

Diagnosing Gang Problems in the Caribbean

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Theme: Confronting the Challenge of Youth Violence in Society

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Ready, Fire, Aim...The typical solution to gang problems



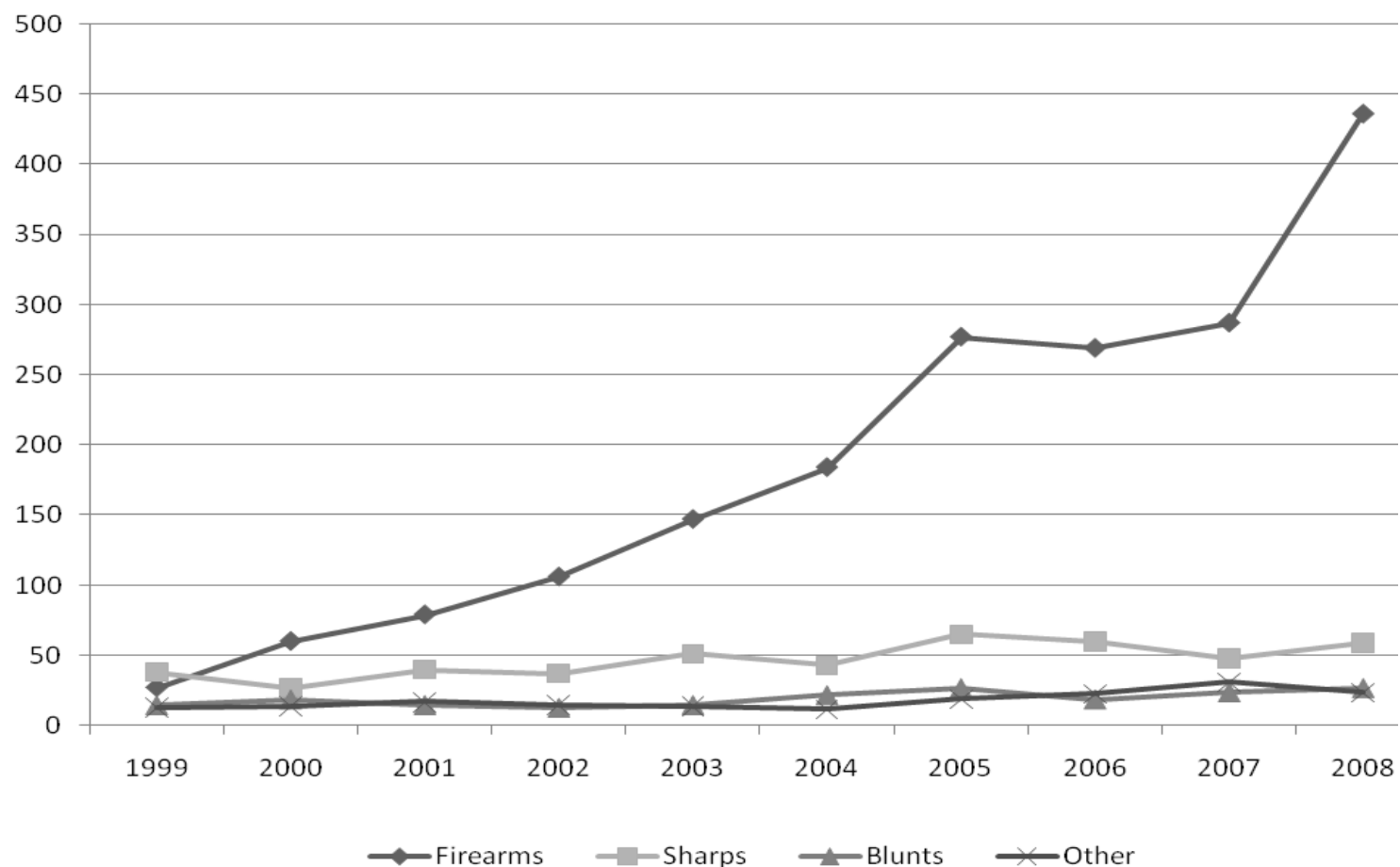
Presentation Outline

What we have done	Trinidad & Tobago
What we are doing	Antigua & Barbuda
What we are proposing to do	Six (6) county gang project

