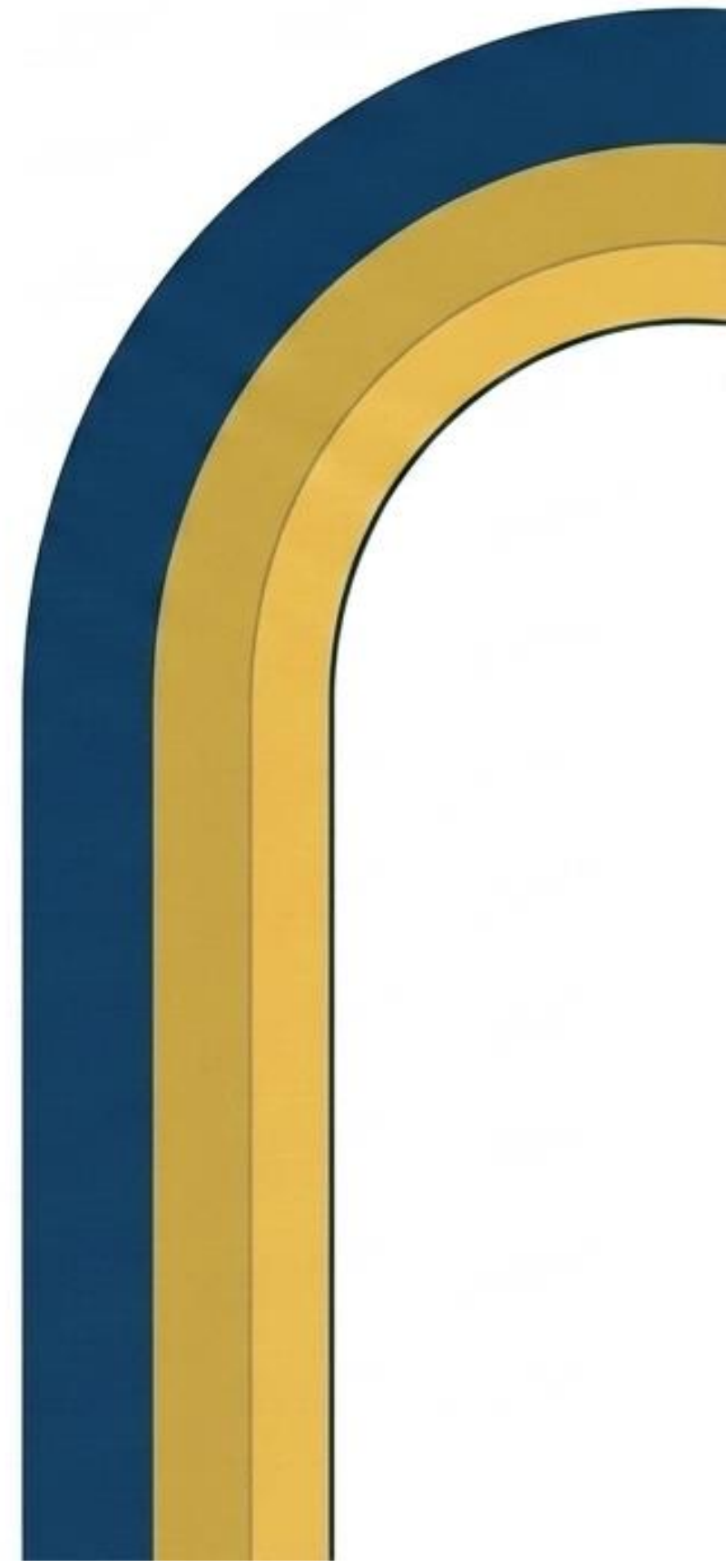


Building a Safer Durham



An Update on the City/County Violence
Reduction Planning Process.



**WE ARE
HERE**



Core Takeaway: We are transitioning from Phase 1 to Phase 2. The June Summit is the operational mechanism to achieve this shift.

Top-Down Ecosystem Analysis (Vera Institute, Feb 2026)

The Diagnosis: Robust but Distributed.

- Durham is resource-rich across prevention and intervention, but implementation is scattered.
- No single entity holds comprehensive responsibility for holistic performance.
- Coordination relies on fragile personal relationships rather than institutional infrastructure.

Bottom-Up Community Reality (15+ Listening Sessions, Feb - May, 2026)

The Diagnosis: Resource-Rich but Execution-Poor.

- Hundreds of non-profits exist, yet interventions fail to reach the highest-risk residents.
- Communities see duplicative work without centralized coordination.
- Residents face fragmented intake systems, inaccessible services, and broken trust.

