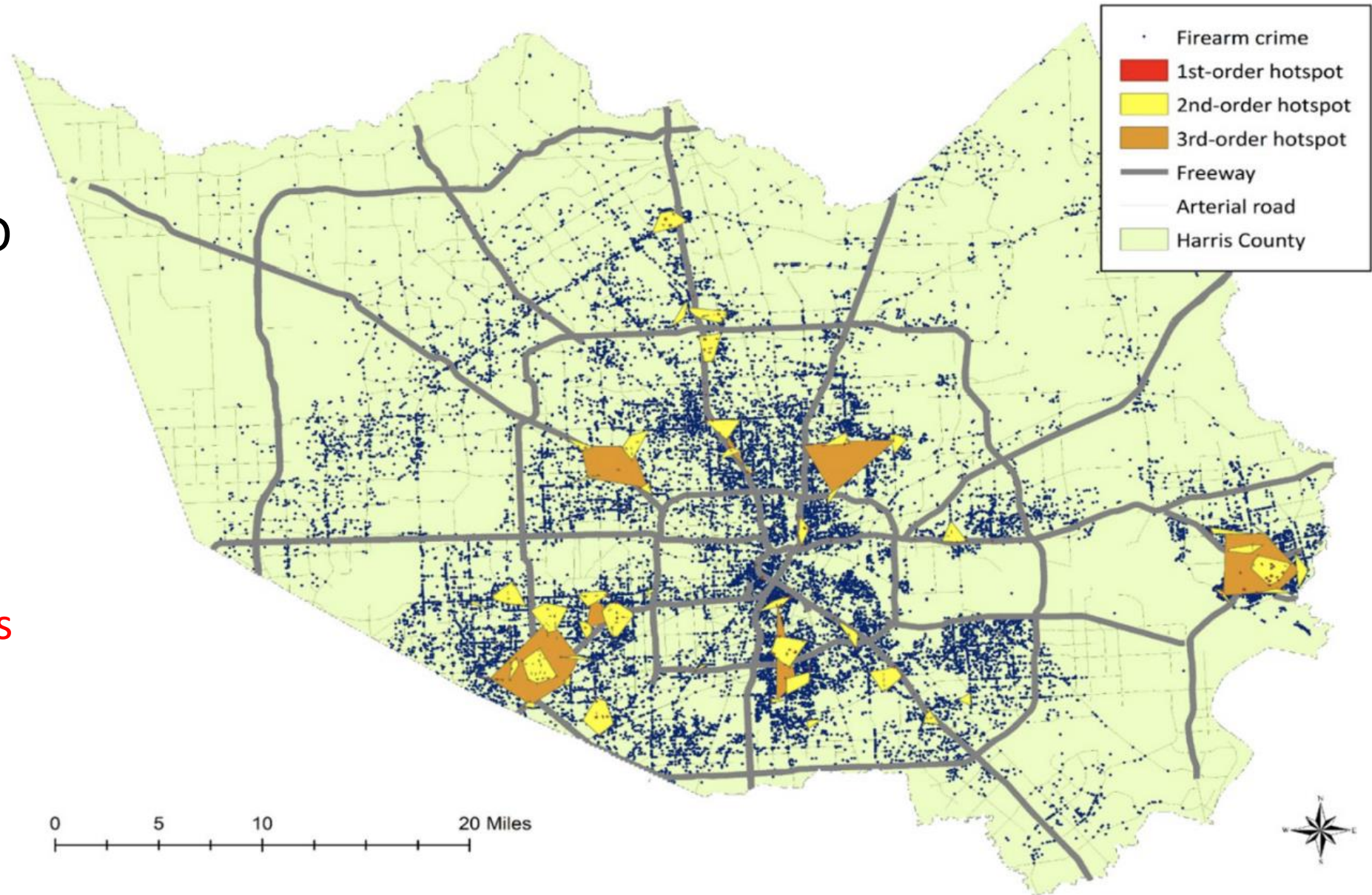
- 50% Car
- 27% Sidewalk
- 19% Parking lot*
- 12% Homes
- 9% Apartments
- 7% Stores (convenience 3% gas 3%)
- 29% Within 300 feet of an alcohol-serving establishment

