



**Rural**  
VIOLENT CRIME  
REDUCTION INITIATIVE

**Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative -  
Knowledge Sharing Event: Community  
Based Violence Intervention & Prevention  
Initiative (CVIPI) and Rural Opportunities**

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*May 23, 2024*

# Acknowledgement / Disclaimer

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# Event Logistics

- Event is being recorded
- Event survey
- Questions and Answers



# Agenda

- CVIPI Introduction & Review of the 2024 National Conference
- CVIPI in a Rural Setting
- Q&A
- Announcements



# CVIPI Introduction & Review of the 2024 CVIPI Grantee Conference

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*Ryan Samuelson, Senior Program Officer (LISC)*

# Defining CVIPI, Essential Elements, & Guiding Principles

- Community Violence Intervention (CVI) is an approach that uses evidence-informed strategies to reduce violence through community-centered initiatives
- These multidisciplinary strategies engage individuals and groups to disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation, and they establish relationships with individuals and community assets to deliver services that address trauma, provide opportunity, and improve the physical, social, and economic conditions that drive violence

# CVIPI - Essential Elements

- Communities as full partners
- Use of trusted, credible messengers
- Use of vetted, unbiased data from multiple sources
- Recognition of the impact of trauma
- Cross-sector stakeholders with authentic relationships

# CVIPI - Guiding Principles

- Community-centered
- Equity-and inclusion-focused
- Evidence-informed
- Effective and sustainable



