

Crime Mapping News



A Quarterly Newsletter for GIS, Crime Mapping, and Policing

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The topic of this issue of the *Crime Mapping News* is Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a national effort to reduce firearms violence in the United States. The articles in this issue cover topics including 1) an overview of the mission and goals of the PSN program; 2) a discussion of the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership, a program that has contributed to reductions in homicides, gun-related assaults, and armed robberies in Indianapolis, IN; and 3) an overview of the St. Louis Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI), with the goal of reducing the high levels of firearms violence in St. Louis, MO. Also included in this issue is an announcement and instructions for obtaining our latest publication, *Problem Analysis in Policing*.

Project Safe Neighborhoods: An Overview

by Greg Jones, Graduate Research Intern
Police Foundation Crime Mapping Laboratory

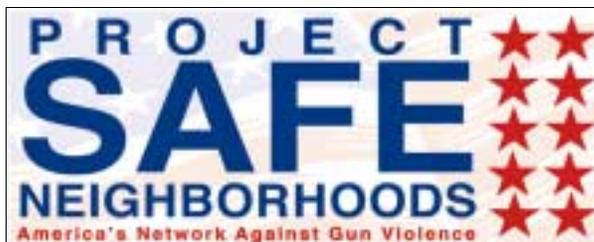
Introduction

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategy involving the collaboration of federal, state, and local agencies and officials to reduce gun violence in America. The types of agencies involved range from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to law enforcement agencies and local community groups (e.g., faith-based organizations). The emphasis of this initiative is placed on the development, implementation, and evaluation of long-term solutions tailored to each community's gun violence problem to create safer and more viable communities.

The support for the PSN initiative comes directly from the Bush Administration. Over the last two years, the Administration has committed a total of \$533 million to this effort. Specifically, in the 2001 budget, \$75 million was allotted to hire and train approximately 600 new gun prosecutors, and \$44 million was provided for state criminal history records improvement grants.

Five Elements of PSN

Proponents of PSN argue that over the years, various crime reduction initiatives have not had a significant impact on gun violence in the United States. Increasing arrests and prosecutions cannot effectively reduce the problem. Rather, the combination of building effective partnerships, analysis of crime and other data, and continuous training of law enforcement officers and prosecutors is a more comprehensive approach to such a complex problem. Thus, Project



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Safe Neighborhoods is composed of five elements that entail the participation of several key agencies:

- **Partnerships:** This element requires that every United States Attorney coordinate gun-related partnerships at the federal, state, and local level.
- **Strategic Plan:** Each United States Attorney incorporates three national priorities into the unique strategic plan for their district:
 1. Increased prosecution of violent organizations using federal conspiracy and all other available laws,
 2. Heightened enforcement of all federal laws against illegal gun traffickers, and
 3. Renewed aggressive enforcement of federal firearm laws against those persons prohibited from possessing firearms or those who use them in furtherance of illegal activities.
- **Training:** Specialized training is provided for federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors to maintain an edge and keep them up-to-date on current laws and trends that affect law enforcement. The regional cross-training involves collaboration between the ATF, the National District Attorneys Association, and local law enforcement. Other training includes the International Association of Chiefs of Police Gun Interdiction Technical Assistance Project and the Police Executive Research Forum firearms training for state and local law enforcement.
- **Outreach:** This element involves a partnership between PSN and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) to prepare a national outreach campaign to make criminals and citizens aware of this new approach to gun violence. The outreach materials include TV commercials, educational literature, and brochures, which are all part of the PSN Communication Tool Kit designed specifically for the local initiative in that district.
- **Accountability:** To assess the effectiveness of gun violence reduction plans, each United States Attorney, with the assistance of a research team, reports bi-annually to the Attorney General of the United States on four general areas:
 1. The nature of the partnerships with federal,

“Much of the emphasis of this national project is placed on the development, implementation, and evaluation of long-term solutions to create safer communities where residents can thrive.”

state, and local agencies and officials, and the community,

2. The nature and prevalence of gun crime and violence in the community, the reduction strategies adopted, and how the impact of those strategies is measured,
3. How the local gun crime reduction initiative is being publicized, and
4. Whether the partnership has taken advantage of training opportunities and/or has conducted training at the local level.

