Tacoma Violent Crime Reduction Plan
Year 1 Results

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Project Background

Drawing from a substantial body of research on the evidence-based crime control strategies, the Tacoma Crime Plan includes three components:

1. A near-term hot spots policing strategy meant to substantially increase police visibility at addresses where violent crime is concentrated and prioritize street-level deterrence in these areas.

2. A mid term strategy focused on violent places within the city using a Problem-Oriented, Place-Based Policing approach.

3. A longer-term Focused Deterrence strategy to help break the cycle of violence among the small number of repeat and high-risk offenders who are responsible for committing most of the violent crime in Tacoma.

Hot Spots Policing Strategy

Beginning early July 2022, TPD began executing its near-term, hot spots policing strategy:

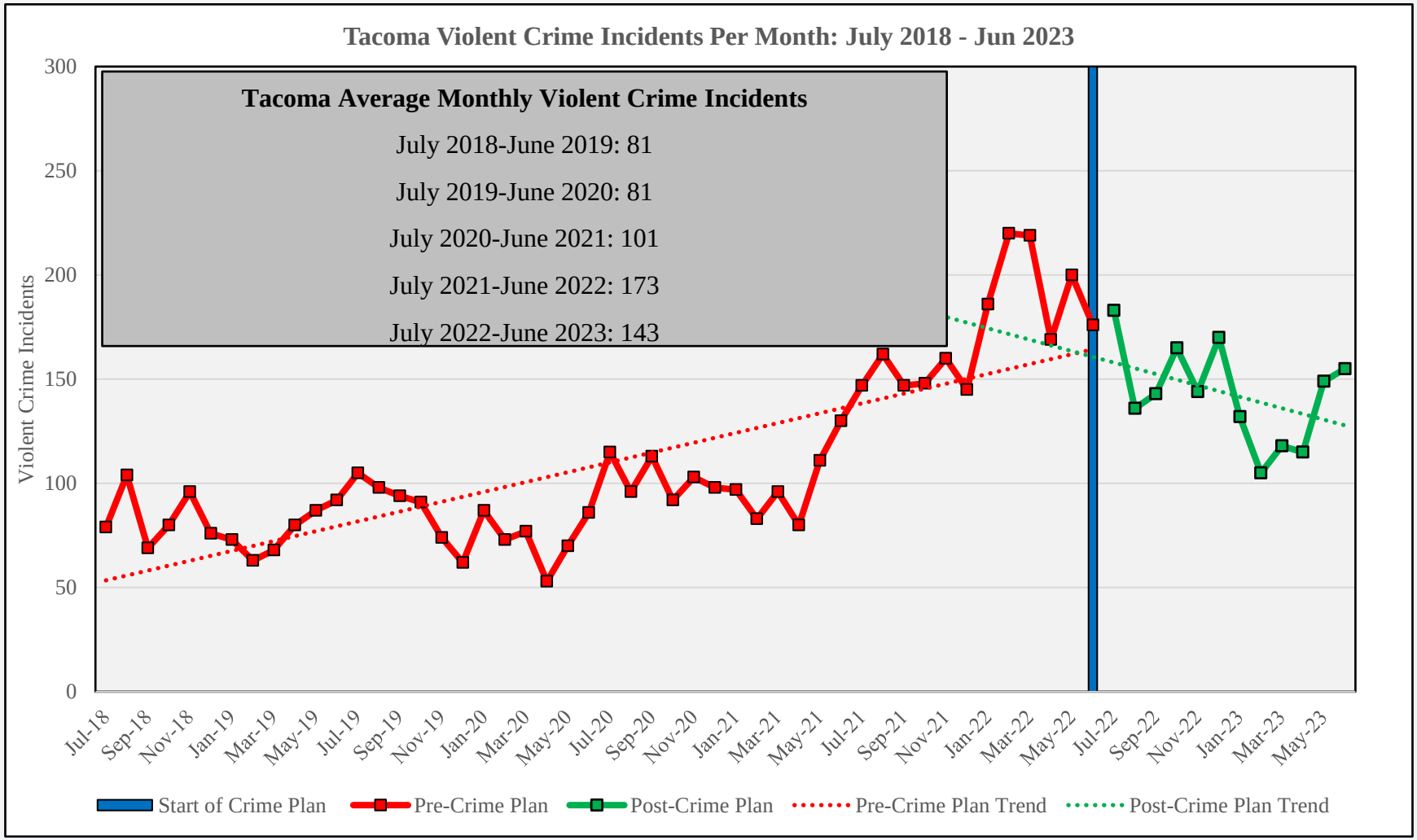
- Focus is on violence-prone addresses by increasing police visibility at or near those locations (associated hundred blocks) to deter violent offenders
- Officers are dispatched to recommended hot spots during peak crime hours
  - Officers are instructed to be within sight of the hot spot address for least 15 minutes with all vehicle lights illuminated
  - Periods 5 - 7 (May-October 2023) randomly assigned half of hot spots to an “HV+” treatment that involved officers exiting their lighted patrol cars and foot patrolling in the immediate vicinity

