

# Anti-gang Campaigns

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# Overview

- Gang problems in large and small cities
- Factors that primarily affect gang violence: drug related problems, inter- and intra-gang conflict, return from confinement
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) created a Comprehensive Gang Model which contains five guidelines: community mobilization, social intervention, opportunities for educational and vocational advancements, suppression, and organizational change (2009)
- OJJDP also created a Gang Reduction Program in 4 primary cities, including East LA and Richmond, VA.

# OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model

- Communities must address and acknowledge the gang problem and prepare to change the community in general, not just the youth of the community
- Teams must work with youth on a daily basis
- Intervention must be done by police, juvenile and adult probation officers, school personnel, social services, job/employment development representatives, etc
- Need youth surveys before beginning and several times during a program

# Los Angeles

- 26.5% decrease in gang murders since 2007
- In the 13 different neighborhoods in LA, there are at least 45 different anti-gang programs

# LA Bridges Program

- In 1999, the L.A. Bridges Program received the only national award which recognizes organizations involved in juvenile justice issues- The New American Community Award
- More than 5,400 students, ages 10 to 14, involved in the program at 27 different schools, concentrated in 6 specific neighborhoods
- Targets the highest at-risk youth and their families: includes counseling, mentoring, parenting classes, employment opportunities and skills training
- After-school activities including tutoring, sports, art programs and field trips
- Works to empower residents to take control of their communities. Activities include neighborhood clean-up projects, picnics, health fairs and employment fairs

# Successes

- Alcohol and drug use decreased by 66% among L.A. Bridges youth. Property crimes, violence and substance abuse crimes decreased at L.A. Bridges schools
- L.A. Bridges students achieved increased SAT scores for reading, math and language
- L.A. Bridges school suspensions decreased along with a 72% decrease in arrests and a 66% decrease in probation cases
- Association with criminal and gang peers decreased by 48% and gang identification decreased by 70% among L.A. Bridges core youth
- L.A. Bridges families reported a 33% decrease in abuse and neglect in the home with a 67% decrease in runaways.

# Summer Night Lights

- Keeps parks open after dark with lights, free food, and community programs
- Runs from July to September
- Since 2008, SNL has expanded from 8 parks to 24 citywide, leading to a 57% reduction in gang-related homicides in SNL neighborhoods
- In 2010: 710,000 participants, 382,000 meals served, 8 new parks established, 1000 jobs created

# DC/Suburban Maryland



# Anti-Gang Boxing Movement

- DC Area
- Works with DC youth to release anger in a safe, supervised environment rather than in dangerous ways
- Has classes in karate and self-defense

# Howard County (Baltimore) Police Department

- Summer programs to work directly with middle and high school age kids to provide alternatives to gang activity during times where they are not in school.
- Community Athletic Program
- Police engage with at-risk youth in neighborhoods where many teens gather during the summer (usually unsupervised) and offer alternative activities to do with them to deter crime and gang involvement.
- Develops positive relationships between at-risk youth and police.

# PLEDGE Summer Camp

- PLEDGE stands for pride, leadership, education, diversity, gang resistance and evaluation
- Provides a series of discussions and activities where youth can learn the value of teamwork and leadership skills, alongside the police force

# San Jose

# Mayor's Prevention Task Force (MPTF)

- Established in 1991 by former Mayor Susan Hammer
- Coalition of youth, private residents, city/county/state government, schools, parents, local law enforcement
- Prevention, intervention, suppression, and rehabilitation

# 5 guiding principles

- We value our youth
- We cannot arrest our way out of the problem
- We will address this community challenge with a community response
- We will hold our youth accountable for their actions and assist them to get back on the right path
- We will not give up on any youth and are committed to facilitate personal transformation

# Two teams

## Policy Team

- Mayor and Chief of Police co-chair
- Develops strategic direction
- Advises Mayor on city policies combating gang violence
- Community Engagement Subcommittee
- Interagency Collaboration Subcommittee
- Technical Team Subcommittee