These reports are reviewed by experts in each of the five PSN elements who provide feedback, identify model programs, and assist those who are experiencing implementation problems.

Summary

These five elements, the participation of key agencies, and direct support from the Bush Administration combine to form a united front committed to curbing gun violence in the United States. Much of the emphasis of this national project is placed on the development, implementation, and evaluation of long-term solutions to create safer communities where residents can thrive. Some partnerships within Project Safe Neighborhoods continue to build upon previous successful responses to gun violence, such as the Operation Ceasefire Project in Boston, MA, the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership (discussed on pp. 3-5 of this newsletter), and Project Exile in Richmond, VA.

The information for this article was taken from the Project Safe Neighborhoods Web site (www.psn.gov) and from Professor Edmund McGarrell's article beginning on page 3 of this newsletter.

Greg Jones is a Graduate Research Intern in the Police Foundation's Crime Mapping Laboratory. He can be contacted via telephone at 202-833-1460.

Project Safe Neighborhoods and Problem Solving: The Indianapolis Experience

by Edmund F. McGarrell

Director and Professor of the School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a major federal initiative intended to reduce firearms violence in communities across the United States. PSN is being implemented by task forces that are coordinated by the 93 United States Attorneys across the country. In the Southern District of Indiana, PSN builds on a successful violence reduction initiative that has been operating in Indianapolis since January 1998. The Indianapolis program, known as the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership (IVRP), was part of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI). SACSI was implemented in ten cities and called for applying a strategic problem-solving process to reduce violence in each community.

Multi-Agency Collaboration

The problem-solving approach in Indianapolis has been based on a multi-agency partnership involving all the local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies serving the Indianapolis area; community partners including the faith community, Weed and Seed, neighborhood leaders and service providers, a media/outreach partner; and a research team from the Hudson Institute and Indiana University.

A working group that included representatives from all the participating agencies implemented the IVRP and began meeting in January 1998 for a two-hour meeting every other week since that time. The working group employs a problem-solving process involving ongoing problem analysis that leads to both immediate responses to violence on the streets as well as a focus on longer-term policy and system issues. An additional key element of the

IVRP is an incident review action team. The action team reviews all recent firearms violence incidents to uncover patterns and associations that may suggest points of intervention. The action team has evolved over time (e.g., from meeting every other week to meeting once per month) but has clearly been most effective when able to get knowledgeable street-level officers (police, probation and parole, prosecutors, gang and narcotics officers) in the same room discussing specific incidents, locations, group affiliations, and similar patterns. Two other key groups within the IVRP are a policymaker group consisting of the agency heads of all the participating agencies and a communications subcommittee.

Problem Analysis

At the time that the IVRP was implemented, Indianapolis was experiencing a significant homicide and firearms violence problem. Indeed, from 1994 through 1997, the city experienced record-setting levels of homicide. A variety of analytic techniques were used and have continued to be used to assess the violence problem. This included trend analysis of UCR offenses known and calls for service, crime mapping, analysis of criminal histories of homicide victims and suspects,

IVRP: The Partnership

Federal

- FBI
- DEA
- US Attorney's Office
- US Marshals Service
- ATF

State

- Department of Correction
- State Police

Local

- Police
- Mayor's Office
- Prosecutor
- Sheriff's Dept.
- Probation
- Marion County Justice Agency
- 10 Point Coalition
- Weed & Seed
- Hudson Institute & Indiana University

crime gun tracing, analysis of probation and parole records, and group reviews of homicides and firearms crime incidents.

The picture that emerged was similar to that witnessed in many urban cities. Firearms violence predominantly involved young men in particular geographic areas of the city. Homicide victims and suspects tend to look much like one another and have extensive prior criminal histories. Much of the firearms violence in Indianapolis also involved some connection to illegal drug sales, and many of the participants in violence were also known to be part of groups of chronic offenders. These groups included fairly well-organized gangs as well as neighborhood crews or cliques of offenders.

