

# Implementing Community Based Violence Intervention Strategies

Promoting CVI Success: Meaningful Measures and Effective Communication



## CVIPI

Community Based Violence Intervention  
and Prevention Initiative

## NIJ

*National Institute  
of Justice*

STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

# Welcome & Introduction

## Eddie Bocanegra

Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs



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# Join the conversation

Be part of this CVI movement!

Help raise awareness. Share the message.

*You are part of the solution.*

**#CVIStrengtheningCommunities**



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# Setting the Stage

**Nancy La Vigne, PhD**

Director, National Institute of Justice



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# Need for purposeful, meaningful measurement

- Informs the development, implementation, and evaluation of CVI initiatives
- Yields benefits through engagement of community members in inclusive research processes
- Supports the evolution and sustainability of CVI initiatives
- Helps communicate effectively and persuasively



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# What is research evidence?

- Can be quantitative (numbers) or qualitative (descriptions)
- Ranges from randomized controlled trials to narratives of lived experience
- ***The best evidence combines the two***
- Evaluation findings are one type of research evidence



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# Why is evaluation important?

- Measures program implementation
- Quantifies successful program impacts
- Makes the case for more resources to improve, sustain and expand



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# Components of Evaluation Process

- Baseline data collection
- Ongoing performance measurement
- Impact evaluation
- Communication of findings



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# Baseline data collection

*Where are the needs? Who is the population?*

*What is the problem you are trying to solve?*

- Helps inform program development
- Identifies needs → Guides development of tailored programs
- Provides point of comparison from which to measure impact



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# Measure as you go – and share early & often!

- Logic models
  - Help identify what to implement and what to measure
  - Keeps focus on shared vision for action
- Performance metrics assess:
  - Implementation fidelity
  - Shorter- and longer-term outcomes
- Feedback loop:
  - Called “Action Research”
  - Research partners share findings w/ program stakeholders
  - Enables refinements along the way



# Partnering with researchers

- The best research partners:
  - Embrace inclusive research principles
  - Support action research
  - Approach work with racial equity lens
  - Are humble and open to community perspectives
- The best programmatic partners:
  - Make program staff, participants, and data available
  - Are open to both positive and constructive feedback
  - Are curious and inquisitive
- Requires trust building on both sides



# Communicating your findings

- Target your message to your audience
  - Programmatic partners: emphasize implementation fidelity
  - Community residents and stakeholders: hold “data walks”
  - Funders and public officials: feature empirical data
- For all audiences:
  - Harness the power of numbers & narratives
  - Perceptions matter as much as hard numbers
  - Don’t shy away from areas in need of improvement



# Funding for CVIPI Evaluation

- Evaluation of CVIPI projects
- Provision of training and technical assistance to support evaluation efforts and violence problem analysis
- Research on other programs with a community violence focus



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# Today's Panelists

**Eddie Bocanegra**, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs

**Dr. Shani Buggs**, Assistant Professor, University of California, Davis

**Dr. Phillip W. Graham**, Senior Center Director, RTI International

**Dr. Henrika McCoy**, Centennial Fellow in Services to Children and Families and Associate Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

**Dr. Yasser Arafat Payne**, Professor, University of Delaware