

ICPSR 28441

**Neighborhood Violence in  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,  
1996-2007**

Description

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## **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 28441

Title: Neighborhood Violence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1996-2007

Principal Investigator(s): Jeremy M. Wilson, Michigan State University, and RAND Corporation

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Funding Agency: United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. National Institute of Justice

Richard King Mellon Foundation

Grant Number: 2006-IJ-CX-0030

Bibliographic Citation: Wilson, Jeremy M., Steven Chermak, and Edmund F. McGarrell. Neighborhood Violence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1996-2007. ICPSR28441-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2012-09-24. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR28441.v1>

## **Scope of Study**

Summary: This study assessed the implementation and impact of the One Vision One Life (OVOL) violence-prevention strategy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2003, the rise in violence in Pittsburgh prompted community leaders to form the Allegheny County Violence Prevention Initiative, which became the OVOL program. The OVOL program sought to prevent violence using a problem-solving, data-driven model to inform how community organizations and outreach teams respond to homicide incidents. The research team examined the impact of the OVOL program on violence using a quasi-experimental design to compare violence trends in the program's target areas before and after implementation to (1) trends in Pittsburgh neighborhoods where One Vision was not implemented, and (2) trends in specific nontarget neighborhoods whose violence and neighborhood dynamics One Vision staff contended were most similar to those of target neighborhoods. The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police provided the violent-crime data, which the research team aggregated into monthly counts. The Pittsburgh Department of City Planning provided neighborhood characteristics data, which were extracted from the 2000 Census. Monthly data were collected on 90

neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1996 to 2007, resulting in 12,960 neighborhood-by-month observations.

Subject Term(s): aggravated assault, assault, community organizations, firearms, homicide, intervention strategies, neighborhood change, neighborhood characteristics, neighborhood conditions, neighborhoods, outcome evaluation, violence, violent crime

Smallest Geographic Unit: Neighborhood

Geographic Coverage: Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, United States

Time Period: • 1996 - 2007

Date(s) of Collection: • 2007 - 2009

Unit of Observation: Neighborhood, by month and year.

Universe: All neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1996-2007.

Data Type: administrative records data  
census/enumeration data

Data Collection Notes: The research team also collected information from clients in the One Vision One Life program through intake forms completed by OVOL community coordinators, conducted field observations and interviews with One Vision staff and key community stakeholders, and obtained community risk-assessment documents. However, these data are not available as a part of this data collection.

## Methodology

Purpose of the Study: The research team sought to determine how and to what extent the One Vision One Life (OVOL) violence-prevention strategy was implemented and examine the impact OVOL had on violence in the targeted and surrounding communities.

Study Design: The research team examined the impact of the One Vision One Life (OVOL) program on violence using a quasi-experimental design to compare violence trends in the program's target areas before and after implementation to (1) trends in Pittsburgh neighborhoods where One Vision was not implemented, and (2) trends in specific nontarget neighborhoods whose violence and neighborhood dynamics One Vision staff contended were most similar to those of target neighborhoods.

Specifically, the principal investigators examined the impact of One Vision on community violence using three measures: homicides, aggravated assaults, and aggravated assaults with a gun. The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police provided incident-level data for homicides occurring between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 2007, as well as for aggravated assaults and gun assaults between January 1, 1996, and December 31, 2007. The research team aggregated these data into monthly counts. The Pittsburgh Department of City Planning provided neighborhood characteristics data, which were extracted from the United States Census Bureau's Census 2000.

Sample: Monthly data were collected on 90 neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1996 to 2007, resulting in 12,960 neighborhood-by-month observations.

Weight: None.

Sources of Information: The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police provided the violent-crime data.

The Pittsburgh Department of City Planning provided the neighborhood characteristics data which were extracted from the United States Census Bureau's Census 2000.

Mode of Data Collection: record abstracts

Description of Variables: The study contains a total of 167 variables including date variables, violent crime variables, and neighborhood characteristics variables. Date variables include month and year indicators. Violent crime variables include the monthly number of homicides, aggravated assaults, and aggravated assaults with a gun. Neighborhood characteristics variables include various socioeconomic and demographic measures such as the density of the neighborhood, the labor force indicators, the age and income level of the neighborhood population, the number of persons receiving public assistance, the percentage of housing units that are vacant, and the proportion of the population that moved to their current residence in the previous five years.

Response Rates: Not applicable.

Presence of Common Scales: None.

Extent of Processing: Standardized missing values.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

## **Access and Availability**

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Original ICPSR Release: 2012-09-24

Dataset(s): • DS1: Neighborhood Violence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1996-2007

## Publications

Final Reports and Other Publication Resources: A list of publications related to, or based on, this data collection can be accessed from the study's download page on the NACJD Web site or through the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-Related Literature at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations/index.html>. The list of citations includes links to abstracts and publications in Portable Document Format (PDF) files or text files when available.

Final reports and other publications describing research conducted on a variety of criminal justice topics are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS was established in 1972 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide research findings to criminal justice professionals and researchers. NCJRS operates specialized clearinghouses that are staffed by information specialists who supply a range of reference, referral, and distribution services. Publications can be obtained from NCJRS at NIJ/NCJRS, Box 6000, Rockville, MD, 20849-6000, 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500. TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired is 877-712-9279 (toll-free) or 301-947-8374 (local). The URL for the NCJRS Web site is:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/>

## NIJ Data Resources Program

About the DRP: The National Institute of Justice Data Resources Program (DRP) makes datasets from NIJ-funded research and evaluation projects available to the research community and sponsors research and training activities devoted to secondary data analysis. Datasets are archived by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

The NACJD maintains a World Wide Web site with instructions for transferring files and sending messages. Criminal justice data funded by the Department of Justice are available via the Internet at this site at no charge to the user. NACJD may be contacted at NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-1248, 800-999-0960. The URL for the NACJD Web site is:

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