

GUN VIOLENCE AND VIOLENT CRIMES COMMISSION (GVVCC)

Date: Monday, June 6, 2022

Start Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Video Conference via Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

I. Meeting Call to Order

Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission was called to order by Chair Christopher Young at 09:37 a.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022, via Zoom conferencing.

II. Roll call

Roll Call and Quorum Determination.

Commissioners/ Commissioners Designee Present:

Dr. Erin E. Harbinson, Director, Criminal Justice Research Institute
Dr. Daniel J. Galanis, Department of Health
Deputy Director Jordan Lowe, Department of Public Safety
Chief Paul Ferreira, Hawaii Police Department
Major Brandon Nakasato, Honolulu Police Department
Assistant Chief Randy Esperanza, Maui Police Department
Assistant Chief Bryson Ponce, Kauai Police Department
Dr. Run F. Heidelberg, Administrator, Department of Health
Dr. Denise Eby Konan, University of Hawaii at Manoa – College of Social Science
Dr. Gerald Busch, University of Hawaii at Manoa – John A. Burns School of
Medicine
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Michael Kagami, Maui Prosecutors Office
Assistant Public Defender Lee Hayakawa, Public Defenders Office
Mr. Christopher D.W. Young, Administrator, Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center

Commissioners Absent:

One representative from a group that advocates for stricter gun safety laws.
One representative from a firearm advocacy group.

III. Review and approval of November 4, 2021, minutes

Review of November 4, 2021, GVCCC minutes. No comments or corrections were received from commission members. Commissioner Lowe moved, and Commissioner Konan seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously, with all the commissioners voting in favor of the motion by group vote.

IV. Presentation by Senator Chris Lee, the legislative intent of GVVCC

The intent was for law enforcement agencies, mental health agencies, and other stakeholders to come together to determine what data is not being collected, identify gaps and weaknesses in the data system in hopes of preventing gun violence and violent crimes, and allocate funds to agencies and the GVVCC to improve in data collection and sharing.

No further comment or discussion.

V. Report from County Police Chiefs identifying what data is available from police record management systems (RMS) related to gun violence or use of a firearm in the commission of a crime.

The police chiefs provided 2020-2021 statistics on what data was available in their police data systems related to gun violence. The four-county police departments currently do not collect all the data, and retrieving some data requires manually researching individual reports. In addition, each department would need to update its RMS systems to collect requested data.

Data requested by the county police departments.

- 1) Was a firearm recovered during the commission of a crime?
- 2) Was the firearm registered?
- 3) Was the firearm registered to the suspect?
- 4) Was the suspect in legal possession of the firearm?

a) Hawaii Police Department

130 firearms were recovered, 46 were registered, 84 were not, and five were registered to the suspect.

b) Honolulu Police Department

759 firearms were recovered. All other data is not tracked.

c) Kauai Police Department

Unable to provide specific data due to time constraints.

d) Maui Police Department

98 incidents involving firearms, 199 firearms were recovered.

No further discussion or comments.

VI. Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGS) Report.

a. Data Permitted Interaction and Sharing of Data, December 9, 2021, Reporter Dr. Erin E. Harbinson.

Discussed what data commission member agencies currently have, what additional data is needed, and how the data will be used. Discussed the need to identify relevant data sources to help narrow the scope. There is still the question of the GVVCC's focus and scope.

b. Research Projects and Research Funding, December 13, 2021, Reporter Denise E. Konan Ph.D.

Discussion as to what data is currently available, who holds the data, and what's accessible. Identify what research projects the GVVCC wants to pursue and what funding will be needed to conduct the research projects. The PIG/GVVCC will utilize a U.H. graduate assistant to assist in identifying what research has already been undertaken by other sources and what that data tells us.

No further discussion or comment.

VII. Presentation by U.H. Graduate Assistant Steffanie Sobitz, survey findings related to where Hawaii stands nationally on gun violence.

National studies indicate there is no hard data to suggest raising the minimum age requirement to purchase a firearm affects firearm sales. It is unknown whether there would be an impact on the gun industry locally. The State reported a 62 percent increase in 2020 compared to 2019 in personal private firearm permit applications processed. In 2020 there were approximately 25,000 permits issued statewide that covered 53,481 firearms registered throughout the year, a 35.5 percent increase from 2019. Half of the firearms were imported from out of state. From 2000 to 2020, the number of statewide permit applications processed increased by 302.5 percent, all of which were legally registered firearms. It is clear that the number of firearms within the State has increased, but Hawaii still ranks lowest in gun ownership among the other states and has the strictest firearm laws.

No further discussion or comment.

VIII. Funding Update on Office Assistant IV position to assist the GVVCC.

The Legislature and Governor Ige approved funding for a permanent Office Assistant IV position to assist the GVVCC in operations and research projects. Recruitment for the position will begin in July 2022.

No further discussion or comment.

IX. Next step

The GVVCC continues to discuss potential issues and concerns relating to the sharing and open discussion of protected personal information, including criminal history data and medical and mental health data, among GVVCC members. Until issues surrounding obtaining and sharing data are resolved, the GVVCC members' ability to discuss the protected datasets will be limited, and the GVVCC may have limited ability to accomplish all the tasks required by Chapter 134C, HRS.

The next GVVCC meeting is anticipated sometime in August/September.

No further discussion or comment.

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Konan moved, and Commissioner Ferreira seconded the motion for the meeting to adjourn.

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Gun Violence and Violent Crime Commission

Permitted Interaction Group: Research Projects and Research Funding

2022 Annual Report

Background

In 2020, the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes were amended through HB2744 to establish the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC), which is placed within the Department of the Attorney General. The GVVCC purpose is “to address gun violence and violent crimes in Hawai‘i” and is charged with “providing coordination, facilitation, and planning among state and county agencies, and other partners as appropriate to carry out its purpose.” (Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, Chapter 134C). Further, according to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, Chapter 134C-3c establishes duties and responsibilities for the GVVCC as follows.

The GVVCC shall endeavor to:

1. Identify relevant data that may be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes;
2. Identify areas in which relevant data is not available;
3. Maximize the sharing between the agencies represented on the commission and other appropriate stakeholders of data relevant to reducing gun violence and violent crimes; and
4. Coordinate and conduct research on gun violence and violent crimes.

