

SMART PROSECUTION

SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

June 2017



Three members of Chatham County's Smart Prosecution Initiative: (From left to right): Sgt. Jonathan Puhala - Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department; Dr. Chad Posick - Research Partner, Georgia Southern University; Noah Abrams - Assistant District Attorney/Gun Prosecutor, Chatham County District Attorney

CHATHAM COUNTY SMART PROSECUTION:

BUILDING A COMMUNITY WHILE TARGETING SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S MOST VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Kristin Fulford is the project lead for Chatham County's District Attorney's Office's Smart Prosecution project. Together with District Attorney Meg Heap, three prosecutors, and Georgia Southern University researchers led by Dr. Chad Posick, the team finds innovative ways of addressing violent crime in Savannah: targeting the most violent crime drivers in a downtown hot spot, while garnering the community's trust and support in the process. To begin the initiative, Ms. Fulford, along with Dr. Posick and a prosecutor, met with law enforcement officials from Savannah Area Regional Intelligence Center (SARIC)- a local intelligence gathering group- and examined data collected over the past five years to identify crime hot spots in the county. The group noted that most crimes occur within city limits, and they narrowed down the crime subset to violent crimes involving guns. The group also focused exclusively on communities that were relatively insular with little crossover crime, such as crimes affecting tourists. Ms. Fulford explained that hot spot identification sought to "figure out what was causing the violent crime in a certain area and ways of reducing that crime."

The researcher-practitioner relationship between Dr. Posick and Ms. Fulford began before their FY '16 Smart Prosecution grant collaboration. The pair lent their skills to two other programs of the Chatham County DA's Office: The End Gun Violence Initiative and the Youth Intercept Program. Along with SARIC data, the programs, detailed below, served as a springboard for the Smart Prosecution Initiative, and are closely aligned with the Smart Prosecution

Initiative's goals: focusing on a geographic area plagued with violent crime and combating that violent crime by involving innovative, evidence-based practices to address needs exclusively to that specific project.

- The End Gun Violence Initiative was patterned after the David M. Kennedy program, a project of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice that treats violence and exposure to violence as a public health issue to improve lives and avoid jail. The city-funded End Violence Initiative focuses exclusively on local gang ("group") members and a few national gang crime members, ages 15-25. Law enforcement partners identify the influencers in the groups or gangs and an outreach coordinator from the Initiative then offers alternatives to criminal street life. Options include job training and education, with the overall idea of helping youth and young adults leave the group or gang. [Read more about the End Gun Violence Initiative here.](#)
- The Youth Intercept Program, a federally-funded program of both the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is structured into three sections, and is a community-focused program geared at helping at-risk children and young adults. One component begins in the hospital, reaching 14-25 year olds needing health care for injuries sustained from criminal activity and/or counseling to prevent further victimization and retaliation. A second component focuses on at-risk children and young adults, ages 10-20, and partners with area schools to offer life skills, mentoring, tutoring, and truancy prevention. A third component 'adopts' two area middle schools, and works with these students all year long. Summer sessions include life skills training and participation in a mock trial team. [Read more about the Youth Intercept Program and its sections here and here.](#)

With the successes of the two initiatives outlined above as a backbone, Ms. Fulford and Dr. Posick determined that their Smart Prosecution Initiative hinged on a targeted approach and that preventative violence measures required strong community involvement. Solid community support came from the City of Savannah, area hospitals, and various community leaders, many of whom supplied pre-existing buy-in from the End Violence Initiative and the Youth Intercept Project.

To continue the existing, positive community relationship, the team consistently attends regular meetings with the hot spot's precinct commander, and monthly meetings with neighborhood associations within the hot spot. The team also participates in

Turn to page 4 to read about Brooklyn's Adolescent Diversion Court Part's success by participants' second court appearances.

Learn about District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General's three new staff hires for administering the initiative's restorative justice panels on page 5.