# National CVIPI Resource & Field Support Center

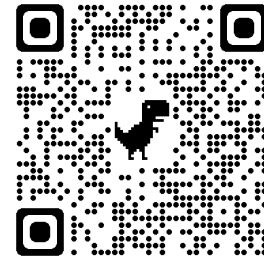
National CVIPI Website



CVIPI Training & Technical Assistance Request



CVIPI Community of Practice

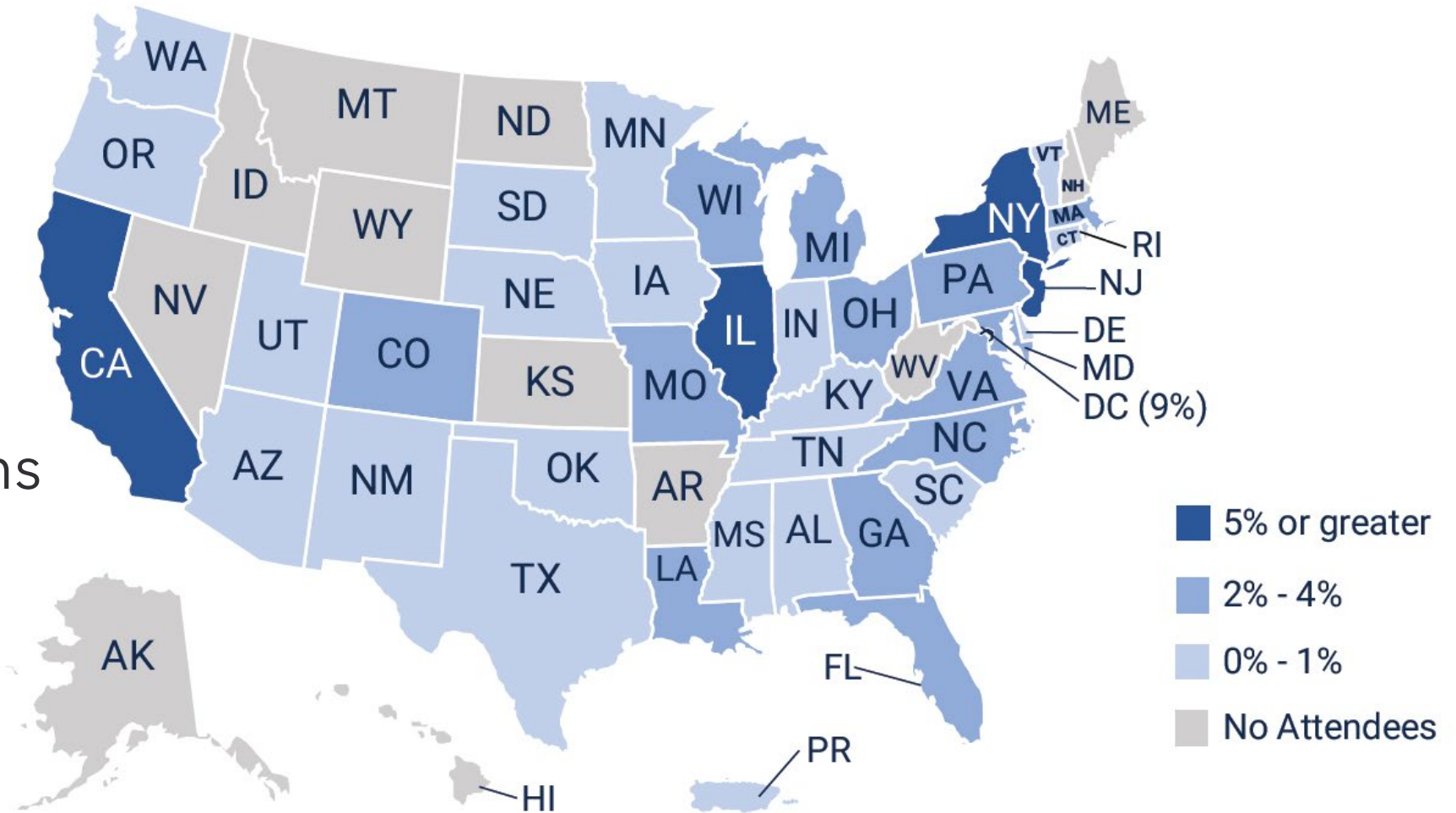


# 2024 CVIPI Grantee Conference



# Overview

- **652** attendees
- **757** registrants
- **40** U.S. states and territories
- **330+** organizations





# Participant Evaluation





## CVIPI in a Rural Setting

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*Dr. Paul Smokowski, Executive Director, North Carolina Youth Violence Prevention Center (NCYVPC)*

# Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiatives (CVIPI) in Rural Areas

Paul Smokowski, Ph.D., LCSW  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Youth Violence  
Prevention Center

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## Key Staff

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Project Director

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Victim Services  
Coordinator

**Jordan Hendren,**  
Project Coordinator

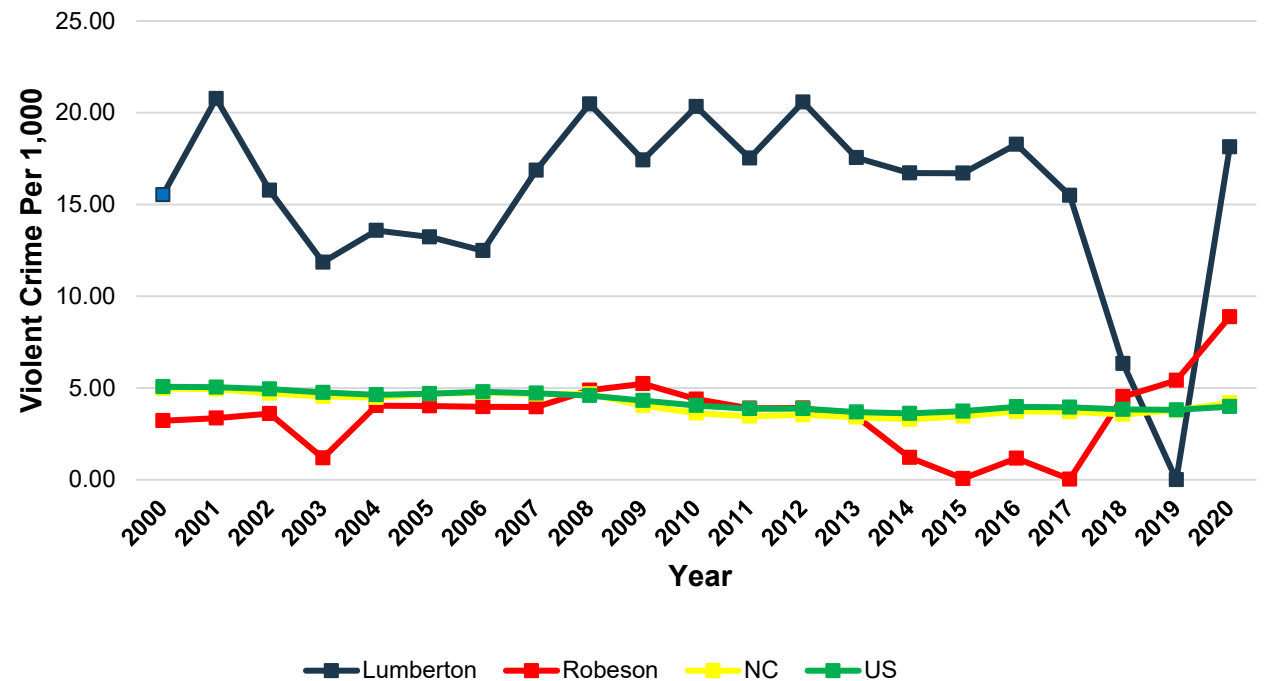
**Mike Brill,**  
Lead Violence  
Interrupter

