An illustration of a community meeting. Several people are seated around a long table, looking at documents. The room has large windows with green plants visible outside. Two teal pendant lights hang from the ceiling. A semi-transparent teal box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Convening stakeholders to explore drivers of gun violence and potential strategies for violence reduction in Cincinnati, Ohio

OVERVIEW

Team

Project Context

Approach

Model & Insights

Takeaways

TEAM



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Brita Roy



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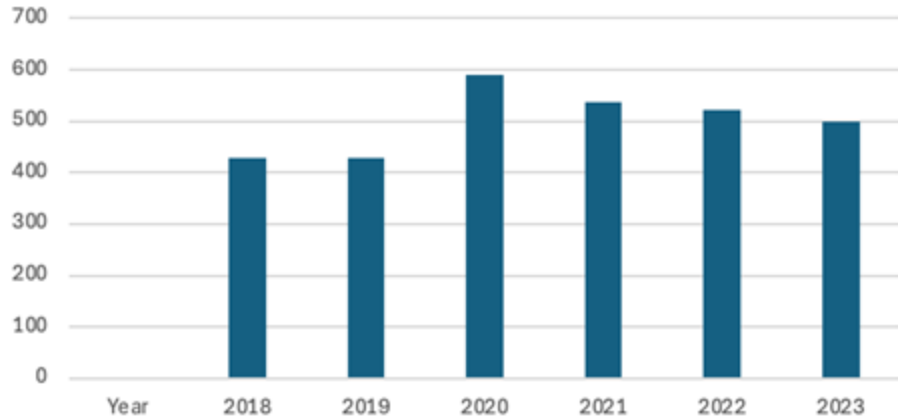
Ellis Ballard