Figure 4 — Firearm Incident Hot Spots in Harris County, 2018-2021

“HOTSPOTS”

FIREARM CRIME
DATA FROM HPD,
HCSO, Baytown PD
and Pasadena PD

1,800 firearm deaths
8,600 firearm injuries



Injury Prevention Intervention Targets



- Promote safe household firearm storage education and awareness to parents of all races, in urban and suburban neighborhoods, lock giveaways



- Increase police patrol in hot spot neighborhoods
- Install parking lot and strip mall lighting and cameras
- Close access to parks after 6pm in hot spot neighborhoods
- Increase green spaces in hot spot neighborhoods
- Increase social support for low-income Black and Hispanic families



- Identify depressed children in middle and high schools and adults and restrict gun access, especially in White, NH suburban and rural areas
- Increase mental health services in schools and for veterans
- Promote out-of-home firearm storage

- We gained valuable data from linking data sources, but identified these problems:
- Trauma centers are valuable source for data, but there is a lot of missing data b/c no standardized collection
- Manual data collection was too time-consuming
- Retrospective data lags behind – need **real-time** data
- Missing data from non-trauma center hospitals/urgent cares

TRAUMA CENTERS

Fatal and Nonfatal injuries

Residence and shooting locations

Demographics

Shooting intent

Risk factors

Social factors

(Standardized data intake tool)

ESSENCE DATABASE ED and Urgent Care

Fatal and Nonfatal

Demographics

Shooting intent

Zip code of residence

MEDICAL EXAMINER DATA

Fatal

Residence and shooting locations

Demographics

Manner of death

Risk factors

911 CALL LOGS

Fatal and Nonfatal

Shooting locations

POLICE RECORDS

Fatal and Nonfatal
Minor Injuries and
Crimes with Guns

Shooting locations

Crime locations

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT FIREARM DATA INTEGRATION

Geospatial And Statistical Analysis

Actionable Injury Prevention Targets,
ex. hotspots, risk factors

DATA TO ACTION

Data Sources



Multiple data sources will be integrated and statistically evaluated for overall themes and trends as no one dataset provides enough information alone.

- **Houston Health Department (HHD) ESSENCE:** Syndromic surveillance, primarily composed of emergency department (ED) and urgent care visits for firearm injury
- **Houston Fire Department (HFD) 911/EMS Pre-Hospital Transport:** Ambulance calls that provide location of shooting incident, whether dead-on-arrival
- **Houston Health Department (HHD) Vital Statistics:** Mortality data, including manner of death
- **Harris County Medical Examiner (ME) Data:** Mortality data, with context surround the death
- **Trauma Centers:** Firearm injury and deaths, social risk factors of victims

Data Sources - Limitations



No one data source provides the full picture of the issue by itself, and therefore must integrate several data sources to obtain a more comprehensive overview.

Examples of limitations:

- ESSENCE data do not capture individuals who died at the scene, nor provide shooting locations.
- Vital Statistics data has large delays in receiving data, and does not provide shooting locations or content behind death.
- 911/EMS data does not capture individuals who did not receive transportation via ambulance (e.g., dropped off by friend/family).

Data Linking and Integration



While the data sources are disparate, there are still ways in which the data may overlap across the various systems.

Ex. 911/EMS Pre-Hospital Transport data will capture individuals who were documented as dead-on-arrival, and these same individuals will also be captured in the Vital Statistics and Medical Examiner mortality data.

Linking data allows us to get a more holistic view of a firearm injury.

Data Analysis Plan



Statistical analysis of integrated data will be performed at regular intervals and the following data will be displayed:

1. Trends across demographics characteristics (e.g., age, sex, race/ethnicity), socioeconomic characteristics (e.g., income, crime), time, and space
2. Spatial analysis will be completed using GIS mapping software to define geographical “hotspots” with high rates of firearm incidents.
3. Spatial distribution stratified by shooting intent
4. Spatial firearm injury data will be overlaid with socioeconomic census tract data to reveal if underlying factors may be contributing to the hotspots that are observed
5. Socioeconomic models based on shooting intent (updated as necessary) using logistic regression or spatial clustering methods.