Strategic Interventions

Based on this analysis, the IVRP developed a strategic plan that is made actionable in the bi-weekly working group meetings. The overall strategy adopted was one that combined focused deterrence with a commitment to linking potential offenders to legitimate opportunities and services. Essentially, the working group recognized that it could not address all the shortcomings of the criminal justice system but that it could increase the likelihood of sanctions for the illegal possession and use of firearms. It also recognized that the deterrence message needed to be communicated in as many ways as possible to those most at risk of being involved in violence. At the same time, there was a commitment to linking these potential offenders and victims to legitimate opportunities.

Some of the key vehicles for putting the strategy in place were offender notification meetings, probation-parole-police home visits to high risk probationers and parolees, warrant service to high risk offenders, directed police patrol, faith-based and social service outreach to potential offenders, joint local-federal firearms unit screening of all firearms cases, and the development of a list of the most chronic violent offenders based on prior involvement in violence. The strategies primarily included suppression and intervention approaches while building connections to more prevention-oriented approaches existing in the community.

Impact

Assessing the impact of a citywide, multi-component intervention like SACSI and PSN is extremely complex. Thus, the positive findings that emerge from Indianapolis should be considered with this qualification in mind. The IVRP interventions were initiated in late 1998 and early 1999 with full implementation occurring with the arrest and federal

prosecution of a gang heavily involved in violence and drug distribution in the spring of 1999. Analysis of the trend in violence indicated an approximate 40% reduction in homicide, gun assaults, and armed

“With the implementation of PSN, the IVRP (Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership) has had a renewed infusion of resources and enthusiasm. The additional firearms prosecutors have led to a doubling of federal prosecutions for firearms offenses.”

robberies when comparing an approximate two-year period pre- and post-April 1999. Additional evidence came from interviews with recently arrested individuals who reported an increase in the perceived likelihood of arrest, prosecution, and incarceration for firearms violence. Finally, homicides following the intervention were less likely to involve firearms, victims and

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the *Crime Mapping News* will include a summary and discussion of the results of the Crime Mapping Laboratory's training course, *Advanced Problem Analysis, Crime Analysis, & Crime Mapping*, which was held from April 22nd through May 1st, 2003, as well as descriptions of all the publications and products that have been developed during the Crime Mapping Laboratory's six-year partnership with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

If you are interested in contributing to a future issue of the *Crime Mapping News*, please contact the Crime Mapping Laboratory at:

(202) 833-1460

suspects described as part of a group of chronic offenders, and drugs. Homicides also became less geographically concentrated. Although these post-intervention shifts were not dramatic, taken collectively, they suggested that the dimensions of violence that were the focus of the interventions seem to have been affected.

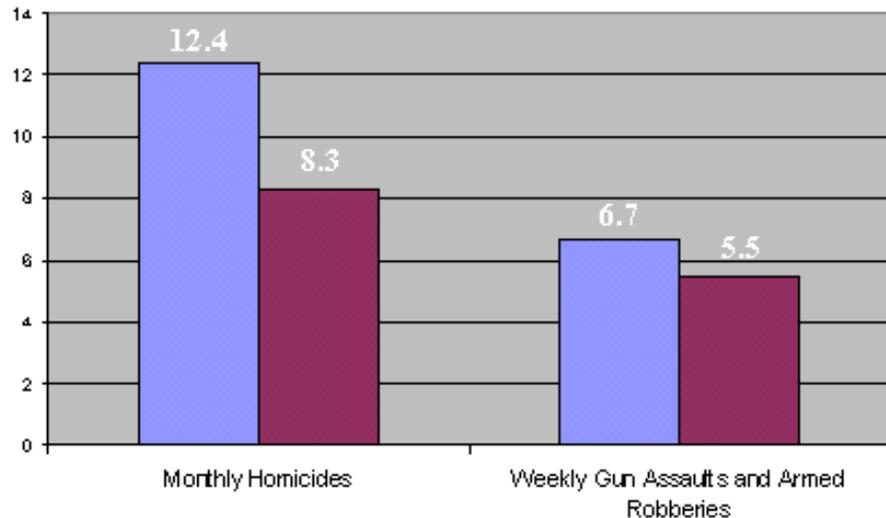
PSN

With the implementation of PSN, the IVRP has had a renewed infusion of resources and enthusiasm. The additional firearms prosecutors have led to a doubling of federal prosecutions for firearms offenses. A new street enforcement unit involving local law enforcement and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has been implemented. A secure Web-based technology system has been developed that allows continual distribution of information about recent violence incidents among working group members and other criminal justice officials. Finally, PSN also provides the resources for a sustained media and public outreach campaign.