Unified Conclusion: Durham does not necessarily need more programs; it requires an architectural structure to coordinate, target, and manage the assets it already possesses.

National evidence points toward coordinated deterrence, intervention, and ecosystem alignment

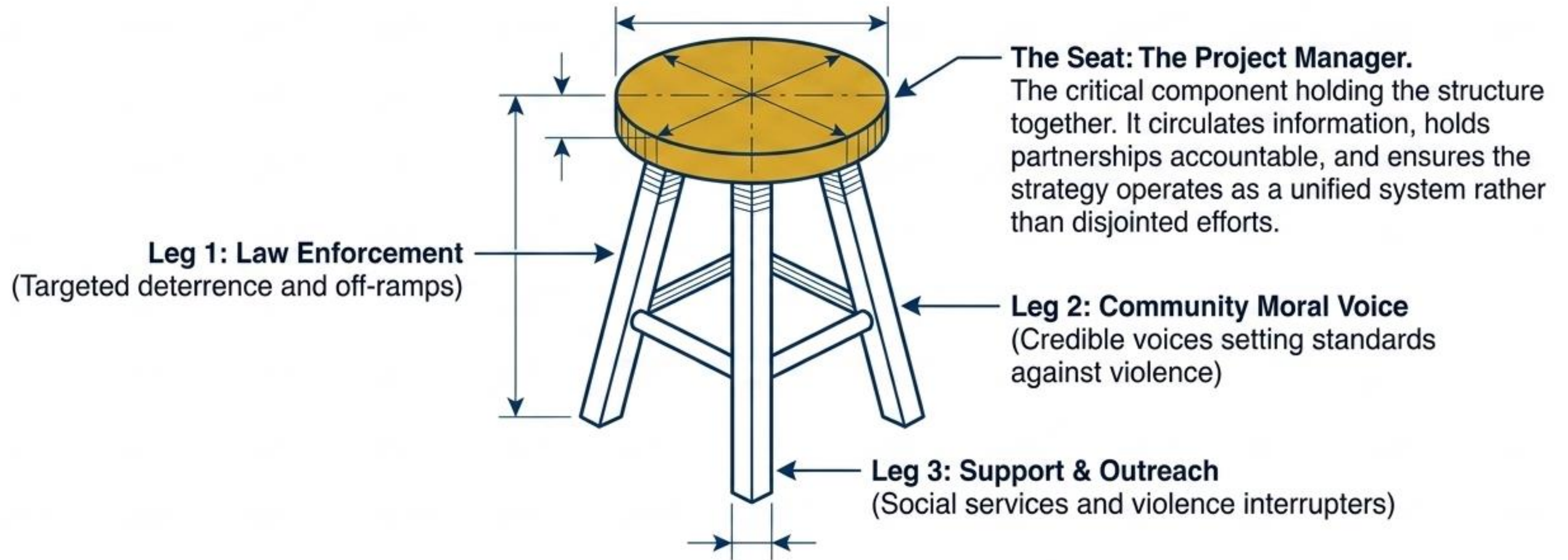


Strategy is further informed by ongoing consultations with Newark, Detroit, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Richmond, the Urban Institute, and UPenn's Crime and Justice Policy (CJP) Lab.

The Evidence-Based Intervention Matrix

Strategy	Core Mechanism	Target Population	Proven Outcomes
Group Violence Intervention (GVI)	Combines law enforcement, community moral voice, and social services.	Persons at highest risk of violence.	Oakland saw a 31% reduction in gun homicides.
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)	Subsidized jobs alongside impulse control and trauma treatment.	Young men at highest risk.	Chicago's READI program showed 63% fewer arrests.
Place-Based Strategies	Hot spots policing combined with beautification and lighting.	Violence-concentrated micro-locations.	Small but meaningful crime reductions in Philadelphia with positive spillover.
Street Outreach	Credible mediators de-escalate conflicts and link to services.	Individuals in active conflicts.	Baltimore's Safe Streets cut homicides by 32%.

The Blueprint for Coordinated Action: The Project Manager as the Keystone



Proof Point: When all legs function together under strong management, results are dramatic—Pine Bluff, AR achieved over 500 days without a juvenile homicide using this precise structure.

