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Beating the Gun—One Conversation at a Time? Evaluating the Impact of DC’s “Cure the Streets” Public Health Intervention Against Gun Violence

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<https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287231160735>

Abstract

Violence interrupters (VI) operate as mediators after gang-involved shootings to stop retributory shootings.

While some cities, like Chicago, have seen initial success, other cities, such as Boston, Newark, and Phoenix have seen little or mixed effects.

This is the first evaluation of the Washington DC intervention. I use an interrupted time series model to measure the impact the intervention had on the rates of assaults with a gun using DC Crime Incident data.

Recognizing that the Covid-19 pandemic is an important confounding event, I also run two time-series control models, a location control, and an outcome control.

My findings indicate that the program was not effective in reducing gun violence.

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