

# Institutional Capacity, Informal Social Control, and their Influence on Illicit Opportunities in the Caribbean

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# Presentation Outline

- Project background
- Diagnosing a nation's gang problem
- Diagnosing a nation's institutional capacity to control gangs and gang crime
- Developing a response that is right for the nation

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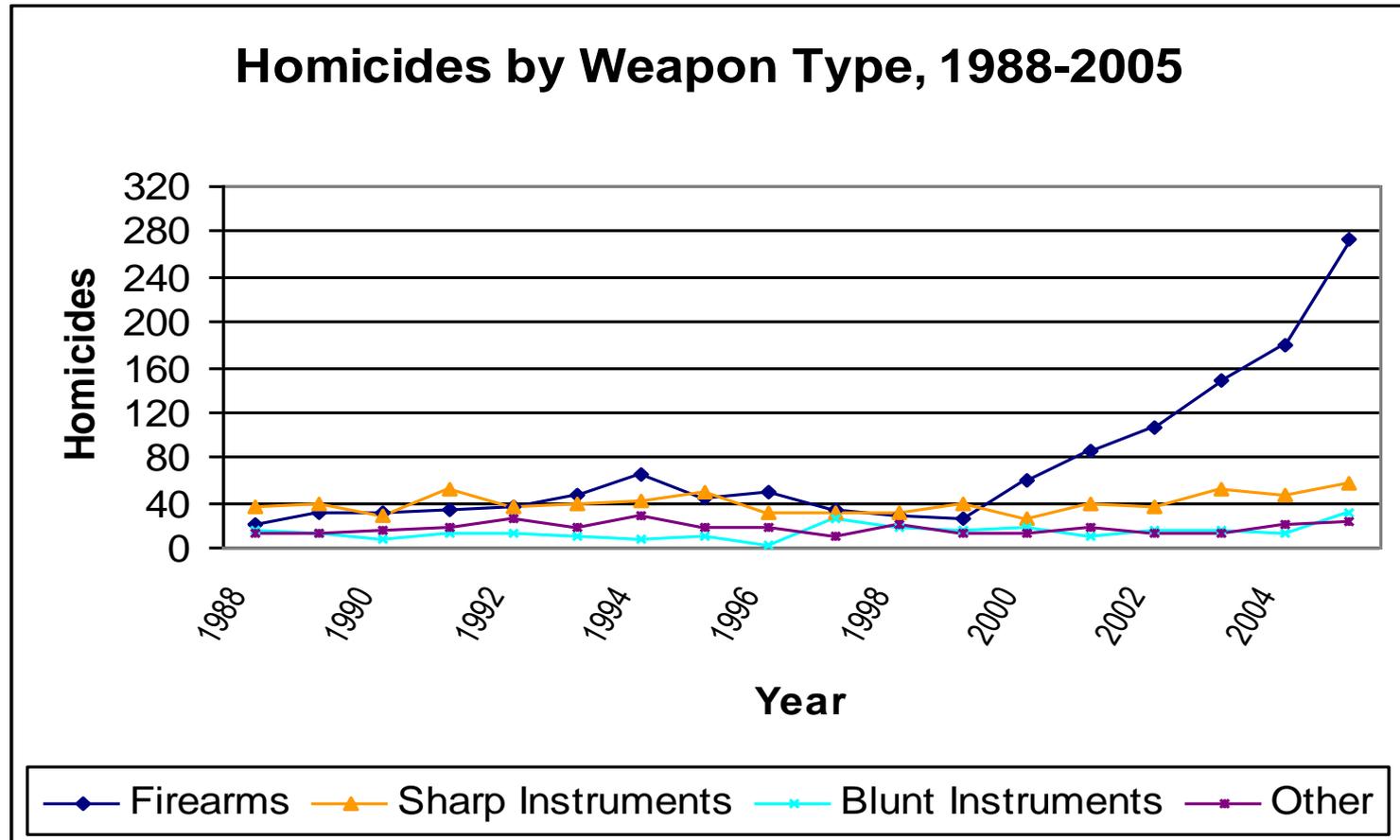


## About T&T...

- Population 1.3 million
- East Indian 40.0%, African 37.5%, Afro-Indian 20.5%
- Roman Catholic 26.0%; Hindu 22.5%; Protestant 24.6%; Islam 5.8%; Shouter Baptist 5.4%; other Christian 10.7%
- Parliamentary democracy with two major political parties (PNM and UNC)
- Granted independence on August 31, 1962
- Major industry is petroleum (40% of GDP)