**Leon Burden,**  
Violence Interrupter,  
Gang Prevention Lead

# Crime and Violence are Often Thought of as Solely Urban Problems, With Less Focus on Rural Areas

Most Dangerous Places in U.S. Police Department	2020 Violent Crime Per 1,000
Monroe, LA	29.4
Memphis, TN	24.2
Saginaw, MI	23.8
Detroit, MI	22.6
St. Louis, MO	20.0
Alexandria, LA	18.8
<b>Lumberton, NC</b>	<b>18.1</b>
Pine Bluff, AR	18.1
Little Rock, AR	18.1
Albany, GA	17.7
South Bend, IN	17.1
Cleveland, OH	16.9

Fig. 1: Violent Crime in Lumberton, Robeson, North Carolina, and the United States Rate Per 1,000



\*Sources: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, NC State Bureau of Investigations



# Community Violence in Rural Areas, Small Towns, and Tribal Communities

Hot Spots in Robeson County by Police Department	2020 * Violent Crime Per 1,000	2020 Homicide Per 1,000	2020 Property Crime Per 1,000	Poverty Rate	2020 Population
Fairmont PD	11.57	0	33.91	33.4	2,507
Lumberton PD	18.13	0.05	76.06	31.1	19,025
Pembroke PD	4.85	0.35	65.86	44.2	2,885
Red Springs PD	10.29	0.31	86.01	50.9	3,206
Robeson Co Sheriff Office	8.88	0.30	20.70	27.9	116,530
Rowland	9.30	0	39.26	14.1	968
North Carolina	3.82	0.071	20.82	13.4	10,439,388
United States	1.95	0.0317	10.39	12.8	329,500,000

\*Sources: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, NC State Bureau of Investigations & U.S. Census Bureau

# Community Violence in Rural Areas, Small Towns, and Tribal Communities

Unique risk factors in rural areas:

- Isolation; shortage of community resources, including primary care and mental health providers; poor health outcomes in rural areas (e.g., unintentional injuries, traffic fatalities, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, suicide, obesity, and smoking), which lead to high rates of premature mortality (i.e., dying before age 75 years).
- Higher rates of depression, weapons use, alcoholism, and drug use.

# Challenges to (and Solutions for) Launching CVI in Rural Areas, Small Towns, and Tribal Communities

- **Challenges**

- Trust – Insider/Outsider dichotomy
- Distance – Geography
- Infrastructure and Resources – Cell Phone and Internet coverage

- **Opportunities:**

- Concentrated Social Networks (once you are accepted in)
- Online Engagement – Telehealth for therapy, Zoom for Paint Parties

# Challenges

Often small and rural police agencies do not have access to the same level of support, resources, and training opportunities as their larger, urban peers.

