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Smart Policing in Los Angeles: Operation LASER

Newton Division, LAPD

Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. (JSS)

April 16, 2013

Overview

- Background
- Crime Intelligence Detail (CID)
- Offender-Based Strategy
- Location-Based Strategy
- Implementation
- Evaluation by JSS
- Results

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Operation LASER

- Los Angeles' Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program (LASER)
  - LASER is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Dept. of Justice through the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI)
  - The purpose of LASER is to reduce gun-and gang-related crime in Newton Division (one of 21 Divisions in the LAPD)
  - LASER is focused on:
    - Chronic offenders
    - Chronic locations

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The Crime Intelligence Detail (CID)

- Two police officers and a Crime Analyst
- CID gathers intelligence daily from
  - Patrol (Watch 2, Watch 5 and Watch 3)
  - Bicycle Unit
  - Parole Compliance Unit at Newton Division
- CID focuses on Robberies, Weapons Violations, and Aggravated Assaults related to gun and gang violence
- CID creates "Chronic Offender Bulletins"

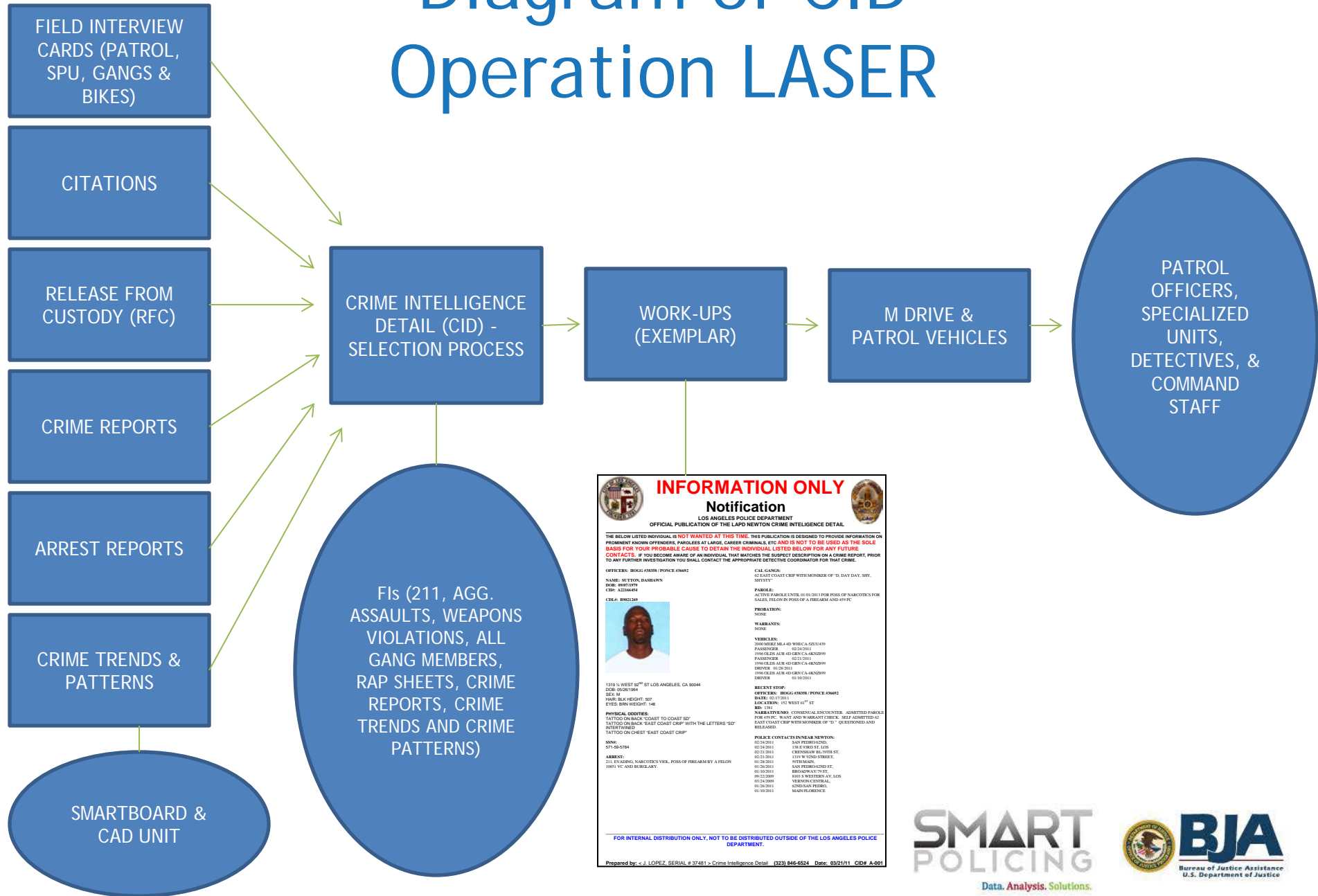# Implementation: CID Selection Process

- CID reviews:
  - Field Identification Cards (FIs)
  - Traffic Citations
  - Release From Custody Forms (RFCs)
  - Crime and Arrest Reports
  - Criminal Histories
  - CID selects the appropriate individuals based on pre-determined criteria:
    - Robberies, Weapons Violations, and Aggravated Assaults related to gun and gang violence