Preliminary Results - PROTOTYPE



Firearm Violence

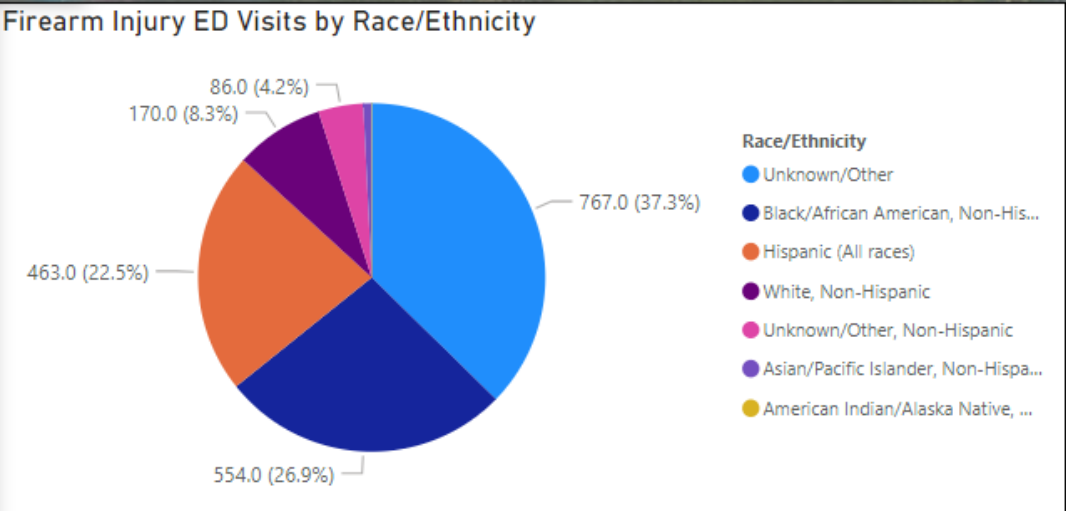
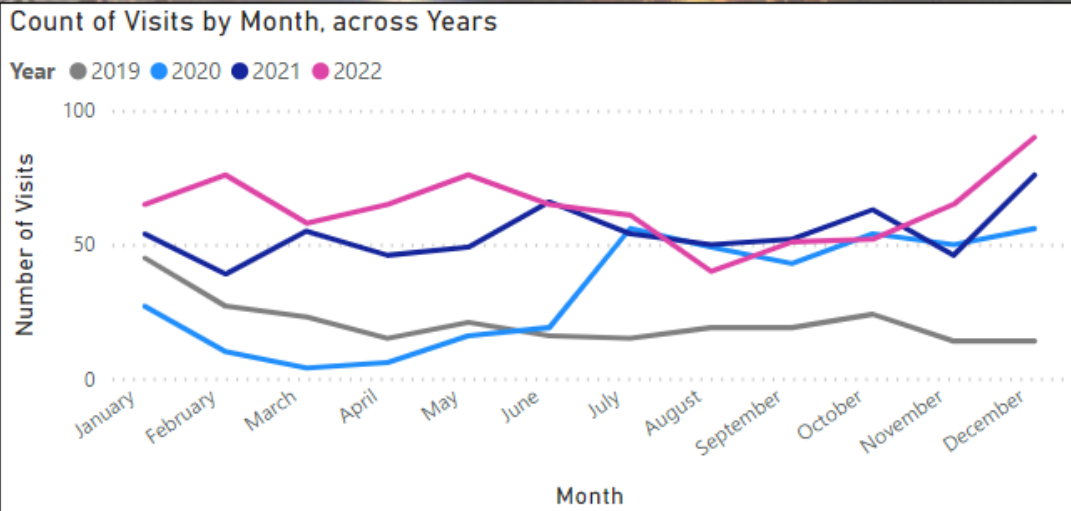
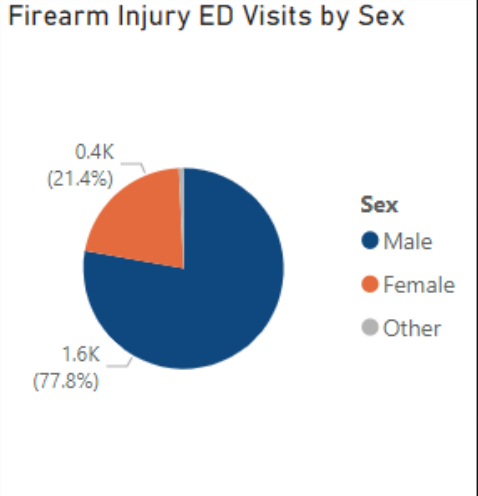
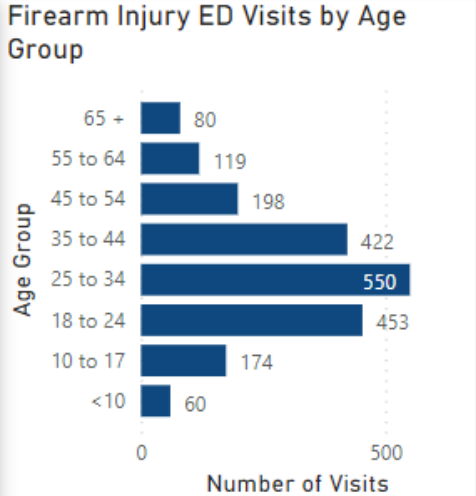
Selected Date Range