On October 19, 2021, the GVVCC appointed a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), a subcommittee of the Commission, to advise the Commission on Research Projects and Research Funding, hereafter the Research PIG. The Research PIG is comprised of the following members:

- Dr. Denise Eby Konan, Chair (Dean, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)
- Ex Officio, Philip Higdon, Chair, Hawai‘i Criminal Justice Data Center
- Lee Hayakawa, Assistant Public Defender
- Chief Todd Raybuck, Kauai Police Department
- Deputy Director Jordon Lowe, Public Safety Department
- Dr. Gerald Busch M.D. MPH, (JABSOM, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)

The Research PIG met on December 13, 2021 and November 2, 2022 to discuss its charge. It was agreed that the GVVCC would begin its work with a survey of publicly available research that has been done nationally and locally. Based on this information, the Research PIG will also provide recommendations on research lines of inquiry, and the data necessary to answer important questions. As research will require data and analysis, funding will be required to facilitate this work. The Research PIG will explore available federal funds and make recommendations for other funds necessary, from State or private sources, to conduct research.

Precedent Overview

A Precedent Study was conducted to determine the availability of publicly accessible firearms-injury and prevention related studies. The goal was to get a big picture view of violent crime in Hawai'i with a focus on firearms-related activities. How does Hawai'i compare against other states in regards to gun violence? What policy measures, enforcement, or cultural factors might play into Hawai'i's success in maintaining low gun violence? Are there social or geographic disparities that might indicate the need for focused attention?

For these initial tasks, precedents studies and several key organizations were identified that currently provide the most up-to-date information on gun violence and prevention in the U.S.

The [RAND Corporation's Gun Policy in America Initiative](#) provides an overview of scientific research on the effects of gun laws. They provide a comprehensive review of research to examine the effects of gun policies on defensive gun use, hunting participation, suicide rates, youth violence, and other outcomes. Efforts are made to evaluate gun policy experts with opposite and diverse perspectives.

[Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#) advances the most comprehensive coverage comparing gun laws across the States of the U.S., and shares what States can do to improve the health of their state in regards to firearms injury. For example, the Gifford 2021 Annual Gun Law Scorecard gives Hawai'i an A- grade among U.S. States. Gun safety strength is rated as 4 out of 50, gun death rate ranks 50 out of 50 with 3.4 gun deaths per 100,000, which is 75% lower than the national norm.

[EveryStat](#) and the [PEW Research Center Gun Policy Initiative](#) provide statistics and surveys about ownership, training, and public perception. EveryStat reports that 61% of gun deaths in Hawai'i are by firearm suicide, at an average of 34 deaths per year. In comparison, 35% of gun deaths are classified as homicide, at an average of 19 deaths per year (the third lowest rate in the nation). They find that the rate of gun deaths in Hawai'i has decreased 2% from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide.

While general summary information does exist, there is an overall lack of access to timely and reliable data.

Key Research Themes

Violence is defined by the World Health Organization as: “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.” The Research PIG has identified several priority policy areas regarding violence and violent crimes that are most pressing for Hawai‘i and are in need of further investigation.

1. Firearms Registration and Reporting

On June 6, 2022, the GVVCC conducted a review through reports from the County Police Chiefs on the identification of data available from police RMS systems related to gun violence or the use of firearms in the commissioning of a crime. It was found that each County Police Department collects information using different methods. Information of the presence of guns, and whether they were registered to those in possession, may be present in the narrative of an incident report. However, data on gun registrations are not organized into a database form that would be searchable for research purposes. Without a standard method of reporting, little is known about whether the guns present at an incident were properly registered, and whether the guns were in possession by the registered owner.

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- How is public safety impacted by the presence of guns in the community?
- Which types of crimes involve the presence of guns?
- If a gun was seized in the investigation of a crime, was it registered to the individual from whom it was taken? How did the individual in possession of the firearm obtain it?
- Are current registration requirements for gun owners effective? How do police departments track firearm registrations when present at a crime, or otherwise located by police? Are these firearms properly registered?
- What are the motivations for gun possession?
- Are certain populations (age, ethnicity, Veteran, etc), or geographic neighborhoods more vulnerable to gun violence?
- How will the greater presence of guns impact tourism, as crimes of opportunity may rise?
- When a firearm is seized in the commission of a crime it would be helpful to record data on whether or not the firearm used was possessed by the registered owner or another person?

2. Ghost Guns

The GVVCC has the belief that the presence of ghost guns is expanding in Hawai‘i, posing a threat to public safety. Ghost guns are unregistered, unserialized, and untraceable firearms. These guns may be sold as kits to be assembled, thus enabling anyone to access parts

and ability to acquire weapons. Individuals are able to circumvent background checks, age restrictions, and other firearms regulations through the acquisition of ghost guns.

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- How many ghost guns have been identified in crimes?
- How effective are ghost gun regulations? Will current laws withstand U.S. Supreme Court decisions?
- How were ghost guns involved in a crime obtained? Did the possessor obtain the firearm by committing another crime?
- How is the State of Hawai‘i prosecuting ghost gun possession, or use in criminal activity? How are these crimes being prosecuted in Federal court?
- Are ghost guns being printed, manufactured, and/or assembled here? What measures can be taken to regulate this activity?
- How is inter-state commerce involved in the presence of ghost guns in our communities? Can we track ghost guns from understanding shipment of component parts?
- How can Hawai‘i ensure ghost gun regulations are effective?

3. Concealed Carry and other Firearms Registration

On June 23, 2022, in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional the 1911 Sullivan Act, requiring applicants for an unrestricted license to carry a concealed firearm to show “proper cause” or a special need. Hawai‘i is one of six states to have similar laws restricting concealed carry laws. Given the change in the constitutionality of concealed carry laws, Hawai‘i must consider what new legislation might be advanced in the public interest.

Research shows that when more people carry guns in public, violent crime increases. Violent crime rates rose by 13-15% in states that weakened their restrictions on carrying a concealed firearm (Donohue 2019). States with weak concealed-carry restrictions experience 11% higher rates of homicide committed by firearms than in states with stronger permitting systems (Siegel 2017). Relaxing concealed carry laws may significantly increase the number of people who will carry hidden, loaded handguns in public locations, including parks and beaches, schools and university campuses, shopping centers, and beyond (Rowhani-Rahbar 2017).

Several GVVCC Commissioners believe that current legislation is inadequate to assure the public safety given the change in following the Supreme Court decision. It is recommended that new legislation be developed to provide a basis for requiring education, training, and other measures to be demonstrated by individuals seeking to legally carry concealed firearms.

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- How have applications for concealed carry registrations changed following the Supreme Court decision?

- What measures will our law enforcement officers need to take in responding to incidents when guns are more likely to be involved?
- What legislation would protect constitutional rights while ensuring public safety?
- Would requiring applicants to complete a mandatory firearms training program be beneficial for public safety and constitutionally permitted?
- Are homeowners/liability insurance rates affected when a person has been granted a concealed carry permit?
- Would it violate constitutional protections to require an applicant to carry and show proof of liability insurance?
- How has the public risk of firearms violence changed in light of the new Supreme Court legislation?