PROJECT CONTEXT

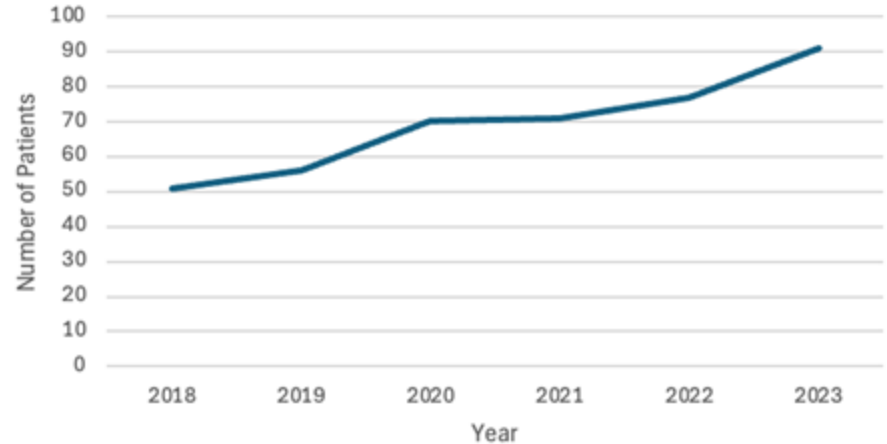
Cincinnati Children's

Trends in Gun Violence, urgency of problem in Cincinnati

Total Patients Presenting to Hospitals with Gunshot Wounds in Cincinnati

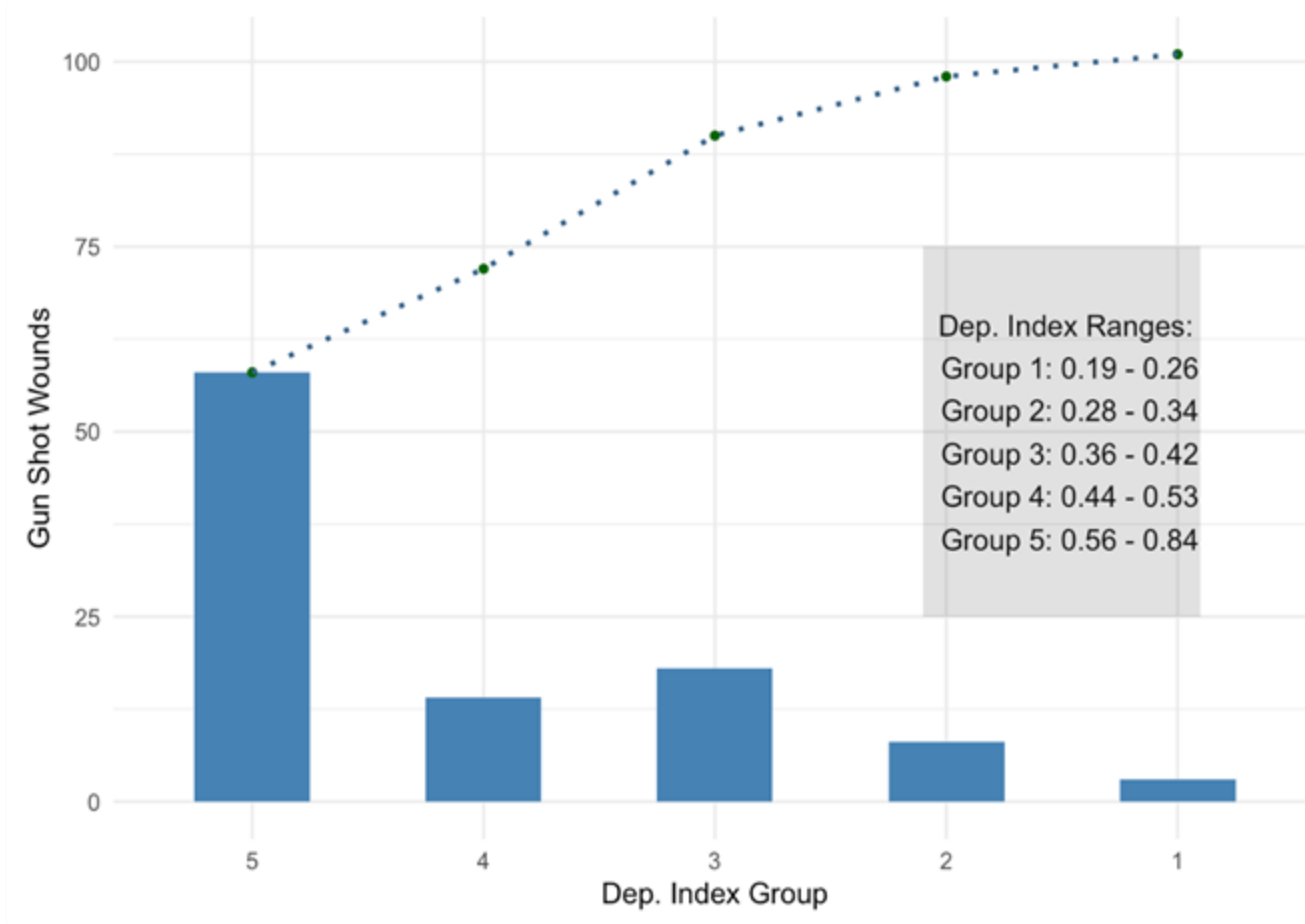


Patients 0-17 Years Old with Gunshot Wounds



- There has been an increase in gun violence year to year.
- There is a notable increase in gun violence involving children and adolescents.
- On average there are around 33 shooting incidents in the city every month.

Inequities in communities most impacted



Children from census tracts with a higher deprivation index (increased deprivation) experience a disproportionately higher burden of gun violence.