Summary

Early on in the experience of the IVRP, several experienced criminal justice officials lamented, "Oh no, not one more task force." Today, those same individuals are some of the strongest proponents of PSN. They, along with 25-30 other busy professionals, including police officers, prosecutors, probation officers, federal agents, and city officials, continue to meet every other week as they have for nearly six years. One of the key reasons for this level of commitment is the problem-solving approach. The linkage of analysis

Indianapolis Homicides, Gun Assaults & Armed Robberies (1/1/97-6/30/01), Pre- and Post-Intervention



and action is seen as providing a focus to the meetings, and more importantly, action between meetings has distinguished IVRP and PSN from so many task forces that lack the discipline provided by commitment to the problem-solving model. Indianapolis officials are hopeful that commitment to problem solving will lead to further reductions in firearms violence and ultimately lead to a reduction in both gunshot victims as well as the number of young men committing such offenses.

Edmund F. McGarrell is Director and Professor of the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. From 1998 - 2001, he served as the research partner of the IVRP. He is now the Principal Investigator (along with Timothy Bynum) of Michigan State's project to provide research-based training, technical assistance, and research to Project Safe Neighborhoods. He can be contacted via e-mail at Edmund.McGarrell@ssc.msu.edu.

Note from the Editors: The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Police Foundation or the COPS Office. In addition, only light editing has been made to the articles in order to keep each author's voice and tone.

Applying a Problem-Solving Model in a High-Crime City: The St. Louis Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative

by Scott H. Decker, PhD, Shannan M. Catalano, MA, and G. David Curry, PhD
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Introduction

The Boston Ceasefire Project receives considerable attention from police practitioners and the research community. The Boston intervention used a problem-solving model to analyze the dimensions of the youth firearm violence problem in Boston and crafted interventions based on the results of that analysis. The intervention was also characterized by a large number of partnerships. These partnerships existed within law enforcement groups (police, prosecutors, probation officers), across jurisdictional boundaries (federal, state, and local), and with community groups (particularly the ministerial group known as the Ten Point Coalition). The result of this intervention was a sustained reduction of substantial proportions in the youth firearm violence problem in Boston.

Despite the apparent successes in Boston, some concern existed that methods such as those employed in Boston were less likely to work in cities characterized by very high levels of youth homicide. After all, despite the increases in violence, the Boston homicide rate had never ranked among the highest cities. In addition, because Boston dominates the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in terms of population, cooperation between criminal justice groups in Boston was higher than might be the case in MSAs where the central city is a much smaller proportion of the overall population.

The Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI) was part of the National Institute of Justice's response to the high rates of violence experienced in many large American cities from the late 1980s to the mid 1990s. St. Louis was included as part of the second group of five cities that participated in the SACSI process, beginning in October 2000. St. Louis was joined by Detroit, MI; Atlanta, GA; Albuquerque, NM; and Rochester, NY among the 2000 SACSI cities. Each of these cities had homicide rates that exceeded those of Boston; Detroit, Atlanta, and St. Louis consistently rank among the top ten cities in the country in terms of homicide rates per 100,000 population.

Scanning and Analysis

The late 1980s and early 1990s were periods of high rates of youth violence, a significant fraction of which involved the use of a firearm. This pattern was true for the city of St. Louis as well as the nation.

Levels of youth firearm violence in St. Louis have been well above those for the United States. For the years 1991 to 1993, the city's homicide rate ranked it among the top three of large cities, with a homicide

“The late 1980s and early 1990s were periods of high rates of youth violence, a significant fraction of which involved the use of a firearm. This pattern was true for the city of St. Louis as well as the nation.”

rate of nearly 70 per 100,000 residents recorded in 1991, while the US rate was closer to 8 per 100,000. The increase in homicide was most pronounced among those under 18 years of age and those aged 18 to 24, with the number of

homicide victims in 1990 to 1992 twice that of 1980 to 1982 and the number of homicide suspects in that age group tripling for the latter period. Firearms were disproportionately involved in homicides involving people under age 24, as guns were responsible for causing death in more than 90% of these cases. Mirroring national patterns, young black males, especially those aged 15 to 24, were the most likely victims of homicide in St. Louis. In 1990 to 1992, homicide rates for black males 15 to 19 exceeded 380 per 100,000, and those for black males aged 20 to 24 reached 600 per 100,000. For these groups, firearms accounted for virtually all deaths—99% of the younger age group and 97% of the older group.