## Project Timeline

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Dec. 2003 | Giuliani and Partners submit proposal for reducing crime and transforming the Police Service            |
| Mar. 2004 | Ministry of National Security rejects Giuliani proposal   |
| Jun. 2004 | Mastrofski arrives in Trinidad and Tobago.  |
| Dec. 2004 | Mastrofski submits proposal for transforming the Police Service.  |
| Feb. 2005 | Unexpected meeting with Minister of National Security leads to development of crime reduction proposal. |
| Aug. 2005 | First crime reduction contract awarded (\$1.2 million).   |
| Aug. 2006 | First contract ends; second contract held up.   |
| Jan. 2007 | Second crime reduction contract awarded (\$3.4 million).  |
| Aug. 2008 | Anticipated end date of crime reduction portions of project.  |



# Diagnosing Gang Problems

- How we learn about gangs affects how we understand them
- We must understand gangs, to know how to respond effectively to them
- Triangulation helps us understand the problem and develop effective responses

## Trinidad and Tobago: Pioneers in the Caribbean

- Gang Expert Survey
  - Developed as part of the Eurogang research program
  - Surveyed gang experts in 52 station districts
- Besson Street Gang Intelligence, Criminal History Project
  - Non-gang sample (n=878)
  - Gang sample (n=368)
- Stakeholder Interviews

## Trinidad and Tobago, Cont.

- Trinidad and Tobago Youth Survey (TTYS)
  - Adapted from the Social Development Research Group, Communities that Care, TT Peace Programme.
  - Surveyed approximately 4,000 students, Forms 4 thru 6.
- Trinidad Arrestee Project Survey (TAPS)
  - Based on the DUF/ADAM
  - Interviewed 421 recently booked adult arrestees
- Trinidad Detention Survey (TDS)
  - Interviewed about 60 adult detainees
  - Moving forward with juvenile detainees

## Number of gangs and gang members in TT

### Expert Survey

- 95 gangs
- 1,269 gang members
- 25.8% formed before 2000
- 74.2% formed between *2000-2006*