Year 1 Analysis Plan

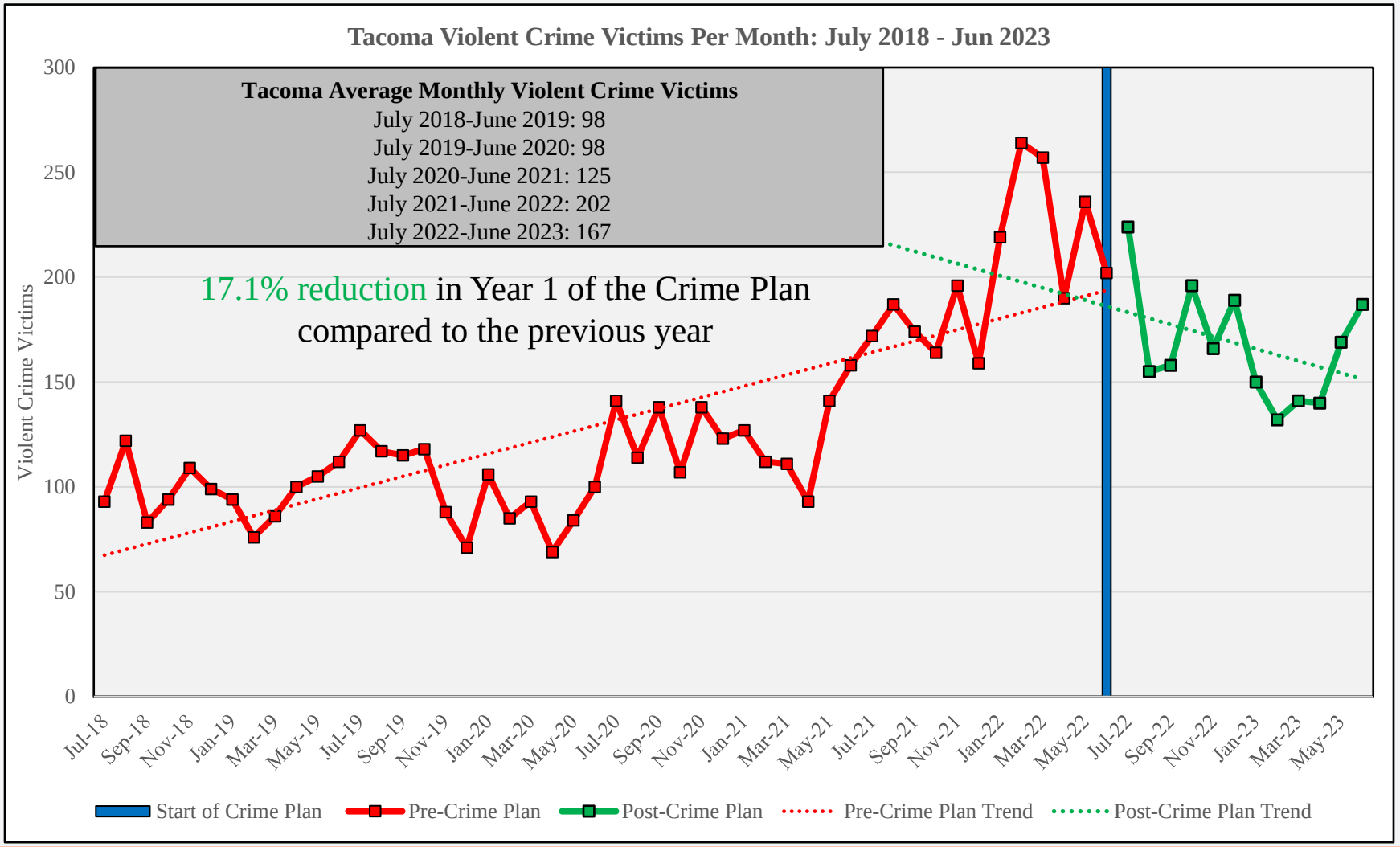
July 2022 through June 2023

1. City-wide changes in violent street crime (murder, robbery, non-family violence aggravated assault)
   - Five-year trend analysis by violent incidents, victimization, crime type
   - Interrupted time series analysis to help isolate change before and after Crime Plan implementation
2. Hot spots analysis
   - Change in violent crime at hot spots compared to same months last year and 12-month averages
   - Difference-in-differences analysis comparing treated areas to untreated areas before and after implementation
   - Contribution of hot spot crime to city-wide totals
3. Change in arrests and calls for service
4. Treatment fidelity: Alignment between expected and actual treatment at hot spots

Violent Incidents: Five Year Trend



Violent Victimization: 5 Year Trend



Change by Crime Type: Treatment v. Last Year

Tacoma Average Monthly Violent Crime Offenses
Comparison of July 2021-June 2022 vs.
Year 1 of Crime Plan