4. Increase in Juvenile Crimes

According to local news reporting and anecdotal evidence gleaned from our GVVCC meetings, rates of violent juvenile crime appear to be increasing. In March 2022, a 19-year old was charged with second degree murder of an 18 year old in Tantalus and another 19-year old was arrested following a shooting of a 20 year old in Waikīkī. In May 2022, an attempted murder in Thomas Square involved a 21 year old and two others under the age of 20. Do these incidents signal further issues of youth violence?

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- How often are youth involved in crimes where guns are present?
- What are the motivations for youth violence, gun possession and use?
- How do youth obtain guns? Are the guns registered, and to whom?
- Are certain populations or neighborhoods more vulnerable to youth gun violence?
- What are social determinants of violence? Are there ethnic or gender disparities?
- Is there a presence of group or gang violence in Hawai‘i?
- What community, school, or policing programs and interventions are successful at reducing youth violence?

5. Increase in Domestic Violence Incidents

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), World Population Review (WPR), and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), from 2019 – 2021 there was a significant increase in women reporting incidents of domestic or intimate partner violence in the state. In 2019, women in Hawai‘i reported incidents of domestic or intimate partner violence at a rate of 34.7%, while men reported it at a rate of 24.1%. (NCADV, 2019) On a single day (September 12, 2019), in Hawai‘i 578 victims were served by various agencies. There were a total of 58 unmet requests for services that day, 64% of which were for transitional housing and/or emergency shelter. In 2019, 52% of domestic violence programs reported their results to NNEDV. (NNEDV, 2020)

While rates of domestic violence have seen a spike since the COVID-19 pandemic began, funding for violence prevention programs and services has drastically decreased according to the NNEDV report. According to WPR, as of 2022 Hawai‘i ranks 11th in violence against women, with 41.5% of women reporting abuse. Men in the state report incidents of domestic or intimate partner violence at a rate of 24.1%. Hawai‘i ranks 43rd in domestic violence against men. (World Population Review) According to the NNEDV report, on a single day (September 9, 2021) in Hawai‘i last year 950 victims were served. These included 264 residential (domestic) children and adults, and 686 non-residential (intimate partner) children and adults served by various agencies. Of note are 67 unmet requests for services that day noted in the report. Specifically, about one quarter of unmet requests during this 24-hour period were for transitional housing and/or emergency shelter. A comparison of the reports demonstrates an increase of unmet needs over a two-year period. For 2021, 86% of domestic violence programs reported to NNEDV. (NNEDV, 2022)

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- What demographic(s) is being affected most, and how and where might federal, state, and local resources be more effectively directed? For example, are there high-impact areas on one or several islands, and in those areas are there more or less resources available?
- Have determinants for domestic and intimate partner violence been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic? Have resources for victims of domestic or intimate partner violence been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic? How have these determinants and resources affected the overall health of our state?
- What are the causes for the increase in domestic and intimate partner violence against women, while reported incidents against men remained static over the same period?
- Is the increase in unmet needs solely related to the increase in reported incidents, or are there additional determinants, such as reduced funding or lack of prevention programs which are fueling the lack of available and accessible assistance?
- How frequently are guns present in reported incidents of domestic violence?

Briefly, we have found five key areas in which research is urgently needed. Three of those relate to firearms specifically. These are registration and reporting requirements, ghost guns, and firearms carry regulations. Additionally, we found two other areas of immediate concern. Those are a drastic increase in juvenile violent crime, and lack of data regarding the increase in domestic violence incidents in the state. In the next sections we have provided detailed information pertaining to three university-led firearms-related research institutes, a summary of research capacities and funding opportunities we have identified, and a brief conclusion to summarize the initial findings of the GVVCC Research FIG.

Firearms' Injury and Prevention Institutes in the United States:

Below we have provided information on the three most robust university-affiliated firearms research programs in the U.S.. These are University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, and University of California-Davis. Of special interest is UC-Davis' program, which is legislated by the state, and is mandated to perform certain areas of study in order to inform the state's policies and practices. The state of California was successful in passing legislation in order to establish the research center, state its aims and the scope of research to be conducted, as well as hoped for outcomes, including policy recommendations. The information gathered on the research program at UC-Davis includes six domains of research pertaining to firearms, and would be helpful in planning our own areas of research for Hawai'i.

The [University of CA - UC Davis Health California Firearm Violence Research Center \(CA FVRC\)](#) was created in response to The California Firearm Violence Research Act, under [Section 14231 of the California Penal Code](#) in order to direct and perform interdisciplinary research focused on three areas:

- The nature violence as it pertains to firearms, including potential risk factors for individuals to become involved in firearms violence, either as victim or perpetrator, and societal determinants for the risk.
- The consequences of firearm violence at three levels: individual, community, and societal.
- Prevention and treatment of firearm violence at three levels: individual, community, and societal.

CA FVRC is also committed to its role in “policy development, public dissemination of research findings, training of new investigators in the field of firearm violence, and supporting non-CA FVRC investigators conducting firearm violence research through its small grants program” Preliminary research projects include an epidemiological study of firearm-related violence in California, a study on whether or not comprehensive background checks are efficacious, and a state-wide survey of firearm ownership and use, including the effects of exposure to firearm-related violence.

The [University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention](#) has built and maintains a public-facing website dedicated to providing information to help keep the public safe and knowledgeable about firearms and related issues. The website explicitly states the institute's goals, which are “to address the root causes of, and potential solutions for, the most important issues surrounding firearm violence. The institute provides links to news, general information, and firearms-related policy updates, as well as a listing of new and ongoing firearms-related studies. The website highlights safety and awareness events, scientist and scholar profiles, and a featured research project.

The [Johns Hopkins University Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy](#) is a key resource for media outlets inquiring about firearms-related research and information. The center takes a public health approach to firearms-related violence and prevention with the goal of analyzing and informing policy, and providing the public with the most up-to-date and accurate information pertaining to gun violence and prevention. Their website includes a racial equity assessment tool, informational videos about ghost guns and basic firearm safety, and a section with policy recommendations for extreme risk protection orders.

The [Duke Center for Firearms Law](#) has a unique program focused on the development of firearms law as a scholarly field. This program aims to inform law and policy, as well as interested parties through the development and support of original, dependable, and judicious research and scholarship relevant to firearms law. As part of its collaborative efforts, the Center developed and implemented a Research Affiliate Program (RAP) which aims to support early career researchers such as graduate students, post-docs, visiting or adjunct faculty, and specialists in their efforts to produce research and scholarship relevant to firearms law. The program is open to law professionals and those working in related fields, such as political science and public policy. The Center opened in 2019, and has collaborated with two research affiliates and hosted multiple conferences, colloquia and workshops since its inception.

