

NAVIGATING RETALIATORY VIOLENT DISPUTES

WHAT ARE RETALIATORY VIOLENT DISPUTES?

Retaliatory violent disputes are not a new phenomenon. In the United States, arguments are well known as the most frequent cause of homicide.

A violent retaliatory dispute is:

- An interaction involving conflict
- Over a period of time
- Between two or more individuals and/or people associated with them
- Marked by two or more events involving confrontation or intimidation
- In which at least some of those events involve violent acts or credible threats of violence

Violent disputes that play out over a long time, involving multiple events and acts of retaliation, **offer police opportunities to identify the dispute and then execute an appropriate response.**

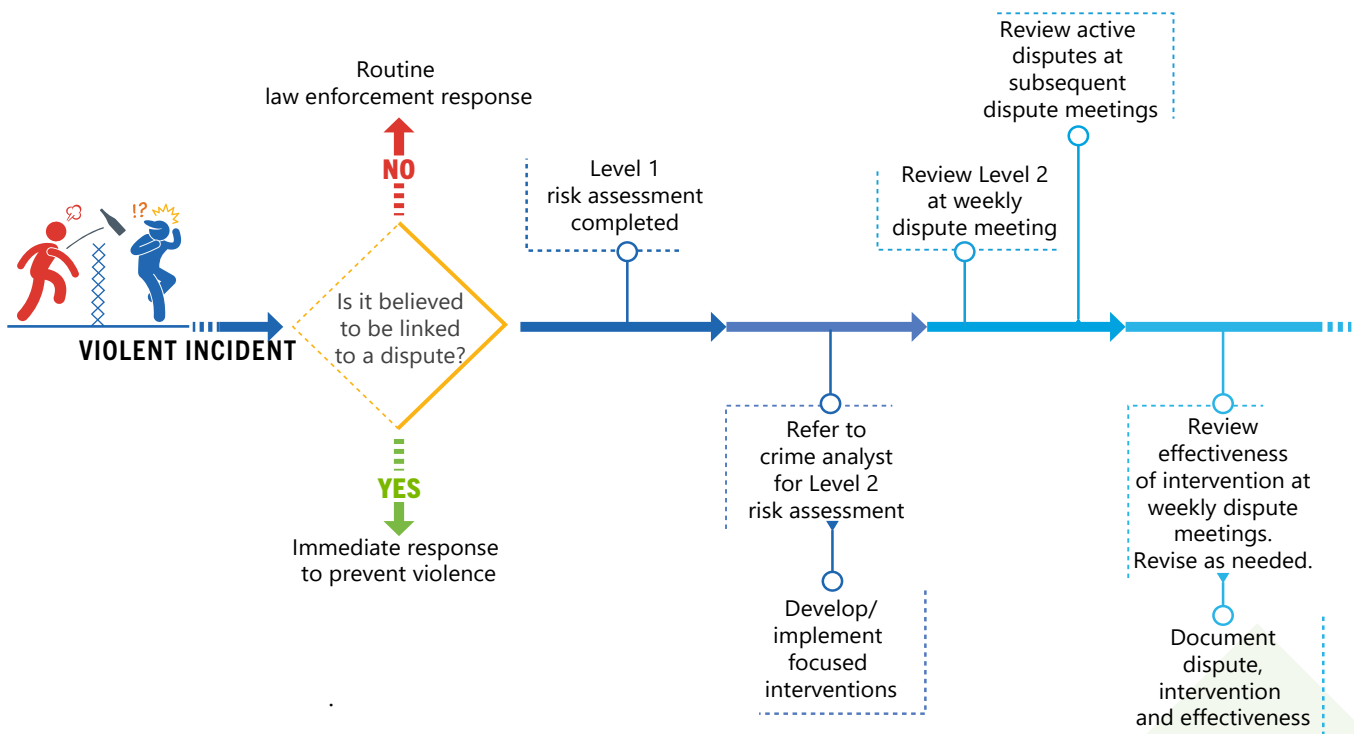
In some instances, if police had known about the initial dispute and identified it as a likely candidate for

retaliation, they would have had time to intervene with place-, victim- or offender-based interventions, even if the specific nature of the dispute was unknown.

IDENTIFYING RETALIATORY VIOLENT DISPUTES

Retaliatory violent disputes have several distinctive qualities that have implications for intervention:

- The existence of a long-standing and escalating dispute between individuals or groups of people
- Disputants who have criminal records and are on probation or parole, or have active warrants when the violent incident occurs
- A precipitating event (such as when gunshots are fired) involving a police response
- Some time between the initial dispute and the violent incident, during which the department can intervene



- Identifiable events and places for retaliation, such as at a house party or a known hang-out
- Key dates such as anniversaries of prior disputes that can escalate the risk of violence

RESPONSES TO RETALIATORY VIOLENT DISPUTES

- **Assessing the Risks That Disputes Will Become Violent**
- **Monitoring and Tracking Retaliatory Violent Disputes**
- **The Importance of Strong Leadership and Feedback**

To recognize an ongoing dispute and assess the risk of further violence, agencies must **focus on the links among events**. That may seem obvious, but it can require a major change in thinking, from an incident-based mindset to a problem-based mindset. Be alert to organizational impediments to working disputes rather than incidents.

Identifying the proper stakeholders can help agencies better understand retaliatory violence and enhance an officer's ability to effectively respond to it. Through collaboration with community partners, agencies will be able to develop a dispute-intervention approach that uses community asset and a diverse set of tactics in response to the unique needs of particular disputes.

Preventing retaliatory violence might well require prioritizing the investigation of an incident and arresting one or more of the offenders.

Making the prevention of further violence the goal can open **a wider range of response strategies** than just criminal law enforcement.

SERIES INFO

Since 2013, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has funded CNA to work with the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing to develop a series of Strategies for Policing Innovation (SPI) Problem-Oriented Guides for Police. These guides provide the law enforcement community with useful guidance, knowledge and best practices related to key problem-oriented policing and strategic policing principles and practices. CNA developed this infographic based on the guide titled "Retaliatory Violent Disputes" by John Klofas, Irshad Altheimer and Nicholas Petitti.

SPI is a collaborative effort between BJA, CNA (SPI training and technical assistance provider) and over 65 local law enforcement agencies that are testing innovative and evidence-based solutions to serious crime problems.

For more information about The Strategies for Policing Innovation Problem-Oriented Policing Guides visit <https://www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com/tta/spotlight-reports/retaliatory-violent-disputes-pop-guide>.

ABOUT CNA

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This SPI POP guide was supported by Grant No. 2016-WY-BX-K001, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.