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Chronic Offender Bulletins

- Physical descriptors
- Physical oddities
- Gang affiliation
- Prior crimes committed
- Parole or Probation Status
- Vehicles
- Frequented areas
- Contact with law enforcement

Diagram of CID Operation LASER

FIELD INTERVIEW CARDS (PATROL, SPU, GANGS & BIKES)

CITATIONS

RELEASE FROM CUSTODY (RFC)

CRIME REPORTS

ARREST REPORTS

CRIME TRENDS & PATTERNS

SMARTBOARD & CAD UNIT

CRIME INTELLIGENCE DETAIL (CID) - SELECTION PROCESS

FIs (211, AGG. ASSAULTS, WEAPONS VIOLATIONS, ALL GANG MEMBERS, RAP SHEETS, CRIME REPORTS, CRIME TRENDS AND CRIME PATTERNS)

WORK-UPS (EXEMPLAR)

M DRIVE & PATROL VEHICLES

PATROL OFFICERS, SPECIALIZED UNITS, DETECTIVES, & COMMAND STAFF

INFORMATION ONLY
Notification
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAPD NEWTON CRIME INTELIGENCE DETAIL

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Chronic Offenders

- 125 Chronic Offenders identified and rank-ordered from August 2011 to January 2012
  - 87 of the 124 (69.6%) have been arrested at least once from Aug 2011 to June 2012
  - 88 offenders scored 15 points or higher – 60 (68.1%) arrested
  - 37 offenders scored 0-15 points – 27 (72.9%) arrested
- New list created in May 2012 – 65 new offenders
  - 25 (38.5%) arrested
- Of 189 total offenders, 112 arrested at least once (59%)

LASER: Location-based Efforts

- Where are the chronic locations?

Newton Division

- Gun-related crimes, 2006-2011
- Five hotspot corridors (in green)

Newton Area - 2011
Gun Related Crimes
Hot Spot - Gun Related Crimes

Legend
- Gun Related Crimes
Hot Spot - 2011
- Low
- Medium
- High
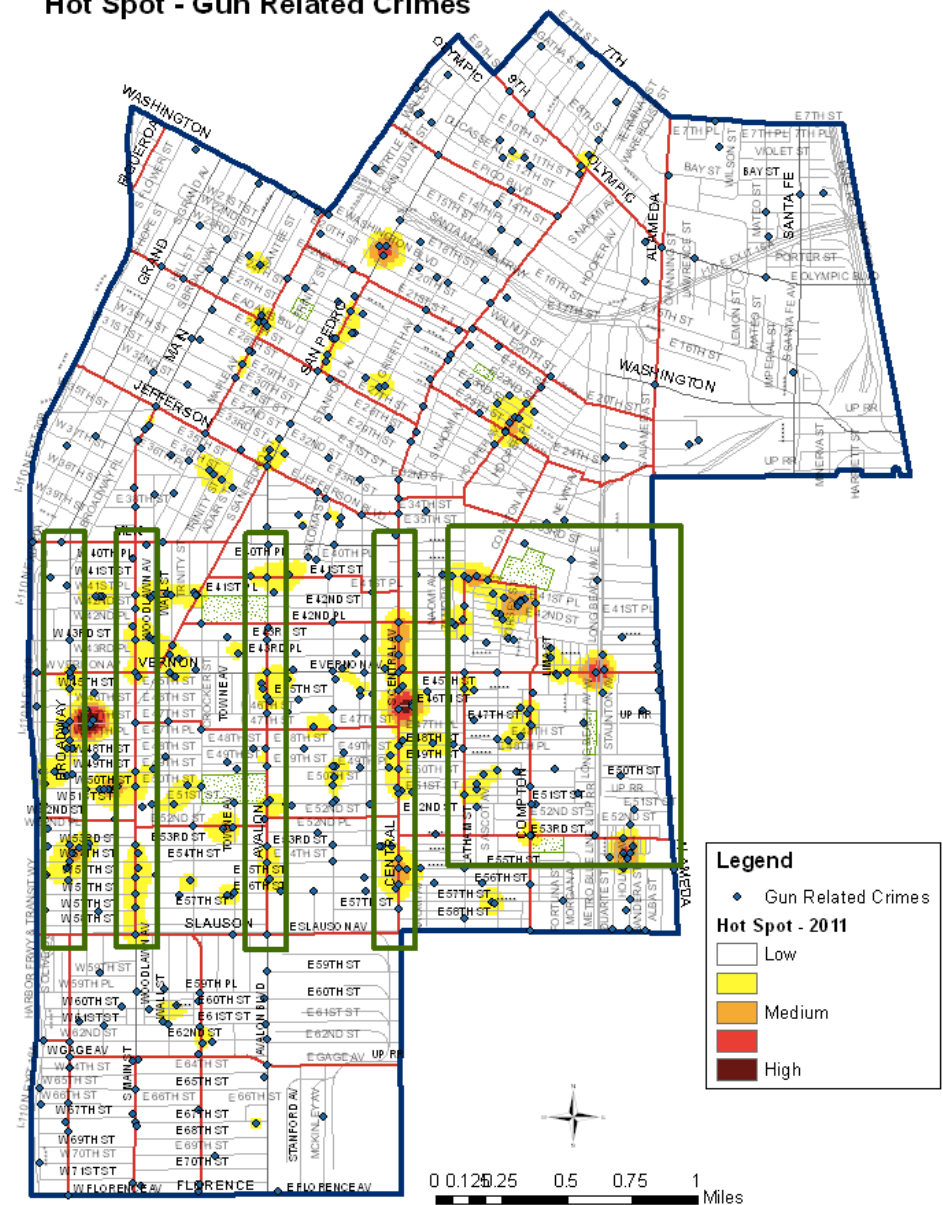
Interventions: Locations