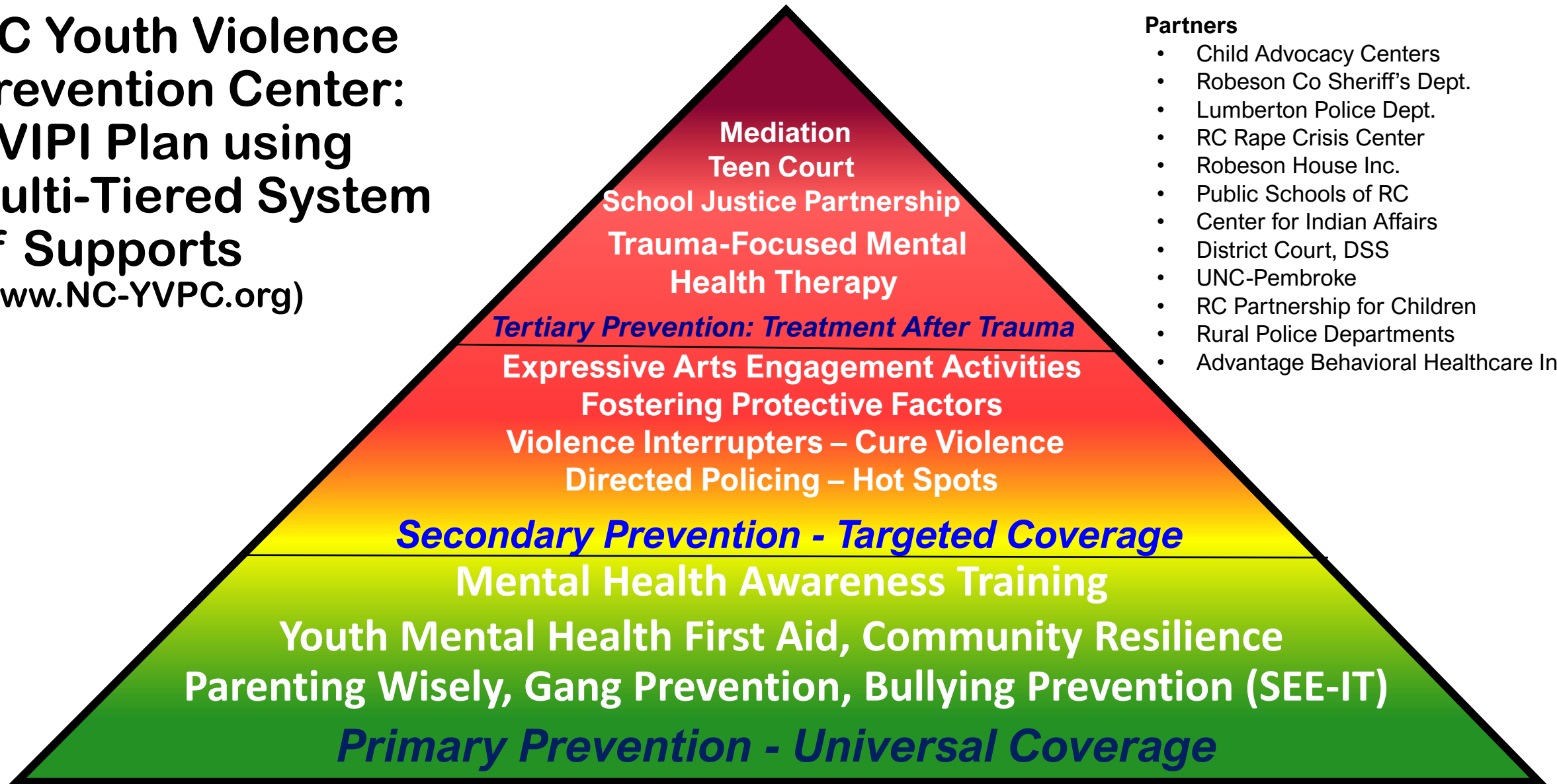
# Strengths

- Many small and rural agencies are highly effective at crime response and maintain higher clearance rates for poverty and violent crime than urban agencies due to their close relationships with the community.
- Officers in small, rural, and tribal agencies develop a variety of skills that larger agencies devote specific units to, such as narcotics, school resources officers, and other specialized roles.
- Small and rural departments are highly flexible and adaptable, particularly in balancing their formal and informal responses to crime, due to their close ties to their communities

