

Part 2:

Causes

Breaking Them Down

Violent crime in Syracuse is a special kind of challenge

Nobody has the answer to it—many interventions from different stakeholders over the years. Still, homicides grew in the last decade.

It is not amenable to technical solutions – most of these interventions were ‘evidence-based’ policies. Still, the problem persists.

Multiple causes – there’s no single explanation for this problem.

It involves many stakeholders – and all of them own a piece of the issue.

Therefore, it requires experimentation, collective action and discussion, a wide range of constructive interventions, and learning new behaviors and practices.

To tackle such a challenge, we need to deconstruct it to:



IDENTIFY THE CONCRETE FACTORS THAT ARE DRIVING THE PROBLEM IN SYRACUSE.



HAVE MORE MANAGEABLE FOCUS POINTS.



RECOGNIZE WHO NEEDS TO BE ENGAGED.



UNDERSTAND THIS PROBLEM AS A COMPLEX SYSTEM.

To deconstruct the issue we used



All the information (interviews, databases, documents, etc.)



The Five Why Technique.



A Fishbone Diagram.

1. Law enforcement activity is not able to prevent enough criminal behavior

2. Continuous conflicts between gang and associated individuals and groups of young people that spiral into violence

1.1. SPD is focused on reactive and essential activities and has limited capacity to implement proactive policies effectively.

1.2. Key stakeholders and communities are reluctant to cooperate with Law Enforcement

1.3 Recent legal reforms have made it more difficult to incapacitate or punish offenders

2.1. gang and associated individuals members are likely to commit violent acts

2.2. There are external factors that increase the risk of violence

2.3. Existing outreach efforts are not making a substantial difference in changing this dynamic

3.2. Social dynamics that increase the risk of violence

3.1. Physical elements that increase the risk of violence

3. High-risk features and dynamics in 12 areas of the city

Persistently high rates of violent crime despite different interventions