Laying the foundation: Three parallel workstreams ensure the Summit is grounded in operational reality

Track 1: Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA)

Identifying the precise local drivers and micro-locations of violence

Track 2: Targeted Community Outreach

Closing demographic gaps to ensure comprehensive community input

Track 3: The 6 Key Capacities Assessment

Establishing a baseline of Durham's institutional readiness

June
Summit

The diagram consists of three horizontal bars on the left, each representing a workstream. The top bar is dark blue, the middle bar is light blue, and the bottom bar is dark blue. Each bar tapers to the right and points towards a large green arrow on the right side of the image. The green arrow points upwards and is labeled 'June Summit' in white text.

Establishing an empirical baseline through a Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA).

Partnership

University of Pennsylvania's Crime and Justice Policy (CJP) Lab (Funded by Everytown for Gun Safety).

The Data Scope

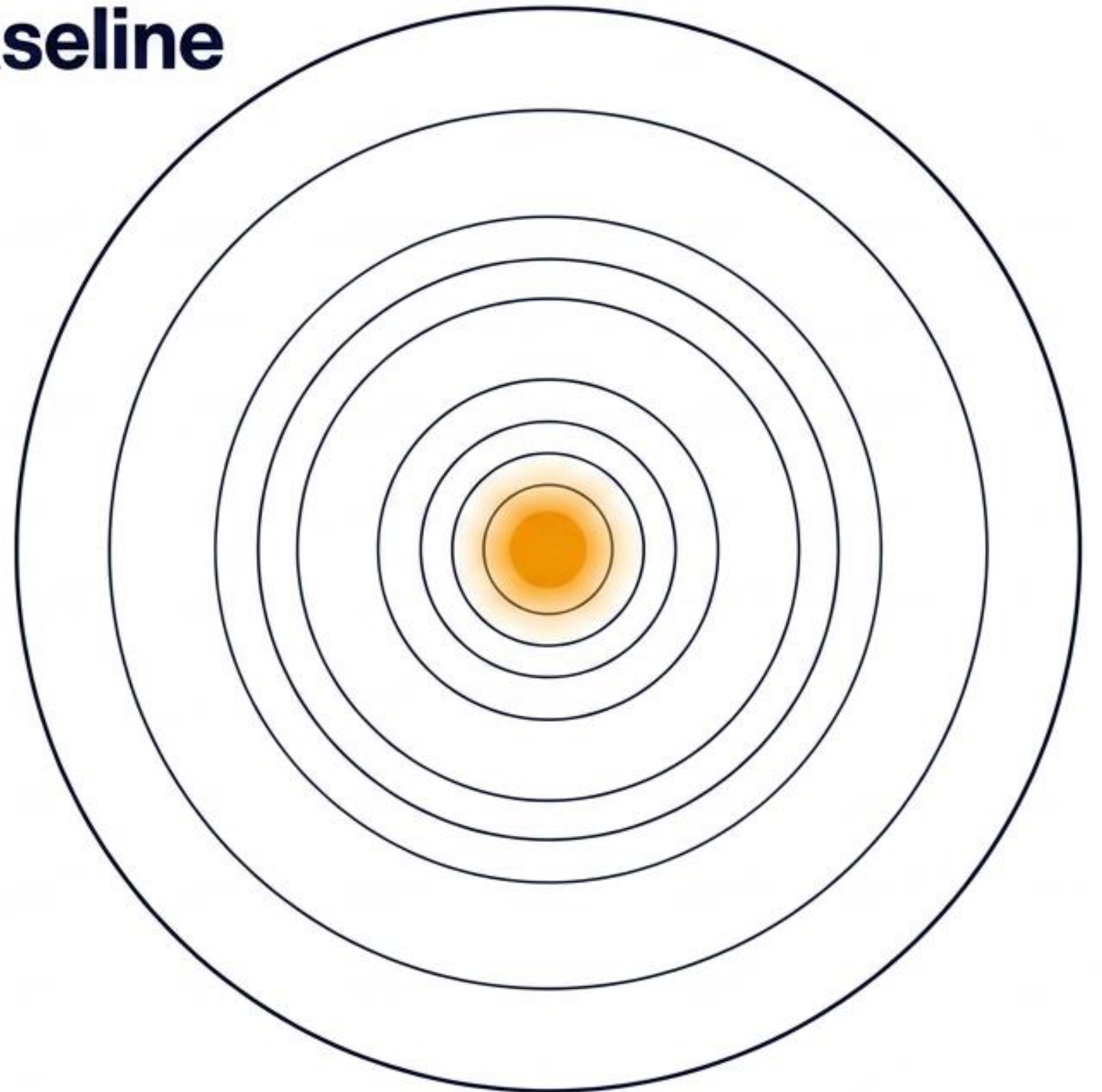
Analyzing all homicides (2023–2025) and all non-fatal shootings (2025).