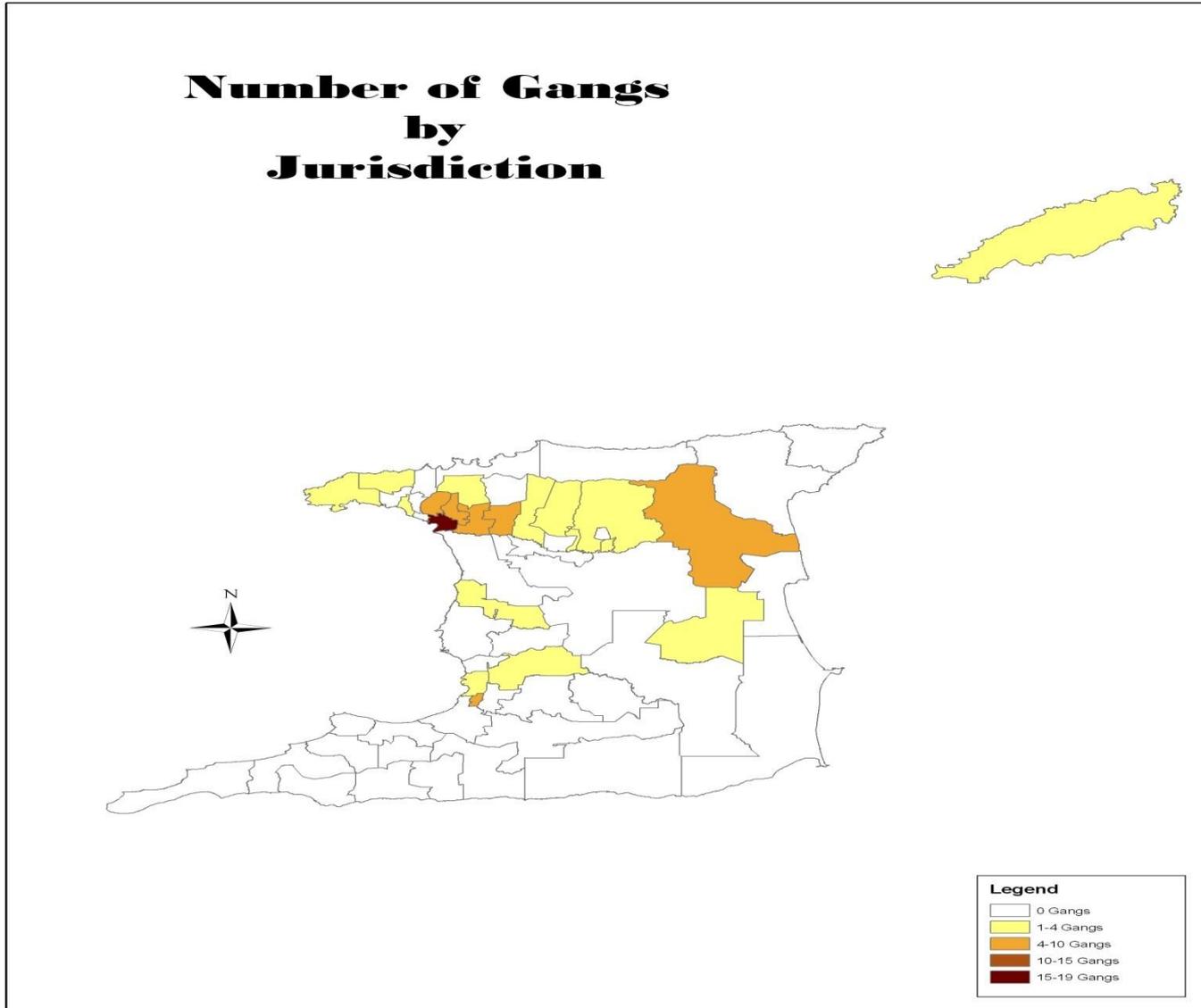
### TTYs

- 30% of youth are at-risk for gang involvement
- 7.1% gang associates
- 6% current gang members
- 6.7% former gang members

## Gang Concentration by district

	# of Gangs	# of Gang Members
Besson Street	19	385
San Juan	8	130
Sangre Grande	8	90
St. Joseph	7	55
Belmont	6	165

## Number of Gangs by Jurisdiction



# Composition of Gangs in TT

## Gang Expert Survey

- About 83% are African, 13% are East Indian
- No female dominated gangs
- About 87% are comprised of adults

## TTYS

- About 42% are African, 21.7% are East Indian, and 11.6% are Afro/Indian
- 59% of gang members are male.
- 43.5% are 16 yrs. old +

## Gang Intelligence, Criminal History Data

### **Composition of TT gangs**

- 96.7% are African, 2.1% Afro-Indian, 0.9% East Indian
- 95.3% are male
- 94.7% are 18 years old or over

## Criminal Involvement of TT Gangs

- Frequent use of alcohol, drug use, and drug sales/trafficking
- High levels of armed violence: Two-thirds involved in fights with rival groups
- Experts emphasized that gangs most frequently involved in drug sales/trafficking, robbery, firearms activity, and organized fraud

## Problem behavior by gang affiliation, TTYS (percentage)

	Never	Gang Associate	Current member	Former member
MJ lifetime*	8.1	20.5	32.6	32.0
MJ 30 days*	2.4	7.9	19.1	14.0
Carried gun*	1.8	12.0	26.6	21.1
Sold Drugs*	1.1	6.1	17.3	11.9
Stole car*	1.3	3.8	10.9	1.3
Arrest*	3.6	9.2	29.2	10.6
Attacked to harm*	15.4	35.8	59.1	47.4
N	1,882	166	141	156

\*p<.05



## Incidence and prevalence of crime by gang membership, continued

Arrest Offense Category	Non-Gang (n=878)		sig.	Gang Member (n=368)		Total (n=1,246)	
	Mean	SD		Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Number of Arrests	0.68	1.82	**	2.09	3.52	1.10	2.53
Number of arrests by crime type							
Violent Offense	0.33	1.38	**	0.81	1.59	0.48	1.46
Firearm Related	0.22	1.04	**	0.45	0.91	0.29	1.01
Drug Sales	0.05	0.28	**	0.24	0.65	0.10	0.43
Drug Use/Possession	0.12	0.46	**	0.32	0.64	0.18	0.53
Property Offense	0.17	0.84	**	0.36	1.62	0.23	1.13
Sex Crime	0.03	0.30		0.03	0.19	0.03	0.27
Other	0.16	0.91		0.20	0.60	0.17	0.83