1/1/2015 3/3/2023

ZipCode	Count of Visits	% of Visits
	709	34.5%
77002	42	2.0%
77003	6	0.3%
77004	24	1.2%
77005	1	0.0%
77006	1	0.0%
77007	7	0.3%
77008	5	0.2%
77009	9	0.4%
77011	3	0.1%
77012	9	0.4%
77013	1	0.0%
Total	2056	100.0%

Total Firearm Injury ED Visits
(Based on Selected Filter[s])

2056



Preliminary Results - PROTOTYPE

Firearm Violence



Selected Date Range

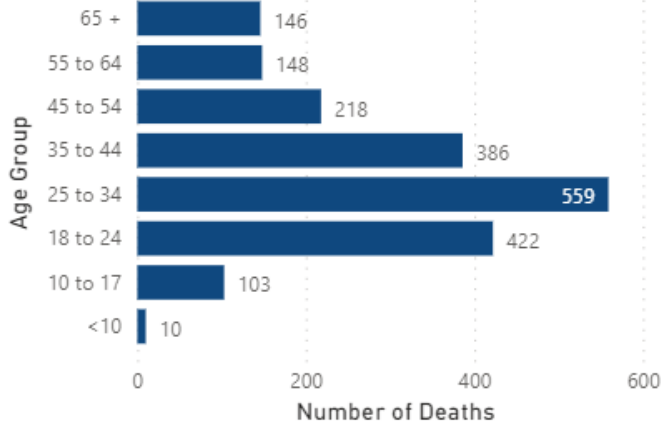
1/1/2015

3/3/2023

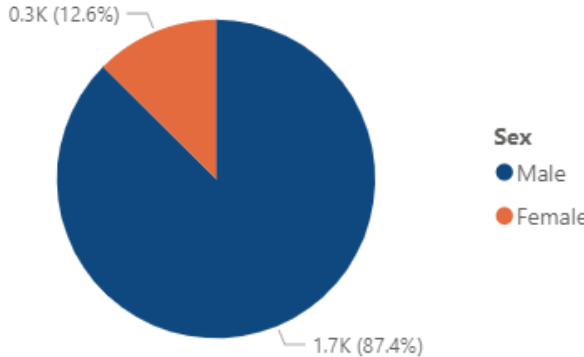
**Total Firearm Deaths
(Based on Selected Filter[s])**