On page 5 learn about how the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office educated the San Francisco District Attorney's Office about the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA).

tours with community leaders to meet people living in the hot spot community to better understand violent crime issues plaguing community members. The team understands how living in a violent neighborhood affects residents during these community meetings. Kristjan Whiteway, a prosecutor involved in the initiative, took part in a discussion where meeting attendees discussed the best routes for getting children to school safely in a notably high-crime area within the hot spot.

Ms. Fulford explains the community appreciates their presence both on the streets and in meetings. "The last community meeting was a great example of walking in to a group and feeling at home. We received a lot of hugs and a lot of 'we're glad you're here' sentiments that have never occurred before." Dr. Posick reinforced Ms. Fulford's remarks. "There is a vibrancy in this community for crime prevention. The community understands we don't want to simply arrest people and put them in prison. We want to make communities safer and healthier before crime happens. We've also received a lot of positive comments from the local media - who has a real interest in a more holistic approach to violence. Reporters respond when crimes happen - with a negative and reactive slant. However, the Smart Prosecution Initiative stands out because it shows positive interaction with the community and is also good for community perception of the project."

As part of community engagement, the team also works to improve the community's perception of law enforcement. Ms. Fulford explains that in violent communities, "folks can be afraid of law enforcement and don't want to talk because they are afraid of retaliation and the fear of putting people in their community in prison, but they need to see that their perception is not the full picture. We don't want to just put people in prison, we want to make their communities safer. We don't want them to be afraid to live in their own neighborhood. We are here to help." To paint a more complete picture of the office's goals, the team informs community members of diversion programs offered to first-time, non-violent offenders, a group whose crimes are in stark contrast to the most violent offenders of violent gun offenses - whose cases are funneled directly to arraignment for swift prosecution.



A hot spot map of Savannah's gun crimes within the past twelve months.
(Credit: Dr. Chad Posick, Georgia Southern University.)

To find these violent offenders, Dr. Posick uses Social Network Analysis (SNA) and risk terrain modeling. He explains that he is not just identifying the hot spot, but using data to understand why violence occurs by coupling SARIC data, as well as input from prosecutors and the community, for suitable triangulation. "SNA is really important because it lets you understand social

dynamics through associations and activities." Dr. Posick also explains that geographic prosecution is a relatively new area in law enforcement that can save resources. "In the 1950s, researchers found that 6% of offenders committed 60% of the crime. Now, researchers are also finding that in addition to that, a small portion of hot spots account for the largest numbers of violent crime, as well. SNA leads to a 'multi-level analysis' that shows why crime is so high in certain neighborhoods. We can see who is getting arrested with whom in the jurisdiction, and for what crimes. Drug crimes can later be linked to assaults and homicides."

In violent jurisdictions such as Savannah, Dr. Posick explains that only 50% of all crimes are reported to law enforcement. To reach community members, the team hands out surveys and conducts interviews of both children and community leaders, whose opinions on crime- much of it unreported to law enforcement- help Dr. Posick triangulate crime with law enforcement data to find and target violent offenders. Dr. Posick explains community input is also important to identify, reach, and divert potential offenders heading towards violence.

Through triangulation, community input and law enforcement, data strengthens the initiative's objectives and addresses crime retaliation; but, the dynamics of the two groups can hang in a delicate balance. Dr. Posick explains, "if the community does not recognize law enforcement's efforts as legitimate, the community will offer zero buy-in." He said an innovative, research-driven, crime initiative must involve both formal control (prosecutors, law enforcement) and non-formal control (peers, friends, and teachers) for success, and "that's what we are doing with Smart Prosecution." Mr. Whiteway explains, "the best way to discourage crime retaliation is to encourage stronger trust with the police department. There are a lot of issues with drug cultures and the negative connotation of snitches. If the local police and prosecutors can be viewed as someone from their side and who follows up with violence, this will help bolster credibility. Credibility is also bolstered through community involvement and being true to your word. It helps foster the trust in us."