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
Dec. 2004	GMU 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).
Jan. 2007	Second crime reduction contract awarded (\$3.4 million).
Jan. 2009	CJA receives third contract for training and on-site coaching (\$1.1 million)

Trends in homicides by weapon type: 1999 – 2008



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 all TT station districts
- Besson Street Gang Intelligence, Criminal History Project
 - Non-gang sample (n=878)
 - Gang sample (n=368)
- Network analysis of Homicides

TT: Pioneers in the Caribbean, 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*

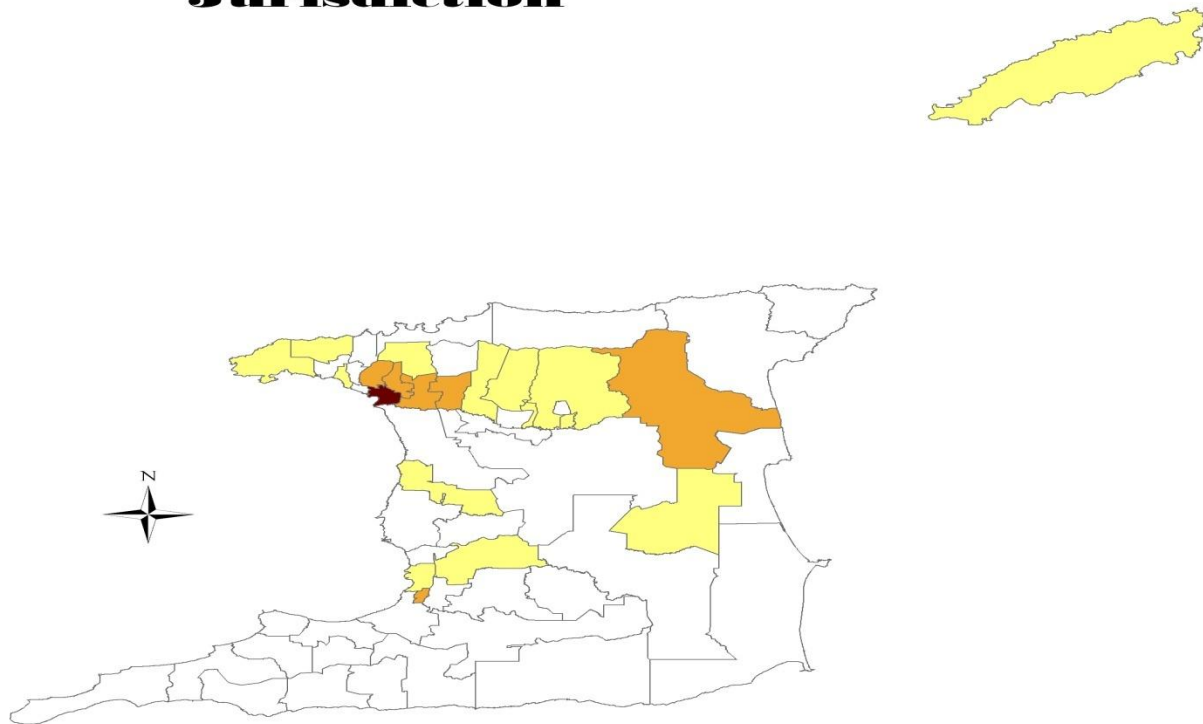
TTYS

- 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
- 41% of gang members are female.
- 43.5% are 16 yrs. old +

Criminal Involvement of TT Gangs: Expert Survey

- 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 (i.e., homicides, shootings),
 - 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

