

Speaker: *Kyle Ott*

Presentation title: Groups and the Extreme Concentration of Serious Violence

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Building on the emerging science of violence prevention, this paper provides the first cross-site estimate of the concentration of homicide and non-fatal shooting violence among street groups (gangs, crews, sets, etc.) in American cities. While prior scholarship has reported that groups are disproportionately connected to homicides and shootings, they have done so only for a single city for one time period. No research has tested “group involvement” – defined as the association of the perpetrator or victim with a street group – across sites and over time. Using a unique dataset from 16 American jurisdictions over a 10-year period, this paper presents evidence that half of all homicides and non-fatal shootings in American cities are connected to groups, and that these groups’ total size constitute about 0.6% of a city’s population. This paper describes the group audit and incident review process used to collect this data and explains the sample selection and subsequent analysis. The paper concludes by discussing the policy implications of these findings and situates what we now know empirically about violence, and “dangerous” communities, which should lead to a fundamental resetting of how we think about, talk about, and engage with such communities.