Ms. Fulford notes challenges with initially obtaining buy-in from law enforcement, "as warm as law enforcement has been, it did take some time for them to warm up to our initiative." Thankfully, the team had connections to one sergeant who championed the cause and helped bridge the gap with other members of law enforcement. Dr. Posick adds, "anytime you try to shake something up, having an advocate is important." The team also noted that it can be a challenge to work with members of the judiciary who can at times be isolated and not open to communication.

Dr. Posick is grateful for all the connections he has fostered with other researchers in Smart Suite, including the connections made at the Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference this past spring, and a peer-to-peer exchange with Subject Matter Expert Dr. Andrew Fox regarding Social Networking Analysis. "I have never been a part of a project before that links researchers this way and fosters open communication," he explained. He will be sharing his research experience with Smart Prosecution this fall with 4,000 attendees at the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA, where he will discuss: the project's preliminary results; the writing and application process of the grant; revising methodology throughout the grant cycle; and preparation of the program's final evaluation.

SITE ACTIVITY

FY '14 SMART PROSECUTION SITES

HARRIS COUNTY (HOUSTON)

PROJECT: *SURVIVORS ACQUIRING FREEDOM AND EMPOWERMENT (SAFE) COURT*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The SAFE Court program continues to utilize supervised, targeted intervention and treatment designed upon a therapeutic-based model for young adults between the ages of 17 and 25 years old, charged with misdemeanor prostitution. Safe Court meets twice monthly.

As of June 22, the site reports that the Safe Court is running at full capacity with 27 participants.

The site continues to plan a human trafficking identification training for all units within the Harris County District Attorney's Office (approximately 75 prosecutors). The training would educate prosecutors - especially those in the misdemeanor trial division - to identify survivors of human trafficking. In Texas, human trafficking is an affirmative defense for victims charged with prostitution.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Harris County Investigators Rescue Chicago Teen From Human Traffickers...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

LOS ANGELES

PROJECT: *INTRODUCING NEW TOOLS USING EVIDENCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY FOR PROSECUTION TREATMENT (INTERCEPT)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office continues utilizing best practices and evidence-based tools to successfully develop better-informed engagement plans for pre-filing restorative justice diversion participants. Each participant's obligations are based on their own unique history and needs.

The site's research partners at Justice and Security Strategy (JSS) and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) are preparing the final evaluation report.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Crime has leveled off in L.A., police chief says — and he's 'cautiously optimistic' it will drop...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

COOK COUNTY (CHICAGO)

PROJECT: *MISDEMEANOR DEFERRED PROSECUTION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (MDPEP)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

MDPEP continues to process low-level defendants charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses and refers them to treatment and other resources for case dismissal upon successful program completion.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Youths Plan Weekly Campouts In 'Hot Spot' Blocks To Fight Violent Crime...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

SAN FRANCISCO

PROJECT: *CRIME STRATEGIES UNIT (CSU)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The CSU promotes predictive analytics for strategic prosecution, using analytic tools to make connections between criminal events, defendants, witnesses, and victims to facilitate more effective investigations, charging decisions, and case dispositions.

On June 19-21, two prosecutors and a Young Adult Court Coordinator from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office attended a Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA) training sponsored in part by the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The San Francisco team took part in a KC NoVA Intelligence Briefing, attended a KC NoVA presentation, ate lunch with Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker, met with a KC NoVA social services supervisor and client advocates, attended an Enforcement Committee Meeting, and visited "Teens in Transition," a KC NoVA Youth Program. As part of KC NoVA's focused-deterrence strategy, the San Francisco team also observed a "call-in", a forum for offenders to meet with law enforcement, social service providers, and community leaders. Attending the "call-in" greatly helped San Francisco as it begins building its own focused-deterrence program within the next fiscal year.