St. Louis is a particularly appropriate site for research on and interventions to stem criminal violence, in part because of its extremely high rates of homicide. Nearly all of the increase in homicides since the late 1980s was accounted for by the increase in gun homicides, and this increase, in turn, is concentrated in the younger age groups. During the early 1990s, the homicide rate for black males between the ages of 15 and 19 was more than 5 times higher than the record rate for the city as a whole. The rate for 20 to 24 year-old black males was almost twice that of the younger age group—an astounding 626 per 100,000. St. Louis is an appropriate site for such interventions for another

reason. The correspondence between US and St. Louis homicide rates over the thirty-year period from 1960 to 1990 is remarkably strong. When converted to standard scores, the correlation between the two data series is nearly .95, suggesting that interventions that change local patterns may have national relevance.

Additionally, there is a strong spatial concentration of indicators of violence, particularly the distribution of homicides, firearm recoveries, and shots fired calls to the 911 (CAD) system. The distribution of these indicators of violence in the city has historically been located within several distinct hotspots of violence. Twelve of the city's 79 neighborhoods account for roughly half of the homicides. In addition, individuals involved in homicide—whether as victims or offenders—had extensive criminal histories. Ninety percent of suspects and 79% of victims had a prior felony criminal history, and roughly one-quarter of each group was serving a term of probation or parole. Data from the Trauma Department of the Level I Trauma Center indicated that a large proportion of shooting victims (perhaps as high as one-third) have been treated for gunshot wounds in the past, and many gunshot wound victims do not appear in police records.

Interventions

The key findings that the working group took from these analyses to help shape the interventions

included the strong spatial concentration of violence, the involvement of homicide victims and offenders in prior offending, and the key role of the Trauma Department at the Level I Trauma Center in responding to violence. Members of the SACSI working group developed three key interventions. These included: (1) the Most Violent Offenders program, now known as the Worst of the Worst (WOW); (2) the Fifth District Initiative; and (3) the Trauma Intervention Project (TIP).

WOW is based on the premise and data which suggest that a small fraction of offenders are engaged in a large volume of offending and that by pursuing these individuals with vertical prosecution, vigorous summons and warrant enforcement, and attention from multiple law enforcement groups (federal and local as well as gang, drug, and tactical units within the police department), a reduction in crime could be achieved. A number of criteria have been developed for inclusion on the list, key among them is being wanted for a homicide or Armed Criminal Action, as well as having a warrant refused for such offenses. The goal of WOW is to take high-rate offenders off the street, and in doing so, to curb retaliatory violence.

The Fifth District Initiative has been the most important of the three initiatives. The Fifth District incorporates just over 4 square miles and roughly 28,000 residents. Despite its small geographic and population size, the district recorded 20 homicides in the

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Rachel Boba, PhD, Director

Mary Velasco, Research Associate

Greg Jones, Graduate Research Intern

year 2000 and 25 in the year 2001, a two-year average of 82 homicides per 100,000—nearly double the city-level average and 11 times greater than the US average. The analysis of homicides found considerable gang involvement in homicide, both on the part of victims and perpetrators, and high numbers of multiple victim and multiple suspect homicides. As a consequence, both the Gang Unit and the Tactical Unit spent considerable time in the Fifth District everyday. In addition, the undercover drug unit and detectives from the Central Patrol Area invested more time in this District. The US Attorney and the Circuit Attorney (state-level prosecutor) paid special attention to gun cases that came from this District. The goal of the Fifth District Initiative is to provide visible suppression of criminal conduct, rapid prosecution, and support to a beleaguered community. While not conclusive evidence, homicides in the Fifth District fell to 17 in 2002, and as of April 10, 2003, no homicides have been recorded in the Fifth District. In addition, serious assaults have declined in the College Hill neighborhood (the center of the initiative) from 3.16 violent incidents per month for the six months prior to the intervention to 1.21 violent incidents per month in the 13 months since the intervention was initiated.