1992

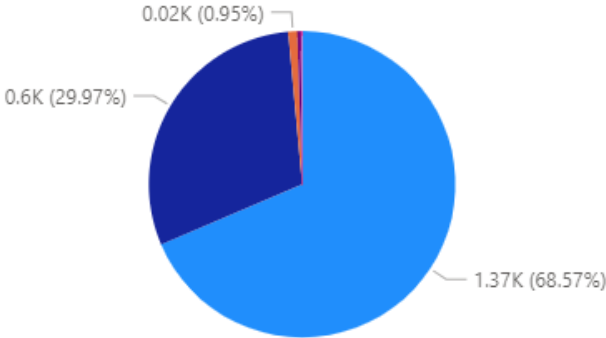
Firearm Deaths by Age Group



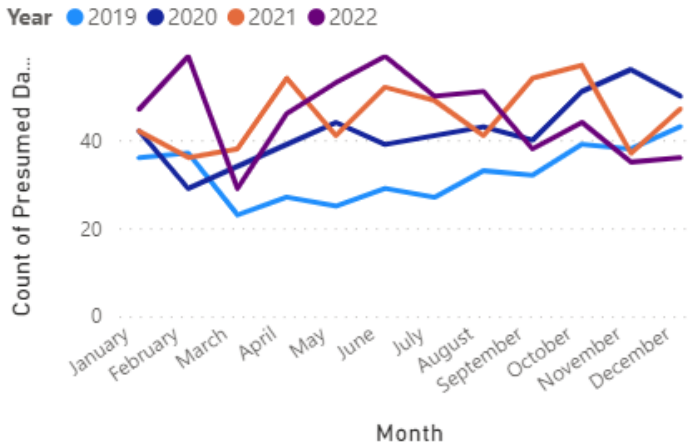
Firearm Deaths by Sex



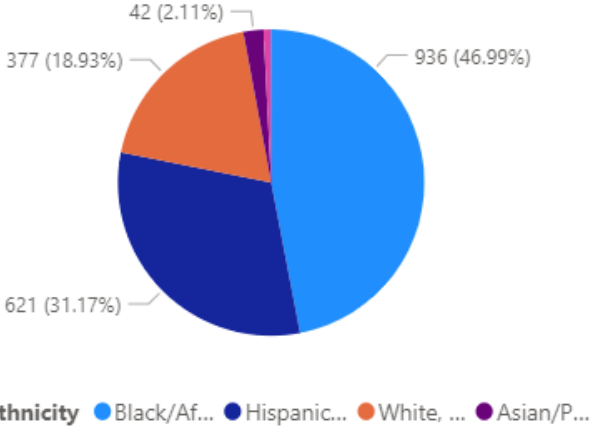
Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death



Count of Presumed Date Of Death by Month and Year



Firearm Deaths by Race/Ethnicity by Race/Ethnicity



Next Steps: Stronger, Together

Houston Gun Violence Prevention Coalition



And others...

Incorporation of a Health Equity Approach to Hospital Violence Intervention Programs: The Integration of a Community and Hospital Based Initiatives to Reduce Gun Violence in a Large Metropolitan Area



SANDRA MCKAY, MD
UTHEALTH MCGOVERN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ALEXANDER TESTA, PHD
UTHEALTH SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Study Collaborators

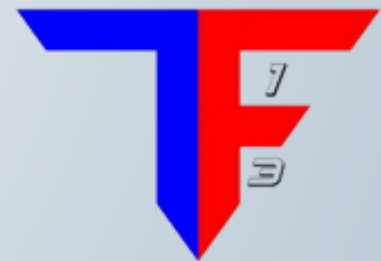
- Mary Aitken, MD
- Lillian Kao, MD
- Irma Ugalde, MD
- Jack Tsai, PhD
- Vanessa Schick, PhD
- Shreela Sharma, PhD
- Ruosha Li, PhD
- Kevin Rix, PhD
- Heidi McPherson, DrPH, MPH

Sarah Beth Abbott, BS EMT-LP
Marisol Nieves, LCSW
Anne Marie Thompson, MPH

Community Partners

- **The Forgotten Third**

- Non-profit organization that works in Houston and Harris County underserved communities providing support and services geared to reduce recidivism, crime, violence and economic disparities
- Karlton Harris



THE FORGOTTEN THIRD
Where Freedom is Never Forgotten!

Community Partners

- **The Health Equity Collective**

- The Collective has nearly 800 members representing over 180 organizations and more than 50 coalitions aligned with a shared mission to establish an impactful, sustainable, data-driven system to promote health equity and address the social drivers of health.