Hosting Partners



Supporting Partners

- Tributary Design
- NYU Langone Department of Population Health

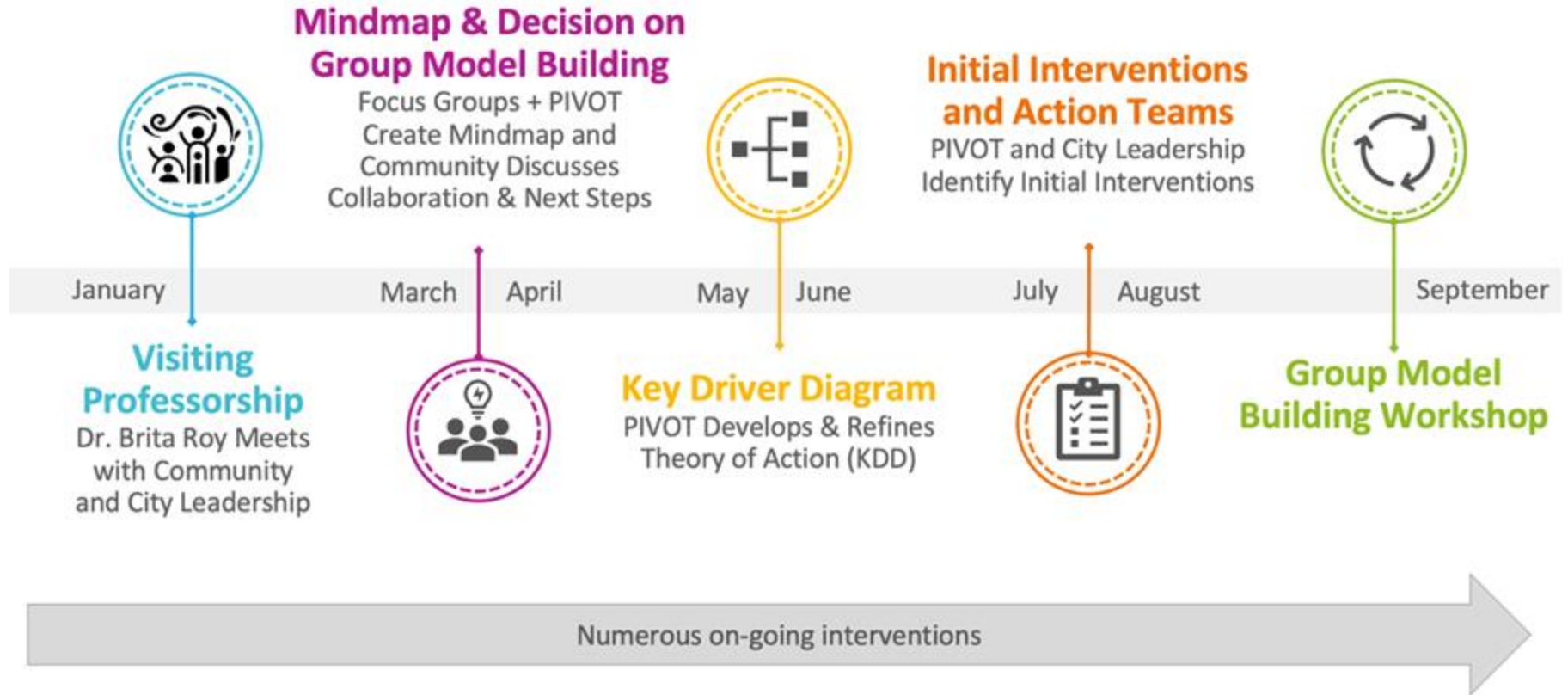


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- Engagement with City leadership
- Aligning multiple organizations, leaders
- Building aligned strategy
- Using data and improvement tools to enact change

Prior Work as inputs to this workshop



Problem Statement

- Gun violence in Cincinnati remains high
- There are many existing efforts to address the problem, and still additional opportunities for alignment and support

Objectives of Group Model Building

- Deepen understanding of the system and interconnections influencing gun violence rates over time
- Build collective understanding of ongoing efforts to address gun violence
- Augment and accelerate existing efforts with a focus on most impactful levers
- Develop further action ideas and identify owners
- Build collective will

APPROACH

A group of people are gathered in a modern meeting room with large windows. They are seated around a long wooden table, which is covered with numerous yellow sticky notes, papers, and a few beverages. The participants are actively engaged in a collaborative activity, likely a brainstorming or design thinking session. In the background, a large screen displays a presentation slide, and a clock is visible on the wall. The room is well-lit, and the atmosphere appears to be one of focused teamwork.

Planning & Formative Work

- Series of activities and community engagement prior to workshop
- Building on foundation of ongoing collaboration between leaders of this work
- Planning calls with core modeling team to develop and refine facilitation manual, and situate use of group model building in broader body of work
- Experiential team training to introduce co-facilitators to approach
- Coordination between co-conveners (Cincinnati Children's & City of Cincinnati)

Workshop Overview

Session 1	
Activity	Purpose
Project Overview	Share context of previous work & objectives for workshop
Hopes & Fears	Elicit hopes and fears for the workshop
Graphs Over Time	Describe how factors that influence gun violence rates changed over time
Stakeholder Mapping*	Identify stakeholders that play a role in addressing gun violence
Connection Circles	Describe interconnections between factors
Causal Mapping	Describe relationships & feedback between factors

