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Knowledge and Innovation Site Profile

Crime and Violence Reduction at the Dallas Police Department



KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION SITE PROFILES

This is one in a series of profiles being published as part of the Knowledge and Innovation (KI) Site Network. The agencies highlighted in these profiles are part of the KI Site Network and have demonstrated exemplary practice in a core area of policing. The KI Site Network provides resources and peer engagement opportunities at no cost to law enforcement agencies. Visit www.leknowledgelab.org to learn more.



THE APPROACH

DPD's crime and violence response strategy is anchored in its Violent Crime Reduction Plan, which was developed in 2021. The plan takes a data-driven, place-based approach to addressing violent crime, emphasizing precision policing in high-crime micro-locations (short term), focused deterrence for repeat offenders (medium term), and enhanced coordination across units (long term). It was designed in collaboration with academic partners from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), who also provide analysis and evaluation support.

A strategy of continuous crime monitoring and adaptive deployment, informed by twice-daily violent crime reporting and trend analysis, enables real-time coordination among patrol, investigations, and specialized units.

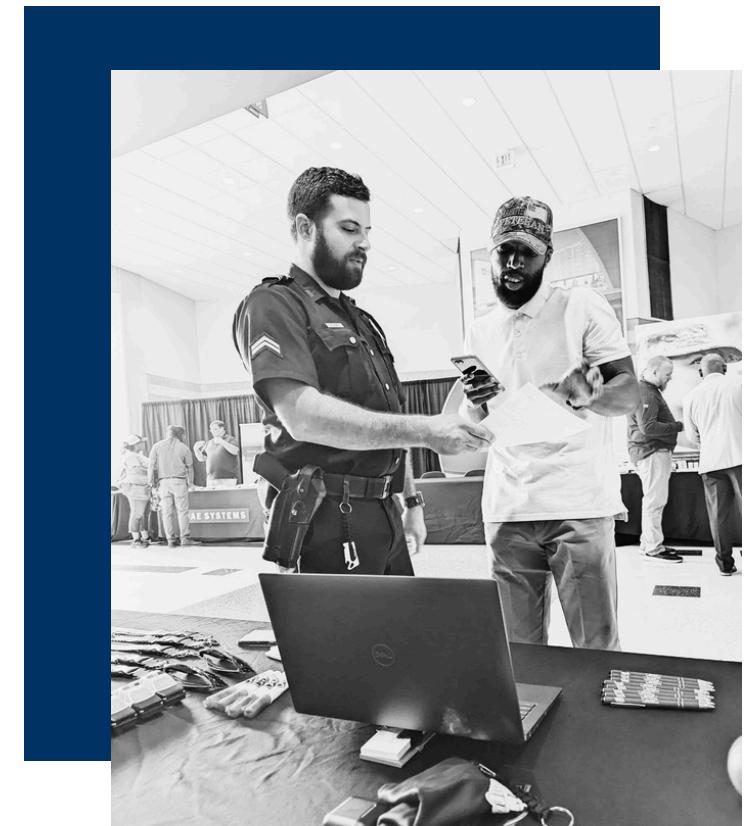
The Department works closely with city leadership, prosecutors, community-based organizations, and researchers to maintain alignment across sectors and adjust tactics based on evolving conditions and feedback. This multi-layered approach aligns crime response operations with internal oversight and external partnerships.

Knowledge Lab Core Practice Areas

- Community Trust & Partnerships
- Crime Investigations
- **Crime and Violence Reduction**
- Crime Victim Support
- Mass Critical Incident Response
- Mass Demonstration Response
- Mental Health & Crisis Response
- Office Safety & Wellness
- Public Transparency
- Recruitment and Retention
- Stops, Searches & Arrests
- Technology Implementation
- Training & Education
- Use of Force

KEY ELEMENTS

- Data-informed identification of hot spots and micro-locations to focus enforcement and response resources.
- Deployment of resources based on high-risk locations and individuals known to drive violence.
- Multi-unit briefings that support immediate coordination across patrol, investigative, and specialized units.
- Dedicated unit focused on rapid response and high-visibility enforcement in identified violent crime zones.
- Integration of patrol operations and investigative follow-up for timely, coordinated incident response.
- Efforts to co-produce safety with residents through neighborhood walks, community meetings, and violence intervention partnerships.
- Multi-agency case coordination for key violent incidents and priority offenders.



“What we’ve built is not just about crime reduction, it’s about a unified and fast response, with everyone at the table, every single day.”
— Executive Command Staff

“We know where the violence is happening, and we’re not waiting to react. We’re showing up smarter, faster, and with the right people involved.”
— Field Operations Lieutenant

THE BENEFITS

An effective crime and violence response strategy allows agencies to reduce harm swiftly, increase clearance rates, and build public trust through visible, coordinated action. By combining real-time data with a focused operational approach, DPD is able to respond quickly to emerging threats while also addressing underlying drivers of violence. This enhances officer safety, strengthens community relationships, and ensures that violent crime interventions are proportionate, targeted, and sustainable.

An independent evaluation by the UTSA found that DPD's crime and violence response framework delivered measurable, sustained results over its first three years. Monthly violent crime incidents dropped approximately 19.2% citywide compared to the three years before the plan began. In the targeted hot spots, violent crimes declined by nearly 33% in treated areas compared to the same months in the prior year.

AGENCY AT A GLANCE

The Dallas Police Department serves over 1.3 million residents in the ninth-largest city in the United States, with approximately 3,000 sworn officers. Recognizing that effective crime control cannot occur in isolation, DPD emphasizes working together with community members and the broader criminal justice system to respond to violence and maintain peace across the City's diverse neighborhoods.

“Response without community engagement doesn't solve the problem. We're committed to doing both at the same time.”

— Neighborhood Policing Supervisor

PHOTO CREDITS

Photos provided by the Dallas Police Department