Youth Violence Study
Anchorage, AK

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Youth Violence Progress Report
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JC 0419
http://justice.ualaska.edu
• PSAC strongly advised Mayor’s Office to conduct a study of youth violence:
  • What are the statistics of youth violence?
  • Where is youth violence concentrated?
  • How do we compare to other cities?
  • How do we compare to 10 and 5 years ago?

• UAA Justice Center and Anchorage Police Department collaborated to perform this study:
  • Project design (Spring 2004)
  • Data collection (Summer 2004)
  • Data management (Fall 2004 / Spring 2005)
  • Analysis (Summer 2005)
  • Report (Fall 2005)
Juvenile Arrest Rate for Violent Crime: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault

Rate per 100,000

Source: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezaucr/
Juvenile Arrest Rate: Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter

Source: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezaucr/
Juvenile Arrest Rate: Forcible Rape

Source: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezaucr/
Juvenile Arrest Rate: Robbery

Source: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezaucr/
Juvenile Arrest Rate: Aggravated Assault

Source: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezaucr/

U.S.
- 61% Assault
- 33% Robbery
- 2% Rape
- 4% Murder

Anchorage
- 30% Assault
- 61% Robbery
- 3% Rape
- 6% Murder

Source: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezaucr/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>% Change 98 to 03</th>
<th>% Change 93 to 03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-67%</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>+55%</td>
<td>+40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-56%</td>
<td>-54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>-22%</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perceptions of Youth Violence in Anchorage

- Anchorage Community Survey, 2005
- Stratified random sample of households
- 596 Anchorage residents asked:
  - Is youth violence a problem in your neighborhood?
  - Are you concerned about being victimized by youths?
  - Is there more or less youth violence in your neighborhood than one year ago?

Source: Anchorage Community Survey, 2005
How much of a problem would you say youth violence is in your neighborhood?

Source: Anchorage Community Survey, 2005; N=586
Please tell me how much concern you, yourself, have of being victimized by someone under the age of 18.

Source: Anchorage Community Survey, 2005; N=587
In general, would you say there is more or less youth violence in your neighborhood than there was at this time one year ago?

Source: Anchorage Community Survey, 2005; N=517
Conclusions

• Youth violence is not a serious problem in Anchorage.

• Youth violence is not perceived to be a serious problem in Anchorage.

• Levels of youth violence are “normal”:
  – Anchorage levels are similar to (or below) national average
  – Youth violence is declining, as it has nationally

• Yet we must continue our efforts to:
  – Keep our good programs
  – Develop new promising programs
Promising Programs are NOT Developed from Episodic Incidents of Violence!

Good policies are empirically-driven:

- Youth Violence Study

Good policies are empirically-supported:

- Model Programs

Promising Solutions to Youth Violence
Youth Violence Study Preliminary Results
Number of Suspects per Case

Source: Youth Violence Study, 2003/4, N=164 cases
Youth Violence Study Preliminary Results

Use of Force

Source: Youth Violence Study, 2003/4, N= 164 cases

Yes: 89%
No: 11%
Youth Violence Study Preliminary Results
Use of Force

Source: Youth Violence Study, 2003/4, N= 164 cases

- No: 11%
- Gun: 11%
- Knife: 35%
- Object: 25%
- Personal: 18%
Youth Violence Study Preliminary Results
Alcohol Use

Source: Youth Violence Study, 2003/4, N= 281 suspects
Examples of MODEL Programs to Reduce Youth Violence

- Multisystemic Therapy
- Nurse-Family Partnerships
- Bullying Prevention Program
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

Source: Blueprints for Violence Prevention (www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints)
Multisystemic Therapy

• **Targets:** Violent 12-17 year olds

• **Summary:** Empower youth & family
  Use strength-based approach

• **Outcomes:** Decrease recidivism
  Improve functioning

• **Cost:** $4,500 per youth

Source: Blueprints for Violence Prevention (www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints)
Nurse-Family Partnerships

• **Targets:** At-risk pregnant women

• **Summary:** Improve prenatal health
  Improve child/mother development

• **Outcomes:** Fewer arrests
  Improved child/mother functioning

• **Cost:** $3,200 per family per year

Source: Blueprints for Violence Prevention (www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints)
Bullying Prevention Program

- **Targets:** Students in schools
- **Summary:** Bullying prevention / intervention
  Involves schools, classes, students
- **Outcomes:** Reductions in antisocial behavior
  Improved school climate
- **Cost:** $200 per school, $65 per teacher

Source: Blueprints for Violence Prevention (www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints)
Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

- **Targets:** Students in elementary schools
- **Summary:** Promote competency
  Enhance educational process
- **Outcomes:** Decreased conduct problems
  Better conflict-resolution
- **Cost:** $30 per student per year

Source: Blueprints for Violence Prevention (www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints)