



Violence Reduction Network Quarterly Newsletter

Strategic Solutions • Focused Actions • Reduced Violence

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VRN Cumulative Statistics As of 9/30/16, VRN has provided:

Customer Satisfaction Rating*	4.2/5.0
Peer Exchanges	71
Research Partner Connections Supported	10
Resource Documents Cataloged	440
SME Hours Provided	1,650+
SSL Hours Provided	7,100+
Technical Assistance/ Resource Requests	416
Training Hours Delivered	3,100+
Training Deliveries	115+
Training Participants	37,800+
Webinar/Podcast Deliveries	19
Webinar Participants	1,152
Web Site Documents Downloaded	10,591
Web Site Page Views	59,119
Weekly News Deliveries	129
Weekly News Overall Rating*	4.0/5.0

*Feedback on VRN activities through 11/9/16.

This edition of the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter* features the fourth VRN Summit, Network expansion, a VRN peer exchange to the Denver Crime Gun Intelligence Center, the BJA Smart Suite Summit, site highlights and activities, and the newly launched Violence Reduction Clearinghouse.



A glimpse of the Opening Plenary Session at the VRN 2016 Fall Summit, with over 300 participants and speakers.



From left to right: U.S. Marshals Service Assistant Director Derrick Driscoll, FBI Assistant Director Stephen Richardson, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Beth McGarry, ATF Deputy Director Thomas E. Brandon, and DEA Acting Deputy Administrator Jack Riley.

VRN Summit

The fourth VRN Summit was held September 26–28, 2016, in Little Rock, Arkansas. At the summit, the Honorable Loretta E. Lynch, U.S. Attorney General, welcomed participants and officially announced the expansion of VRN to two new sites: Jackson, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. Opening remarks were also provided by the Honorable Karol Mason, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs; the Honorable Christopher Thyer, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Arkansas; and Chief Kenton Buckner of the Little Rock Police Department. Local and federal partners from all 15 VRN sites were present, in addition to U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) programmatic and law enforcement leaders from the Office of Justice Programs, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the Office on Violence Against Women, ATF, DEA, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

“Violent crime endangers lives, destroys families, and paralyzes neighborhoods. It stifles opportunity and spreads fear. It deters investment and discourages education. And it undermines America’s founding promises of life, liberty, and opportunity for all. In some ways, violence affects all of us—and so all of us have a responsibility to end it.”

*—Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch
VRN Summit, September 26, 2016*



The 2016 VRN Summit provided an opportunity to recognize the five Phase 1 sites for their success and partnership with VRN. Law enforcement leaders from each Phase 1 site presented lessons learned and strategies for sustainment of progress beyond formal participation in VRN. The summit also convened leaders from Phase 2 and Phase 3 (spring) VRN sites to reflect on the progress and lessons learned over the last year to share with the rest of the Network. As part of the summit, Phase 2 and Phase 3 sites focused on development of post-summit strategic plans for VRN engagement over the next year. Representatives from all 15 VRN sites met with national practitioners and researchers, in conjunction with DOJ law enforcement and program office leaders, in collaborative working sessions. These sessions focused on a variety of innovative strategies geared towards violence reduction.

Breakout Session Topics Included

- ★ Advanced Analytics
- ★ Body-Worn Cameras
- ★ Bridging Law Enforcement and Community Cultures
- ★ Civil Rights Consent Decrees
- ★ CompStat 2.0
- ★ Data and Research
- ★ Domestic Violence
- ★ Drug Market Interventions
- ★ Focused Deterrence Strategies
- ★ Forensic-Led Policing
- ★ Homicide Investigations
- ★ meetLEO Campaign
- ★ Police/Prosecution Partnerships
- ★ Smart Policing Initiatives
- ★ Social Network Analysis
- ★ Trauma-Informed Policing



Chief Bobby Cummings (Wilmington, DE) facilitates the VRN in Action panel of Phase 2 and Phase 3 law enforcement leaders.

Across the Network

Network Expansion

The U.S. Department of Justice has maintained its unyielding pledge to expand VRN by welcoming two new sites, Jackson, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. In the coming months, VRN will work with these sites to develop strategic plans with measurable outcomes and goals that can be obtained through provision of resources and assistance from VRN that will enhance the sites' local violence reduction efforts. VRN looks forward to partnering and building relationships with Jackson and Nashville over the next two years.



Jackson, Mississippi

Networking and Peer Engagement

Representatives from VRN sites Milwaukee, St. Louis, West Memphis, and Wilmington participated in a peer exchange to the Denver, Colorado, Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) to learn about techniques used to address gun crime. During the exchange, participants met with experts from the Denver Police Department, the Denver Crime Lab, and ATF Denver Division. The partners shared their forensic-led policing strategies for response to and prevention of gun crime and focused on the importance of integrating ballistics evidence into the initial investigative and prosecutorial processes. The partners demonstrated the benefits of using ATF's National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) as a proactive tool, strategies for incorporating NIBIN into policies and procedures, and the necessity of agency buy-in to prioritize gun incidents. VRN sites learned how forensic information and intelligence can assist prosecutors in gun crime cases. For example, intelligence that may link firearms with suspects in other crimes can help prosecutors request higher bails and obtain better cooperation from defendants. In addition, the gun intelligence information better informs charging and sentencing decisions. The partners also explained how the revision of policies and procedures for evidence processing has allowed for timelier processing of gun evidence and highlighted the importance of commitment from all partners. Next quarter, VRN looks forward to coordinating another visit to Denver for additional interested VRN sites.



Nashville, Tennessee



VRN representatives at the Denver Crime Gun Intelligence Center peer exchange.

In addition, eight VRN sites attended the BJA *Smart Suite Summit: Transforming Criminal Justice Through Research and Innovation* held on September 7–9, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia. BJA's signature "Smart Suite" program focuses on using research and data to understand and address crime challenges in local communities. This event convened Smart Suite grantees, national experts, research practitioners, and thought leaders to discuss data-informed criminal justice programs and projects.

This quarter, Phase 1 VRN sites focused on developing VRN sustainability plans in preparation for the conclusion of their two-year engagement period, which culminated at the VRN Summit in September 2016. The Site Highlights section of this edition includes key elements of sustainability plans for the Phase 1 sites and recent activities occurring in the Phase 2 and Phase 3 sites.

Camden, New Jersey

- ★ Continue utilization of federal law enforcement resources, including ATF's NIBIN, FBI Digital Imaging Video Response Team (DIVRT) activities, and FBI Cellebrite cellular analysis activities.
- ★ Utilize new and improved homicide investigation, case management and prosecution policies, procedures, and practices, including a new homicide unit to solely investigate homicides, and promote enhanced information sharing among investigators and prosecutors.
- ★ Integrate social network analysis skills to extract, visualize, and analyze relational data to assist with strategies in reducing violent crime.
- ★ Develop sustainable strategies to improve officer safety and wellness through incorporation of fair and impartial policing strategies and ethical protector program strategies into in-service training.
- ★ Improve response and efforts related to domestic violence, including implementation of a focused deterrence model to address domestic violence.

Chicago, Illinois

- ★ Enhance collaboration with local and federal law enforcement stakeholders through continued engagement in regular meetings, task forces, and conference calls.
- ★ Improve gun crime intelligence practices and procedures through continued relationships with gun tracing and gun crime intelligence subject-matter experts.
- ★ Increase police legitimacy among internal criminal justice partners and externally with community members through various trainings, including Blue Courage and Policing at the Speed of Trust.
- ★ Continue engagement in peer learning and information sharing of best practices and policing strategies related to data-driven policing, CompStat and performance management, and homicide investigations and prosecutions.

“As many cities grapple with upticks in violence, VRN is instrumental in helping urban centers implement best-in-class strategies to make our communities safer.”

*—Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson
Chicago Police Department*



Detroit, Michigan

- ★ Enhance partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies through continued regular communications and continued use of FBI digital billboards program.
- ★ Enhance crime analysis capacity through the continuation of the Michigan State University Crime Analysis Field Placement program.
- ★ Improve homicide investigation processes and procedures, including implementation and sustainment of a 120-day and 1-year review of all homicide cases not filed with the prosecutor's office.
- ★ Implement new strategies related to understanding domestic violence and domestic violence fatalities through the continuation of the Wayne County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, which includes the Detroit Police Department (DPD), the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office—Eastern District of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Corrections, community groups, and Wayne State University.
- ★ Improve officer safety and wellness through the expansion of Blue Courage training delivered to DPD.

