Youth Violence Study
Anchorage, AK

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Youth Violence Progress Report
March 16, 2005

JC 0419
http://justice.ualaska.edu
Youth Violence Initiative
Project History (4/15/2004)

- 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

Juvenile Arrest Rate:
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter

Juvenile Arrest Rate:
Forcible Rape

Juvenile Arrest Rate:
Robbery

Juvenile Arrest Rate:
Aggravated Assault

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

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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?

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.
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Force</th>
<th>Source: Youth Violence Study, 2003/4, N=164 cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gun</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knife</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohol Use</th>
<th>Source: Youth Violence Study, 2003/4, N=281 suspects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth Violence Progress Report
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/cps/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/cps/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/cps/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/cps/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/cps/blueprints)

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JUSTICE CENTER

http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu

786-1810

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