COVID-19 & Gun Violence Reduction Work

In 2020, COVID-19 contributed to increases in firearm violence. We found that this increase in gun violence was a direct result of increased social isolation, depression, anxiety, fear & uncertainty brought on by COVID-19 policies. The 2020 pandemic’s impact on the ONS model was profound. ONS requires that heavy doses of direct, persistent and rigorous face-to-face daily engagement be made with each enrolled Fellow. Pandemic distancing and closures adversely impacted the ability of ONS staff, Fellows & service providers to engage & do what they do best. These restrictions on engagement limited ONS’s likely impacts & any increases in gun violence reflect 2020’s COVID reality. However, if not for the continued engagement of ONS during the pandemic, gun violence could have been a lot worse.

Richmond Firearm Homicides & Assaults | 2019 & 2020

Street Outreach + Fellow Contacts
- 4,443
- 7,917

Hours of engagement
- 248

Service referrals
- 28

Imminent gun violence conflicts interrupted
- 88

Community conflicts mediated that could have escalated into gun violence

Office of Neighborhood Safety Fellows in 2020

- 27 Fellows
- 0 lost to gun violence
- 96% have no new firearm injuries
- 89% are not a suspect in a new firearm related crime
Office of Neighborhood Safety Richmond 2020

2020 Fellow Outcomes

Fellow Characteristics

- 27 Fellows
- 59% are milestone eligible
- 78% received counseling
- 19% received prior social services
- 19% witnessed a homicide
- 15% are in school
- 19% are on probation
- 16% of referrals for anger management
- 82% received Life Coaching
- 40% referrals for DMV/Driver's License

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