The Objective

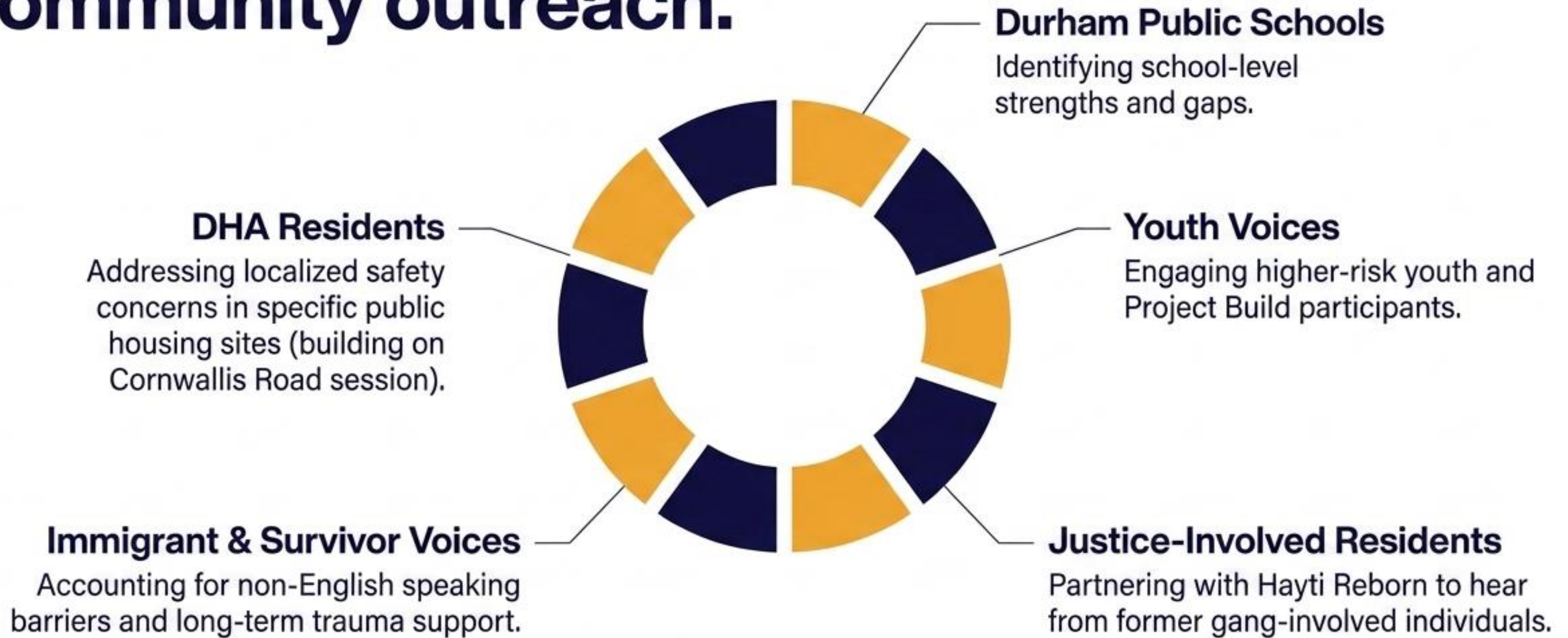
Moving past anecdotal evidence to identify the precise motives, circumstances, and risk factors driving local violence.

The Expected Reality

National data indicates violence is typically hyper-concentrated in micro-locations among a small number of individuals with extensive justice system histories.



Closing critical feedback loops through targeted community outreach.