Mean number of arrests by gang membership						
Arrest Offense Category		<u>Non-Gang (n=878)</u>		sig.	<u>Gang Member</u>	
		Mean	SD		Mean	SD
Number of Arrests		0.68	1.82	**	2.09	3.52
Number of arrests by crime type						
	Violent Offense	0.33	1.38	**	0.81	1.59
	Firearm Related	0.22	1.04	**	0.45	0.91
	Drug Sales	0.05	0.28	**	0.24	0.65
	Drug Use/Possession	0.12	0.46	**	0.32	0.64
	Property Offense	0.17	0.84	**	0.36	1.62
	Sex Crime	0.03	0.30		0.03	0.19
	Other	0.16	0.91		0.20	0.60
* 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)

	n	% of Sample	Total Arrests	% of Total Arrests
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 possession offenders	18	4.8	62	38.3
Other offenders	354	95.2	100	61.7

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

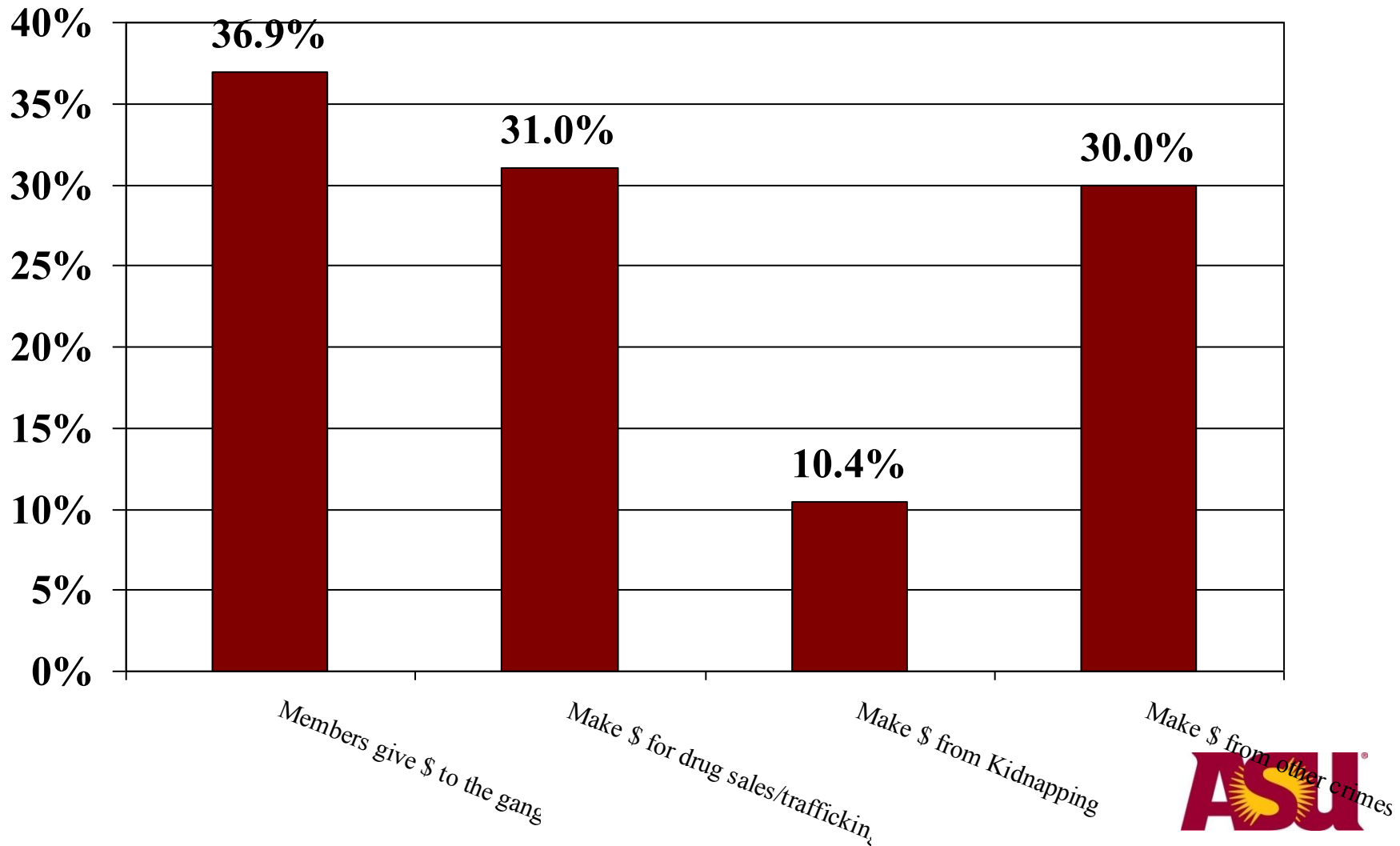
Gang Expert Survey

- 86% have group name
- 88% claim turf
- 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

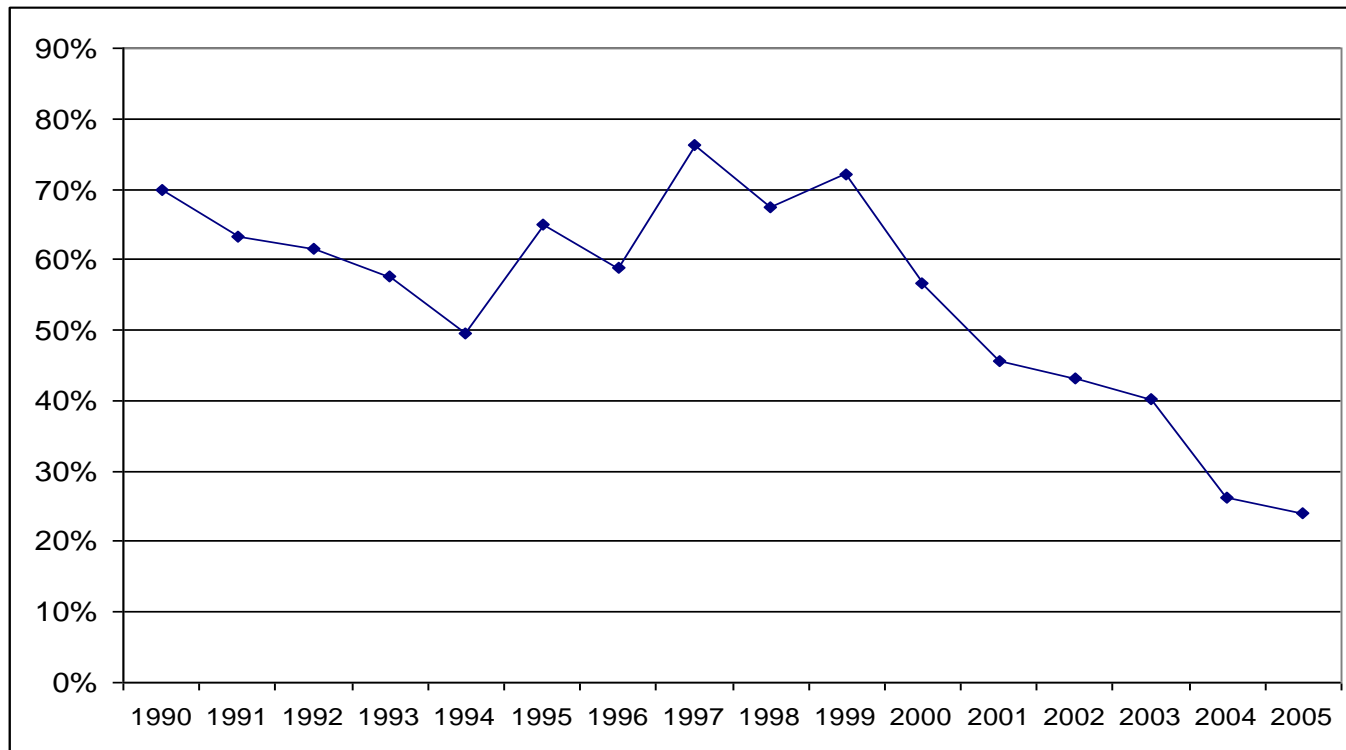
- 64% have group name
- 62% claim turf
- 43% have symbols (i.e., physical identifiers, signs, other)
- 49% have a leader
- 52% have meetings
- 48% have rules
- 34% punishments if rules are broken

