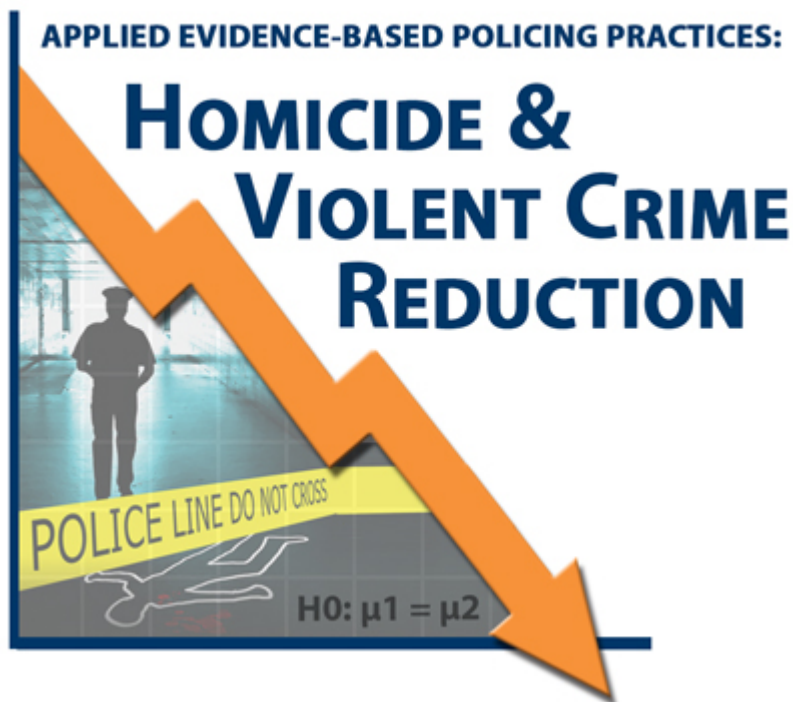


# APPLIED EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING PRACTICES: HOMICIDE AND VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ELEARN COURSE OVERVIEW & OUTLINE



## Applied Evidence-Based Policing Practices: Homicide and Violent Crime Reduction (HVR Online)

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### Overview

Although the past several decades have seen a steady decrease in violent crime statistics, homicides and violent crimes continue to have a devastating impact on many of our nation's communities. With long-term social implications and staggering economic consequences, even minimal levels of violent crime diminish the quality of life in affected communities. In response, homicide and violent crime reduction (HVR) remains a top priority for police agencies throughout the nation. The challenge is addressing violent crime with effective interventions and countermeasures. Instead of guessing or speculating on which HVR strategies work best, many agencies are turning to evidence-based policing practices (EBPP), to address the unique needs of the communities they serve.

*Applied Evidence-Based Policing Practices: Homicide and Violent Crime Reduction (HVR Online)* is designed as a rapid eLearn course that provides an overview of the concept of evidence-based policing and examples of practices that have been shown to reduce homicides and violent crime. Crafted with all levels of police practitioners in mind, *HVR Online* bridges the gap between research and practice. On-screen text, videos and narration in a user-friendly eLearn environment allows participants to start, stop and resume the training based on their schedules. Participants should expect to spend approximately 2 – 4 hours exploring the resources provided in this dynamic and timely course.

### Scope

As part of a comprehensive program integrating the theoretical and practical foundations of crime prevention, reduction and deterrence, *HVR Online* is a concise and relevant eLearn course designed to invite participants to explore evidence-based policing practices and how they can be applied to reduce homicides and violent crime.

### Target Audience

This course is ideal for police managers and decision makers from agencies of any size. It is also relevant for all public safety professionals as well as appropriate community stakeholders.

This no-cost training is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). An unlimited number of participants from any given agency may participate in VCPI's eLearn programs.

## Prerequisites/Requirements

Although there are no prerequisites, ideal participants should be law enforcement practitioners, criminal justice professionals or appropriate community stakeholders.

Participants will need access to a computer with reliable internet connection and speakers. The course utilizes technology-enhanced media that includes on-screen text, graphics, narration, and video segments in an interactive and user-friendly eLearn environment.

## Course Length

*HVR Online* has been developed as an online training that will require an absolute minimum of 1 hour to complete. However, participants should expect to spend approximately 2 – 4 hours exploring all of the resources available in this course. The technology-enhanced design allows participants to start, stop, and resume the training based on the demands of their schedule.

## Testing/Assessment

The *HVR Online* course utilizes a standalone exam (post-test) based on the program's curriculum content. VCPI does not have a pass/fail requirement for eLearn participation. Upon submission of the exam, participants may print a transcript of the exam that includes marked questions and the participant's score.