Oakland/Richmond, California

- ★ Continue to improve collaboration among local and federal law enforcement partners in the Oakland and Richmond area through continuation of the Regional Case Review meetings established through VRN and continued interagency collaboration and communication among local, regional, and federal partners.
- ★ Improve information sharing capabilities among partner agencies with the goal of improving arrest processing times in Contra Costa County.
- ★ Improve officer safety and wellness through continuation of Blue Courage training to local law enforcement.
- ★ Implement new strategies for the Richmond Police Department's CompStat meetings, including renaming "CompStat" to "Crime Accountability" meetings to focus on the necessity of accountability in achieving crime reduction goals, discussing crime analysis and causes of criminal activities at the beginning of the meetings, and expanding participation to include additional units, such as youth services, property crime, traffic, and gang. The Oakland Police Department also plans to enhance and revise its CompStat Model based on lessons learned and best practices shared.
- ★ Increase police legitimacy and improve procedural justice internally within each agency and externally with the community through the adoption of best practices in police legitimacy and continuation of incorporating fair and impartial policing practices into prosecution strategies through the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Fair and Equitable Policing and Prosecution Working Group.
- ★ Increase crime analysis capacity in the Oakland Police Department through potential increased staffing dedicated to crime analysis and the use of analytic skills to support agency operations and investigations through development of analytical products and services.



VRN team members and Oakland/Richmond VRN partners at the VRN Sustainability Planning meeting in August.

Wilmington, Delaware

- ★ Continue collaboration among local and federal partners in the prosecution and investigation of gun crimes through the GunStat program and continuation of monthly GunStat meetings.
- ★ Improve police legitimacy and trust externally within the community through the incorporation of Blue Courage and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design training principles into Wilmington Police Department's training and violence reduction strategies.
- ★ Enhance crime and data analysis capacity through utilization of the new Real Time Crime Center capabilities and continued partnerships with researchers.
- ★ Develop strategies to improve officer safety and wellness through various training sessions, including development of a roll call training modeled after the Characteristics of Armed Gunmen training.
- ★ Continue to improve homicide investigations practices and procedures through newly established processes.

"To me, VRN means that my agency has access to vital tools which make our fight against violent crime possible."

*—Chief Bobby L. Cummings
Wilmington Police Department*

Site Highlights

Newark

Newark, New Jersey

- ★ BJA conducted VALOR Officer Safety training in mid-August for the Newark Police Department and other jurisdictions in the region. The VALOR Program promotes officer safety, wellness, and resiliency. This training provides officers with tools to enhance professionalism while using techniques to prevent and de-escalate situations that may result in violence.
- ★ Next quarter, Newark is looking forward to DEA Emerging Technologies training, which educates law enforcement on how to utilize emerging technologies to find lawful intercept solutions.

"VRN has assisted our policing efforts by supplementing us in areas of training and technical advice, making us more proficient in crime prevention, investigations, and the use of technology. The relationship we have developed with our VRN team has fostered trust and a recommitment to the citizens that we serve. It has brought us back to the old adage 'It takes a village.' We know we cannot achieve our objectives alone—we have found a supportive partner within the VRN and we are thankful. We look forward to better serving our community with the help of VRN."

*—City of Newark, New Jersey
Office of Public Safety, Newark Police Division*

Compton, California

- ★ Compton VRN participated in a peer exchange to Camden, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this quarter to explore real-time data analytics and to learn more about strategies to increase analytic capacity and utilize CompStat processes more effectively.
- ★ The VRN Strategic Site Liaison for New Orleans, Ms. Nola Joyce, is assisting Compton with development of a violence reduction strategic plan for the city of Compton. Given Compton's unique law enforcement structure as a contract city to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, this development of a strategic plan can serve as a model for similar jurisdictions under contract to address local violent crime issues.
- ★ Compton VRN partners continued youth engagement programs, including the Cops and Kids crime prevention outreach program and the tennis clinic for youth this summer. During the summer tennis program, classes were held twice a week for six weeks and each class had approximately 15 kids in attendance.



LASD Deputy meets with children during Cops and Kids program.

- ★ Next quarter, Compton plans to explore human trafficking prevention assistance, community survey assistance, grant training, and cellular analysis training.

Flint, Michigan

- ★ This quarter, Genesee County prosecutors participated in National Trial Advocacy training on "Prosecuting and Investigating Homicide After Making a Murderer" in September.
- ★ Flint Police Department (FPD) representatives participated in VALOR Officer Safety training held in the Detroit area. This training focuses on enhancing officer safety, wellness, and resiliency.
- ★ FPD also participated in Blue Courage training, aimed at increasing trust and promoting a philosophy of nobility, resiliency, and engagement of law enforcement.
- ★ Flint representatives participated in a peer exchange to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, Police Department to explore crime analysis and CompStat practices.
- ★ Homicide investigations experts conducted a homicide investigations assessment of the Flint Police Department and the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime conducted a victim services assessment to examine practices in responding to and assisting victims of crime in Flint.
- ★ Next quarter, Flint is planning to explore assistance related to evidence analysis and an assessment of gang activity.



Site Highlights

Little Rock and West Memphis

Little Rock, Arkansas

- ★ In August, Little Rock VRN visited the San Diego Family Justice Center to discuss the planning process for establishing a center, what components make for a successful model, and critical concerns that should be addressed in determining whether a family justice center is the right model for Little Rock.
- ★ Little Rock also visited the Camden County Police Department to learn more about its Real Time Crime Center and CompStat practices. This peer exchange provided networking and an opportunity to discuss strategies for increasing crime analysis capacity and improving CompStat processes.
- ★ Next quarter, Little Rock will participate in a peer exchange to the Cleveland Police Department (CPD) to learn about CPD's sexual assault and domestic violence prevention and investigation strategies, as well as prosecutor training, and participate in the Problem-Oriented Policing Conference.



Little Rock visits the San Diego Family Justice Center.

West Memphis, Arkansas

- ★ Subject-matter experts Dr. Craig Uchida of Justice & Security Strategies and Officer Dave Gamero of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) conducted a site visit to West Memphis to discuss strategic plan development and the LAPD Los Angeles' Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program (Operation LASER) program. Operation LASER focuses on reducing gun violence by targeting violent repeat offenders and gang members with laser-like precision.
- ★ BJA provided Major Crime Scene Investigation training to the West Memphis Police Department (WMPD) in mid-August. This training focused on the roles of line officers in responding to and managing major crime scenes, in addition to best practices in securing a scene, identifying evidence, and processes for turning crime scenes over to the homicide unit.
- ★ West Memphis visited the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) to learn more about the Real Time Crime Center, CompStat practices, crime analysis capability, and how the information is used to drive operations.
- ★ West Memphis also participated in the VRN peer exchange to the Denver Crime Gun Intelligence Center.
- ★ Next quarter, West Memphis plans to explore case management technical assistance and participate in the Problem-Oriented Policing Conference.

WMPD participates in Major Crime Scene Investigation training.



Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- ★ The VRN Strategic Site Liaison and Analyst conducted a site visit in August to Milwaukee to participate in Milwaukee's VRN CompStat meeting and discuss other VRN activities. The August Milwaukee VRN CompStat process brought together over 50 participants from local, state, and federal partners.
- ★ In early September, Milwaukee participated in Project Safe Neighborhoods training on Characteristics of an Armed Person and Dealing With Violent Criminals, which focuses on identifying persons who carry concealed firearms, legal issues regarding stop-and-frisk, and articulating probable cause for searches.
- ★ The FBI conducted Digital Imaging and Video Response Team (DIVRT) training for Milwaukee Police Department representatives in September. This training focuses on teaching skills to recover and extract video evidence from crime scenes to produce crime commercials to be exploited through traditional and social media platforms to obtain public assistance in solving crime.
- ★ Milwaukee representatives visited the Denver Crime Gun Intelligence Center to explore forensic-led policing strategies and ballistics comparison processes.
- ★ Next quarter, Milwaukee VRN will continue focusing on the VRN CompStat process and a VRN team site visit.

"VRN means 132 fewer victims of violent crime in our most disadvantaged neighborhoods."

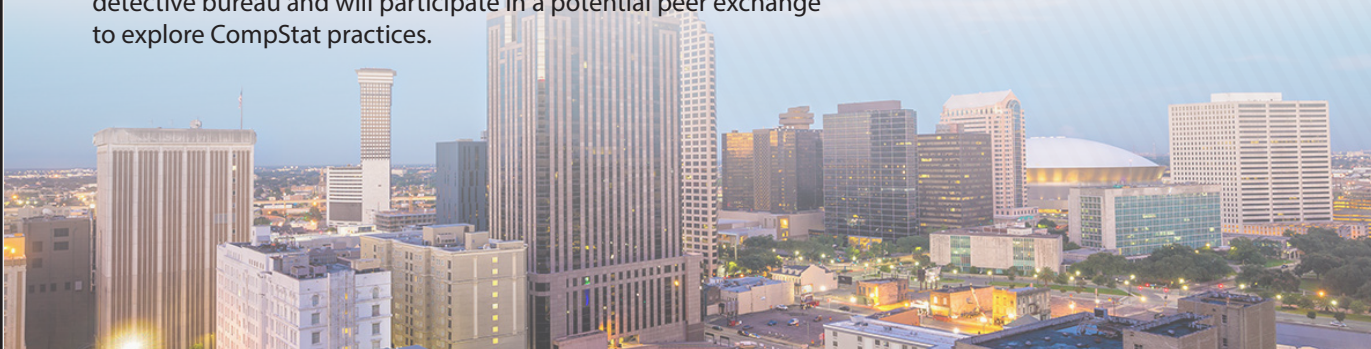
*—Chief Edward Flynn
Milwaukee Police Department*

New Orleans, Louisiana

- ★ SSL Nola Joyce conducted a site visit to New Orleans in mid-September to discuss VRN activities and meet with partners in preparation for the VRN Summit.
- ★ BJA provided a technology assessment report with findings and recommendations to the site for review and also conducted Crime Analysis on Demand training in September.
- ★ New Orleans participated in a peer exchange to Camden, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this quarter to explore real-time data analytics, building analytical capacity, and the importance of data analysis for situational awareness and strategies to utilize CompStat more effectively.
- ★ Next quarter, New Orleans will work on an assessment of the detective bureau and will participate in a potential peer exchange to explore CompStat practices.

"What VRN means to me, as an SSL, is that I can work with a great city like New Orleans, the DOJ, and the New Orleans Police Department as they continue to address the issue of violence and improve police services for their residents."

*—Nola Joyce
VRN Strategic Site Liaison
New Orleans*



St. Louis, Missouri

- ★ BJA conducted a technology assessment site visit in St. Louis on September 22–23 to examine current capabilities and provide recommendations for enhancement and/or improvement.
- ★ St. Louis participated in the VRN peer exchange to the Denver Crime Gun Intelligence Center to learn about forensic-led policing strategies and ballistics tracing and comparison processes.
- ★ Blue Courage Executive Overview training was conducted for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) in early September, which focused on the importance of instilling a culture of respect and resilience within law enforcement.
- ★ St. Louis participated in a peer exchange to Boston this quarter to learn about the Boston Police Department's CompStat model, youth violence prevention strategies, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, and strategies for community engagement.
- ★ Next quarter, St. Louis plans to work with subject-matter experts on domestic violence reduction technical assistance.



St. Louis and Oakland/Richmond partners visit the Boston Police Department.

Strategic Solutions • Focused Actions • Reduced Violence

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Work with your Strategic Site Liaison and VRN Analyst to plan your strategy and identify focus areas and potential outcomes for the engagement period.

Participate in site calls, peer exchanges, training, and technical assistance as applicable. Take note of potential challenges, unanticipated outcomes, and policy considerations. Ask questions! Share your site's unique experiences.

Take action: document lessons learned, what works, what will not work, policy considerations, and new practices to implement in your agency as applicable; share with VRN team.

Relationships are key to sustainment. Utilize your Strategic Site Liaison, VRN Program and Law Enforcement Champions, and VRN team members to strategize for sustainment of progress following formal VRN engagement.

Plan

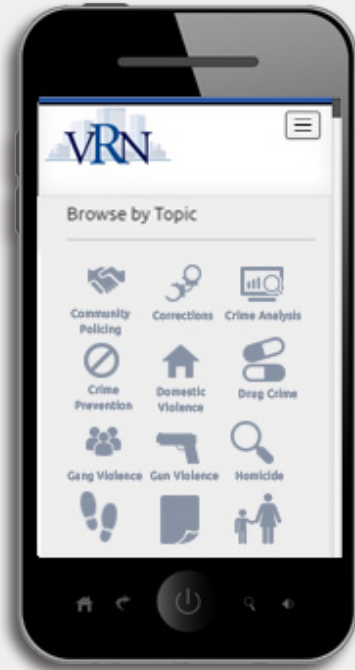
Participate

Implement

Sustain

Introducing the Violence Reduction Clearinghouse

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch officially launched the Violence Reduction Clearinghouse at the VRN Summit. The Clearinghouse is an innovative new tool that will change the way criminal justice practitioners find, save, and share violence reduction resources.