The Trauma Intervention Project is perhaps the most compelling and tenuous of the initiatives. This initiative was tenuous because of the newly formed partnership between medical and law enforcement personnel. TIP included cross-training police and trauma personnel, improving the chain of evidence for bullets and other possessions, better communication between trauma and police personnel, in-house counseling with victims of violence (VOV), and follow-up from the Emergency Department to the neighborhoods to monitor and counsel victims of violence. In addition, more police attention was proposed for the “hangers-on” in and around the Emergency Room whose friends were being attended to by medical personnel. While a protocol for training was developed, and certain chain of custody issues were resolved, the departure of the Trauma Leader in August 2002 had severe negative consequences for the program, and it essentially lays dormant at this time.

Conclusions

The St. Louis experience with SACSII has demonstrated that even in a city with high levels of violence and limited experience in problem solving across agencies, this process can be integrated effectively. The intervention has also achieved success in contributing to declines in assaultive violence in a

targeted area. The key to these successes has been leadership within the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and the US Attorney’s Office.

What has been more difficult to achieve, however, has been sustained partnerships between law enforcement agencies and other groups. This is hardly a novel finding for St. Louis or other locations (Decker and Curry, 2003), but does illustrate the difficulty of forging and sustaining new partnerships. Of considerable importance in St. Louis has been the development of new, unanticipated products of the initiative. One promising product has been the bi-weekly meeting between an Assistant US Attorney; a state level prosecutor; two representatives of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. This group reviews every arrest in which a gun was involved to determine the appropriate venue for prosecution (federal or state) based on the strength of the case, penalties available in each system, and other considerations. The SACSII process is consistent with the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) approach, and the experience with SACSII has enabled St. Louis to make a smooth and effective transition toward achieving the goals of PSN.

Reference

Decker, Scott H. and G. David Curry. (2003). “Suppression Without Intervention, Intervention Without Suppression: Gang Intervention in St. Louis.” Pp. 189-213, in S. Decker (Editor), *Policing Gangs and Youth Violence*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

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PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Police Foundation's Crime Mapping Laboratory would like to announce the release of its latest report,

PROBLEM ANALYSIS IN POLICING

authored by Rachel Boba, PhD, Director of the Crime Mapping Laboratory.

This is the full report from which the Executive Summary was published in the *Crime Mapping News* as Volume 5, Issue 1, Winter 2003. The aims of this report are to introduce and define problem analysis and to provide guidance on how problem analysis can be integrated and institutionalized into modern policing practices. The report is not a "how to" guide on conducting problem analysis, but is a summary of ideas and recommendations about what problem analysis is, what skills and knowledge are necessary to conduct it, and how it can be advanced by the police community, academia, the federal government, and other institutions.

Electronic copies of the report can be obtained on the Police Foundation or COPS Office Web sites at:

www.policefoundation.org

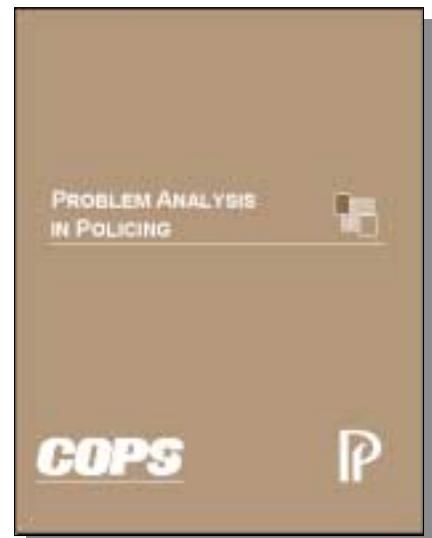
or

www.cops.usdoj.gov

Hard copies of the report can be obtained by submitting an order form, available on the Police Foundation's Web site at www.policefoundation.org/pdf/problemanalysisorderform.pdf. Instructions for submitting the order via mail, fax, or e-mail are provided on the form.

...the basic premise in problem-oriented policing is that the acquisition of knowledge informs practice.