Session 2	
Activity	Purpose
Model Review	Present & refine synthesized causal loop diagram
Places to Intervene - Existing Efforts	Brainstorm existing efforts to intervene
Places to intervene	Brainstorm new places to intervene
Refining Ideas*	Iteratively refine brainstormed ideas by specifying who, what, where, when, how
Commitment Statements* & Closing	Share personal commitments to advance the work

*non group model building activities

Participant Overview

Participation included a wide range of perspectives, including:

- Health system
- City government
- Those with lived experience as perpetrators and victims
- Social service providers
- Community and neighborhood organizations
- Police
- City courts
- Experts in trauma informed care
- Members of hospital-based violence intervention program team

A group of people are gathered around a large whiteboard in a meeting room. The whiteboard is covered with numerous colorful sticky notes (yellow, orange, blue, pink) and hand-drawn diagrams. The diagrams include circular flows, arrows, and various text labels such as 'COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE', 'MISTRUST FOLLOW THRU', 'URGENT', 'COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT', 'MEETING FUTURE', 'FORMAL', 'COMMUNITY LEVEL VIOLENCE', 'PERMANENT WORTHINESS FOR ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT', 'FAMILY MEMBERS', 'SUSTAINABLE PEOPLE SEE THE WORK', 'PROCESS APPROACH TO WORK', 'NON-PROFIT', 'LOCAL OBJECTIVE = MAKE MONEY', 'DEVELOPMENT', 'REFLECTIONS', 'SOME GROUPS IN FUTURE - DIFFERENTLY', 'FROM LOCAL - NOT LOOKING FOR', 'WHY ARE WE', 'MINDSET', 'DEVELOPMENT', 'LOCAL', 'FUTURE - COMING'. Three people are visible in the foreground: a man in a grey t-shirt and khaki pants is standing on the right, pointing at the board; a woman in a blue dress is standing next to him; and a woman in a beige jacket is standing in the center, also looking at the board. The background shows a white wall and a wooden door. The text 'MODEL & INSIGHTS' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the center of the image.

System Insights: What we've heard

- **Key financial, social, emotional needs for survival**
- **Gaps in the ability to meet these needs**
 - Lack of economic investment & opportunity
 - Impact of incarceration, drug use, violence creating missing generation
- **Development of survival mode behaviors**
 - Engagement in immediate, informal opportunities to make money
 - Limited hope for future & disengaging from school
 - Destabilization of family structures and support
 - Need for social connection and seeking it wherever available

System Insights: What we've heard

- **Effects of personal & intergenerational trauma**
 - Exposure to violence causes immediate harm to mental wellbeing and keeps people in survival mode mindset
 - Social media drives conflict
 - People access guns for power and protection, perpetuating violence
 - Over time, gun violence disrupts families and communities, and leads to intergenerational harm
- **Community level influence & structural racism**
 - Community & society level forces limit job opportunities, political voice, and community power
 - Disinvestment from community creates conditions requiring survival mode, resulting in violence, reinforcing the narrative for further disinvestment

TAKEAWAYS

Activity: Commitments

What are your commitments to push this work forward?

Instructions:

- Consider what commitment you are willing and able to make to push this work forward.
Think about action items that we have discussed.
Write your name and commitment on the provided piece of paper.
Place your commitment with the full group.

Impact & Action

- Bringing many different perspectives together to create a shared understanding
- Five specific action items were developed from sessions and group chose to push one forward – development of neighborhood rooms to community, and especially youth, to have places to gather, interact, and be supported.
- A design session to begin foundation of neighborhood room development was held.
- City of Cincinnati released its gun violence reduction blueprint – including the causal loop diagram – with five key system level areas of focus and action teams within those areas to advance change.
- Ongoing intervention development and revising of theory

Reflections

- Able to build a collaborative group with many stakeholders working together and a shared vision for the problem and needed solutions.
- Pre-existing mind-map and key driver diagram created a foundation that allowed us to launch into the causal loop diagram more quickly.
- There were some key voices missing from the sessions – notably the Cincinnati Public School System – which may have impacted findings.
- Next steps:
 - Advancing action teams to address interventions
 - Creation of quantitative system dynamics model to understand areas of greatest potential impact within the ecosystem