The following questions are used by the VCPI eLearn center to generate the ten (10) question post-course exam.

- 1) Possible consequences of homicides and violent crime include:
  - a) Diminished quality of life
  - b) Economic burdens
  - c) Increased fear in the community
  - d) All of the above
  
- 2) Evidence-based policing practices can help improve interaction and communication between police agencies and the communities they serve:
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 3) Focused deterrence can be implemented by policing agencies without cooperation with the community:
  - a) True
  - b) False

- 4) Evidence-based policing is best defined as:
  - a) the next policing era.
  - b) an oppositional practice to traditional policing.
  - c) an oppositional practice to community policing.
  - d) using the best available police research to guide decision-making.
  
- 5) Randomly patrolling an area based on population or geography is an example of a place-based policing strategy.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 6) Crime analysis is about \_\_\_\_\_ the data to provide context and understanding.
  - a) Displaying
  - b) Reporting
  - c) Extending
  - d) Fabricating
  
- 7) Recent research has shown that future crime is more predictable by the identity of the offender than by the address of the occurrence.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
- 8) A \_\_\_\_\_ is a very specific and well-defined location where violent crimes are prevalent.
  - a) Hot-Pocket
  - b) Crime Center
  - c) Hot-Zone
  - d) Hot-Spot
  
- 9) Which of the following is true about the focused deterrence policing strategy?
  - a) It is an apprehension strategy.
  - b) It provides both the motivation and the resources for offenders to stop their life of crime.
  - c) It focuses police attention on small infractions and high numbers of arrests in order to prevent violent crimes.
  - d) It is very similar to saturation patrol.
  
- 10) Prior to law enforcement, in which profession(s) have incident reviews been used?
  - a) Tourism
  - b) Medicine
  - c) Aviation
  - d) Both B and C

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## Course Design

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### Introduction to Evidence-Based Policing

This rapid eLearn course introduces the concept of evidence-based policing and provides examples of evidence-based policing practices (EBPP) that have been demonstrated to reduce or prevent homicide and violent crime. This first topic area frames the underlying premise of the course: research and evidence should guide organizational decision-making as it relates to homicide and violent crime reduction. Every law enforcement agency is tasked with finding appropriate countermeasures and interventions that work in their community. The overview of evidence-based policing (and each subsequent topic area) is followed by a video that provides context and demonstrates realistic application of the concepts (Fig. 1). Each video contains interviews and insights from subject matter experts, police managers and decision makers from across the country.

#### Topic Outline:

- I. Evidence-based Policing
  - a. Overview of evidence-based policing and EBPP
  - b. Video (Introduction to EBP, Fig. 1)

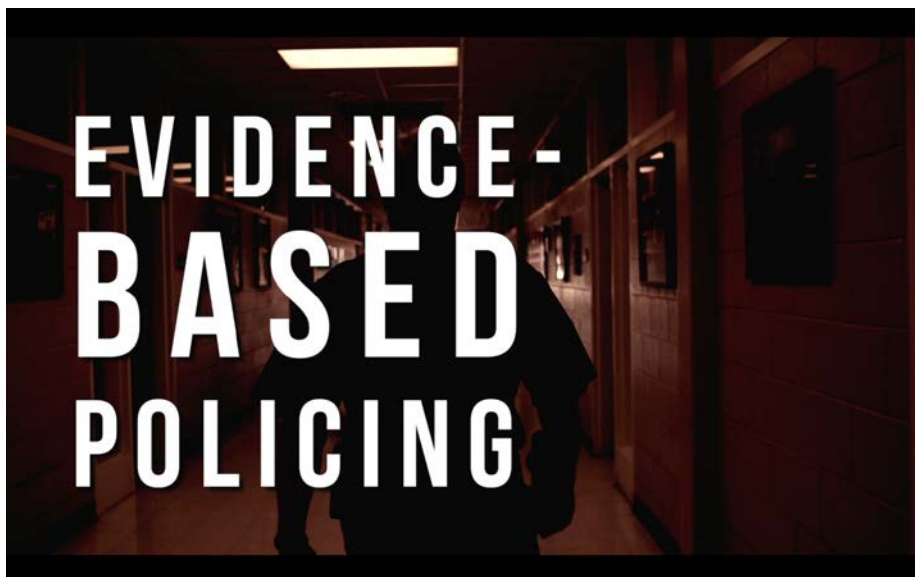


Figure 1. Each topic area includes a video that provides context and demonstrates realistic application.

## Crime Analysis

The second topic area introduces Crime Analysis and how it can assist in the selection of the most appropriate countermeasures or interventions for a jurisdiction's particular crime problems. It demonstrates how Crime Analysis may extend data to provide valuable context and insights into criminal activity. Crime Analysis takes information we already know and makes it meaningful and actionable for evidence-based policing decisions.