# **Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs Focus on Reducing Homicides and Shootings by Establishing Relationships with People at the Center of Gun Violence**

- Hospital-based violence interruption programs try to meet victims' basic needs and support them, while also working to prevent retaliation.
- Group violence interventions are collaborations among community leaders, social service providers, and law enforcement.
- Violence Interrupters reach out to those at the center of gun violence in their communities, build relationships, and work to support healing and address conflict through nonviolence means, including de-escalation and mediation.

# NC Youth Violence Prevention Center: CVIPI Plan using Multi-Tiered System of Supports (www.NC-YVPC.org)



## Partners

- Child Advocacy Centers
- Robeson Co Sheriff's Dept.
- Lumberton Police Dept.
- RC Rape Crisis Center
- Robeson House Inc.
- Public Schools of RC
- Center for Indian Affairs
- District Court, DSS
- UNC-Pembroke
- RC Partnership for Children
- Rural Police Departments
- Advantage Behavioral Healthcare Inc



# Student Expression and Empowerment through Interactive Theater (SEE-IT)







# Violence Interrupters

- Work closely with law enforcement and schools
- De-escalate conflict situations
- Gang awareness (graffiti, teaching gang signs to teachers)
- Special community events (chicken dinner, Thanksgiving dinner, dinner for football team after a shooting)
- Assigned to hot spots (Fairmont, Pembroke, Red Springs, Rowland)



# Violence Interrupters Speak to a Wide Range of Community Stakeholders



# Strategies Found Useful for Effective CVIPI in Rural Areas, Small Towns, and Tribal Communities

- **Past Research**

- Hot spots policing to reduce traffic accidents, fatal crashes, DUI, property crimes.
- Community police engagement to improve communications and relationships between law enforcement and the public.
- Problem-oriented policing can address repeat offenders and chronic problems.

- **NC-YVPC Lessons Learned**

- “Credible Messengers” reputations and social networks are critical for success.
- Positive youth engagement activities are often non-existent. Creating these activities engenders good will and gratitude.
- Mental health providers are scarce. Telehealth can greatly expand access.

# Progress in Crime Reduction - 2010 to 2021 Uniform Crime Report Data

Area	Rate in 2010 per 1,000 residents	Rate in 2021 per 1,000 residents	Change
<b>Robeson County Sheriff Office</b>	32.57 property crime	20.04	48% decrease
<b>Lumberton PD</b>	122.54 property crime	70.18	43% decrease
<b>Pembroke PD</b>	10.41 violent crime	2.13	80% decrease
<b>Pembroke PD</b>	97.60 property crime	13.51	86% decrease
<b>Rowland PD</b>	54.86 property crime	43.97	20% decrease
<b>Red Springs PD</b>	14.25 violent crime	10.98	23% decrease
<b>Red Springs PD</b>	101.48 property crime	50.71	50% decrease
<b>Fairmont PD</b>	59.84 property crime	35.85	40% decrease
<b>NC</b>	3.55 violent crime	4.03	13% increase
<b>NC</b>	34.14 property crime	20.18	40% decrease
<b>USA</b>	4.05 violent crime	3.96	3% decrease
<b>USA</b>	29.46 property crime	19.33	44% decrease

# *Questions?*

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# What's Next?

Next Rural Roundtable scheduled for June 20, 2024

- Additional details to follow

Next NPI-led Webinar event scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- Additional details to follow

# Resources

- [CVIPI Field Resource Center](#)
- [LISC CVIPI TTA Request](#)
- [LISC CVIPI Community of Practice](#)
- [CVIPI Program Overview](#)
- [NC CVI Program - PBS video highlight \(12:08 - 14:35\)](#)
- [Practices in Modern Policing: Policing in Small, Rural, and Tribal Communities Video](#)