The site continues working on its Gun Enforcement Unit, attending productive meetings with the San Francisco Police Department Command Staff Chief to collaborate about future grant applications, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Crime Laboratory staff who provided information about Oakland's National Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) program, and the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

On July 13-14, team members attended a site visit at the Milwaukee Fusion Center hosted by Captain David Salazar, Commander of the Intelligence Fusion Center of the Milwaukee Police Department, to learn about the operation and function of the Crime Gun Intelligence Center and its relationship to Milwaukee's Fusion Center.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Sex offender revamp in works under state bill...
[READ FULL](#)

FY '15 SMART PROSECUTION SITES

BALTIMORE

PROJECT: *IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE-BASED RISK ASSESSMENT DURING THE PRETRIAL PHASE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site continues to develop an automated risk assessment for Charging Prosecutors to determine appropriate release or hold recommendations for the Bail Commission and Court; The State's Attorney's Office, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and research partners are exploring a potential collaboration to develop a uniform risk assessment to be used by both agencies. Throughout the spring, the team has been meeting with officials at DPSCS to discuss pretrial risk assessment for use by the State's Attorney's Office and Pretrial Services.

The site received data-sharing from DPSCS on May 5, and is in "constant contact" with the agency regarding this data. The site has grouped the data by crime type and has ranked the data accordingly. The site expects that its researchers will be able to complete further analysis by July. The team anticipates completion of its risk assessment measurement by July or August.

On June 23, the site participated in a call with Site Champion Brenidy Rice to enhance its existing plan for stakeholder buy-in and education. The discussion centered on: 1) Identifying stakeholders about the site's implementation of a uniform pretrial risk assessment - such as the community, the court, public defenders, prosecutors in the State's Attorney's Office, members of the legislature, and other criminal justice partners such as local public policy organizations; 2) Key questions to ask when approaching potential stakeholders 3) Community engagement - both internal and external components; 4) Identifying other criminal justice practitioners; and, 5) How to gain buy-in from the State legislature - through a preexisting relationship, education, and outreach.

Two team members are attending the Michigan State University (MSU) Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy from July 25-28 in Lansing, Michigan.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Jury still out on Maryland's new bail rules...
[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

KINGS COUNTY (BROOKLYN)

PROJECT: *THE BROOKLYN YOUNG ADULT JUSTICE INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

As of June 23, the site reports 1,781 open cases pending in the Adolescent Diversion Court Part, which offers diversion instead of prosecution for young adults, 16-24 years old, charged with misdemeanor offenses, who are at the greatest risk for re-offending and/or are facing more serious criminal consequences.

Two Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) joined the Bureau since June, bringing the total number of prosecutors in the unit up to five.

The site credits case reduction with ongoing training designed to target and divert cases at arraignment - and not later in the criminal justice process. In April 2017, the site rolled out its program that screens participants at first appearance (arraignment) to see if they qualify for diversion (offers are given and accepted before discovery). Since then, 133 low and moderate risk defendants have accepted offers at arraignment. By the second court date, 28 participants were already in compliance; of this number, 21 completed their mandates and had their cases disposed. Brooklyn Justice Initiatives (BJI) provides treatment service referrals to program participants. Pleas are taken at arraignment and immediately thereafter, and the new participant goes directly to the courthouse-based office to sign up for services at BJI.

Client participants are also given Procedural Justice surveys (available in both Spanish and English) at arraignment. To reach higher completion numbers, the site incentivizes participants with \$5 gift cards redeemable at Dunkin' Donuts, Subway, and Walgreens. The rollout for the gift card program began on June 26.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Brooklyn on pace for another year of record-setting low crime...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

SAN DIEGO

PROJECT: *THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE (CJI)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

CJI uses data and evidence-based practices to restore justice and increase effectiveness and efficiency through a post-plea, city-wide diversion initiative to provide accountability, early intervention, and swift consequences for participants charged with eligible misdemeanor offenses.

As of June 30, the site reports that: 3,943 offers made; 2,650 offers accepted; 1,293 offers rejected; 2,048 offers completed; and 423 participants failed out of the program. These numbers reflect enrollment since November 2016. The site

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has also completed 224 CJ Proxy Risk Screenings and 61 CJ assessments.