- Weekly Missions in Hotspot Corridors
- Use Existing Resources:
  - Patrol Units (watches 2, 3 and 5)
  - Bikes
  - Foot Patrol
  - Parole Compliance Unit
  - HIDE

Measures

- Dosage = Extra minutes/month in hot spot corridors

- Crime Count by Deployment Period (DP) and by month
  - Gun-Related Crime (Part 1 and 2 incidents with a gun) since 2006
  - All Part 1 Crimes – Violent and Property since 2006

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Measures: Dosage

TOTAL MINUTES IN NEWTON CORRIDORS
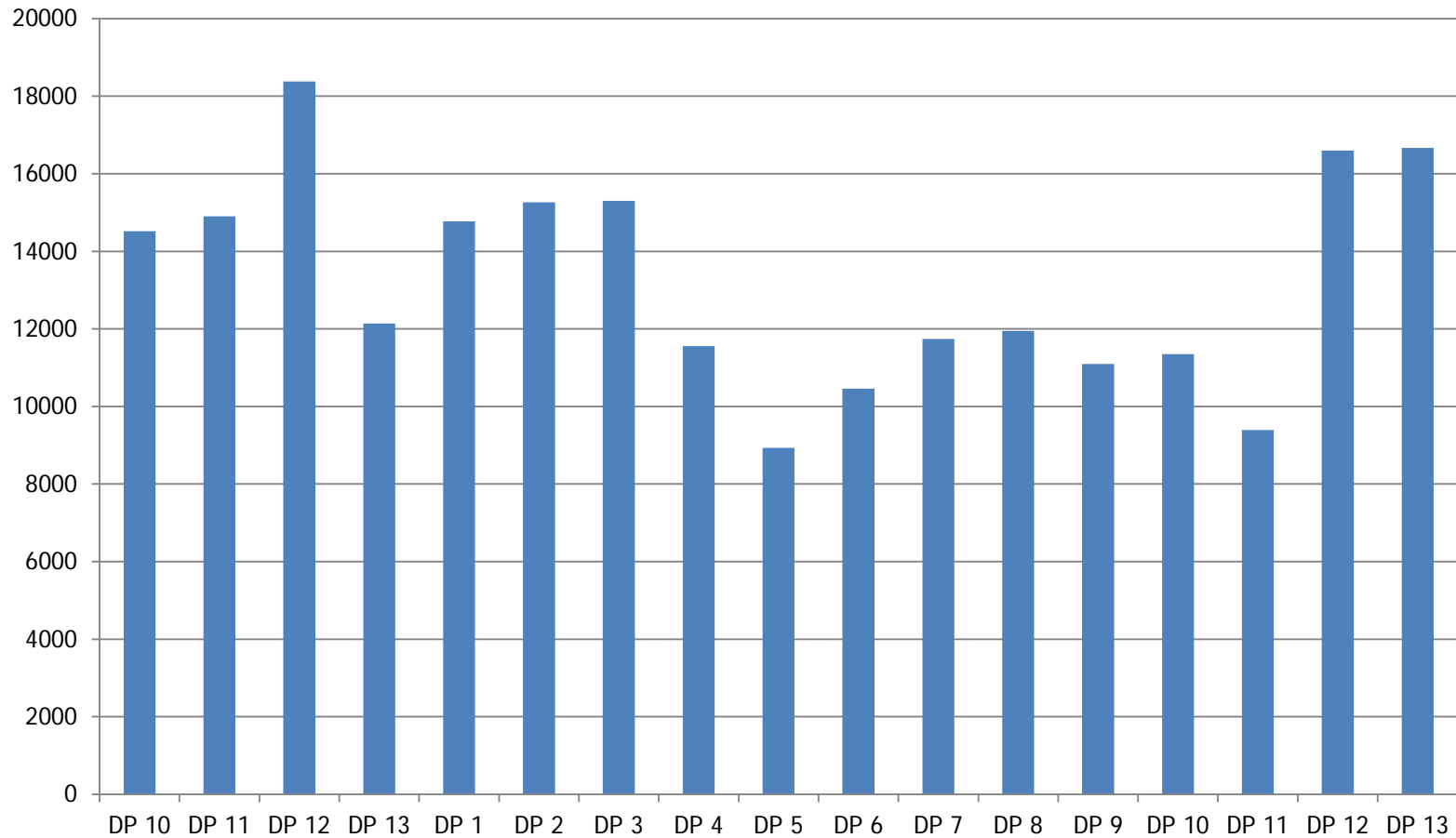
Dosage In Newton Division Corridors