- Shreela Sharma, PhD
- Heidi McPherson, DrPH, MPH
- Anne Marie Thompson, MPH



HEALTH EQUITY
COLLECTIVE

Study Overview

Project Description: Develop a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center

Study Population: Individuals aged 18-30 who presented for a gunshot injury stemming from community violence

- **Exclusions**

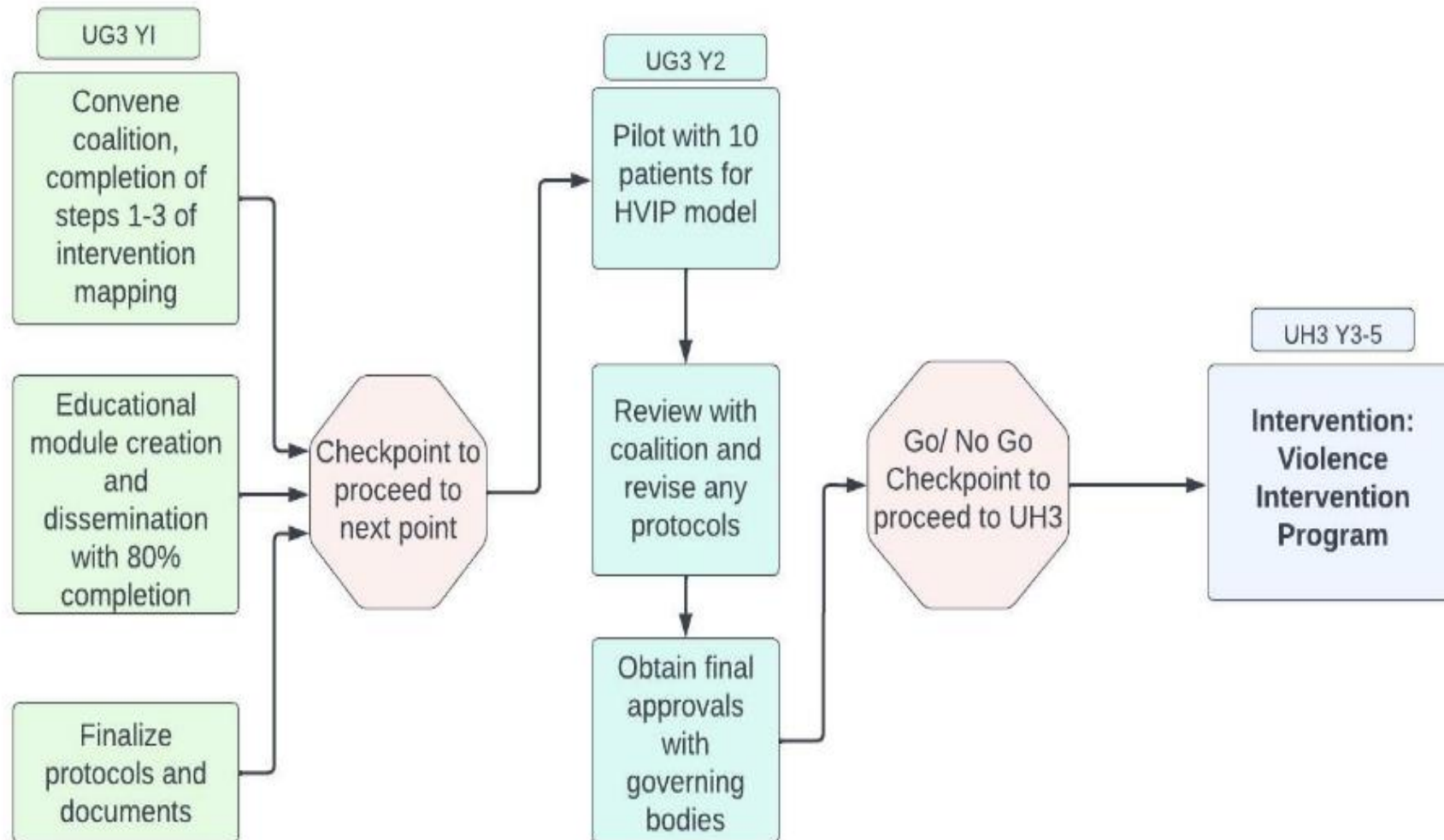
- Outside of age range (18-30)
- Decline voluntary consent
- Source of firearm injury:
 - (a) self-inflicted gunshot
 - (b) accidental firearm injury
 - (c) unintentional firearm violence
 - (d) domestic violence

The Grant Mechanism

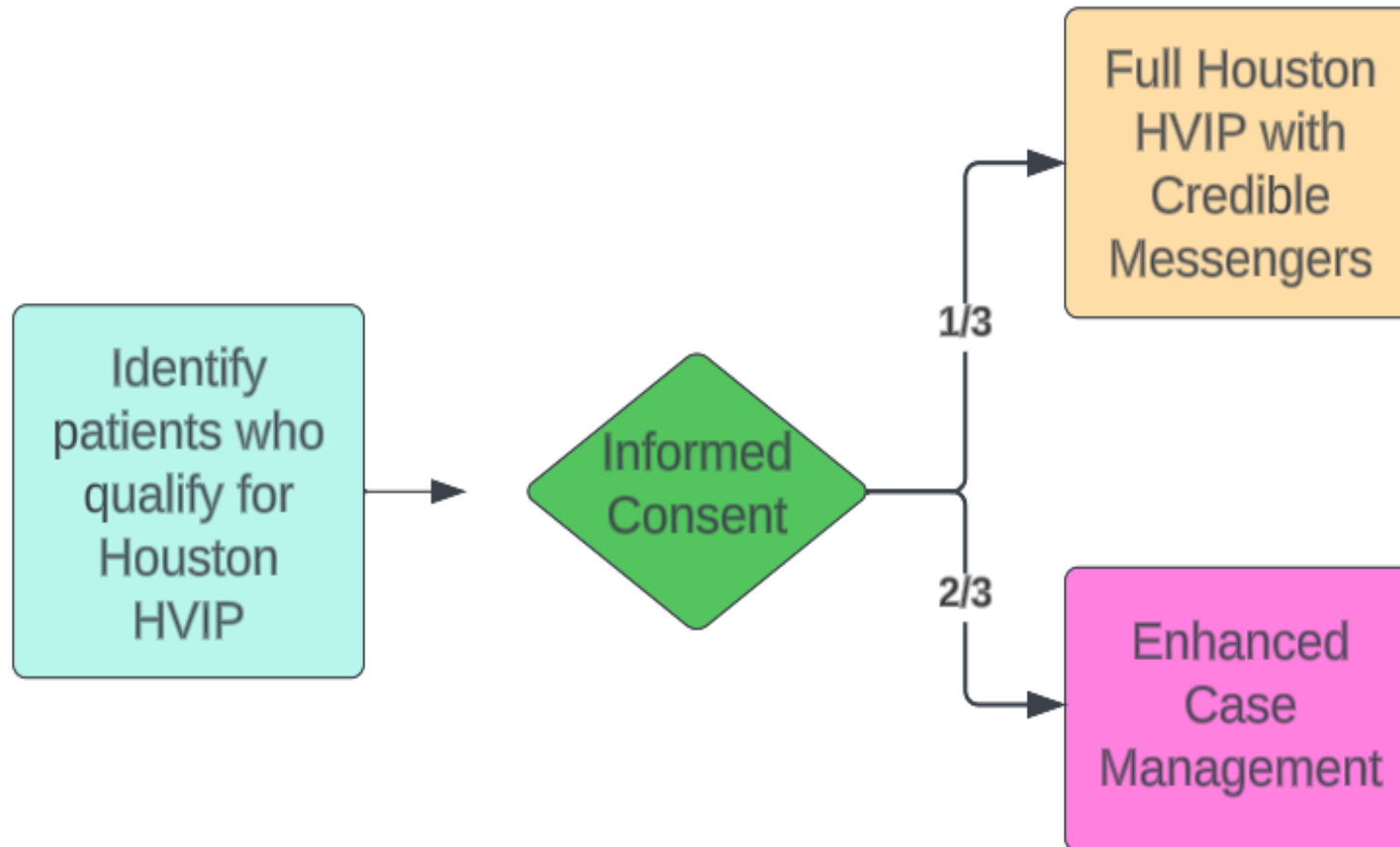
National Institutes of Health UG3/UH3

- **UG3 Phase (2023-2025)**
 - 2-year grant to build the program
 - ~ \$1.5 million
- **UH3 Phase (2025-2028)**
 - 3-year grant to evaluate the effectiveness of the program
 - ~ \$4.5 million

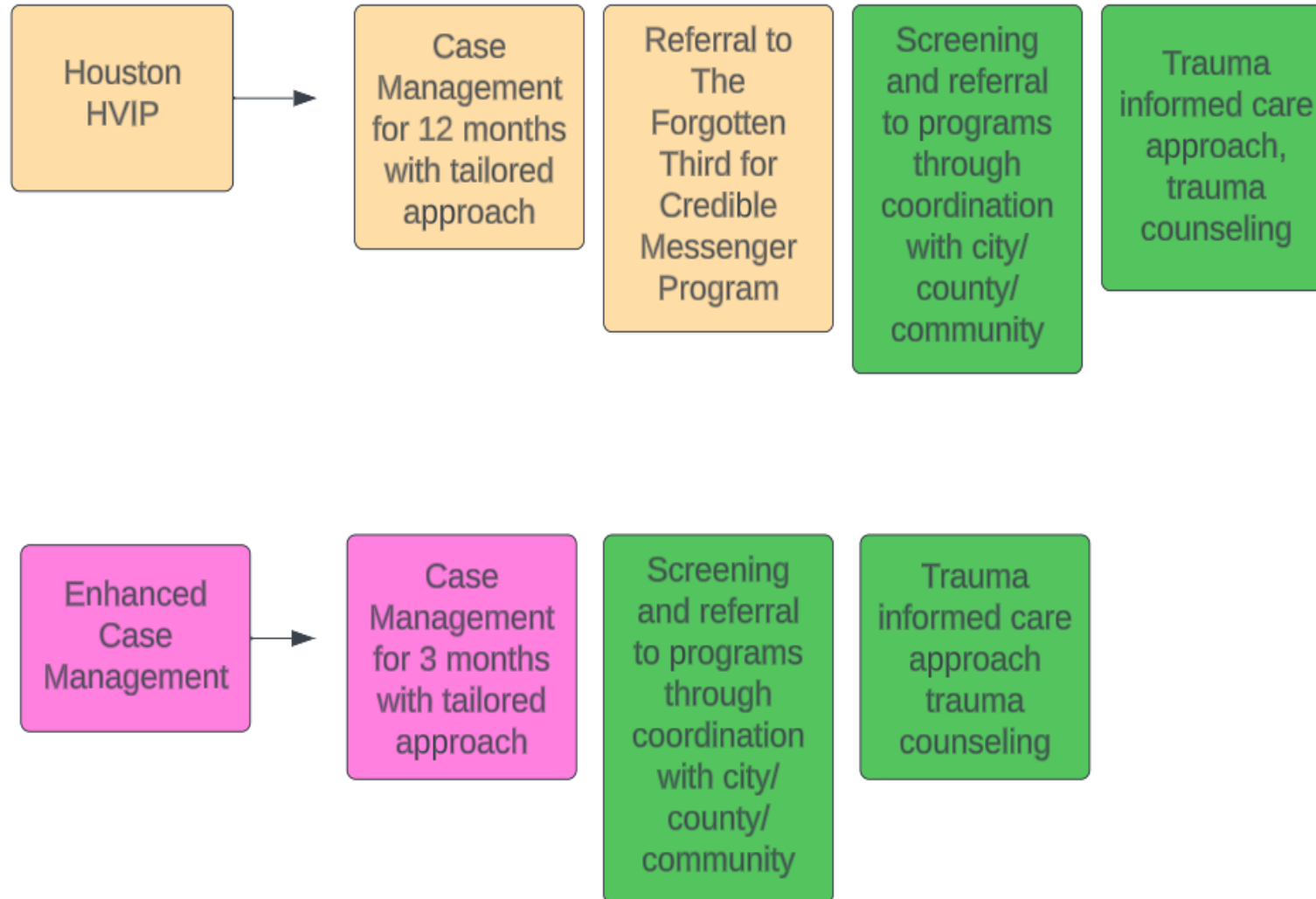
Key Study Milestones



UH3 Phase



UH3 Phase



Questions and Comments are Welcomed!

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