

# The American Dilemma: The Spike of Violent Crime and Homicide During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Use Digital Intelligence as a force multiplier to help you understand the networks of violent offenders.

The number of homicides continues to increase in American cities following a year that saw a record increase in homicides across the country, according to a report published Thursday by the Council on Criminal Justice.

A study of homicides during the first six months of this year in 22 cities showed that the number of murders increased by 16% compared to the same period in 2020 and by 42% compared to the first six months of 2019.<sup>1</sup>

The time it takes to solve a crime exposes your citizens and officers to an increased threat of violent crime. Coupled with the increase in homicide, underfunded and understaffed agencies are struggling more and more to balance and effectively leverage the volume of digital evidence, which can in turn protect your community.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA COLLECTION FROM DEVICES AND THE CLOUD IN HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS

Extracting and analyzing data from devices collected from crime scenes can be the answer to finding your suspect and bringing justice to victims. This Digital Intelligence can also lead your investigators and officers to other known associates that are linked to current criminal cases, and/or are planning to commit future violent crimes. Having this evidence-based insight will help control crime and in turn decrease the number of violent interactions officers have in the field.

## HOW TO GAIN BACK THE TRUST OF YOUR CITIZENS, CITY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, ACTIVISTS, AND FAMILIES YOU SUPPORT

Cellebrite's Digital Intelligence solutions will bring transparency, solvability and efficiency to your criminal investigations and help you stop the disturbing epidemic of violent crimes and murder to keep your officers and citizens safe. The community and stakeholders need to know that agency leadership is quickly making the right choices to bring families justice, and keep them and those they love safe.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/29/us/homicide-rise-us-report/index.html>

### **Putting Digital Intelligence to use for investigations will allow your investigators to:**

- Collect data from the most sources and toughest devices, digital platforms, and applications – anytime, anywhere to advance criminal investigations.
- Manage and safeguard relevant evidence in a secure and collaborative system.
- Create and analyze intelligence from vast amounts of data to identify and link violent offenders.

### **As agency management, you will be able to report to city and community leaders on how you are:**

- Potentially reducing violent crimes by connecting violent offenders from digital evidence collected across cases.
- Removing investigative bottlenecks, faster time to actionable evidence, and increasing case clearance rates by giving your examiners, analysts, and investigators early access to the most devices and digital evidence involved in an investigation.
- Increasing department collaboration and deconfliction by enabling your investigator, analysts, and examiners with a workflow that facilitates joint tagging and intelligence building.
- Ensuring accountability and effectiveness at every level through streamlined investigative processing, storage and procedures in a Digital Intelligence platform.

## **IDENTIFYING CLEAR OBJECTIVES AND SOLUTIONS WILL ACCELERATE ACCESS TO FUNDS**

Agencies can't afford to not have appropriate funding allocated to them during a time when homicides have increased at an unnerving rate. You can advocate for funding to stop the surge in violence with The American Rescue Plan Act.

### **Tips for expediting funds:**

1. Understand how your community is distributing funds
2. Strategically approach local leadership
3. Be prepared to provide data points
4. Tell the story of what will happen if you don't get the funds
5. Know the budget and scope of your projects
6. Prioritize projects
7. Know your DUNS Number and SAM.gov Number Real Results and Progress

The American Rescue Plan Act provides state and local governments with approximately \$350 billion which can be used to support law enforcement agencies to protect the public and combat the rise in COVID-19 related increases in gun and gang-related violent crime and child exploitation cases.



## REAL RESULTS AND PROGRESS

### Pushing Solve Rates to New Heights

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana formulated their digital intelligence strategy to access, manage, analyze, and leverage data to provide actionable intelligence. Their goal was to solve more cases and significantly lower the parish's crime rate. According to FBI Unified Crime Report data, in 2019 Jefferson Parish had its lowest crime rate since 1974, the year it started to submit statistics to the FBI. Solving crimes quickly, which prevents future crimes and limits serial offenders, played a large role in this reduction.



**“We have to get the chiefs of police and the sheriffs that we work for to understand the value of the technology. And not just throw money at a problem, but understand that if we develop this type of training, if we develop this type of technology, it'll actually help us in the long run.”**

– Deputy Chief Timothy Scanlan, Commander of the Technical Services Bureau, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office

### ICAC Unit Puts Digital Intelligence to Work to Stop Crimes Against Children

Technology is supplying some much-needed relief for Seattle PD's ICAC unit and similar units around the world. Seattle PD has transformed the way they are conducting investigations to utilize digital technology to its fullest extent. Two overarching goals for the department include finding children and rescuing children, and then prosecuting the predators and getting them the justice that needs to happen. In order to do that, Seattle's ICAC unit takes great pains to protect the chain of custody, which requires careful data management once evidence from devices is collected.

Learn more now

To quickly learn how Cellebrite's Digital Intelligence solutions can help your city reduce violent crimes, click here or contact your Cellebrite sales representative.