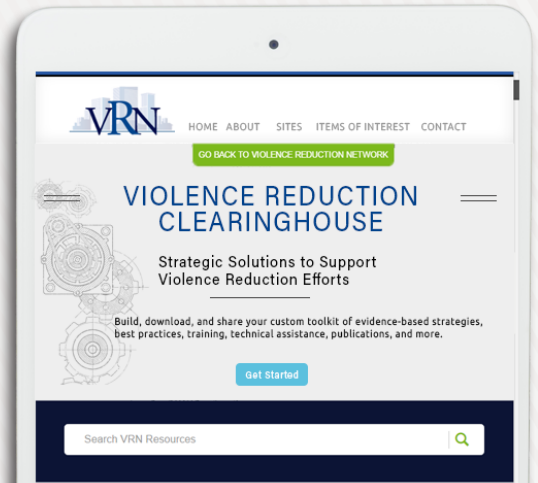
Designed to leverage the One-DOJ approach to violence reduction, the Clearinghouse has hundreds of resources available at your fingertips. Best of all, the Clearinghouse is interactive and allows you to develop a customized toolkit based on your city's unique challenges and opportunities.

“The VRN Clearinghouse is the best single-point informational site I have ever seen. This will be of great value for policing nationwide.”



“We want to make sure that what we’ve learned through this endeavor is available not only to the 15 VRN cities, but to municipalities across the country. . . . It’s why we are launching a new online Violence Reduction Clearinghouse that will give the public the latest and best information about what works in reducing and preventing violence.”

*—Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch
VRN Summit, September 26, 2016*



TYPES OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE



- » Evidence-Based Strategies
- » Model Programs
- » Training
- » Technical Assistance
- » Webinars
- » VRN Success Stories
- » Publications
- » Podcasts
- » Videos

www.VRNetwork.org/Clearinghouse

VRN Web Site

- ★ An extensive resource library of violence reduction-related materials.
- ★ Items of interest, including research briefs, previous editions of the *VRN Weekly News* and the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter*, and more.
- ★ Secure access to VRN site technical assistance and resource delivery tracking, site team calendars, contact information, and more.

VRN Webinars/Podcasts

In addition to training, technical assistance, peer exchanges, and other DOJ resources, VRN strives to provide alternative networking and training mediums through online Webinars and podcasts. VRN has delivered 19 Webinars and podcasts to the Network on the following topics:

- ★ Utilizing License Plate Readers for Violence Reduction
- ★ Podcast: ATF NIBIN and eTrace Overview
- ★ Podcast: DOJ Community Relations Service
- ★ Recruiting a Diverse Police Department Through Digital Outreach
- ★ Utilizing License Plate Readers for Violence Reduction
- ★ Top Offender Lists
- ★ VALOR Executive Briefing
- ★ Innovative Strategies to Address Youth Violence
- ★ Community Engagement in High-Violence Neighborhoods
- ★ Strategies to Address Witness Intimidation
- ★ VRN Virtual Forum
- ★ Strategies to Improve Homicide Investigations and Increase Clearance Rates
- ★ Utilizing Social Network Analysis to Reduce Violent Crime
- ★ The New Era in Community Policing
- ★ Resources for Victim Service Providers Involved in VRN
- ★ Social Media Analysis
- ★ Prosecution Strategies for Violence Reduction
- ★ Exploring Active Shooter Response and Training
- ★ Podcast: Casualty Care and Rescue Tactics

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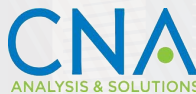
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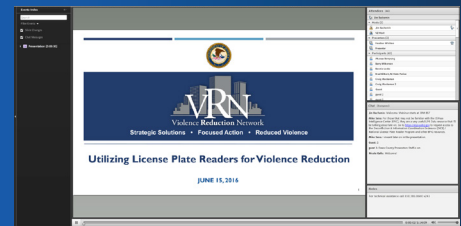


To access these and other resources, visit VRNetwork.org



To access all of the VRN Webinars, visit the VRN Web site at

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