\* Indicates significant difference between gang and non-gang at  $p \leq .05$

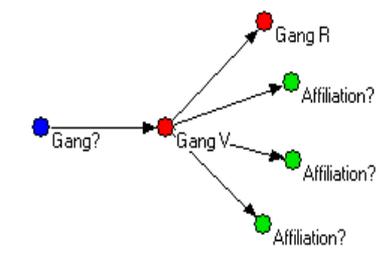
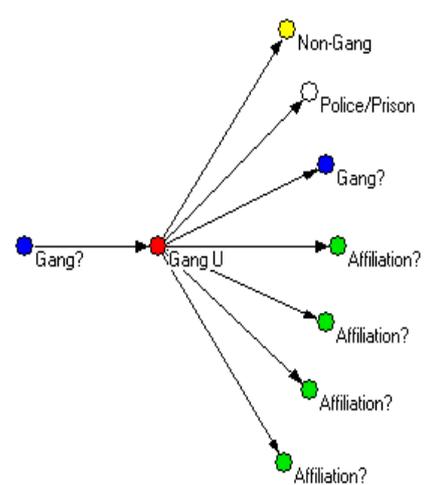
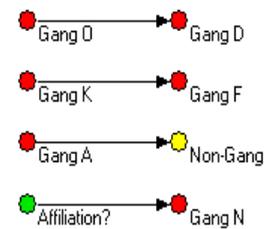
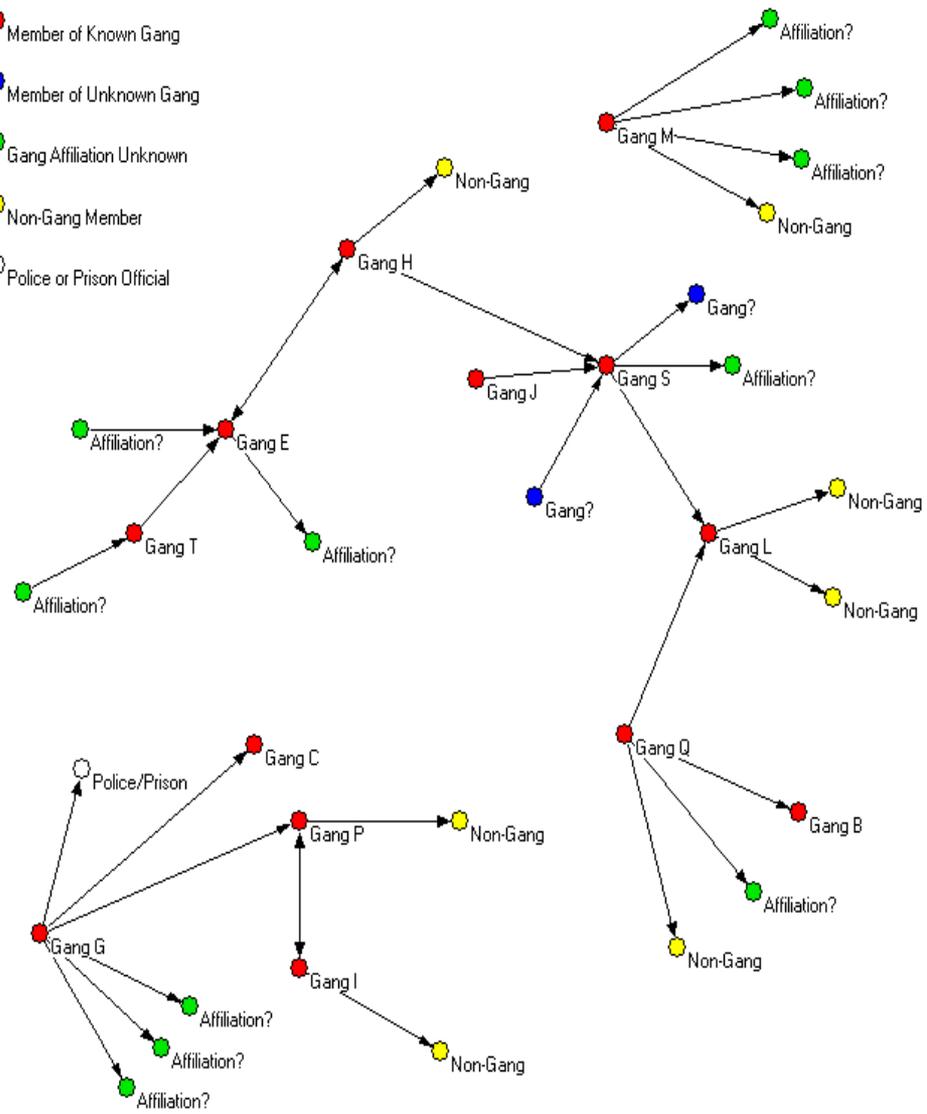
\*\* Indicates significant difference between gang and non-gang at  $p \leq .01$

