

Youth recruitment prevention: challenges and solutions in practice from Sweden

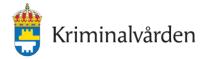
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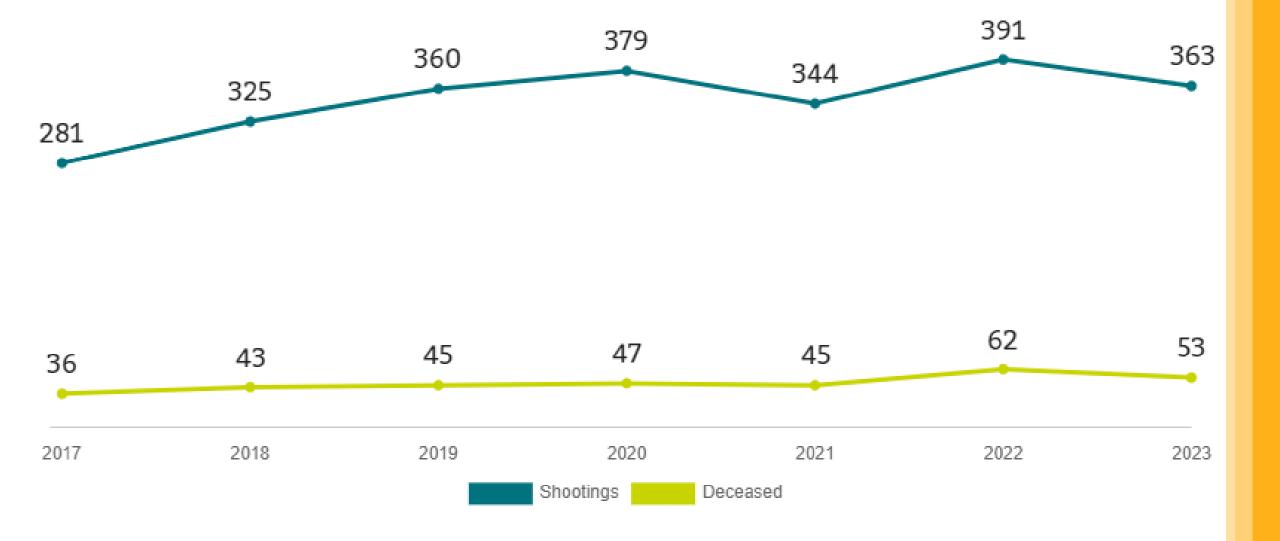






Why is Sweden here?

- Trends for lethal violence in Sweden
- A surge in gun violence (for about a decade)
- Firearms replace knives (2022 first year with more cases of fatal violence with firearms than without)
- More common to be connected to criminal groups and networks





Choice of Approach – Focused Deterrence

Where to start?

The City of Malmö had 65 shootings (2017) and in 2018 12 fatal shootings (2018)

What to do?

Evidence based approaches are few and far between

Focused deterrence was the natural choice

GVI the most comprehensive work we found



The Swedish Implementation of GVI

- A collaborative work
- Support and funding from the US and EU
- Government assignment
- Five local implementations
- Long-term plan for evaluations
- Preparation for further dissemination





Youth involvement, prevention and recruitment

- Youth are at the center of the violence in Sweden
- Perpetrators and victims
- Young people are the recruiters
- Roles, hierarchy and level of organization
- Fast tracks





Why focus on violence in youth recruitment prevention?

Violence is contagious

The group dynamics determine the level of violence in a city or an area

Violence as both a push and a pull factor for young people



GVI Örebro











Örebro's Implementation of the GVI Strategy

Population of 160 000

A collaboration between the local police, probation/parole, municipality, and actors within the community.

A small number commit a majority of the serious violence: this consumes a majority of society resources and damages our communities

Collaborating agencies have shared definition and perspectives on groups and violence.









Mapping, Interventions, Sanctions and Support

Analysis of groups and active conflicts

The GVI message

Call In

Custom notifications

Sanctions

Social service and support



Initial results

4 Call ins

90 Custom notifications

4 periods of enhanced focus from law enforcement and other agencies In contact with 30 people, and 25 in different social services

Support to relatives



Successes, Challenges and Youths

Decreased shootings

Occupation, structure and safety

Expanded the support

Further developed collaborations with communities and local organizations

Reaching youths and their parents with the GVI message



Thank you for listening

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