I. Prior Research on Violence Reduction in Palm Beach County

- Dramatic increase in the number of murders in Palm Beach County (PBC) since 2004
- Use of firearms in the commission of violent crimes has increased
- Almost 8 of 10 violent crimes in PBC are committed by youth & young adults between the ages of 15 and 24
- Majority of those arrested for homicide in PBC had previously been arrested for a violent crime
Demographic projections for PBC show that the race/gender/age groups most likely to commit gun violence and murder are expected to increase at rates 2 to 3 times greater than the general population over the next 5 years.

A review of violence reduction initiatives revealed effective strategies include:

- Prevention and intervention strategies on a large scale for a prolonged period of time in combination with school-based strategies
- Increased law enforcement
- Communication among agencies
II. Current Research: Evaluation

- Evaluation of implementation & outcomes of Federal (NIJ) gang violence model
  - Design:
    - control-program sites
  - 4 components:
    - Prevention, Corrections, Courts, & Law Enforcement
  - Process
  - Outcomes
    - Designed to answer: 1) Does the model work in 5 program sites?
      - A) how well
      - B) why
Future Research: Next Steps

**Next 3 months:**
- Refine monthly report data collection for prevention and corrections components
- Complete youth council baseline assessments (ex: Boynton Beach)
- Baseline data collection State Attorney’s combat unit

**12-month:**
- Trend data for all 4 components
- Model for process/implementation evaluation

**Prevention and Corrections**
- time series growth
- Pre/post outcomes all program components (reported by providers/sites)

**Courts and Law Enforcement:**
- Re-administer FDLE Criminal Street Gang Activity Survey
- Re-administer VCTF National Gang Threat Assessment
- Crime data projections for program-control sites
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Site 1:</th>
<th>Belle Glade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control Site 1:</td>
<td>Pahokee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Site 2:</td>
<td>Boynton Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Site 2:</td>
<td>Delray Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Site 3:</td>
<td>Lake Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Site 3:</td>
<td>Greenacres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Site 4:</td>
<td>Riviera Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Site 4:</td>
<td>Mangonia Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Site 5:</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Site 5:</td>
<td>Lake Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Four Components:

- PREVENTION:
  - Youth Empowerment Centers
    1) Youth empowerment through youth leadership (Teen councils)
  2) Programming:
     - Education
     - Employment
     - Life skills
     - Mentoring

- LAW ENFORCEMENT:
  - Violent Crimes Task Force
  - NIJ National Gang Threat Assessment

- CORRECTIONS:
  - Justice Service Centers
    1) Community reintegration
  2) Programming
     - Employment
     - Education
     - Life Skills
     - Social Services

- COURTS:
  - Special prosecutors in State Attorney’s Office
  - Gang and juvenile violence
  - Systematic tracking protocol (FDLE Survey)
Youth Empowerment: Teen Councils & Programming

- **Boynton Beach:**
  - 15 teen council members selected (Boynton Beach Sr.)
  - 1st meeting scheduled 6/22

- **Lake Worth:**
  - 25 teen council members
  - 19% increase in council membership Feb-May
  - 2x monthly meetings (8 held)

- **Riviera Beach**
  - Grand opening April 28th
  - 9 teen council members
  - 44% increase in council membership April-May
  - Weekly meetings (5 held)

- **West Palm Beach**
  - Grand opening March 1st
  - 20 teen council members
  - 66% increase in council membership March-May
  - 2x monthly meetings (5 held)
Teen Council Baseline Data:
Self-Determination Scale (autonomy, self-regulation, psychological empowerment, & self-realization)

Youth Leadership Survey

Lake Worth
Riviera Beach
West Palm Beach
# Teen Council Leadership Participation and Self-Determination Skills

## TEEN COUNCIL PARTICIPATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>48.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>71.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YEC: Programming
Six Month Update

- **Lake Worth (Feb-May):**
  - Education: 6 (+66%)
  - Employment: 1 (+100%)
  - Life Skills: 5 (+40%)
  - Recreation: 2 (+50%)

- **Riviera Beach (April-May):**
  - Education: 1 (+100%)
  - Employment: 1 (+100%)
  - Life Skills: 1 (+100%)
  - Recreation: 1 (+100%)

- **West Palm Beach (March-May):**
  - Education: 2 (+50%)
  - Employment: 5 (+60%)
  - Life Skills: 3 (+300%)
  - Recreation: 1 (+100%)
Corrections: Justice Service Center(s)  
Six Month Update

- Riviera Beach:
  - Grand Opening April 28th
  - Full Staff
  - Job Fair May 22nd - 400 Attendees
  - 139 JSC program referrals
  - 46 follow-up appointments thus far
Law Enforcement:
Baseline Data (NIJ: National Gang Threat Assessment)

High Level of Impact of Crime:
1) Drug Trafficking
2) Auto Theft
3) Weapons
4) Burglary/Robbery
5) Violent Crime w/ a Firearm (includes drive-by & homicide)

High Level of Gang Involvement in Crime:
1) Violent Crime w/ a Firearm (includes drive-by & homicide)
2) Graffiti/Tagging
3) Drug Trafficking
4) Weapons
5) Robbery

High Level of Firearm Use in Crime:
1) Violent crime (includes drive-by shooting & homicide)
2) Carjacking
3) Robbery
4) Drug Trafficking
5) Intimidation/extortion
Baseline Qualitative, FDLE, & NGTA Data

- **Consensus between Courts & Law Enforcement**
  - Number of gangs in area greater than 100
  - Gangs identified with highest level of activity: Top 6, MS 13, SUR 13, Latin Kings, 18th Street, Neighborhood-based crews
  - Gang activity has increased significantly over the last 5 years; slight leveling off over last 6 months
  - Law enforcement & Courts gang unit(s) increased in last 2 years
  - Arrests of gang members and prosecutions of gang members has increased as well
  - Challenge in arrests and prosecutions is intimidation of victims/witnesses (and victims in one case frequently suspects/defendants in another)
Effective Strategies

Consensus between Courts & Law Enforcement

- Multi-agency task force (VCTF)
- Gang-busters
- Pro-active policing
- Collaborative effort (sharing of information-centralized database)