The site received its software platform/kiosk for client screening. The kiosks will electronically administer the proxy screen to determine high, medium, or low risk scores for program participants (a case manager previously conducted the risk assessment). The site hopes to have the kiosks installed in the new courthouse, by the end of the year.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office launched its SMART Program in December (unaffiliated with Smart Prosecution). The program will provide in-house recovery treatment for 80 individuals per year. Instead of incarceration, participants elect to move into government-funded housing and participate in drug treatment programs. The County of San Diego recently rewarded the site with a grant from Prop. 47 funds. The City's portion is \$3 million, which will be used to expand SMART. [MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE HERE.](#)

Researchers received their first data transfer from the City Attorney's Office.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Invisible but in Danger: San Diego's Homeless Are Targets For Attacks...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

FY '16 SMART PROSECUTION SITES

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PROJECT: *USING OUR BRAINS: REDUCING RECIDIVISM AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site is furthering collaboration with the DC US Attorney's Office (USAO). Both offices plan to develop a diversion-based initiative, using restorative justice, for youth (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-24) who commit certain crimes, such as theft, destruction of property and non-injury simple assault cases with victim consent. The team is evaluating USAO data for program development.

The site hired a restorative justice coordinator and two facilitators who will staff their restorative justice panels. The site team, partners, and office staff will receive ongoing support and assistance for program implementation and restorative justice training from the Baltimore Community Conferencing Center.

Throughout May and June, the site continues meeting and participating in conference calls with the DC USAO. The two offices are discussing eligibility requirements, *Brady and Jencks* discovery issues during restorative justice panels, for program participants.

The OAG and its research partners at CCI continue to evaluate data to determine suitable candidates for potential diversion.

Four team members are attending the Michigan State University Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy from July 25-28 in Lansing, Michigan.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Violent Crime Drops Sharply in D.C...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

JACKSON COUNTY (KANSAS CITY)

PROJECT: *JACKSON COUNTY MISSOURI PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SMART PROSECUTION INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site's geographic-based initiative targets the "East Zone," the most violent area within Kansas City. Team members will collaborate with law enforcement, community partnership specialists, and community members to assess crime-related problems in the East Zone and implement strategies to address them.

A system for hot spot cases has been developed. The site has access to "sophisticated mapping software."

The site and its researchers are working on Tracking Forms, and to simplify codes for victims to receive information.

On June 19-21, two prosecutors and a Young Adult Court Coordinator from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office attended a Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA) training sponsored in part by the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The San Francisco team took part in a KC NoVA Intelligence Briefing, attended a KC NoVA presentation, ate lunch with Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker, met with a KC NoVA social services supervisor and client advocates, attended an Enforcement Committee Meeting, and visited "Teens in Transition," a KC NoVA Youth Program. As part of KC NoVA's focused-deterrence strategy, the San Francisco team also observed a "call-in," a forum for offenders to meet with law enforcement, social service providers and community leaders. Attending the "call-in" greatly helped San Francisco as it begins building its own focused-deterrence program within the next fiscal year.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Missouri Supreme Court rules on juvenile prison sentencing...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

ESSEX COUNTY (NEWARK)

PROJECT: *ESSEX COUNTY SMART SOCIAL MEDIA INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

A specialized unit has been developed to investigate and prosecute cases based on suspects' usage of social media. The site envisions a systematic, proactive approach to social-media mining that will reduce crime, empower victims, promote fair and impartial justice, and instill the public's confidence in criminal justice.

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As of June 20, Project Lead Robert Laurino, formerly the Acting First Assistant County Prosecutor, was appointed to Acting County Prosecutor for Essex County. He has served in the Essex County Prosecuting Attorney's Office since 1980. Carolyn Murray, former Acting Essex County Prosecutor, has received a judicial appointment to the State Superior Court.

Since the beginning of the initiative, the team has experienced successful identification hearings where witnesses and victims identify defendants without law enforcement involvement. The site continues to educate the judges about this process. The site continues screening about 3-6 potential cases per week, and reports that most cases have social media connections, due to witnesses initially identifying defendants through social media.