- Herman Goldstein



Upcoming Conferences and Training

August

Rio Hondo Public Safety Training Center:
ArcView Training
August 11-15, 2003
Whittier, CA
Contact: Bob Feliciano,
bfeliciano@riohondo.edu or (562) 692-0921

Crime Mapping & Analysis Program (CMAP):
ArcView Training
August 18-22, 2003
Denver, CO
Contact: Danelle Digiosio,
ddigiosi@du.edu or (800) 416-8086

September

California Crime and Intelligence Analysts
Association (CCIAA) Annual Conference
September 4-5, 2003
San Diego, CA
www.crimeanalyst.org

Fourth Annual Western Pennsylvania GIS
Conference
September 5, 2003
Canonsburgh, PA
www.cup.edu/liberalarts/earthscience/gis

Crime Mapping & Analysis Program (CMAP):
ArcView Training
September 8-12, 2003
Northeast Counterdrug Training Center, PA
Contact: Danelle Digiosio,
ddigiosi@du.edu or (800) 416-8086

International Association of Law Enforcement
Planners (IALEP) Annual Conference
September 28-October 3, 2003
Colorado Springs, CO
www.ialep.org

General Web Resources for Training Seminars and Conferences

<http://msdis.missouri.edu>
www.aetnowinc.org
www.alphagroupcenter.com
www.cicp.org
www.cops.usdoj.gov
www.esri.com/events
www.ialeia.org
www.ialep.org
www.mapinfo.com/events
www.nlectc.org/nlecterm
www.nijpcs.org/upcoming.htm
www.nsgic.org
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps
www.urisa.org/meetings.htm

Early Reminders!

International Association of Crime Analysts
(IACA) Annual Conference
October 27-30, 2003
Kansas City, MO
www.iaca.net

Florida Crime and Intelligence Analyst
Association (FCIAA) Training Conference
November 12-14, 2003
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
www.fciaa.org

Seventh Annual International Mapping and
Analysis for Public Safety (MAPS)
Conference
March 31-April 3, 2004
Boston, MA
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps

COPS

Advancing Community Policing in America

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is the Federal office responsible for advancing community policing, including funding the hiring of additional community policing officers and funding innovative community policing initiatives in agencies throughout America.

Hiring Officers

The Universal Hiring Program provides grants to help law enforcement agencies hire community policing officers. The COPS in Schools program provides grants for the hiring of officers to fight crime and disorder in and around schools.

Technology and Civilians

The COPS Office provides funds to acquire new technologies and equipment, and for the hiring of civilians for administrative tasks. This allows more law enforcement officers to spend their time on the streets pounding the pavement instead of pounding the keyboard in station houses.

Promoting Innovation

The COPS Office provides grants to promote innovative approaches to preventing and solving crime, reducing fear of crime and increasing trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Following are a few examples:

- The Tribal Resources Grant Program provides funds to Indian tribes to enhance their law enforcement infrastructures and increase community policing efforts.
- Domestic Violence grants assist communities to fight domestic violence through community policing.
- The Justice Based After-School Program supports police led after-school programs to prevent juvenile crime and victimization.
- The Methamphetamine Initiative targets the production and distribution of "meth" in urban and rural America.
- The School-Based Partnership Program assists hundreds of communities and police to fight school crime.

Training and Technical Assistance

The COPS Office is dedicated to providing the free training and technical assistance necessary to assist agencies, officers and communities to implement and sustain community policing, through a nationwide network of regional community policing institutes and in partnership with the Community Policing Consortium.



For more information on the COPS Office or to receive information regarding funding opportunities visit our newly upgraded website at:

www.cops.usdoj.gov

or call the DOJ Response Center at (800) 421-6770

ABOUT THE POLICE FOUNDATION

The Police Foundation is a private, independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting innovation and improvement in policing through its research, technical assistance, and communications programs. Established in 1970, the foundation has conducted seminal research in police behavior, policy, and procedure, and works to transfer to local agencies the best new information about practices for dealing effectively with a range of important police operational and administrative concerns. Motivating all of the foundation's efforts is the goal of efficient, humane policing that operates within the framework of democratic principles and the highest ideals of the nation.

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