

Philadelphia police use undercover drug buys to locate guns used in homicides.

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The Violence Response Team, a unit housed within the Philadelphia Police Department's Narcotics Bureau, is sent into a neighborhood following a shooting because city leaders see a direct correlation between shootings and narcotics.

The team consists of undercover officers led by a sergeant.

"Once there's been a shooting, they go in, make undercover narcotics purchases, execute search warrants and try to recover guns," says Assistant District Attorney **Scott Sigman**, who's assigned to the Special Narcotics Prosecution Unit. "We've got a wide variety of techniques - undercover buys to buy-busts. We try to link it to a house where we'll find the evidence."



The aggressive tactics produce results, Sigman says.

"We're buying everything you can imagine," he says. "Last week we had a guy with a pound of meth [methamphetamine] and explosives. We had another bust with 27 kilos."