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- How might the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Social Sciences Research Institute develop its own affiliated research program regarding Gun Violence and Violent Crimes? Who are potential partners for such an endeavor?
- How can a secure data enclave be assembled across reporting agencies so as to link individual records while preserving privacy and research integrity? How can data be made available for research to better understand the determinants of gun violence and violent crimes?
- Would a dashboard of indicators be instructive to support public decision making around gun violence and violent crimes?
- How can data be collected and maintained, and by whom, to enable research and policy development regarding public safety?
- What is the cost to build and maintain a public-facing website to be used to inform people about updated firearms regulations, related news, and resources for potential firearms users and owners?
- Would a state-wide survey on firearm safety and knowledge be helpful in understanding the climate of firearms usage and ownership in Hawai‘i?

Research Capacity and Opportunities for Funding Studies:

The GVVCC Research PIG has identified several departments at UH-Mānoa that are able to perform at least some of the suggested research studies. These include but are not limited to: Public Health, Public Administration, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Psychology and Psychiatry, Law, Sociology, The Center on Aging, and the Social Science Research Institute. Additionally, Dr. Gerald Busch, Department of Psychiatry at JABSOM is active with the Commission, and lends his support and expertise to the GVVCC.

Data collected by the Hawai‘i Criminal Justice Data Center (HCJDC), law enforcement agencies, healthcare agencies and others are sensitive, often private and protected. Additionally, HCJDC only collects self-reported data and does not regulate or require reporting. The need for sharing data and collaborating on studies across multiple agencies is growing. Our initial precedents study has identified the need for a secure data enclave and methods to de-identify data that would be available for research and analyses. Evaluating, cleaning up, and categorizing the collected data is a long and expensive, but essential process.

Funding opportunities are available. From our preliminary research, we have identified a few funding avenues the Commission should consider. For example, we have learned that Hawai‘i misses out on federal funds because we do not adhere to federal guidelines regarding registration of juvenile sex offenders. Hawai‘i also does not submit to receive formula funding for grants such as the Project Safe Neighborhood. More coordination, research capacity, and dedicated relationships between the University of Hawai‘i and State and County agencies, would expand Hawai‘i’s ability to request Federal funding. Further inquiry is needed to locate additional funding sources.

The following lines of inquiry follow.

- Why does Hawai‘i resist federal guidelines for registration of juvenile sex offenders? Are there barriers in place preventing action that can be overcome? What will it take to update regulations regarding Juvenile Sex Offender registrations?
- Due to an increase in violent crime that is potentially pandemic-related, is there any federal funding still available to address these issues? Is Hawai‘i missing out on available funding due to lack of awareness of available grants and other funding sources?
- What agencies should be involved in planning and implementing a data scrub and analysis pertaining to firearms-related crime and other violent crime?

Conclusion:

Through precedent studies, the GVVCC Research PIG has identified five key areas relating to firearms and other violent crime in need of further study. The Research PIG has elaborated on questions our own research has shown to be urgent. Our research demonstrates the requirement for better regulation of data collection, increased data sharing and collaboration, and need for a robust analysis of the data collected and held by various agencies. The Research PIG has identified the need to efficiently disseminate relevant information to the public, and have offered three prominent university models as guidelines for what should be included on a Hawai'i-specific public website. Finally, we have briefly highlighted the capacity for research with the GVVCC and the University of Hawai'i, as well as needs and potential opportunities for funding future research.

Sources:

Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, et al., "Loaded Handgun Carrying Among US Adults, 2015," *American Journal of Public Health* 107, no. 12 (2017): 1930–1936.

John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, and Kyle D. Weber, "Right to Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State Level Synthetic Control Analysis," *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 16, no. 2 (2019): 198–247.

Michael Siegel, et al., "Easiness of Legal Access to Concealed Firearm Permits and Homicide Rates in the United States," *American Journal of Public Health* 107, no. 12 (2017): 1923–1929.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2020). Domestic violence in Hawaii. Retrieved from www.ncadv.org/files/Hawaii.pdf.

National Network to End Domestic Violence (2020). 14th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: NNEDV.org/DVCounts.

National Network to End Domestic Violence (2022). 16th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: NNEDV.org/DVCounts.

World Population Review, Domestic Violence by State: Hawai'i, 2022, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/domestic-violence-by-state>

Appendix 1: Directory

The GVVCC Research PIG identified the following individuals who would like to conduct research related to reducing violent crimes and gun violence.

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Gerald Busch MD MPH. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Director of Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Busch serves as the Forensic Psychiatry Site Director for Residency Training at the Oahu Community Correctional Center, Director of Medical Education and Patient Care in the Queen's Medical Center Psychiatry Emergency Department. He is Behavioral Health Patient Safety Officer at Queens Medical Center.

Dr Busch is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Psychiatry and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry and has added qualifications in Addiction Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. He is certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in Addiction Medicine. He currently serves on the UH Manoa Faculty Senate, is chair of the Committee on Professional Matters, and is on the Committee on Educational Effectiveness as well.

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, College of Social Sciences

Charlene Baker PhD, Chair and Professor, Department of Psychology. Dr. Charlene Baker earned her PhD in Community Psychology at Georgia State University, and is currently a Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. In her research she focuses on how individual, family, community, systems, and societal factors influence social problems. Remaining a constant in Dr. Baker’s scholarship demonstrates her commitment to exploring the complexity of human behavior, and utilizing this bigger picture to create intervention opportunities that result in healthier individuals and environments.

Katherine Irwin, PhD., Professor, Department of Sociology, Dr. Irwin’s scholarship examines how gender, race, and class relate to young people’s enactments of violence as well as their experiences within schools and the juvenile justice system. Dr. Irwin has published two books on the topic of youth violence and dozens of papers, chapters, and research monographs and reports focusing on the intersections of violence, criminal justice system control, and young people. Since 2006, she has partnered with Hawai‘i’s schools to design, implement, and evaluate violence prevention programs for high school students.

Meda Chesney-Lind PhD. *Professor Emeritas*, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is nationally recognized for her work on women and crime. In 2013, the Western Society of Criminology named an award after her honoring “significant contributions to the fields of gender, crime and justice” and made her the inaugural recipient. In 2017, she was elected President of the American Society of Criminology.

Nancy Marker has worked since 1989 as an Educational Specialist with the Social Science Research Institute. She conducts research on all types of social sciences research and evaluation projects, covering areas such as education, health, criminal justice and human services. She's a team member with SSRI's Office of Evaluation and Needs Assessment Services. Her early years at SSRI were devoted to state-funded projects on juvenile justice, violence prevention, delinquency prevention, and education and policy concerns for children and youth. She serves on various advisory groups and committees including those on violence prevention and children's safety.

Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH. is a health educator and restorative lawyer using public health approaches, including restorative justice and solution-focused approaches, to help prevent and address injustice and crime. She designs, implements, evaluates and publishes the results of group processes addressing conflict and reconciliation. She is a Senior Fulbright Specialist and trains on peacemaking and conflict management skills internationally and nationally. She is an adjunct associate professor of public health for the University of Hawai'i where she has taught administration of justice, communication, ethics and business courses. She is executive director of Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice.