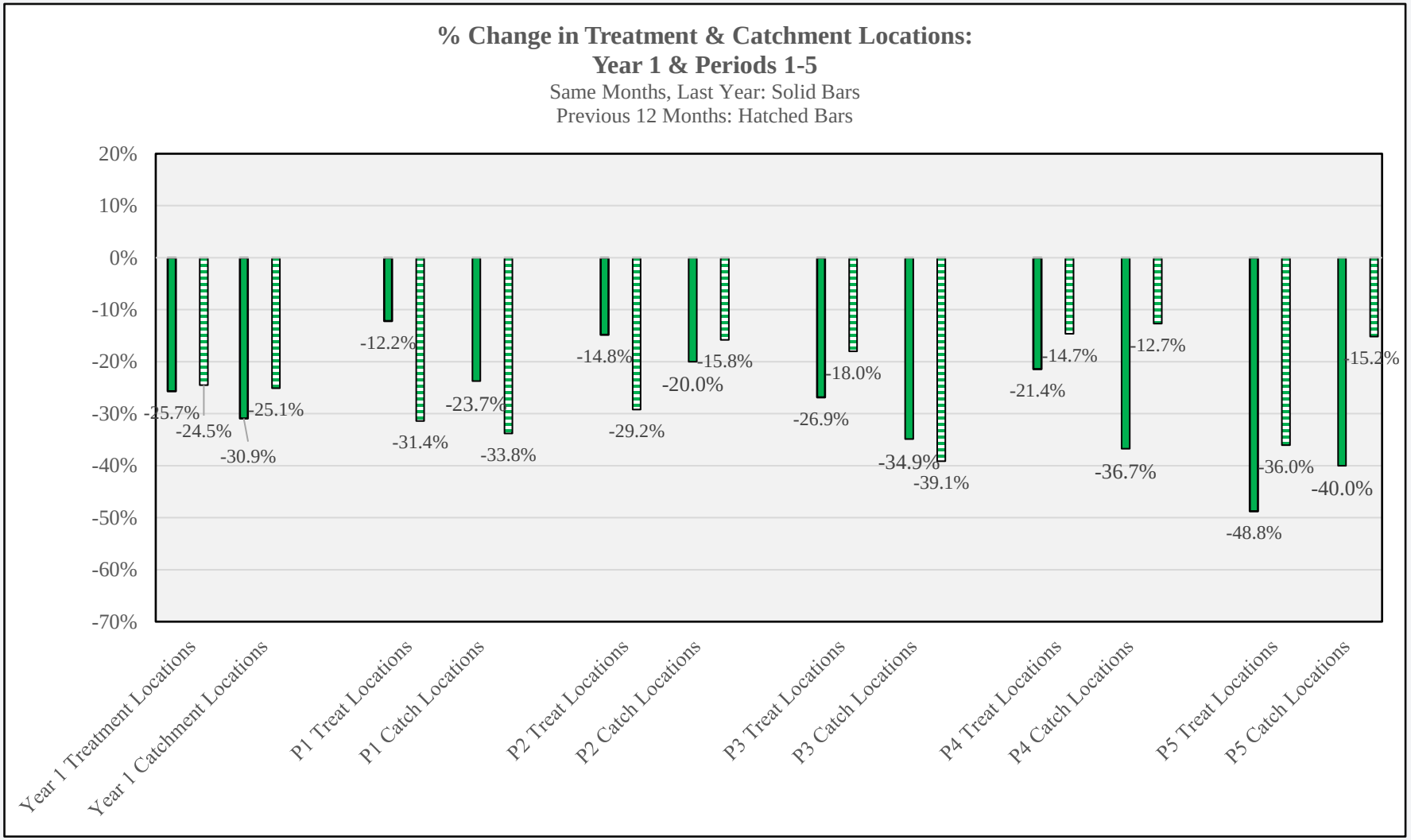
Murder: 26.7% reduction

Robberies - Individuals: 13.5% increase

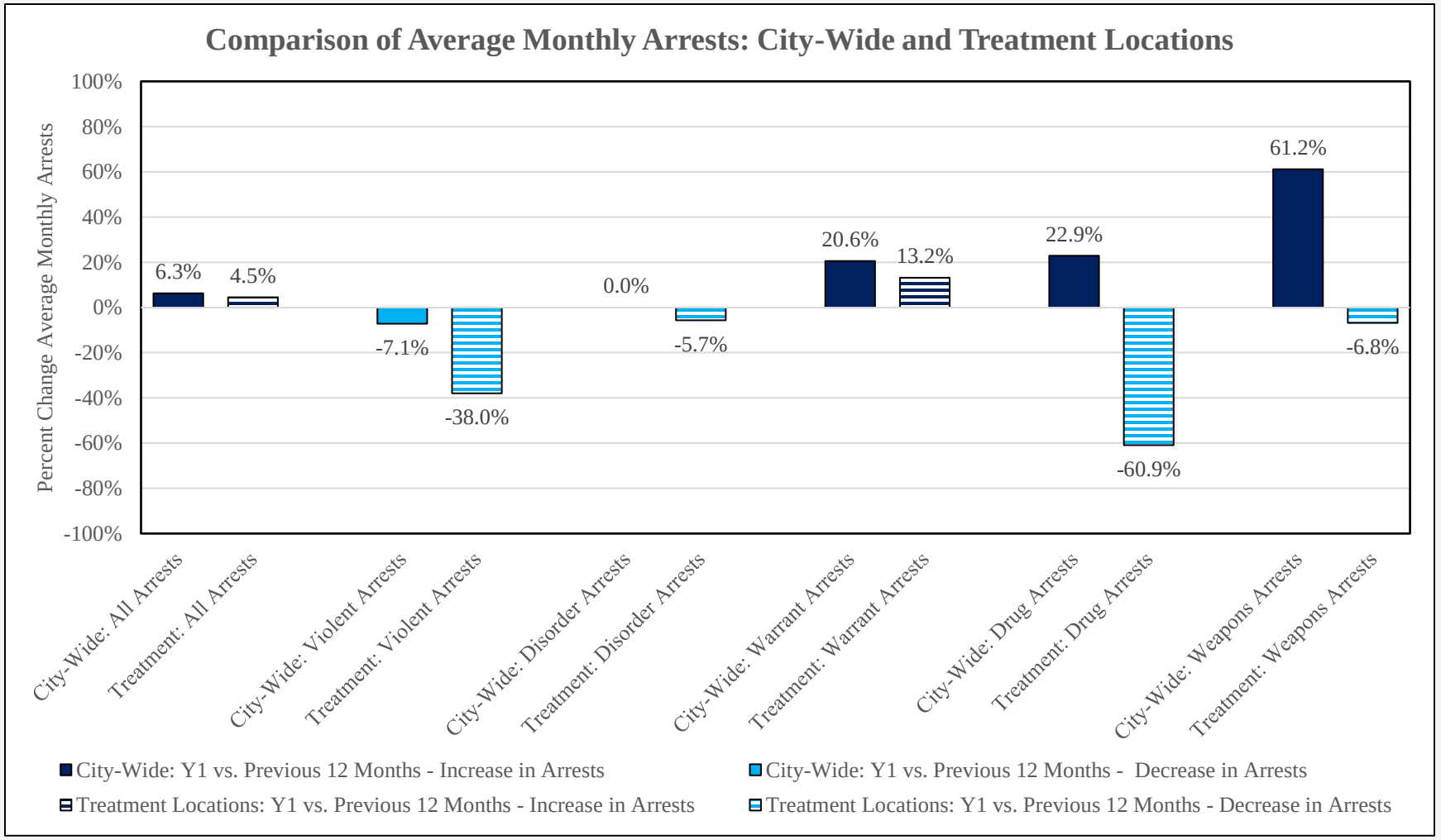
Robberies - Businesses: 41.6% reduction

Aggravated Assaults (non-family): 17.2% reduction

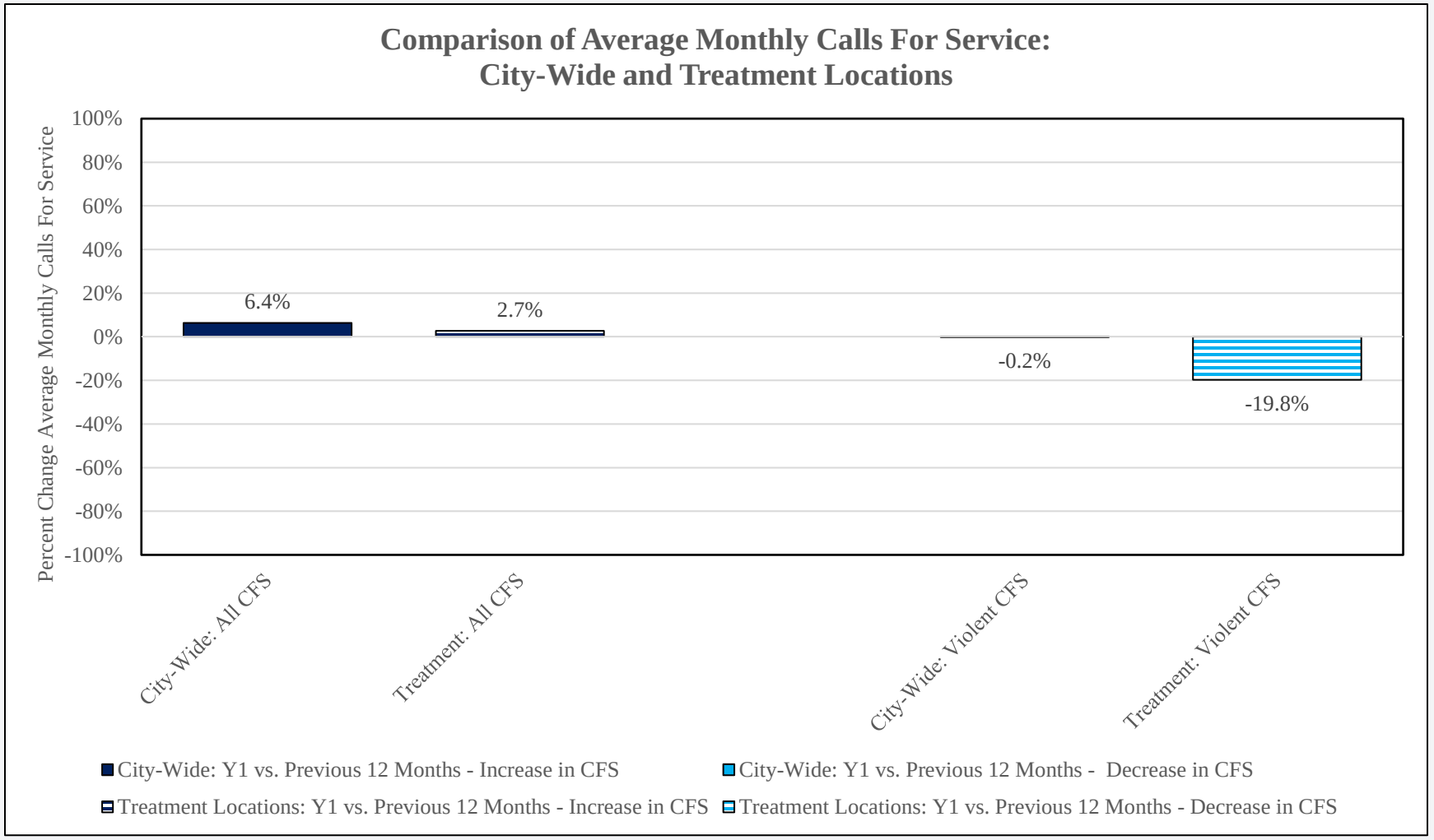
Violent Crime Change in Hot Spots



Change in Arrests



Change in Calls for Service



Treatment Fidelity

Treatment Periods	Fidelity Rate
Period 1	91.8%
Period 2	96.9%
Period 3	97.0%
Period 4	98.2%
Period 5	98.1%

Year 1 Summary (1 of 2)

- **Tacoma experienced a 17.5% decrease in violent street crime incidents in Year 1 of the Crime Plan** compared to the previous 12 months. Yearly violent crime counts remain substantially higher than they were prior to the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