- On average, patrol, bikes, foot, and PCU spent 13,326 extra minutes per DP in the hot spot corridors

- Range: low of 8,935 (DP 5 in 2012) to high of 18,380 (DP 12 in 2011)

- 13,326 extra minutes equates to 222 extra hours per DP or 55.5 extra hours per week

- 7.9 hours extra time per day in the five corridors

Interrupted Time-Series Design

- One of the most powerful quasi-experimental designs
- Compare pre-existing trend before the intervention to the trend during and after the intervention
  - Change in level
  - Change in trend

Time Series Analysis for Newton Division

- Examined…
  - Gun-Related Crime
    - Crime incidents (Part I and II) with a firearm
    - Includes: Homicides, Robberies, Aggravated Assaults, Drive-by shootings, Misdemeanors with weapons (drugs, vandalism, etc.)
  - All Part 1 Crimes
- Data from January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2012 (78 month period) and 1/1/06 to 12/31/2012 (88 months)
- Intervention began September 2011
  - Arrests of chronic offenders started in August 2011, but increased patrol of corridors began September 2011
  - 10 post-intervention time periods

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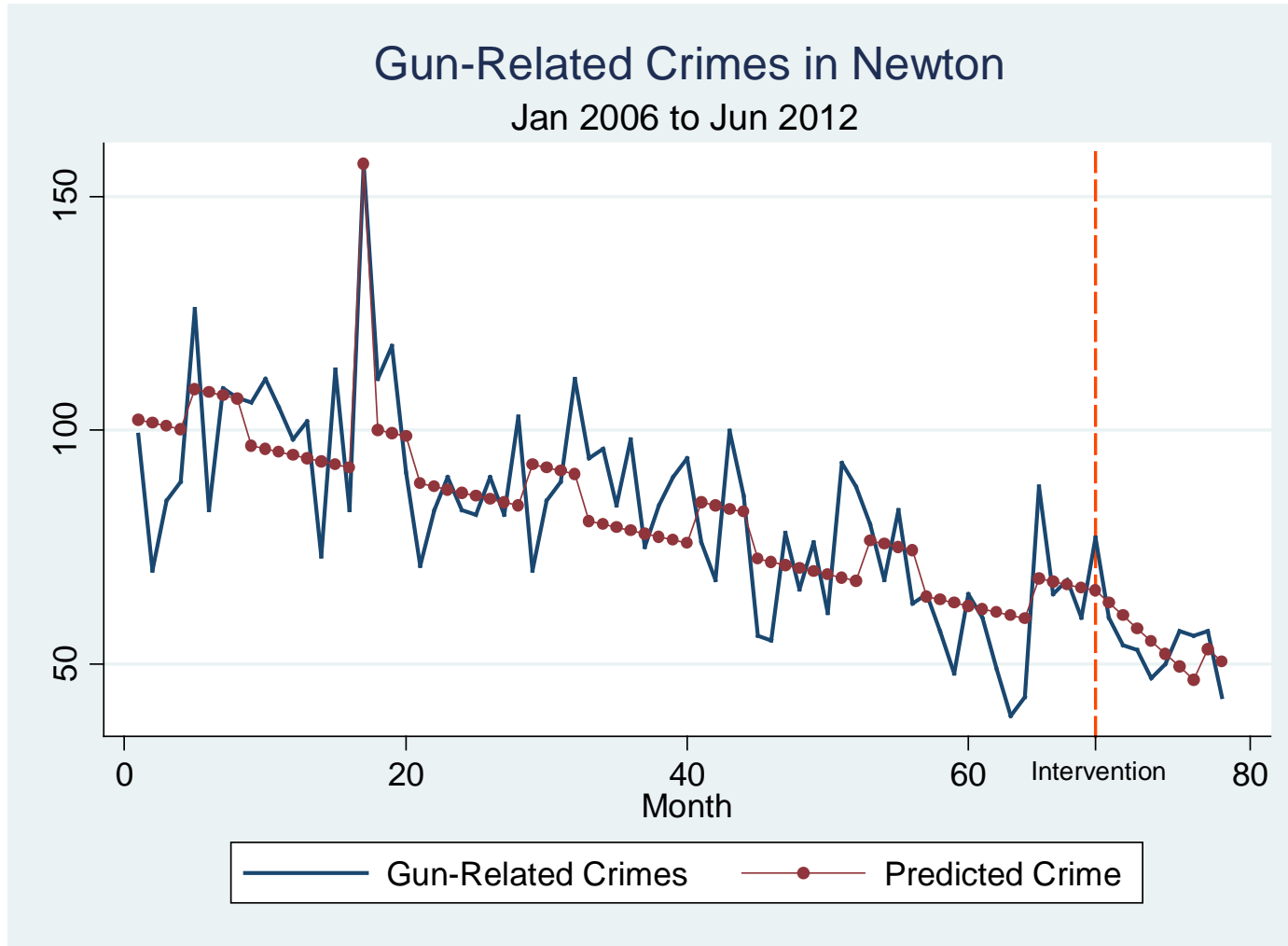U.S. Department of Justice