Helen Yu PhD. Dr. Yu is an Associate Professor and the Graduate Chair of the Public Administration Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research interests include the underrepresentation of women and racial minorities in federal law enforcement and local policing respectively. She is a retired federal law enforcement officer and served as a Task Force Member with the National Coalition of Law Enforcement Organizations (NCLEO), calling to action an urgent need for a transformational cultural change in policing through the recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion of women and racial minorities.

**University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Office of Public Health Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, JABSOM, Department of Psychiatry**

Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda. is currently an Associate Professor at the Office of Public Health Studies, under the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am also an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Psychiatry at JABSOM. My research interests focus on mental/behavioral health, including suicide and injury prevention, from a public health and systems perspective. Also related to the Commission, I have previous experience working in youth violence prevention, focusing on Asian/Pacific Islander communities. I am very active with external stakeholders and the community, as part of the leadership group for the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce.

**University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Center on Aging**

Deveraux Talagi, PhD. earned a degree in economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, which is where he also received his MA in Economics. He serves as Co-Principal Investigator for the State Plan Data Analytics Infrastructure Project. He received his Bachelors of Commerce

in Economics and Information Systems from the University of the South Pacific, Laucala campus in Fiji. He has experience working with Stata although his preferred environment is R due to its versatility. He enjoys working with his hands, and all kinds of physical activities and sports, especially if it involves the outdoors.

Appendix 2: Funding Opportunities

Project Safe Neighborhood

<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171346>

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community-based partners, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. PSN is coordinated by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) in the 94 federal judicial districts throughout the 50 states and U.S. territories.

The PSN Grant Program is awarded based on a formula and administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). It awards funds to certified fiscal agents that work with PSN Teams in federal judicial districts to support those districts' PSN strategies. Each PSN Team selects a fiscal agent to receive the federal funds and then make subawards to, or enter into contracts with, each entity that will carry out the district's PSN grant strategy.

PSN encourages the development of practitioner-researcher partnerships that use data, evidence, and innovation to create strategies and interventions that are effective and make communities safer. PSN Teams are expected to proactively engage with and support the communities they serve as allies in reducing crime and improving the quality of life in affected neighborhoods.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the State of Hawai'i was eligible to receive \$98,039 as determined by a formula, but did not apply due to lack of capacity.

This project could bring together law enforcement, community Collaborations between researchers and

Lines of inquiry:

- Which neighborhoods are experiencing violent crimes according to geographical data and heat maps?
- What are the types of violent crimes in specific neighborhoods? Drugs, gangs, domestic violence, gambling, personal, etc?
- What are the social determinants of violent crimes in neighborhoods?
- How could researchers partner with law enforcement to reduce violent crime?
- From where are guns obtained at a neighborhood level?
- What policing strategies might be recommended? Can research be provided to assess effectiveness of these strategies?

National Institute of Health: Firearm Research Coordinating Center Grant

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-22-120.html>

In March 2022, the NIH issued a funding opportunity announcement for the development of a Coordinating Center (CC) for Community-Level Interventions for Firearm Violence Prevention (CLIF-VP) Research Network. Members of this network work collaboratively with the NIH to develop and test interventions at the community or community organization level that aim to prevent firearm and related violence, injury, and mortality. The available award was up to \$2,000,000 for five years.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) Injury Center: Research Grants to Inform Firearm-Related Violence and Injury Prevention Strategies (R01)

This call for proposals is estimated to be posted on October 30, 2022, with total awards of \$9,000,000 and award ceiling of \$650,000. The CDC NCIPC will be soliciting investigator-initiated research to directly inform or improve prevention strategies to reduce the burden of firearm-related violence and injuries. For the purposes of this announcement, firearm-related violence includes mass shooting incidents, other firearm homicides/assaults, firearm suicides/self-harm, unintentional firearm deaths and injuries, and firearm-related crime. The intent of this announcement is to support research to inform the development or improvement of prevention programs, policies, or practices that have the potential to substantially reduce firearm-related violence, injuries, death or crime within populations or settings experiencing elevated risk.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)

The purpose of this grant is to provide support for an intensive, supervised (mentored) career development experience in violence prevention research with the ultimate goal being to lead to research independence. The call for proposals must center on a research project that addresses at least one of the research priorities in the interpersonal violence prevention section of the NCIPC Research Priorities (www.cdc.gov/injury/researchpriorities/index.html) as they relate to violence impacting children or youth (from birth through age 17). For the purposes of the GVVCC Research PIG, the priorities should include: Youth Violence and Intimate Partner Violence (teen dating violence). Researchers are encouraged to also address the multiple forms of violence impacting youth, firearm-related injuries or deaths, and the social and/or structural realities which contribute to violence and inequitable health outcomes for certain population groups. The application cycle for this grant closes January 4, 2023. The total awards available for this are

\$1,200,000 with a maximum award of \$150,000. The opportunity number for this grant is RFA-CE-23-003.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is seeking applications from qualified organizations for Injury Control Research Center (ICRC)

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is seeking applications from qualified organizations for Injury Control Research Center (ICRC) grants. These proposed research centers will support NCIPC's priorities and mission through high quality research, training, and outreach. Additionally, the center must provide effective translation of scientific discoveries into practice in efforts to prevent and control injuries and violence. The application cycle for this grant closes January 16, 2023. The total awards available for this are \$42,500,000 with a maximum award of \$850,000. The opportunity number for this grant is RFA-CE-24-001.

Addendum 1: 2023 Hawai‘i Legislative Update

Act 52 (SB 1230) pertains to sensitive places where firearms are prohibited. The purpose of the act is to create a statewide policy in an effort to eliminate confusion regarding sensitive places between counties, as well as throughout the state. (Office of the Governor, Josh Green, M.D., June 2, 2023)

SB 1230, Relating to Firearms

Prohibits firearms in certain locations and premises. Requires possession and disclosure of a license to carry. Prohibits leaving an unsecured firearm in a vehicle unattended. Prohibits consuming or being under the influence of alcohol, an intoxicating liquor, or a controlled substance when carrying a firearm. Prohibits carrying or possessing firearms on certain private property without express authorization. Requires annual reports from the department of the attorney general on carry licenses. Amends the requirements for, and revocation of, firearms permits and licenses. Amends the disqualification of persons from owning, possessing, or controlling a firearm. Expands the qualified immunity for health care providers who provide information on firearms applicants to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses. (CD1) (Hawai‘i State Legislature Measure Tracking, SB 1230)

Background: SB 1230 was developed in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*. The decision in that case required that law-abiding individuals generally be permitted to carry weapons (specifically, firearms) in public spaces as a right specified in the Constitution under the Second Amendment. This law is designed to mitigate the potential harm that could arise from the Supreme Court decision, and in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. (Office of the Governor, Josh Green, M.D., June 2, 2023)

Act 53 (HB 1329) was created to provide active shooter training in public and charter schools statewide. (Office of the Governor, Josh Green, M.D., June 2, 2023)

HB 1329, Related to Education (Active Shooter Training)

Requires the Department of Education to work with certain organizations to develop and implement an active shooter training program in all public and charter schools. Allows public and charter school students to decline to participate in active shooter training. (CDI) (Hawai‘i State Legislature Measure Tracking, HB 1329)

Act 28 (HB 426) was created to establish standards of conduct for the firearms industry.