Organizational Structure, TTYS

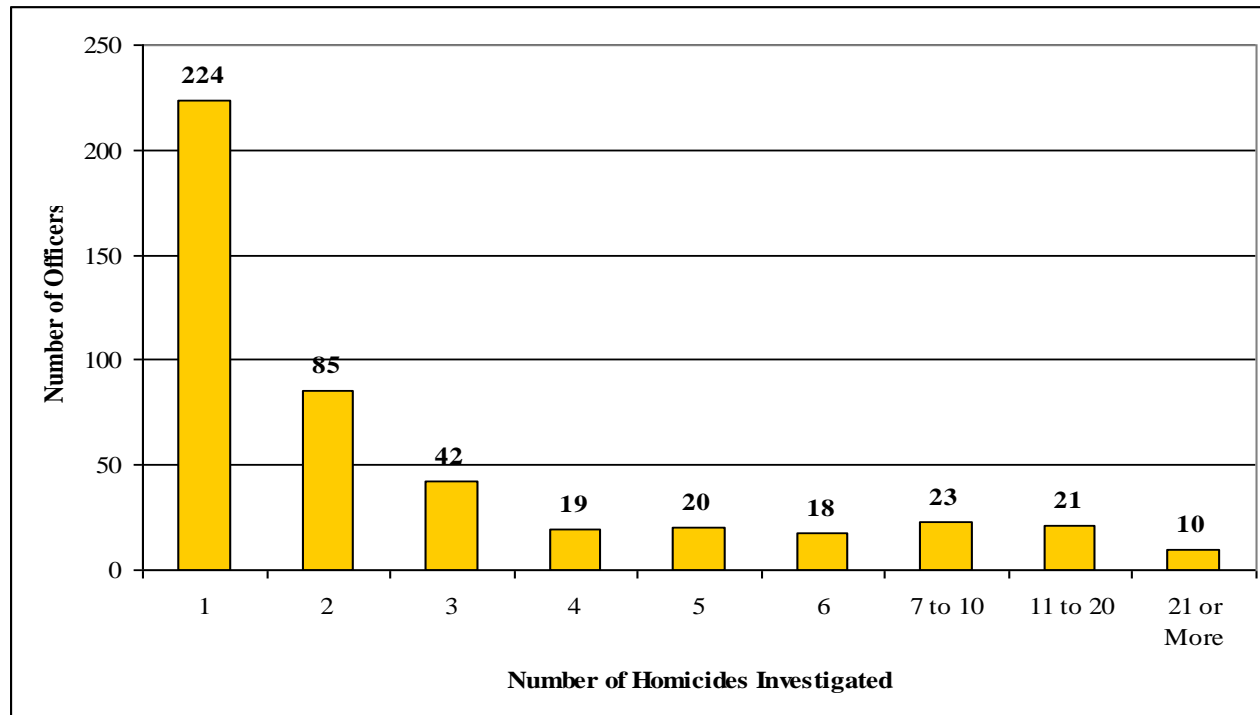


Diagnosing Institutional Capacity to Control Gangs and Gang Crime

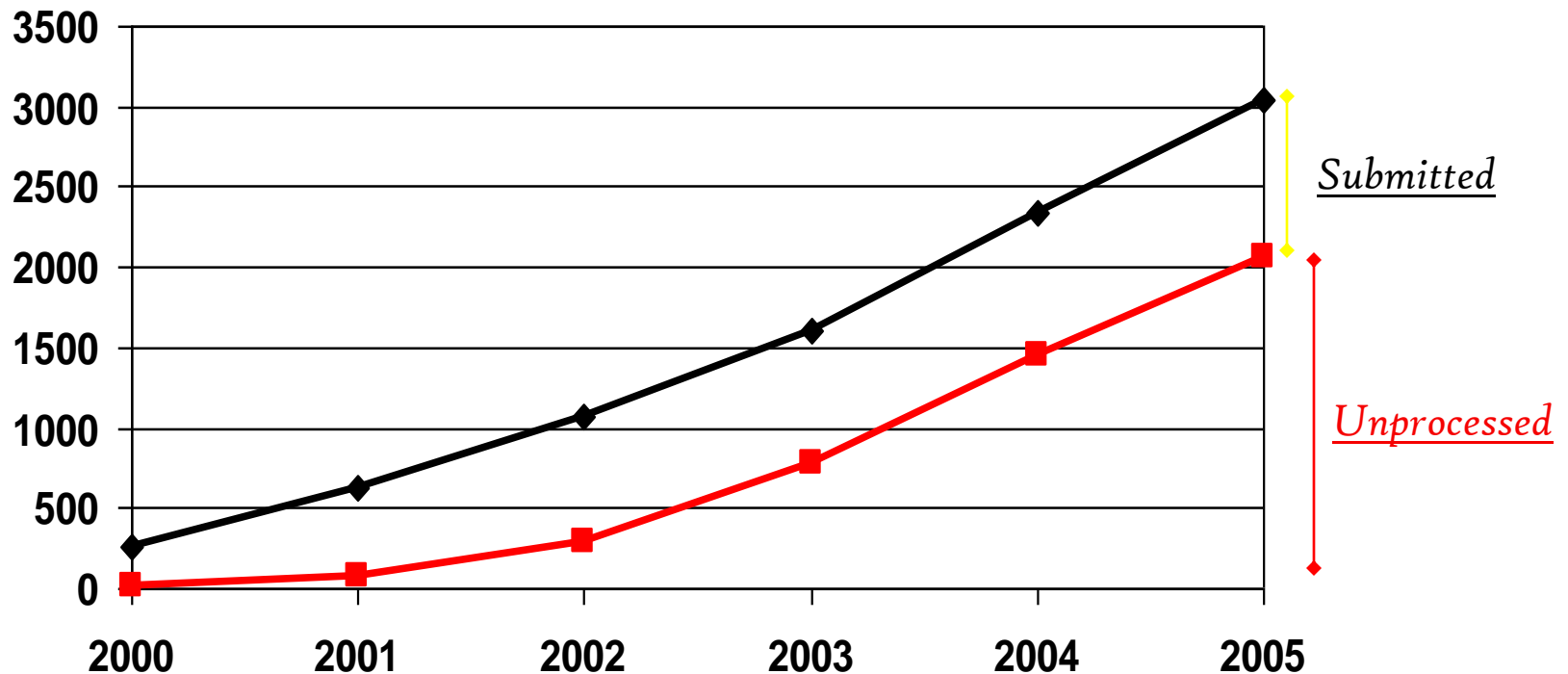
Homicide clearance rates: 1988-2005



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.*

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%

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

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

- “Gangs 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: Mechanisms of Formal Social Control are Broken