Time Series: Results

- From January 2006 to June 2012
- Results indicate that Operation LASER is having **significant and tangible reductions** in:
  - Gun-related crime (Part 1 and 2)
  - Homicides
  - Robberies
  - Violent Crime (Part 1)

Time Series: Bottom Line

- Results suggest that gun-related crime is falling nearly **four times faster** in Newton Division after LASER was implemented in Sept 2011
- Differences are statistically significant at the 0.10 level

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Time Series: Bottom Line

Gun-Related Crimes in Newton
Jan 2006 to Jun 2012
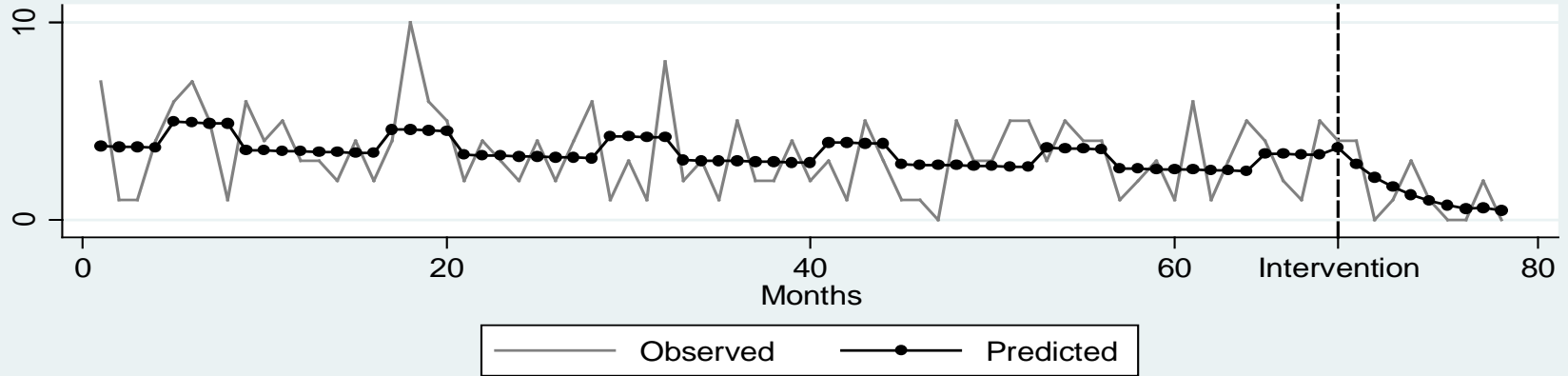
Time Series: Bottom Line

- Interventions in Newton Division resulted in a **decrease** of Part I Violent Crimes by an additional 5.393 crimes per month

- Homicides **decreased** by an additional 22.6 percent per month in Newton Division after Operation LASER began

- Robbery **decreased** by an additional 0.218 robberies per month in Newton Division after Operation LASER was implemented