HB 426 Related to Firearms (Firearms; Firearm Industry Members; Standards of Conduct; Liability; Right of Action)

Establishes standards of conduct for firearm industry members. Authorizes any person who has suffered harm because of a firearm industry member's violation of the standards of conduct to bring a civil action. Authorizes the attorney general or any county attorney or public prosecutor to bring a civil action against a firearm industry member for violation of standards of conduct. (HDI) (Hawai‘i State Legislature Measure Tracking, HB 426)

Sources:

Hawai‘i State Legislature. Measure Tracking: HB 426. Retrieved from:
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=426

Hawai‘i State Legislature. Measure Tracking: HB 1329. Retrieved from:
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1329

Hawai‘i State Legislature. Measure Tracking: SB 1230. Retrieved from:
<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/measuretrackingreport.aspx>

Office of the Governor, Josh Green, M.D. News Release: *Gov. Green Signs Firearms Legislation*. June 2, 2023. Retrieved from:

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/office-of-the-governor-news-release-gov-green-signs-firearms-legislation/>

Police Survey on Violent Crime Data in Hawai'i: Summary of Results

Submitted to the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission,
State of Hawai'i, Department of the Attorney General
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Police Survey on Violent Crime Data in Hawai'i: Summary of Results

Background

The Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC) was established to address gun violence and violent crimes by “providing coordination, facilitation, and planning among state and county agencies, federal agencies, and other partners as appropriate to carry out its purpose. The GVVCC shall endeavor to: (1) Identify relevant data that may be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes; (2) Identify areas in which relevant data is not available; (3) Maximize the sharing between the agencies represented on the commission and other appropriate stakeholders of data relevant to reducing gun violence and violent crimes; and (4) Coordinate and conduct research on gun violence and violent crimes.” As part of the GVVCC, a permitted interaction group was established to look at data sources in the state (hereinafter referred to as “data group”). The data group is chaired by the director of the Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI), which is engaged in statewide efforts to map data as part of their statutory responsibilities and is a separate effort from GVVCC (HRS 614). Because CJRI is conducting similar work to understand data sources for statewide research purposes, CJRI staff developed and administered a survey on arrest data across all four county police departments. With CJRI’s prior data mapping work, they found that arrest data was one of the most valuable sources for statewide research due to existing technology infrastructure to aggregate and centralize information about crimes. However, they also found in their review of criminal justice data sources that data dictionaries and data definitions did not exist for most of the state’s criminal justice information systems. It is important to fill in these gaps to understand how information from a case management or operational system like an arrest records system can be transformed into data for reporting on crime rates. In order for GVVCC to study and report out on violent crimes, it is essential to understand the operational nature of these systems to inform the strengths and limitations of data sources for research purposes.

In the state of Hawai'i, police departments are operated at the county level. Though crimes are defined under state statute (Hawai'i Revised Statutes), each police department has its own policies and procedures, and resources to carry out their duties. This includes how they arrest and report crimes, and the way in which this information is collected and stored. As a result, different practices at the county level could impact data collection when it is aggregated at the state level. Each police department reports arrest data to statewide sources, though not all information from police department systems is shared with statewide databases. This includes arrest data that is submitted to the Hawai'i Criminal Justice Data Center (HCJDC) as part of the statewide criminal history record information system (CJIS), as well as the Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division, which reports out on state crime trends and operates the National

Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program. Both of these divisions are located in the Department of the Attorney General's office. While CJIS and NIBRS collect statewide data on crimes, including violent crimes, it is critical to understand how data is collected and measured by each police department in order to use the data from these two sources for studying violent crimes. It should be acknowledged that CJIS and NIBRS exist for different purposes, and have different policies and procedures for their crime data. This includes the way in which they collect police data and aggregate it for research and reporting.

Methods

Research staff at CJRI distributed a survey to all four county police departments to learn more about the process used to collect and report arrest data at the county and statewide levels. The survey was distributed in early 2023 to each police chief, which was then distributed to relevant staff in each department that may have had subject matter expertise on arrest data collection and reporting. Survey results were provided to CJRI research staff to review and summarize.

Survey responses were compiled in narrative form to summarize the current data collection and reporting practices for arrest data in the state with specific attention focused on violent crimes. Results are discussed below to provide an overview of the different ways in which arrest information is stored by police departments in order to understand the strengths and limitations of using arrest data for research, particularly for studying violent crimes. CJRI research staff recommended actions to ensure more accurate and valid measures for violent crime should arrest data be used as a statewide source for violent crime reporting and research. Given the considerable resources devoted to aggregating arrest data at the statewide level, CJRI recommends starting with this source of data for violent crime research in the state of Hawai'i.

Survey Results Summary

The following section reviews the main findings from the survey and are organized to help GVVCC understand the landscape for arrest data including the strengths and limitations for using this data for violent crime and gun violence research. While reviewing these results, it is important to acknowledge a few limitations in conducting surveys. First, it can be difficult to translate complex topics like information systems, databases, and criminal justice laws into written survey questions. There may be instances in which respondents interpreted questions differently based on their own perceptions or circumstances. For example, "database" might mean one thing in one police department and something entirely different in another, such as distinguishing between a records management system operated through software or an Excel spreadsheet that someone enters data into manually. Another limitation is that the answers

refer to a certain point in time. Given that technology, laws, and operations change frequently some answers may not be applicable at a later date. Police departments had a chance to review the summary to ensure CJRI interpreted responses correctly, therefore this summary should reflect the survey results accurately. However, some technical aspects of understanding arrest data might require further discussion with police departments directly. The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of one main source of violent crime data for the state to consider when conducting research and reporting on the topic.

Data Collection on Arrest Records

The methods to collect data can impact data quality and the timeliness of data reporting. Each county has different resources and databases, and understanding the process by which data is entered is valuable for understanding limitations of data sources. For instance, directly inputting arrest data in the field by the arresting officer might increase data reliability and validity, where the officer can enter all information related to the arrest not long after the incident occurred whereas entering information later might result in fewer details or missing information. However, having one person collect and enter police reports could improve the consistency of information for reporting purposes if they review and enter all reports for the agency. Data collection procedures must balance two goals, which is ensure police departments have a functional *information* system in the field for them to do their job (which may include looking up agency records, documenting information for legal purposes, etc.) while also storing information that can be transformed for *data* reporting and analysis (i.e., metrics and statistics).

