SFPD’s Strategic Investigations

Strategic Investigations’ overall goal is to engage in a collaborative effort with community partners and stakeholders to reduce instances of gun violence and homicide, reduce recidivism, and build trust between SFPD and impacted communities across San Francisco.

Strategic Investigations, which is housed within SFPD’s Investigations Bureau, is comprised of Homicide, Community Violence Reduction Team (CVRT), and Crime Gun Investigation Center (CGIC). Investigations focus on firearms related offenses ranging from the illegal possession of firearms, to shooting investigations, to homicides.
Strategic Investigations’ Goals and Objectives

Strategic Investigations aims to reduce gun violence though support of strategic community-based initiatives.

- **Goal 1:** Maintain ongoing communication and partnership with community partners/stakeholders by providing current data and analysis on trends, intelligence, and case-specific information.

- **Goal 2:** Strengthen collaboration with intervention partners by aligning a variety of stakeholders to engage in a community and problem-oriented approach.

- **Goal 3:** Facilitate a victim-centered approach to homicide investigations to ensure transparency, communication, and resources are made available to families impacted by homicides.
Goal 1: Open Communication with Stakeholders

Strategic Investigations works collaboratively with and supports City initiatives to reduce gun violence and recidivism.

CVRT and CGIC participate in weekly meetings with the Street Violence Intervention Program (SVIP), SFPD Crime Strategies Unit and representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice. This collaborative partnership allows issues of concern to be addressed through communication and sharing of information.

The goal of the meeting is to ensure open lines of communication and the sharing of information in an effort to build partnerships. The hope is to bridge the gap between criminal justice agencies and the communities we serve. Transparency into the work that SFPD does builds community trust.
Our focused goal will be to collect and share real-time intelligence based upon a data-driven approach to identify crime trends and patterns.
Strategic Investigations regularly works with the Street Violence Response Team (SVRT) by providing up-to-date information on gun violence incidents. SVRT is a service coordination process organized to address the violence prevention and enforcement efforts of San Francisco, as well as identifying service providers that can offer continued support to those impacted by the violence.

City Partners
- Department of Public Health
- District Attorney’s Office, Victim Services Division
- San Francisco Housing Authority
- Department of Police Accountability
- Mayor’s Office of Housing & Community Development
- Municipal Transportation Agency

Law Enforcement Partners
- San Francisco Police Department
- Adult Probation
- Juvenile Probation

Community Based Partners
- Street Violence Intervention Program (SVIP)
- UCSF Wraparound Project

Faith Based Partners
- Archdiocese of San Francisco
- SFPD Chaplaincy
Goal 2: Strengthen Collaboration with Intervention Partners

CVRT and CGIC proactively work with intervention partners by focusing on high-risk individuals. This narrow focus allows intervention specialists to narrowly focus on the individual's driving violence in San Francisco.

Research confirms that being an offender or victim of violence is concentrated within high-risk social networks or groups. Unfortunately, victims of shootings are much more likely to be shot again and we know that victims are highly likely to retaliate within 120 days.

By narrowly focusing on identified high-risk individuals, Strategic Investigations hopes to interrupt cycles of retaliation.
As a partnership, SFPD members, SVIP personnel, and other community members will provide “direct messaging” to identified at-risk individuals. The goal is to further the City’s public safety message to stop gun violence or “don’t shoot people,” increase the individual and group’s perception of risk and to offer tailored support. SFPD will help facilitate resources to assist these individuals in making positive life changes that lower their risk to group/gang violence.
Goal 3: Victim-Centered Approach to Homicide Investigations

The Homicide Unit engages in a case-specific focus to work with families impacted by homicides. The goal is to provide specific support, information, and resources.

Specifically related to cold case homicide investigations, the Homicide Unit has designated investigators to engage directly with community partners to ensure on-going communication and transparency regarding cold case homicides. SFPD facilitates collaborative meetings with DPH, SFPD, and the families of deceased victims in unsolved homicide cases to provide case updates, service connections, and support services. SFPD will continue to push out requests for information from the community and provide updates on rewards being offered.
Strategic Investigations aims to solve every case knowing that bringing perpetrators to justice builds trust within our community.

Through our work with intervention partners, SFPD hopes to engage with high-risk individuals and begin to have conversations about their risk.

Based upon weekly meeting with city agencies and community partners, strategies are continuously assessed for effectiveness and adjusted accordingly based on input and discussion from the key stakeholders.

Professor Anthony Braga of the University of Pennsylvania, an expert in the field of focused deterrence, is studying the work done by Strategic Investigations and will measure the effectiveness of the overall violence reduction initiative.

**Metrics: How Strategic Investigations Measures Success**

[Graph showing 217 non-fatal and fatal incidents by district and by month]