Time Series: Violent Crime & Gun Crime
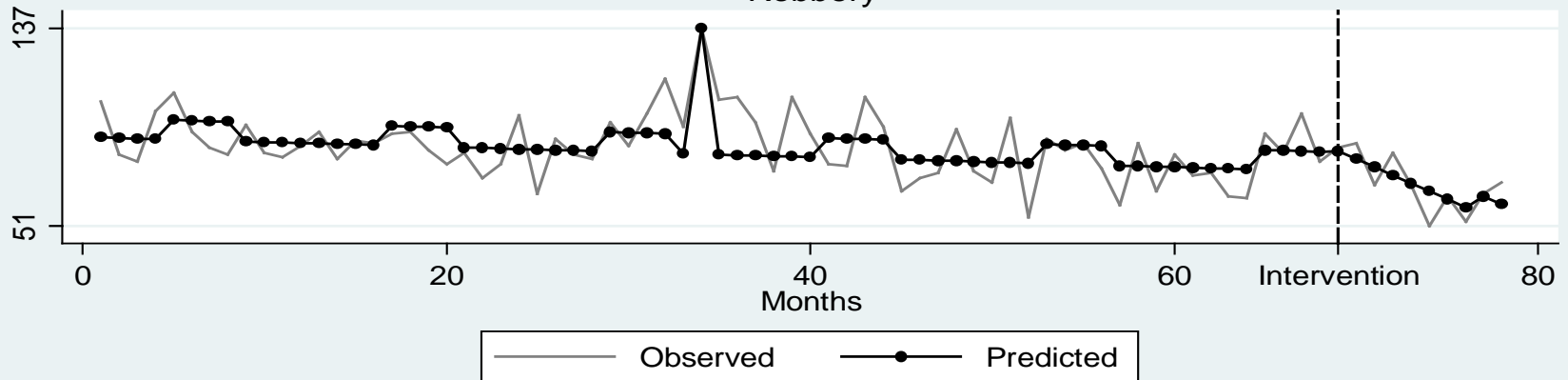

Total Part I Violent Crime
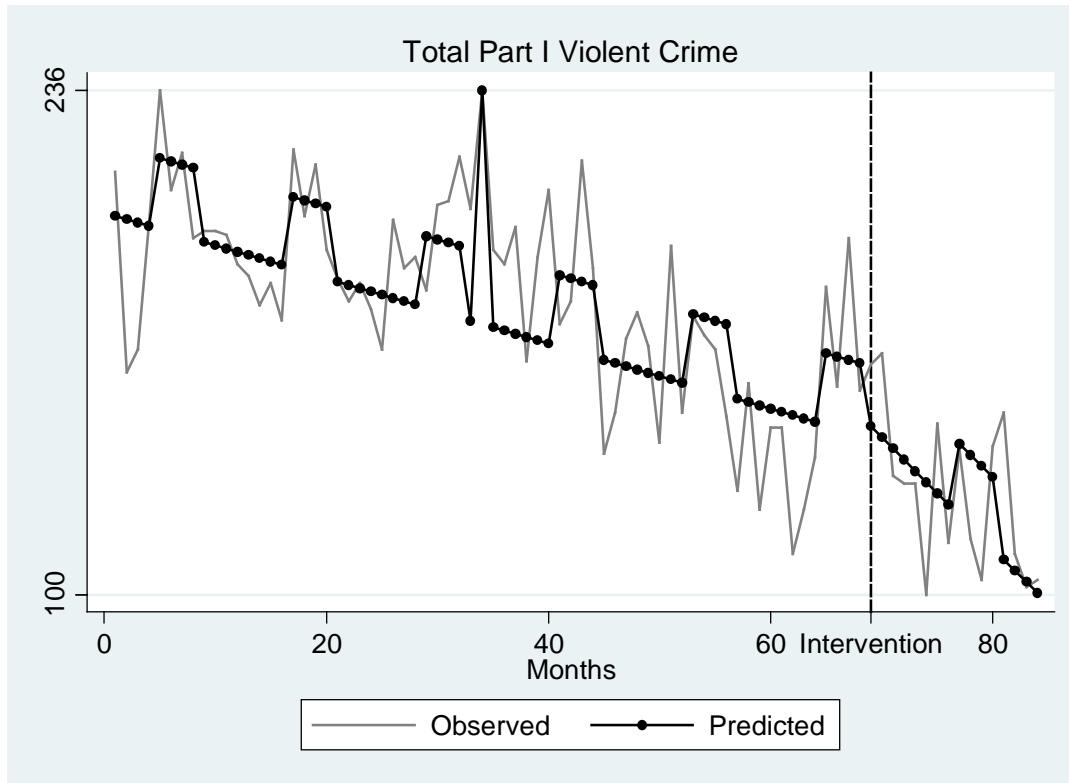
Total Part I Gun Crime
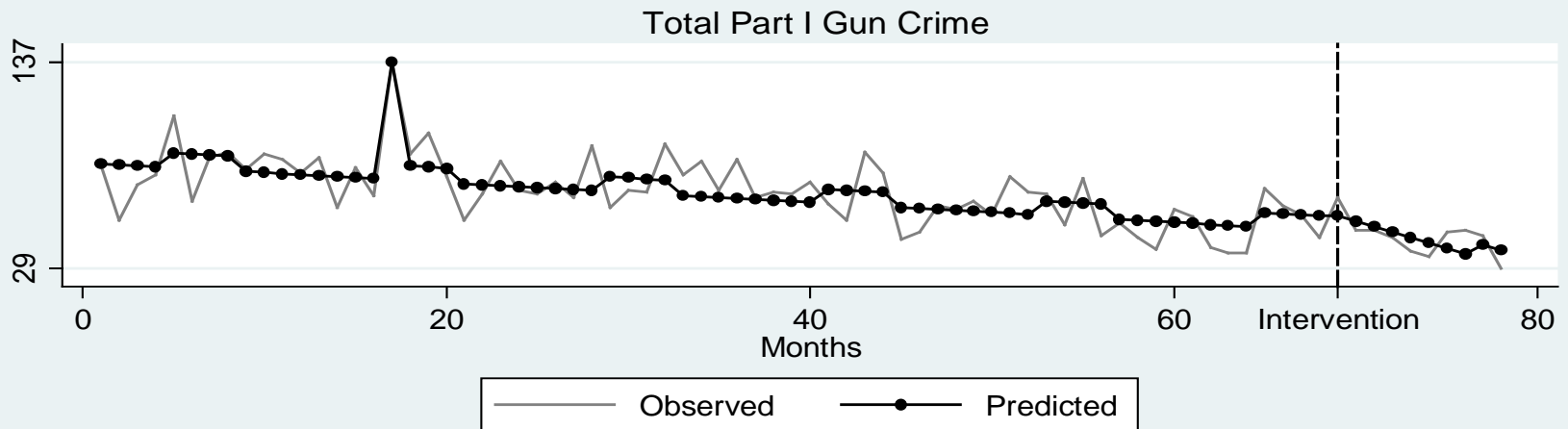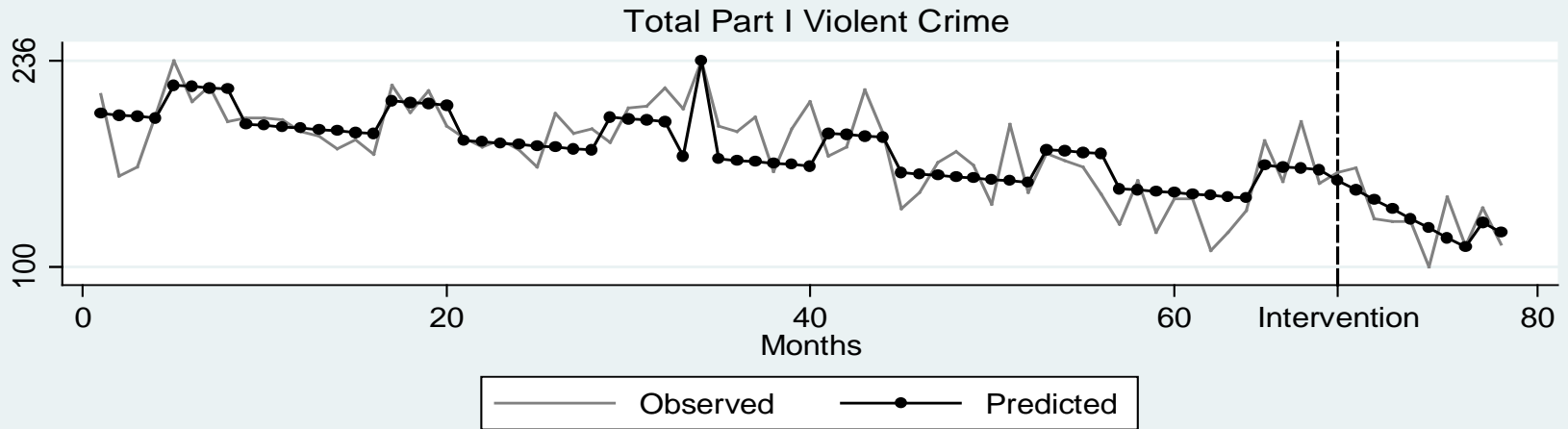
Time Series: Homicide & Robbery