The survey found that arrest records, including information on violent arrests, are entered in the following way across departments in the state of Hawai'i:

- **Hawai'i** and **Honolulu** have systems set up that allow officers to input arrest data directly into their database while out in the field.
- **Kauai** completes a paper form in the field and a staff person at the station enters it into the database.
- **Maui** completes paper forms and reports on-site/duty, and are uploaded into the database after approval.

Police Department Ability to Report Out on Violent Crimes

Police departments may collect and report out on violent crimes for their own purposes. Depending on the way this information is stored and reported, it may be more accurate to work directly with police departments to collect and study violent crime if statewide systems do not aggregate the information on violent crimes in a way that is useful for GVVCC research. However, this may depend on their ability to extract and share data with others. Additionally,

for some research it may be helpful to work directly with the local police department if some research or policy questions are unique to the jurisdiction.

The survey asked police departments about their ability to collect and report out on violent crime:

- All four police departments collect this information systematically in their electronic database and can report statistics on violent crime in some capacity.

Barriers to Reporting Out on Violent Crime

Though the prior question found all four departments could report out on violent crimes, there are likely varying degrees of how easily this information can be reported out or analyzed for metrics or research purposes. The ability to report out on statistics is dependent on the way in which databases are structured to capture information. Sometimes, information is stored in a way that is difficult to retrieve but with manual work (i.e., reading through paper files), it is possible to collect information for data analysis. Other times, information is stored in a way that it cannot be used for statistical analysis or may take some effort to transform into something that can be quantified. To illustrate these barriers, take for example a study on gang violence that might rely on arrest information. The police may not have a field or flag to track that specific information in their information or reporting system. As a result, researchers may need to read arrest reports to collect that information from a narrative or written description. However, sometimes information is missing because an agency does not collect it and it remains a gap. Take for example housing status, where police might not systematically collect that information on individuals they arrest because it is not relevant to their arrest procedures. If a significant amount of information is missing on an important variable, you cannot use it in certain statistical analyses and it will be limited in its use for other research.

To summarize, there are several reasons information is missing or, if available, it is difficult to transform into data for statistics. Information systems and record keeping are one of the biggest barriers when conducting research in criminal justice: “data” is collected for operations, and not for research. It is important the police have an information system that is effective and efficient for carrying out their duties, however, information systems might not be designed to report out on data that can be analyzed with metrics and analysis very easily because of this.

The survey identified the following barriers for reporting information on violent crime, which overlapped to some degree across departments:

- Related to the arrest process itself, in which sometimes it is difficult for the police to obtain information about violent crime because of intimidation and retaliation (or fear of intimidation and retaliation) from suspects toward complainants and witnesses. In

other words, the police may not be able to collect all of the information they need for the arrest report or other records related to violent crime(s) (i.e., some information may be missing).

- Due to the operations of the records management system, which does not have the ability to generate a report easily on violent crime, and would require significant resources to change or update the system.
- The lack of training and police officer consistency to define “violent crime.”
- One department did not identify any barriers to reporting out on violent crimes.

Categories of Violent Crimes

There may be differences by departments when collecting information on the types of violent crimes or sub-categories of violent crimes. Crimes against persons or crimes that involve weapons can encompass a broader range of behaviors that may overlap with violent crime or be separate from what GVVCC would study. Additionally, GVVCC may want to have the ability to focus on specific sub-categories of violent crimes. Having the ability to specify these subtypes in data can be particularly helpful since crime trends or effective policy solutions might differ from those related to the broader category of violent crime.

The survey found that police departments tracked information on sub-categories of violent crime in the following way:

- All departments tracked categories including domestic abuse (could include intimate partner, family, or others), physical assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, and weapon present or used in commission of offense.
- **Hawai’i, Honolulu,** and **Maui** collected information on intimate partner violence.
- **Hawai’i** and **Kauai** tracked information on gang-related crimes.
- **Hawai’i, Honolulu,** and **Kauai** tracked crimes against persons.

Violent Crimes Involving Weapons Including Guns

Not all violent crimes involve weapons and not all crimes with weapons might be viewed as violent (i.e., unregistered weapon in home). Given the focus of GVVCC, information on weapons may be needed. This may also include the ability to specify the type of weapon, in particular guns, used in violent crimes.

The survey asked police departments about the type of information they collected on weapons:

- Information on weapons is inputted into the database systematically for all four departments, but there is some variation by department in terms of reporting about weapons. For example, one department follows NIBRS reporting for weapons and another department tracks a range of possible weapons categories. It is unclear how

easily information about weapons could be reported from the police department systems; police department staff or researchers may need to read the arrest reports to get specific details about weapons and how they were used in the commission of a crime.

Defining Violent Crime

A challenge in conducting research and reporting out on crime relates to identifying data that provides an accurate and reliable representation of the criminal behavior (related to reliable and valid concepts in research methodology). There can be a disconnect between staff in the field and researchers in addition to the data sources used to collect and interpret them. For instance, sometimes the offense information at charging or in plea negotiations is not directly or clearly tied to the specific behavior. Additionally, it is complicated translating a behavior of a person to an arrest report with specific violations outlined in HRS, which is then turned into an offense category in a statistics or research report. For example, someone who assaulted a family member could be placed in many different categories in a research report, such as committing an assault, domestic abuse or violence incident, or intimate partner violence. For the prosecutor, there may be specific violations in HRS they use to charge the case and by the time the case is adjudicated, the violation from HRS might change into something else in the conviction record. Furthermore, not all domestic abuse incidents are intimate partner violence, and some researchers may not even categorize them under the broader definition of violent crime (say for example, if a researcher was focused on gun violence occurring in urban areas). To summarize, it can be difficult to use legal definitions for understanding behavior, and this ignores another complication in which many individuals engage in a range of offenses that they might get arrested or charged for at one time. Using administrative data to describe human behavior is challenging when conducting research.

Despite the limitations of administrative data sources, developing definitions on behaviors and identifying common practices for using administrative data can aid in translating data into generalizable research. This might include developing an operational definition for some concepts or creating policies and procedures that specify how certain information is entered and categorized in information systems for police departments. Or, organizations can work from the more granular information to “roll up” the categories into a concept. For example, a researcher might work with specific offense names in a tracking system to create one overall category. A researcher could ask for all offenses that include violence of some kind and then select and combine the offenses they would use and combine it into one variable or data field. When this approach is used, it is most effective for the researcher to show how they coded and defined their offense categories and share it with practitioners in the field for feedback.