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

Responses

Suppression

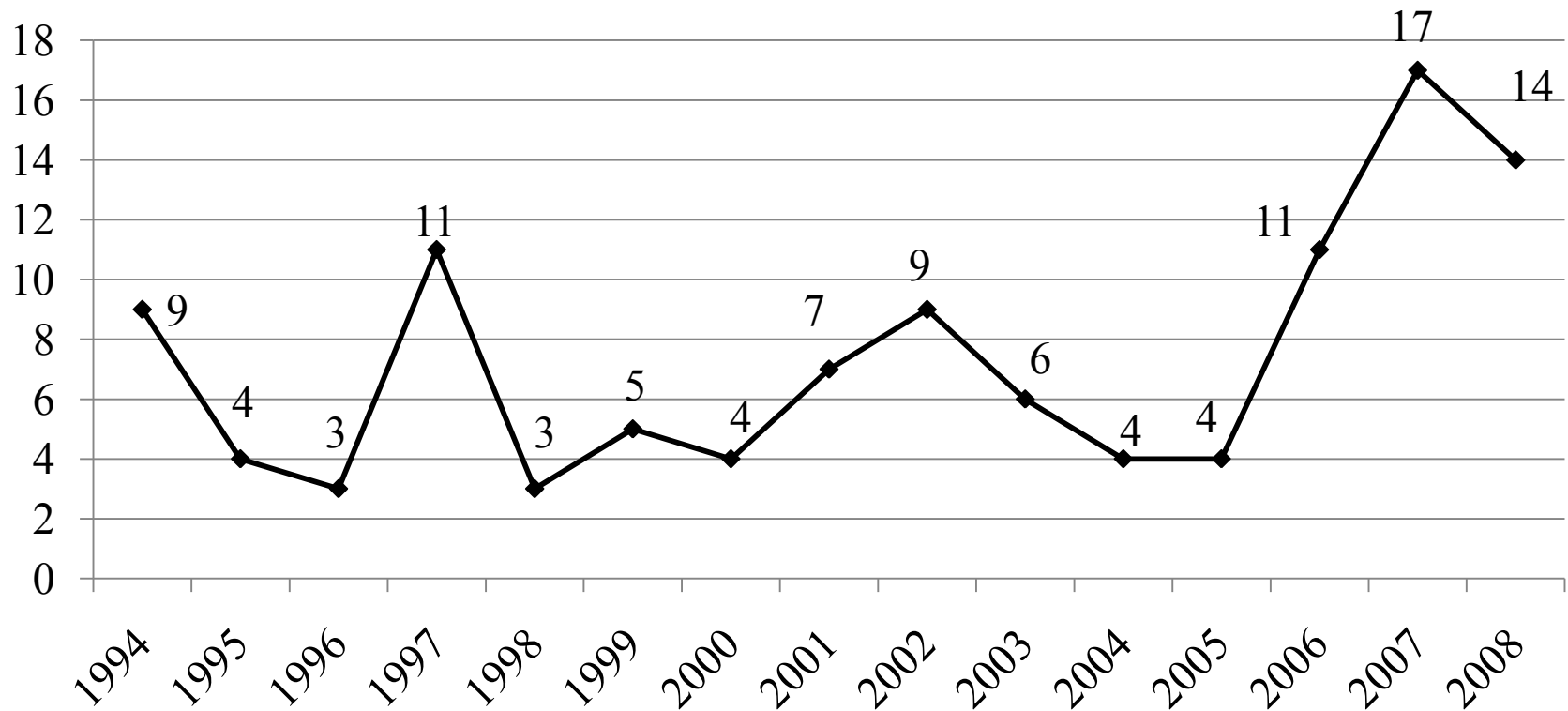
- Creation of a homicide unit
 - Training
- Creation of a crime analysis unit
 - Training
 - Unit coach
- Creation of a gang/ROP unit
 - Training
 - Unit coach

Prevention

- Establishment of the Violence Prevention Academy (VPA)
 - 25 high risk schools
 - Training in SARA model
 - Implement violence reduction project in each school.