### Topic Outline:

- II. Crime Analysis
  - a. Crime Analysis - adding context and understanding to data
  - b. Video (Crime Analysis, Fig. 2)

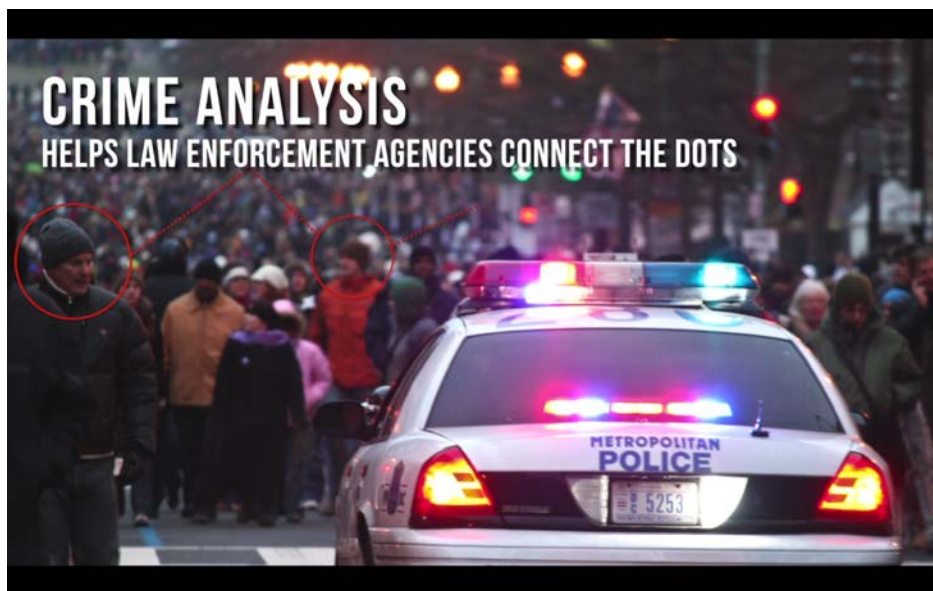


Figure 2. Crime Analysis helps law enforcement connect the dots

## From Analysis to Intervention

Evidence-based policing strategies and crime analysis help policing professionals more effectively use data to choose better, more sustainable solutions to crime problems. This section explores the transition from research and theory to application of evidence-based policing practices.

### Topic Outline:

- III. From Analysis to Intervention
  - a. Choosing EBPP
  - b. Transition to application
  - c. Enhancement of current strategies vs. replacement

## Proven Interventions

In this section, three evidence-based strategies are introduced: Place-based/Hot-Spot policing, Focused Deterrence and Crime Incident Reviews. These interventions or countermeasures have proven to be effective and sustainable. Each strategy incorporates a video that provides context and insights from national subject matter experts and police practitioners.

### Topic Outline:

- IV. Proven Interventions
  - a. Place-based/Hot-spot Policing
    - i. Place-based strategies focus limited resources on areas where crime is most concentrated.
    - ii. Video (Place-based Policing, Fig. 3)





Figure 3. Place-based and Hot-Spot policing allows for greater patrol impact.

b. Focused Deterrence

- i. Focused Deterrence uses the entire community to provide offenders both the means and motivation to stop their life of crime
- ii. Video (Focused Deterrence, Fig. 4)



Figure 4. Focused Deterrence utilizes the entire community to impact violent offenders.

- c. Crime Incident Reviews
  - i. The focus of the Crime Incident Review is to share detailed information about specific types of violent crime then use that information to develop strategic approaches to reduce or prevent that crime.
  - ii. Video (Crime Incident Reviews, Fig. 5)



Figure 5. Crime Incident Reviews are more than just meetings.

## Sustaining Long-Term Homicide and Violent Crime Reduction

The key to implementing any evidence-based policing strategy is a continuous process of measurement and adjustment. In order to determine if an intervention has met community needs and to sustain improvements, policing agencies must ask important and sometimes difficult questions such as: How much did we do? How well did we do it? What good was accomplished? This process requires support and leadership at all levels of a policing agency. The reality is that regardless of the EBPP we choose, we will not be able to cure our communities of all homicides and violent crimes. However, as policing professionals, we can certainly take actionable steps to improve peoples' lives and the livability of our communities by caring for those we serve.

### Topic Outline:

- V. Sustaining Long-Term HVR
  - a. Keys to long-term sustainment of interventions
  - b. Video (Implementation and Leadership, Fig. 6)



Figure 6. Sustaining long-term HVR