Police departments were asked how they define violent crime and provided the following:

- Responses ranged from no definition provided, offering NIBRS categories, or referring to Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Data and Statistics to Help Reduce Violent Crimes in the Community

Police departments use data and metrics to inform their policing practices, and certain information on violent crimes and/or gun crimes could assist them with carrying out their work more successfully. While police departments might already be coordinating with their own research and analytics staff, they might not have the capacity or resources to take on additional research in this area. Additionally, it is important to bring in their expertise to inform the collection of data and research for understanding and responding to violent crimes effectively at the state level.

Police departments were asked what type of data and statistics would assist them in reducing violent crime in their community, and departments had similar responses that could be organized in the following way:

- Automating data on crime trends for more efficient identification of “hot spots”.
- More violent crime data in-real time.
- Consistent, reliable data which could be broken into categories like location, time of occurrence, victim demographics, offender demographics, and weapon information.

Crime Analysis or Research and Statistics Unit

Police departments often employ their own staff to conduct research and analytics. Staff may help with reports and statistics that are shared with stakeholders and the community in order to share information on local crime trends. Additionally, police rely on data and analytics to carry out policing strategies that are effective at reducing crime in the community. These strategies often include community policing models and approaches such as “hot spots”, where police will use data to target their resources in high crime areas. Similar to other criminal justice agencies, many police departments may vary in their resources and capabilities to conduct research and analytics with policing information and data.

Police departments were asked about their research capacity:

- **Hawai'i** and **Maui** have a single person conducting research and/or statistics who is embedded in another unit.
- **Honolulu** has five analysts in a research and/or statistics unit.
- **Kauai** has someone who handles statistics as a collateral assignment.

Recommendations

One important role of the GVVCC is to identify existing data sources and data gaps for violent crime in the state of Hawai'i. To aid in this effort, CJRI research staff conducted a survey of the four county police departments in the state to learn more about the collection, sharing, and reporting of arrest information. Based on CJRI staff's prior experience with statewide data, they developed a survey that focused on documenting the local collection and sharing of arrest information with systems located in the AG's office. Since there are statewide systems that already aggregate and report out on statewide crime trends, it is likely most effective to use the existing technological infrastructure to share data with the state as well as any sources already used for statewide crime reports. However, local data collection and reporting can impact the accuracy and reliability of statewide data for research on violent crimes. The recommendations below identify ways to address limitations and gaps in current data.

Recommendation #1: Develop a statewide operational definition for violent crimes to guide the research and policy of GVVCC.

This definition should include clarifying or delineating aspects of violent crime, including the role of gun crimes and/or other weapons, and any sub-categories of violent crime such as domestic abuse, assault, etc. It is unclear if other types of gun violence, such as self-inflicted or any gun related deaths will be included under GVVCC's scope of research. If the definition includes these areas, then GVVCC will need to identify other agencies that track these records since arrest reports do not include information on these types of injuries. Creating a clear operational definition of offenses and/or behaviors will help ensure research is aligned to address GVVCC's priorities, and all data sources are identified.

Recommendation #2: Create a codebook or coding guide that links the operational definition of violent crime from GVVCC to information systems and data sources.

The survey identified some of the local circumstances that might impact the strengths and limitations of using existing data sources for violent crimes. As research is undertaken, there may be others identified, yet at this time, the most likely reliable and valid source of information on violent crimes would be found in either CJIS or NIBRS data systems. These systems are valuable sources of data since they centralize and aggregate arrest information, and technological infrastructure already exists to share arrest information from all four police departments with a statewide source.

However, GVVCC must clarify their operational definition in order for the most appropriate data source to be identified. Currently, NIBRS collects information on crime rates for the state and their violent crime categories might be useful for GVVCC to use for research. However, NIBRS has structured guidelines on what categories are used and GVVCC may not agree with

the categories of NIBRS since those are created for federal reporting. The members of GVVCC may want to create their own state specific categories of violent crimes, in which case it may be necessary to rely on CJIS data. With CJIS data, it may be possible to create a data coding structure that would link specific offense descriptions or HRS violations to violent offense categories that reflect GVVCC's definition. This might not even require police departments to alter their information sharing since researchers can work with the original offense information to collapse that data into one category of crime. Specifically, if GVVCC can identify the violent offenses they want to focus on and link those offenses to the specific offense descriptions and/or HRS violations tracked in CJIS data (which reflect state laws), this coding structure could be provided to researchers to create consistent categories. Often, researchers will create codebooks for datasets that include this type of coding, and a statewide codebook on violent crime concepts that maps out offense descriptions and/or HRS codes would promote consistent use of arrest data for violent crime across researchers. The data systems collecting arrest information for NIBRS or CJIS may be a primary source for studying violent crime.¹

Recommendation #3: Coordinate and collaborate with other statewide efforts to improve data collection in the state.

There are many organizations and individuals in the state working to improve data and research in criminal justice issues. To the extent possible, GVVCC should share information about their data, research, and policy findings on violent crime with other agencies and working groups. Research staff at CJRI are creating a pretrial database and reporting system as tasked in HRS 614, which includes reporting out on pretrial metrics for the state. This system could report out on aspects of violent crime consistent with the violent crime definitions created by GVVCC, such as using the same definitions and coding structure when calculating the rate at which individuals released pretrial commit new violent crimes. Related, this information could assist the data working group established from SB 210 during the 2023 legislative session to help provide continuity in working with violent crime information and data for the state.

Recommendation #4: Identify top priorities for the GVVCC research agenda to ensure other necessary information and data sources are identified to conduct research.

Just as definitions on violent crime can help GVVCC identify specific information systems and databases for violent crimes and related incidents, understanding the types of research questions prioritized by GVVCC would aid the permitted interaction group focusing on data in

¹ These two sources centralize arrest data for the state, but have different information systems, data structures, and security protocols. The CJIS system can have data extracted for data analysis at the case level and allows researchers to specify specific offense information in HRS. However, this data is protected with strict security rules and anyone accessing it must adhere to rigorous protocols established since it includes confidential information that is not part of public records. The NIBRS system collects data on crime trends in a standardized way as well, but follows categories established at the federal level.

identifying other data sources that might be needed for violent crime research. Most social and human service agencies have more than one information system capturing data needed for this type of research, therefore narrowing down the topics would assist in identifying data sources. As this survey demonstrates, not all information can be translated easily into data for research, therefore it is necessary to narrow down categories of the types of data that would be needed so agencies can talk to their information technology and operations departments to find the sources needed for data. It is impractical to ask agencies to report out on all data they might be able to share especially if the goal is to narrow down the data that can be extracted for research, but providing them with a targeted list of topics or questions would provide them with the ability to review their sources of information and report back with what is available.