



Successful Practices & Strategies

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Camden County Police Department

Camden, New Jersey

<http://camdencountypd.org/>

Community policing element

Problem solving

Problem/issue

Gun related homicides

Problem description

The crime epidemic in Camden has been infamous nationally. For example, in 2013, Camden experienced 47 homicides involving a firearm, 57 total homicides, and 380 aggravated assault incidents with a firearm.

Community policing strategies implemented

The Camden County Police Department (CCPD) proactively looks at crime maps and patterns in order to provide officers with real time crime data. This supply of timely and accurate data allows for increased capacity to address community concerns. These resources allow us to address various public safety issues in an efficient manner. Additionally, the increase in staffing has helped our gun violence reduction efforts. The CCPD has implemented some state-of-the-art technological advancements. Inside its real time tactical operation intelligence center (RTTOIC), analysts monitor surveillance cameras throughout the city. The eye in the sky (EIS) camera system spans the neighborhoods and business corridors of the city. The surveillance camera network works in concert with other technology systems monitored in the RTTOIC. The RTTOIC is operated twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week and acts as a nerve center for deployment of law enforcement resources, response to emergency call for service, and monitoring technology systems. In addition to improving operational coordination, this technology allows the department to coordinate with field units to detect and respond to observed conditions, increasing intelligence and information sharing.

Change and/or impact as a result of these community policing efforts

There are several indicators the department can highlight, including gun seizures and homicide reduction. The Camden County Police Department has recovered 58 firearms over the last three months. Furthermore, increased staffing has enhanced the level and frequency of communication with the community on crime problems and agency activities to enhance transparency. Moreover, the city



has made noteworthy reductions of homicides in the past year. We have seen a 41.7 percent drop in homicides involving a firearm and a 42.1 percent drop in total homicides in the past two years.

Lessons learned through program implementation

In accordance with the community oriented policing philosophy, the department has incorporated an intelligence-led, capabilities-based structure to the city of Camden. The COPS Office investments build on the ongoing efforts of law enforcement deployment, emergency response services, and monitoring technology systems, including gunshot detection, license plate readers, and automatic vehicle location systems. Embracing the philosophy of community policing, the CCPD will engage community members, business owners, and youth to facilitate information sharing, trust, and communication. Community partnerships, problem solving, and organizational transformation have served as a resource to develop strategies and solutions to addressing gun violence.

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