Updated Results

- Analyzed data from January 2006 to December 31, 2012

- Intervention period = 16 months

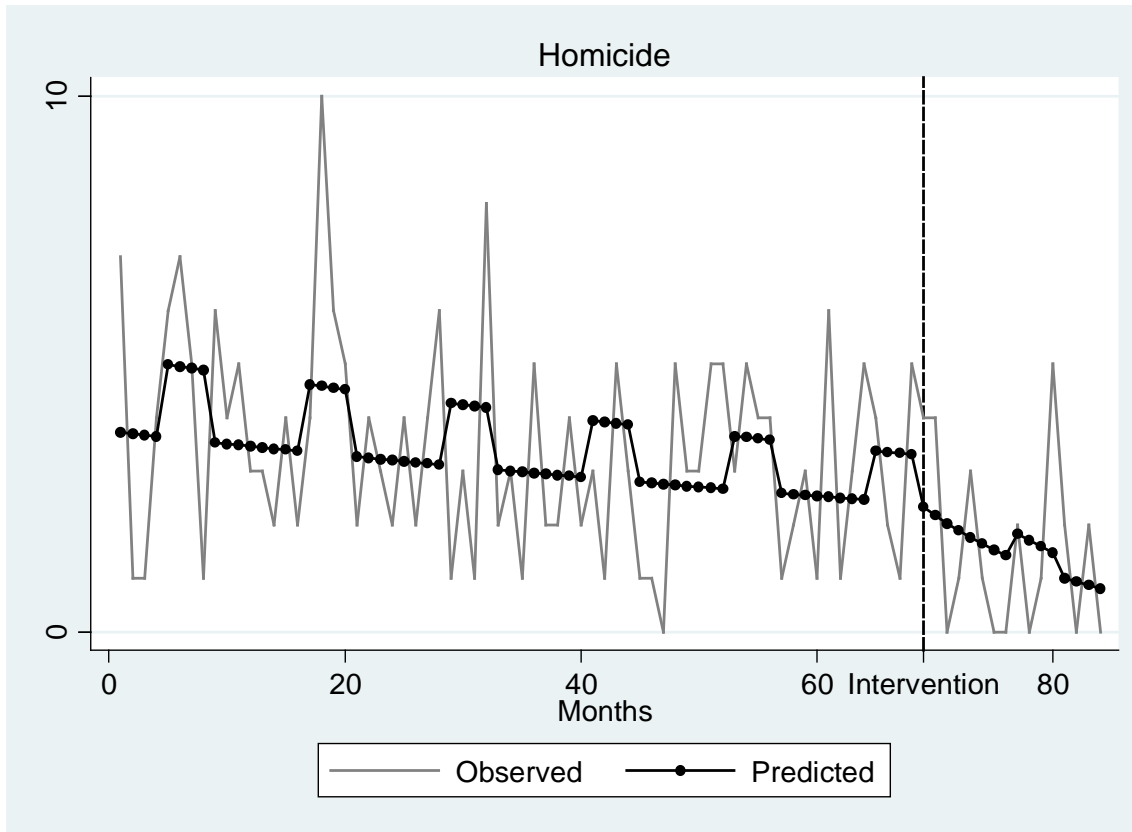- Time Series analysis shows different results

