

“What it means to me to be on the Gun Violence Advisory Board? It means saving lives. It means helping people in a human and authentic way. When you have so many different people collaborating and working towards the same goal, the outcome will always be positive.”

- Carter Patterson, Advisory Board Member

“Out of 20 friends, three are in college, two died due to gun violence, and the rest are in jail. I knew I had to do something different and move on to a better life.”

- J.W., GVRI Participant

“Participating in this program has taught me to look at myself in a positive way and see value in myself. It’s the reason I am now taking care of my mental and physical health.”

- W.H., GVRI Participant

“Because of this program, I see nothing but greatness in my future. It should be a nationwide program because it will definitely guide you in the right way and change your life for the better.”

- W.B., GVRI Participant

“When you have partners at the table who are creative and innovative, all collaborating with one common goal, you get tremendous impact and save countless lives. The gun violence reduction initiative has allowed us to think outside the box and create opportunities where there were none”.

- Lakeesha Eure, Advisory Board Co-Chair



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New Jersey Judiciary

Gun Violence Reduction Initiative



What is the New Jersey Judiciary's Gun Violence Reduction Initiative?

The New Jersey Judiciary's Gun Violence Reduction Initiative began in 2021 in response to the increase in gun violence in New Jersey and across the nation. The initiative focuses on probation clients who are at moderate-to-high-risk of reoffending and who have a current, weapon-related offense.

The initiative is a partnership between the courts, resource providers, and the community to reduce gun- and other weapon-related violence by identifying gaps in services and encouraging positive behavioral change.

What kinds of services can the board recommend?

The board can recommend counseling, mentoring programs, job training or education, housing assistance, or other needed services identified by the client or the board.



How does the program work?

The probation division in each county reviews eligible cases for presentation to the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative Advisory Board, which is comprised of judges, probation staff, mayors, business administrators, public safety directors, members of the state Senate and Assembly, community members, and resource providers.

The board evaluates information about each client such as their age, marital status, number of children, the number of charges against them and times they have been arrested, their level of education and employment status, history of drug use and gang affiliation. It then recommends appropriate services.

Where is the initiative operating?

The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative currently operates in:

- Atlantic/Cape May
- Burlington
- Camden
- Essex
- Hudson
- Mercer
- Middlesex
- Monmouth
- Passaic
- Union
- Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program

More information

For more information about the initiative, contact:

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