## Chronic (gang) offenders and their contribution to crime (n=372)

	<b>n</b>	<b>% of Sample</b>	<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>% of Total Arrests</b>
Chronic offenders	24	6.4	298	38.7
Other offenders	348	93.6	472	61.3
Chronically violent offenders	27	7.2	149	50.0
Other offenders	345	92.3	149	50.0
Chronic drug traffickers	9	2.4	29	33.3
Other offenders	363	97.6	58	66.7
Chronic gun/ammo possession offenders	18	4.8	62	38.3
Other offenders	354	95.2	100	61.7

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- Member of Known Gang
- Member of Unknown Gang
- Gang Affiliation Unknown
- Non-Gang Member
- Police or Prison Official



## Gang Involved Homicides in the Besson Street Station District by Known Victim and Suspect Affiliation (1/1/05-1/26/06)

Gang	Number Homicide Suspects	Number Homicide Victimizations	Total	% of Gang Homicides in District
Gang 1	2	8	10	12.35%
Gang 2	6	3	9	11.11%
Gang 3	7	1	8	9.88%
Gang 4	6	1	7	8.64%
Gang 5	3	3	6	7.41%
Gang 6	4	2	6	7.41%
Gang 7	6	0	6	7.41%

## Organizational Characteristics of Gangs in TT

### Gang Expert Survey

- 86% have group name
- 88% claim turf & 75% defend their turf
- 15% have symbols (i.e., physical identifiers, signs, other)
- 99% illegal activity is accepted by group
- 66% are comprised of 6 to 50 members