Part I Violent Crime

Total Part I Violent Crime

- There is a significant decrease in Part I Violent Crime after LASER began
- Reduction of approximately 2 violent crimes per month over the past 16 months

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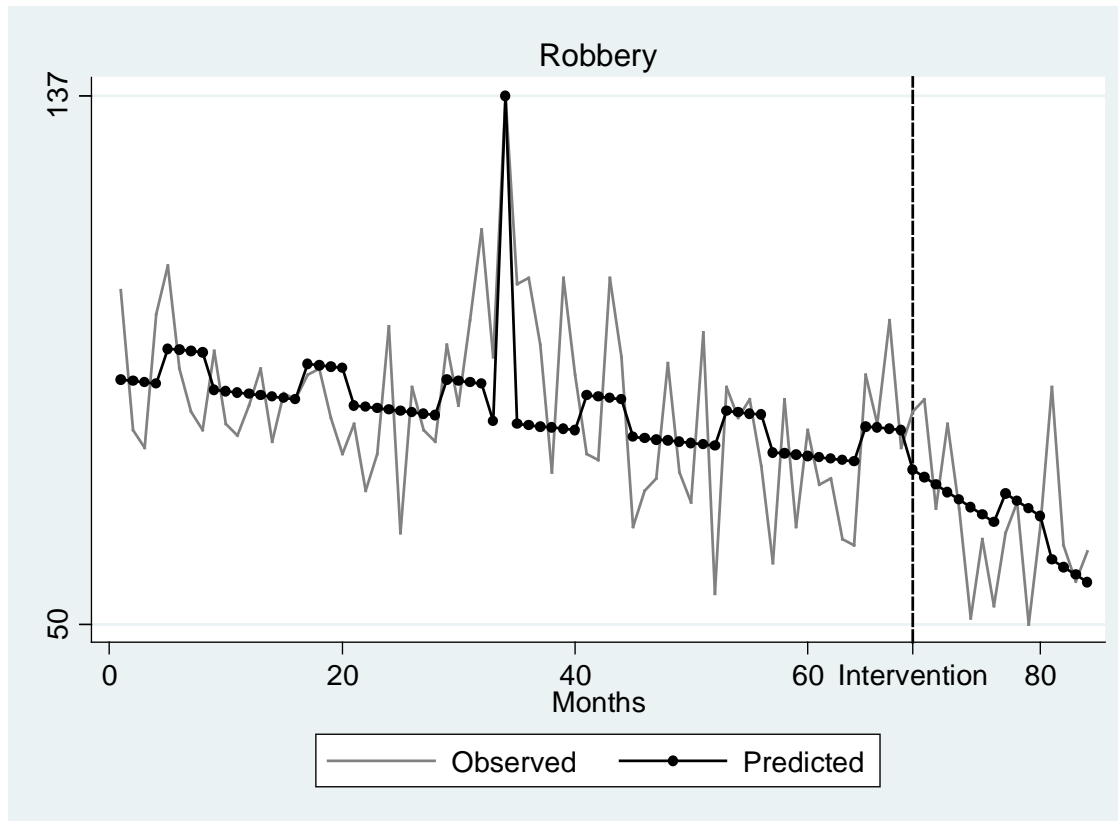Bureau of Justice Assistance
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Homicide

Homicide

- There is a declining trend after LASER began
- Decrease is not statistically significant (p.<.125)
- Previously significant for 10 months

Robbery

Robbery

- There is a declining trend after LASER began
- Decrease is not statistically significant
- Previously significant for 10 months

What Happened to Homicide and Robbery?

- Examining the data, it appears that Homicide reached a post-intervention high point in August, 2012 and Robbery in September, 2012.
  - Highest numbers since the start of the intervention
- These data points are substantially influencing the post-intervention trend

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Future Directions: Analysis

- Continue to analyze data (quarterly) and evaluate LASER activities

- Additional time periods will provide more statistical power to detect an effect

  - We are analyzing data for all RDs using a 'panel analysis'

  - The results may change due to model improvements

Future Directions: LASER

- LAPD has agreed to expand LASER to four new divisions:
  - Hollenbeck (violent crime)
  - Southwest (violent crime)
  - Foothill (property crime)
  - Wilshire (property crime)
  - Continue in Newton (violent and property crime)

Future Directions: Other Divisions

- Create Crime Intelligence Details
- Create chronic offender bulletins
- Use location-based strategies
- Measure dosage – minutes in the RDs and hotspot corridors
- Use Palantir
- JSS– continues with real-time evaluation

Questions?