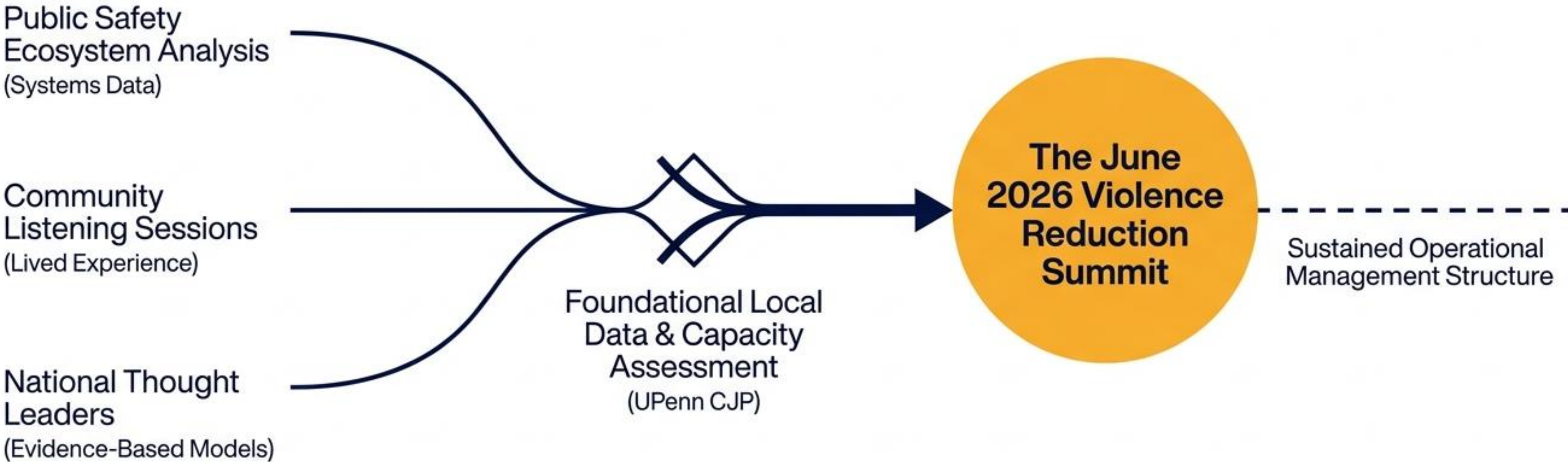


Assessing our operational baseline across six key capacities

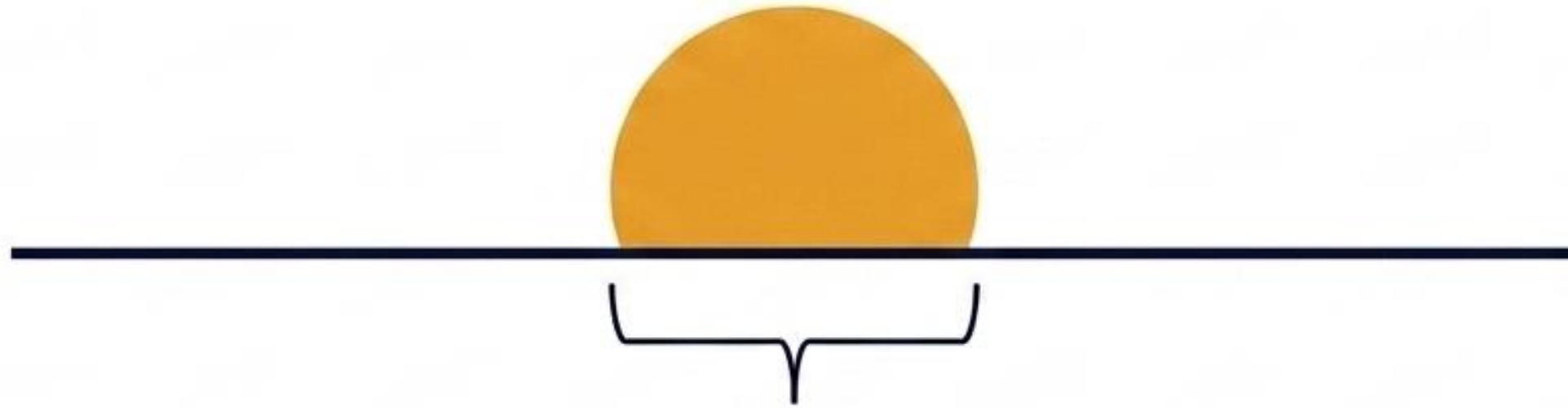
UPenn CJP is conducting qualitative interviews with 6-8 public safety leaders to baseline these metrics before the Summit.



Multiple streams of insight are converging toward a single point of action.



The Convergence Point: June 2026 Violence Reduction Summit



The North Star

To identify and align around a set of evidence-informed strategies that Durham will advance to reduce community violence and begin saving lives next year.

Core Objective:

Jointly understand the nature of our local challenge and align our operational capacities to meet it.

Post-Summit: Engineering the engine for implementation.



■ **The Output:**

The Summit will yield specific strategy recommendations and an operational road map.

■ **The Next Phase:**

Partnering with UPenn CJP to design an operational management team, clear processes, and performance review mechanisms.

■ **The Ultimate Goal:**

Translating political will into a sustainable management structure that drives initial violence reductions within a calendar year.

Post-Summit Execution: Building the unbroken operational engine to drive reductions

The Reality: We cannot just pick a strategy; we must build the machinery to run it. UPenn CJP will assist Durham in designing a centralized operational management structure.