- **Violent crime in treated hot spots was down more than 25% compared to the previous year,** and it was down a similar amount in surrounding catchment areas, indicating that crime displacement did not occur as a result of the hot spots treatment.

- Total arrests were up slightly city-wide and in hot spots during Year 1 of the Crime Plan, but **violence-related arrests, drug arrests, and illegal weapons arrests were down 38%, 61%, and 7%, respectively, in the hot spot areas**.

Year 1 Summary (2 of 2)

- **Violence-related calls were down nearly 20% in the treated hot spots.**

- Taken together, the hot spot results, along with an interrupted time-series analysis of violent crime pre- and post-implementation of the Crime Plan, provide **strong evidence that the Crime Plan's focus on hot spots was likely responsible for a 17% reduction in city-wide violent crime compared to the previous year.**

Next Steps – Mid-Term Strategy

- Problem-Oriented, Place-Based Policing (POPBP)
  - POPBP strategies are **carefully tailored to address underlying conditions that contribute to recurring problems** in crime-prone locations and can be **more effective at reducing crime than** merely increasing or intensifying **traditional police activities**.
- Initial location: **8810/8820 Hosmer Street**
- POPBP Working Group has developed an operations plan for the area
- The working group has begun implementation, and data collection is underway
- Engagement with stakeholders and community members in the area have already produced improvements
- The site likely will move into a maintenance phase in the near future
- An additional site(s) will be identified soon

UTSA Evaluation

- **Hot spot policing evaluation and reporting continues**
- **POPBP**
  - Monitor data collection processes
  - Advise on any emerging issues or concerns
  - **Conduct process & impact evaluation** of the POPBP
  - **Follow key outcome metrics over time** (e.g., 24-36 months) to track long-term impacts
  - **Mid Year 2 report (Jan-Feb 2024) will include initial evaluation of** POPBP impact on Hosmer Street

Questions?

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Supplemental Information

- Diff-in-diff

Table 1: Difference in Difference Models – Year 1 Treatment Effect

	Coefficient	Robust Std. Err.	Impact on Crime
Average Treatment Effect	-.06	.012	-3.6%
***p≤0.001, **p≤0.01, *p≤0.05. This model controls for 3 months of pre-treatment crime.			

- Crime remains substantially higher in Tacoma than it was before Covid
  - Murder (July to June yearly totals)
    - 2018 19
    - 2019 24
    - 2020 27
    - 2021 45
    - 2022 33

Supplemental Information

- Aggravated assault counts (July to June)
  - 2018 487
  - 2019 561
  - 2020 742
  - 2021 1328
  - 2022 1100
- See Appendix B from the report for additional crime counts by type and month