

Speaker: *Daniel Lawrence*

Presentation title: The impact of gunshot detection technology use by United States police departments

This presentation details the recent evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute of the implementation, use, and impact of gunshot detection technology (GDT) by law enforcement agencies in Denver, Colorado; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Richmond, California. The goal of this study was to conduct a rigorous process and impact evaluation of GDT to inform policing researchers and practitioners about the impact GDT may have. To achieve this goal, we implemented a mixed-methods research design. Qualitative data collection included 46 interviews with criminal justice stakeholders to learn implementation processes and challenges associated with its GDT, and 6 focus groups with 49 community members to learn how residents feel about policing efforts to reduce firearm violence and its use of GDT. Quantitative data collection included administrative data on calls for service (CFS), crime, and GDT alerts, as well as comprehensive case file reviews of 174 crimes involving a firearm. This presentation will detail how the technology operates and provide the final evaluation results on (1) comparing counts of gunshot notifications for GDT alerts to shooting-related CFS, (2) comparing response times of GDT alerts to shooting-related CFS, and (3) examining the impact GDT has had on CFS and crimes. Recommendations for agencies implementing GDT are detailed, including installing sensors strategically, training officers thoroughly, ensuring that GDT data are used and integrated with other systems, and engaging with community members early and often.