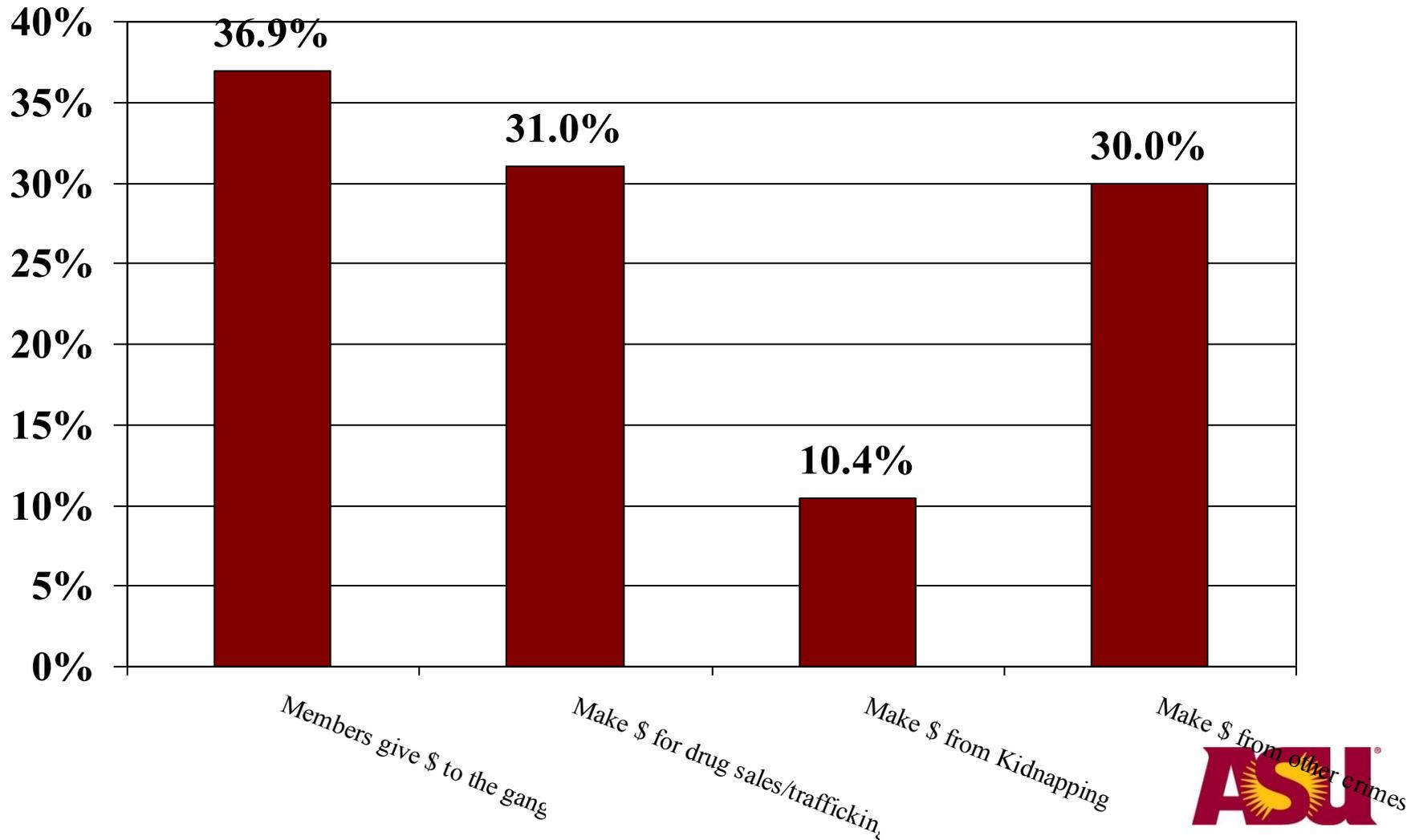
### TTYS

- 64% have group name
- 62% claim turf
- 43% have symbols (i.e., physical identifiers, signs, other)
- 49% have a leader
- 52% have meetings
- 48% have rules
- 34% punishments if rules are broken

# Organizational description of gangs in Trinidad & Tobago

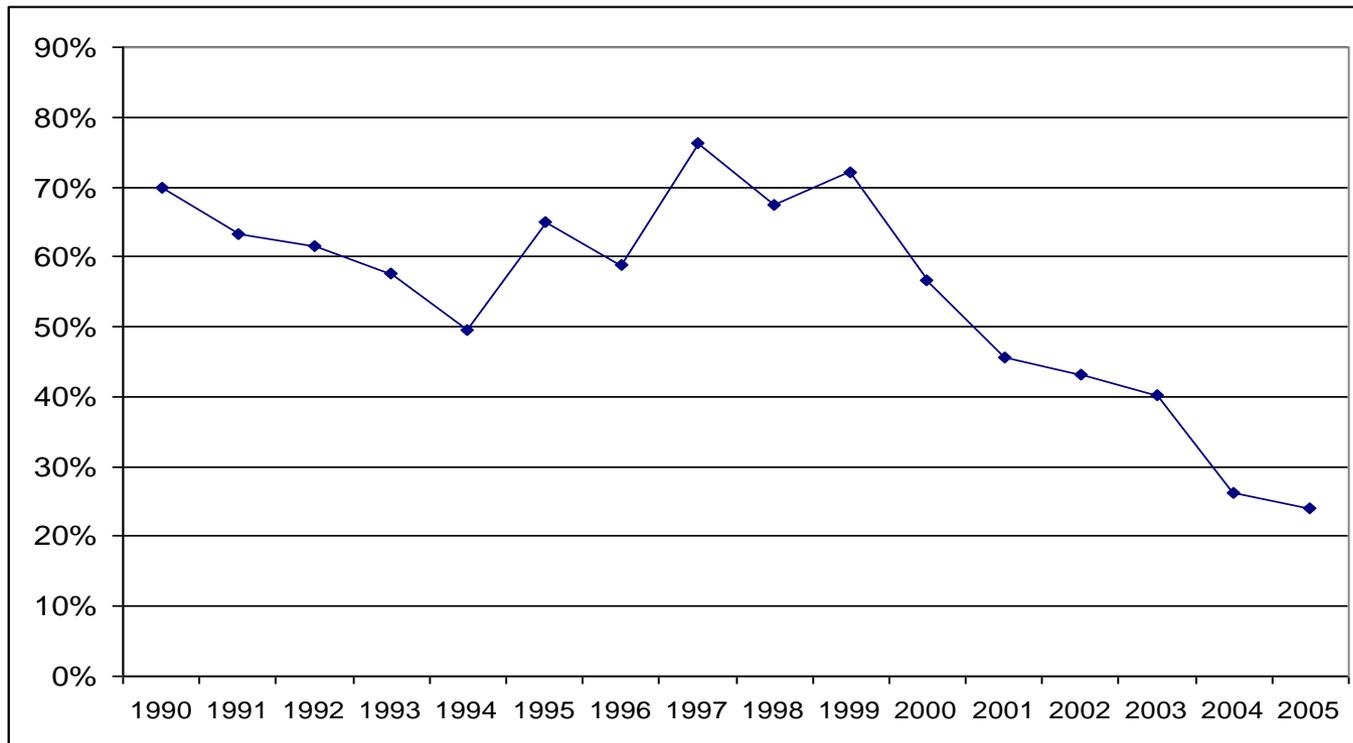
Type	Percent
Classical	8.5%
Neo-classical	4.3%
Compressed	13.8%
Collective	21.3%
Specialty	48.9%
None	3.2%
Total known	94

