

Opportunities to Save Lives through Research on Risk and Protective Factors in Gun Violence

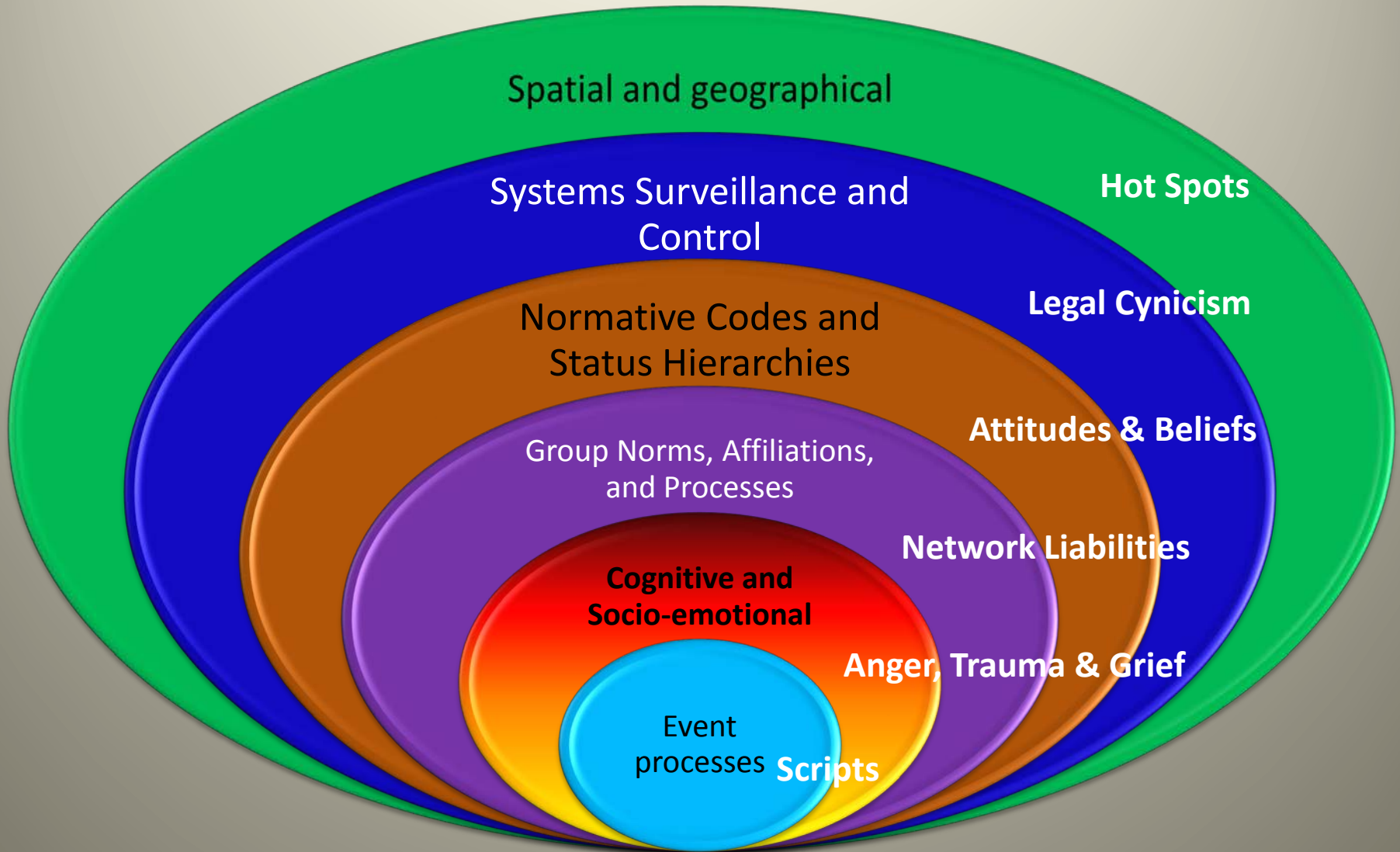
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Risk Domains for Urban Gun Violence