Organization of American States Antigua & Barbuda Pilot Project

Antigua & Barbuda Number of Homicides: 1994-2008



Homicides in Antigua from 2006-2007 (n=29)

Victim Characteristics

Age	(Median)	26 years	
		<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Gender	Male	79.3	23
	Female	20.7	6
Ethnicity	Black	96.6	28
	Spanish	3.4	1

Motives of Homicides in Antigua, 2006-2007

	%	N
Altercation	17.2	5
Domestic	20.6	6
Drug-related	20.6	6
Gang related	3.4	1
Retribution vs. Police	3.4	1
Robbery	6.9	2
Unknown/Missing	27.7	8
Detection rate	51.7	15

Homicides in Antigua by Weapon Type, 2006-2007

	%	N
Blunt object	10.3	3
Burning	3.4	1
Gun	37.9	11
Knife	41.4	12
Strangulation	3.4	1
Missing	3.4	1

Number of youth gangs and gang members in Antigua and Barbuda

National Total		<i>n</i>	
	Gangs	6 to 15	
	Gang Members	85 to 570	
Year formed			
	Before 2000	20.1	37.5
	2000 - 2006	33.5	62.5
	Missing	46.6	

Composition of gangs

- 85% mostly male or all male
- Youngest member is about 14
- 42% 16-18 years old
- 50% 19-25 years old
- 43% have 11-20 members
- 50% have 21-50 members

Characteristics of gangs

- All have a name
- 87% hang out in public areas
- 66% have turf
- 73% have symbols (e.g., clothing)
- 20% of gangs support a political issue

Gang behavior

- Illicit activity is accepted
- Often engages in alcohol and drug use
- 53% frequently get into fights with other gangs.
- Regularly involved in larceny, robbery, street level drug trafficking, battery/wounding.

Unique problems call for unique responses

Trinidad

- Chronic gang problem
- High # of gang homicides
- Large # of gang members
- Age of gang members varies from young to old
- Many of the gangs are involved in violence

Antigua

- Emerging gang problem
- Low # of gang homicides
- Small # of gang members
- Many of the gangs are NOT involved in violence

Focus On:

Gang Members
from jail & willing
to leave gang
lifestyle.

Active Gang
Members &
Affiliates

At-Risk Youth
& Communities

General Youth
and Family
Population

RE-ENTRY

Job
Trng | Tatto
Remov | Educ.

SUPPRESSION

Comm.
Policing | Courts
Probation | Service
Referrals

INTERVENTION

Crisis
Intervention | Counseling to
Change
Lifestyle | Peaces
Initiatives | Job
Placement

TARGETED PREVENTION

Diversion
Efforts &
Case mgmt | Special
Education
Services | Focused
Social
Services | Save
Havens &
Passages | Alt. Options

GENERAL PREVENTION

After
School
Programs | Education
Services | Recreation
& Sports | Mentoring | Safe
Schools | Art &
Music | Job Training
& Summer
Employment

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Family | Schools | Jobs | Housing | Mental
Health | After
School | Neighborhood

Anti-Gang Strategy

Healthy Community Pyramid

Recent A&B Activities

- Two days of task force training
- Two days of educator training
- 1/2 day of strategic planning

Forthcoming A&B Activities

- Formal establishment of a steering committee
- Conduct a thorough gang assessment
- Conduct assessment of capacity to respond to gang problem
- Implementation of a national response to gangs

Proposal: OAS Caribbean-Wide Gang Project

- Gang assessment to be conducted in six Caribbean nations
- National gang-task forces established
 - Training
 - Strategic planning
 - Program implementation
- Develop Caribbean gang surveillance system (OAS, UWI-Mona, ASU, others?)

Six County Caribbean Gang Assessment

- Gang homicide trends
- Gang expert survey (police & schools)
- Student survey on gangs
- Survey on capacity to respond to gangs

Purpose of Gang Assessments & Surveillance Systems

- Identify scope and nature of local problems
- Local data motivates local actions
- Helps determine funding
- Tailor interventions to specific needs
- Evaluate interventions