Since June, the site has 19 confirmed cases in the treatment group, and another 50 tentative cases.

WEEKLY NEWS:

157 arrested, guns, drugs seized in Newark week-long sweep...

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

CHATHAM COUNTY (SAVANNAH)

PROJECT: *THE CHATHAM COUNTY SMART PROSECUTION PROGRAM*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The initiative aims to reduce gun, local group, and gang violence by focusing on: identifying and targeting a geographic hot spot for gun violence in the Savannah area and most violent offenders within it; tracking and prioritizing prosecution and individuals within the hot spot; diverting non-essential cases (e.g. theft and simple drug possession) to alternative programs; and, engaging with community groups within the hot spot through meetings, social media forums, and other outreach strategies. As of June 26, there are 19 active cases in the target zone area, including both new charges and probation violations. Total cases – including active and disposed cases – have reached 30. The site's goal is to reach 50 active cases soon.

The site continues its work with engaging community members, by attending neighborhood association meetings. The program "End Violence Now" is now housed under the District Attorney's office; this move will promote community engagement and allow team members to work directly with the Youth Intercept Program.

The site's researchers at Georgia Southern University are developing a process evaluation tool. The researchers are also creating one-page briefs on certain topics (such as policing hot spots) that can be quickly digested and used by practitioners. The researchers are currently focusing on social network analysis and spatial analysis, and have recently received data from the Savannah Area Regional Intelligence Center (SARIC).

WEEKLY NEWS:

New technology helping prosecutors convict Chatham County criminal...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

MIAMI

PROJECT: *THE GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative places a team of prosecutors, investigators, and a community outreach and victim witness specialist to work directly with police and the community to combat shootings and homicides at the Northside District Station. The Initiative's four goals include: 1) prosecute and convict individuals involved in gun/gang related crimes to reduce crime and victimization in the Northside District; 2) rely on data-driven methods to proactively identify gang members and chronic offenders; 3) analyze data from law enforcement agencies and use geographic information systems (GIS) to target "hot spots" and crime generators in the Northside District; and 4) work with the community to dispel the "anti-snitch" mentality.

The project is fully-staffed and includes: four investigators, two prosecutors, one victim witness specialist, and one secretary. Investigators routinely follow-up on non-fatal shootings in the Northside District. Prosecutors are on-call around-the-clock. The research partner is conducting crime mapping using historical data to focus on micro hot spot areas. The site expects project statistics to be available in mid-July.

WEEKLY NEWS:

Need some canine affection? New law lets therapy dogs into courts around the state...[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

FY '16 3PI SITE

KING COUNTY (SEATTLE)

PROJECT: *SHOTS FIRED*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The team continues its work to establish a Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) for its "Shots Fired" Initiative aimed at addressing increased firearm violence in the jurisdiction, through institutionalizing standardized intelligence gathering and sharing to concentrate resources on reducing shots-fired incidents and identifying those involving chronic victims and offenders in hot spot locations.

The site reports that its jailhouse call database, which began the week of May 29, is being used and populated. The database is "very simple" for members of the initiative to use and allows for searches across "every data field" including: defendant name, phone number, and pin numbers of callers.

The site's Shots Fired database is now using the easier-to-use Access platform, with eight agencies contributing to the database. It is continuing to grow. The site says it is one of their "biggest successes" as it allows prosecutors and related agencies to see what is happening in real time and to directly contact detectives about any new crime developments.

Since the beginning of July, the site's researchers at California State University- Fresno are beginning first rounds (four rounds total, with new surveys administered every six months) of qualitative interviews for the prosecuting attorney's office and stakeholders. These surveys will measure how the site and its stakeholders are using data over time.

The site is developing a MOU with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to acquire data from the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

WEEKLY NEWS:

Seattle-area bust uncovered pounds of meth... and caffeine?...
[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

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