## Organizational Structure, TTYS

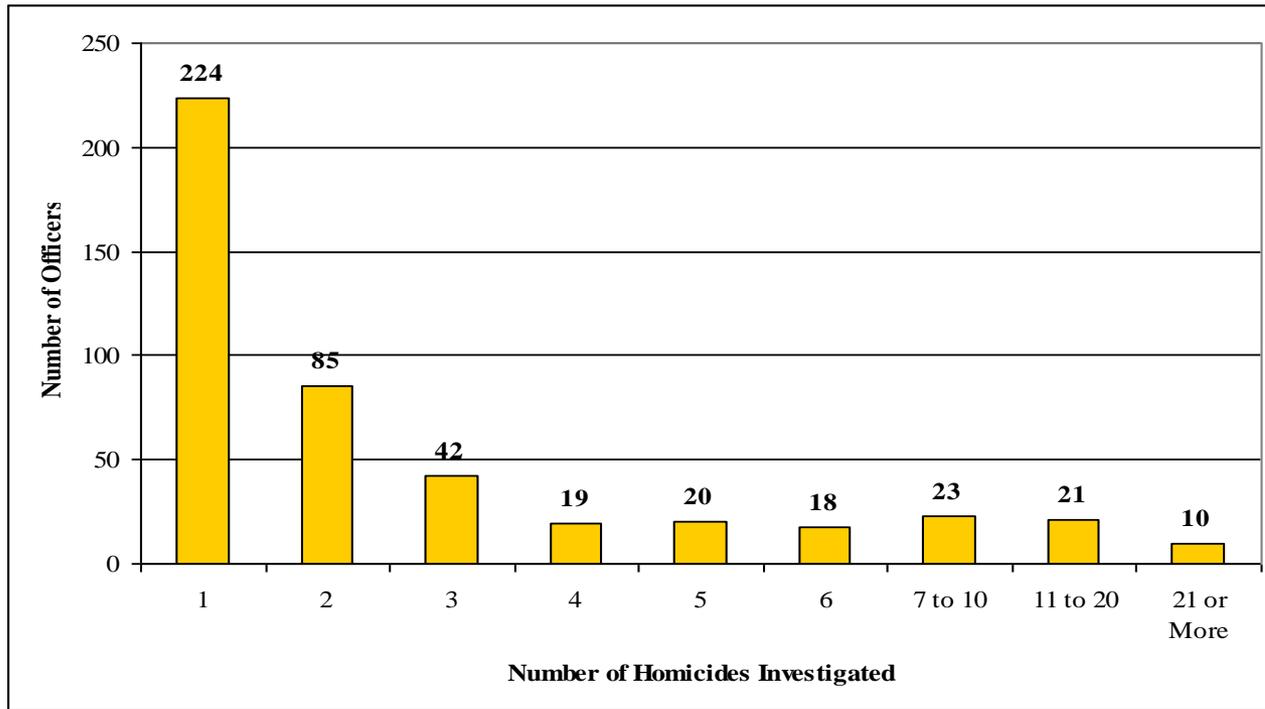


# Diagnosing Institutional Capacity to Control Gangs and Gang Crime

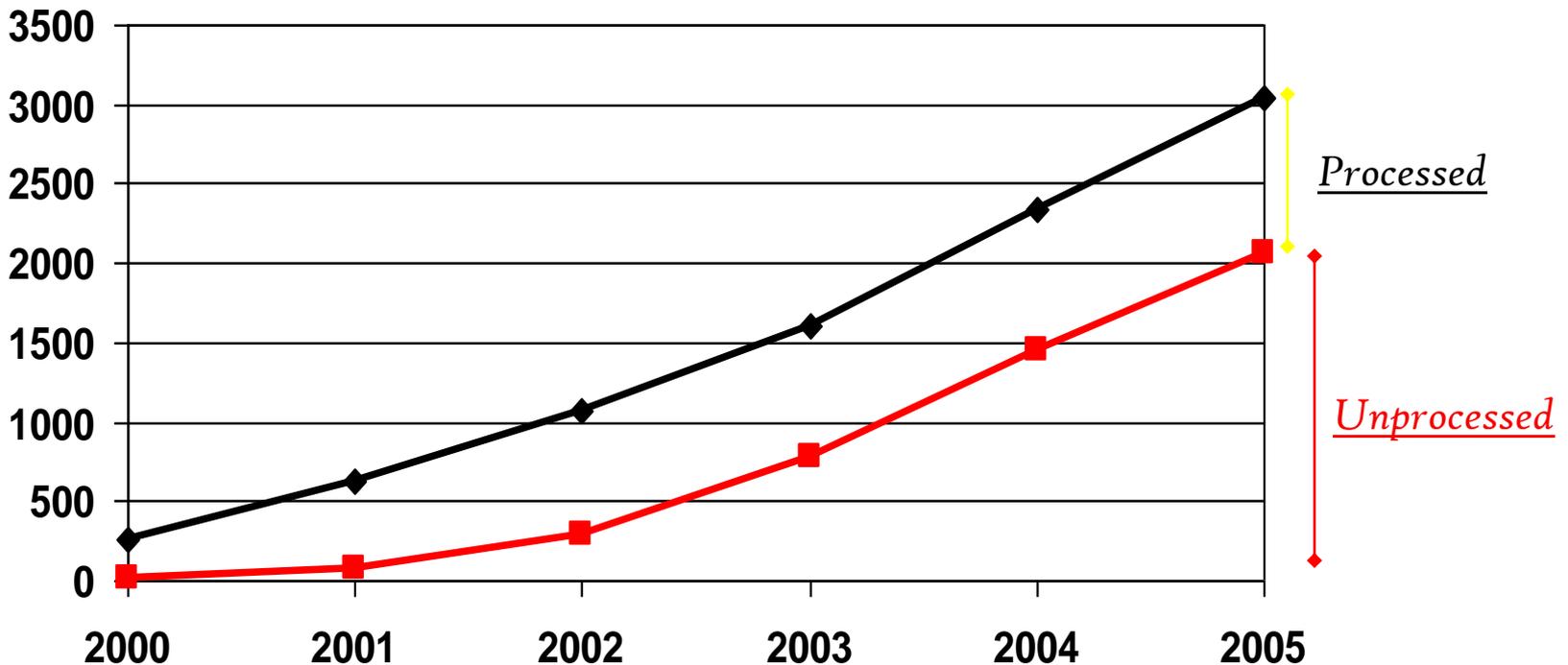
## Homicide clearance rates: 1988-2005



# Homicide Investigator Experience



## Firearms Cases at the Forensic Science Centre



*\*Black line indicates cumulative number of firearms cases submitted.*

*\*Red line indicates cumulative number of unprocessed firearms cases.*

## Resident perceptions, behaviors, and beliefs

- 86% of residents reported hearing gunshots in their neighborhood at least once in the past 30 days
- Only 7% of the residents who heard gunshots in the past 30 days reported them to the police
- 71% of residents “strongly agree” that people who report crimes committed by gang members to the police are likely to experience retaliation by gang members
- 77% stated that the police did not respond quickly when people ask them for help

## **Besson Street Gang Homicide Case Processing Success January 2005 through January 2006**

	Number	Total Percent	Probability of Event
Homicides involving Gang Member	53	----	100%
Arrests	3	5.6%	5.6%
Convictions	0	0	0.0%

## Summary: Mechanisms of Formal Social Control are Broken

- Lack of responsiveness to public
- Lack of training
- Lack of investigative capacity
- Lack of evidence processing capacity
- Police-prosecutors lack experience
- Public/jurors do not trust the police

## Gang role in informal social control within the community (examples)

- “Gang bring down crime. They instituted a community court that meets weekly where young males are punished and give strokes.... One to two local councilors have gone to the courts to observe their practice”
- “Gangs are the first one’s to respond to crime, the police are incompetent, they take too long and never finish the work. If you go to the gang leader you know they will take care of you.”
- If you live in a community where there is gang cohesion you are more safe because they [protect you.]...Gangs provide safety, create jobs,... give people food, give mothers milk for their baby’s.”

## Summary and Implications

Formal social control mechanisms are lacking in TT

- Many low governance communities
- Vulnerable/exploitable communities
- Results in armed conflict
- Reduces LE costs
- Low probability of supply reductions
- Relatively high levels of corruption

Informal social control mechanisms (thru gangs) are strong and influential

- High concentrations of supportive culture/pop. for gangs
- A informal governance structure is in place that supports organized, illicit markets
- This culture & behavior receives relatively high levels of community support

