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Presentation title: Policing Gun Violence in a Divided Society: Findings from a Process Evaluation of a Proactive Policing Intervention in Israel

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The Problem: In the last decade, there has been a steep rise in gun crime among the Arab minority in Israel. These events involve not only criminal gangs but a growing number of normative citizens. This trend is also correlated with the Arab community's deep mistrust of the police and their reliance on internal, traditional mechanisms of punishment and conflict mediation. The Study Context: In 2016 the Israeli Police rolled-out a national reform (the EMUN reform) that aimed to give station commanders the resources and organizational backing to address 'local' problems. The reform includes a modular intervention package of proactive policing approaches, which is of particular relevance to the policing of minority communities. Aims & Methodology: This paper presents findings from a process evaluation of the reform, focusing on 4 purposefully sampled police stations that targeted gun violence. The study aims to identify the 'active ingredients' of the policing intervention; those that were significant in improving the stations' response to the problem. Two methods were used: 1) assessing the stations' work plans in comparison to the 'what works' literature in this area, and 2) interviews with key personnel in the stations which were analyzed based on an implementation assessment framework. Findings: The key factors that improved the police's response to gun crime are the inclusion of empirically-grounded strategies of proactive policing in their treatment plan ('fidelity') and implementing these strategies in-line with their core principles ('quality'). For example, as part of problem-oriented policing stations identified unique gun 'problems' rather than a single, broad 'problem' and developed tailored protocols for dealing with them. The interface with other criminal justice organizations was also a factor. These findings provide insights for effective policing of gun violence beyond Israel, demonstrating the value of evidence-based policing in challenging contexts.