Differentiating Risk

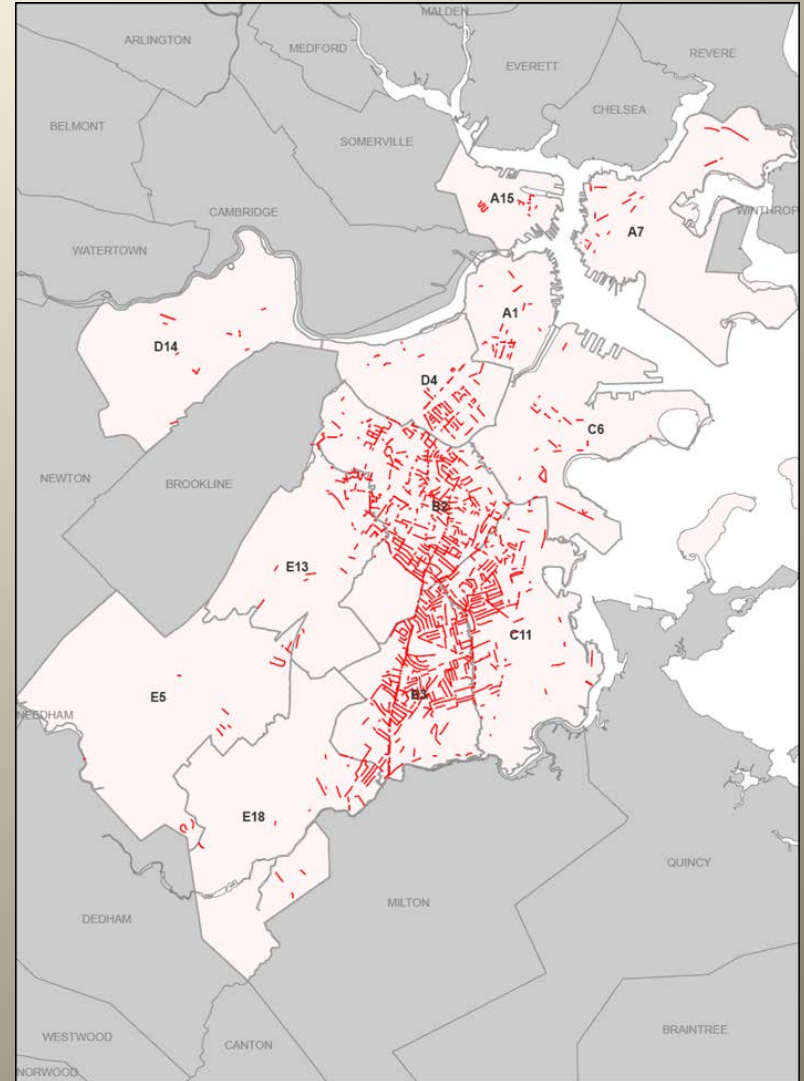
- We need to be able to efficiently distinguish:
 - Levels of risks among individuals
 - Levels of risks among groups
 - Levels of risks across geographic space
 - Levels of risks across temporal space
 - Disaggregate by types of risk
 - Understand Risk in situations, space, and relationships
 - Take a holistic approach

Complex Risk Factors

- High Levels of Exposure to Community Violence and Family Violence
- Prior Victimization
- Fear of Victimization, Ecology of Danger
- Intergenerational influences (see Giordano, 2010)
- Identity concerns
- Social embeddedness in peer networks

Spatial & Temporal Patterns

- Intense Geographic Concentration (Boston example: 78% of firearms offenses happened in just 4.5% of street units - Braga, Papachristos, and Hureau, 2010)
- Relatively stable over time (see Braga, Papachristos, and Hureau, 2010; also see Weisburd et al. 2004)



Violent Event Configurations & Scripts



*Present A = Present & involved in violence, Present B = Present & encourage violence, Present C = Present & discourage violence.

Unanswered Questions

- (1) How are individuals and families coping with grief and trauma in historical geographic hot spots?
 - What are the patterns across generations and networks within a community?
 - What services do people access?
 - What role does public health play in recovery and prevention of repeat trauma?
 - What roles do the other systems play in recovery and prevention?
 - Which strategies are most effective?

Unanswered Questions

(2) Current efforts to interrupt violence among high risk individuals in emerging situations need to be expanded and studied:

- What makes someone a credible mediator?
- What types of events can be mediated?
- What techniques are most effective in interrupting violence that is about to happen?
- What types of training and preparation do public health workers need for this type of work?

Unanswered Questions

(3) Can mediation and outreach to high risk individuals promote more stable behavioral change among the highest risk?
If so, how?

- Identity Recovery
- Overcoming “Legacies” of Violence
- Restorative justice processes
- Healing from Trauma and Grief

Recommendation

- Promote community-researcher-practitioner collaborations for joint problem solving with community members to inform interventions and use lay researchers to gather and interpret the data working closely with scientifically trained researchers.
- Encourage public health and CJ professionals to work together.

Research Priority Topics

- (1) Mixed method studies of coping with exposure to violence, trauma, and grief.
- (2) Build on studies of conflict situations and mediation of conflict.
- (3) Evaluate public health outreach programs to promote behavioral change.

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