## Technical Team

- Implements Policy Team direction
- Provides direct service to youth and their families
- Serves as a youth safety net

# 7 Strategic Goals

- Well-coordinated “asset-based” service delivery system.
- Enhanced crisis response protocol, emphasizing prevention and after-care services.
- Capacity-building and fund development strategy.
- Education and awareness campaign that employs culturally competent strategies to inform and engage
- Youth, families, and community in fostering opportunities to live, work, and prosper together.
- Formalized partnerships with related local, state, and national initiatives.
- Partner, Coordinate, and Support the County led re-entry Model.
- Forge a public/private sector partnership



# Results

- Rate of violent crime per 100,000 population has decreased by 38% since 2000
- 27% decrease in juvenile violent crime rate since 2000
- Number of gang related incidents are down 34% from 2009-2010
- Number of violent gang crimes are down 20% from 2009-2010
- 37% increase in graduating high-schoolers that meet UC requirements since 2001
- Academic Performance Index for San Jose school districts has increased by 12% since 1999
- High school graduation rate has improved by 19% since 1999 measured by Cumulative Promotion Index

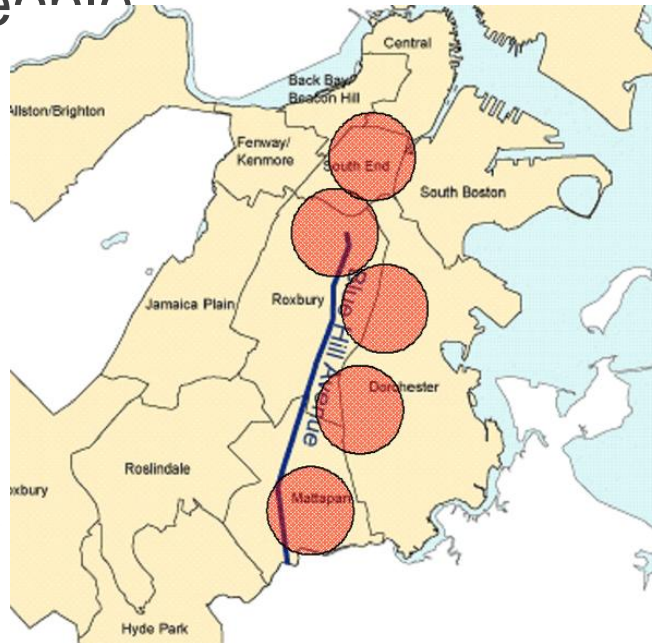
# Boston

# Boston Community Center's Streetworkers Program

- Goal: to reach out to gang members, at-risk youth, and their families
- Operates 24 hrs a day
- 30 college-educated staff ages 25-55
- Engages gang members in streets and home visits
- Advocates for gang members in courts when appropriate, helps probation departments with supervision, mediates disputes and gang truces, refers gang members and their families to existing government and community programs

# StreetSafe Boston

- Goal: dramatically reduce youth violence and high rates of violent crime
- Ripple effect: eliminate fear of violence caused by a small number of young people
- 5 focus communities



# Two Core Strategies

- Street level gang intervention
  - develop and deploy streetworkers who can establish relationships with proven-risk youth to intervene in cycles of violence, resolve conflicts, and connect youth to services
- Neighborhood based service delivery
  - provides alternative programming and social services for proven-risk youth

# Goals

- Substantially reduce the incidence of violent gang behavior among proven-risk youth
- Substantially increase the number of proven-risk youth that are accessing positive programs, services and activities
- Substantially improve the perception of safety in the five focus communities and city wide

# Operation Ceasefire

- Targets gang-centered, neighborhood-based, repeated violence
- Created specific community groups, then carried out face-to-face
- Operation Night Light
- 63% decrease in monthly number of youth homicides