



Focused Deterrence and Offender Notification Meetings

Scott H. Decker, Director and Professor
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Arizona State University

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Webinar Outline

- Foundation of Offender Notification Meetings
- Problem Analysis, Strategies and the Meeting
- Steps in Planning and Executing the Meeting
- The Meeting
- Post-Meeting Issues
- FAQs

Foundation of Offender Notification Meetings

Foundation of Offender Notification Meetings (ONMs)

- Boston Ceasefire, mid-1990s
 - Focused on youth gun violence
 - Began with problem analysis
 - Small group of youths, involved in gangs and street crews, responsible for almost all youth homicides and shootings
 - Most had extensive criminal histories & were subject to criminal justice “levers” (probation, parole, outstanding warrants; federal prohibition gun carrying)

Offender Notification Meetings

- ONM surfaces as a way of directly communicating with at-risk population
- “A and B listers”
 - “A list” consists of most violent and chronic offenders who serve as examples given their stiff sentences
 - “B list” are those believed headed toward violence but who may be “redeemable”
 - “How do we prevent the usual ‘back-filling’ of new offenders following a drug or gang roundup.”?

Offender Notification Meetings

- Essential Components:
 - Strong law enforcement presence
 - Offer of social support
 - Community involvement
 - Forthright, direct communication
 - Follow up

Role of Social Support

- Family
- Neighbors
- “Community Elders”
- Pastors
- Schools

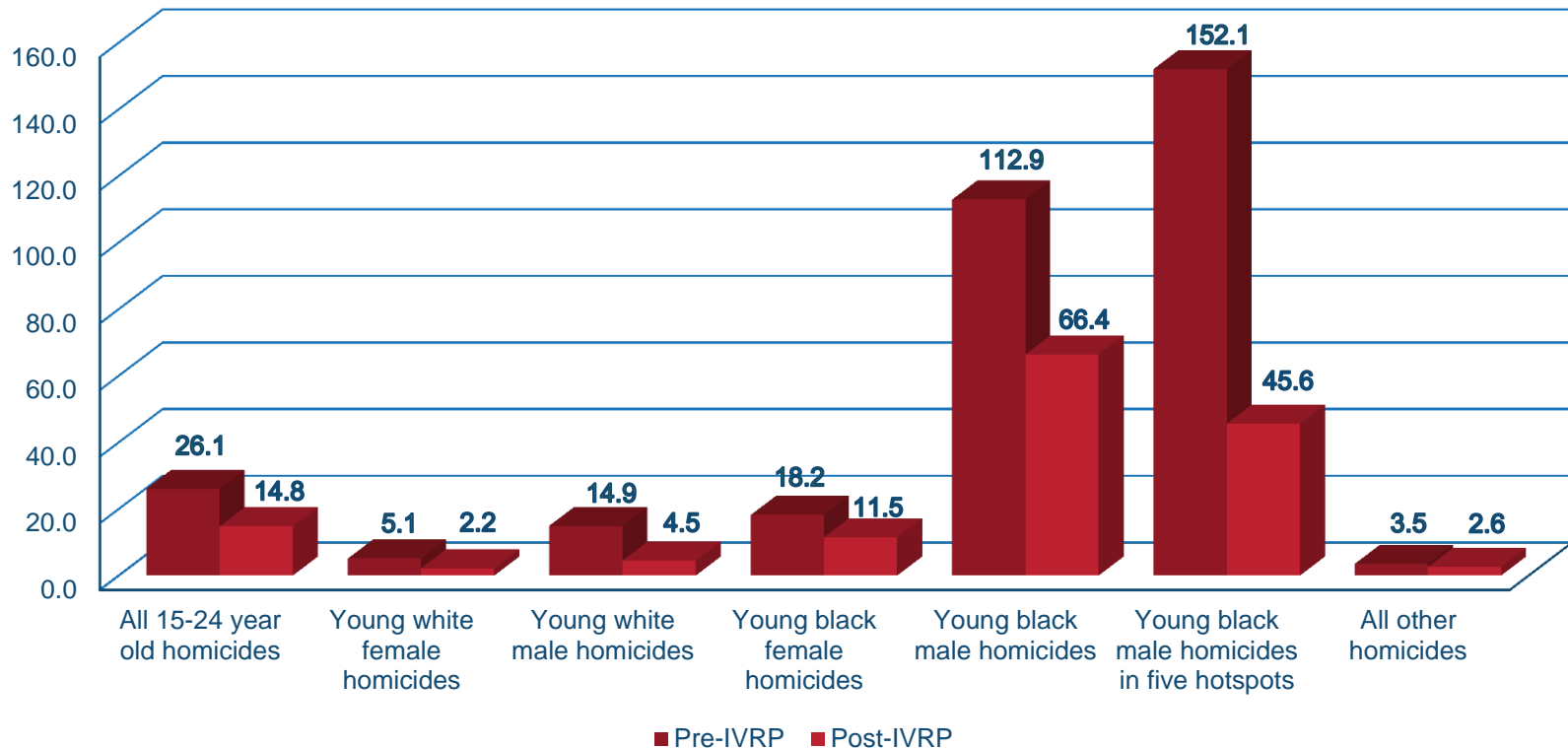
Problem Analysis, Strategies, and the Meeting

Problem Analyses, Strategies, and the Meeting

- What research tells us...
 - Boston – 65% decline in youth homicides
 - This resulted in expanded use of ONM through Department of Justice initiatives:
 - Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative
 - Project Safe Neighborhoods
 - Positive results from over a dozen communities
 - Expanded use to address other problems

Reducing Homicide Risk (Indianapolis)

Homicide Risk by Group per 10,000 Residents



Note: Each trend is population specific for each graph presented above

Influence a Social Network



Call-in attendees

Why do they seem to have an impact?

- Highly focused on at-risk population
- Reduce anonymity “This means YOU!”
- Specific deterrence message to those in most need of hearing message
- Influence a social network
- Perceived as fair – compliance through legitimacy
- Community support

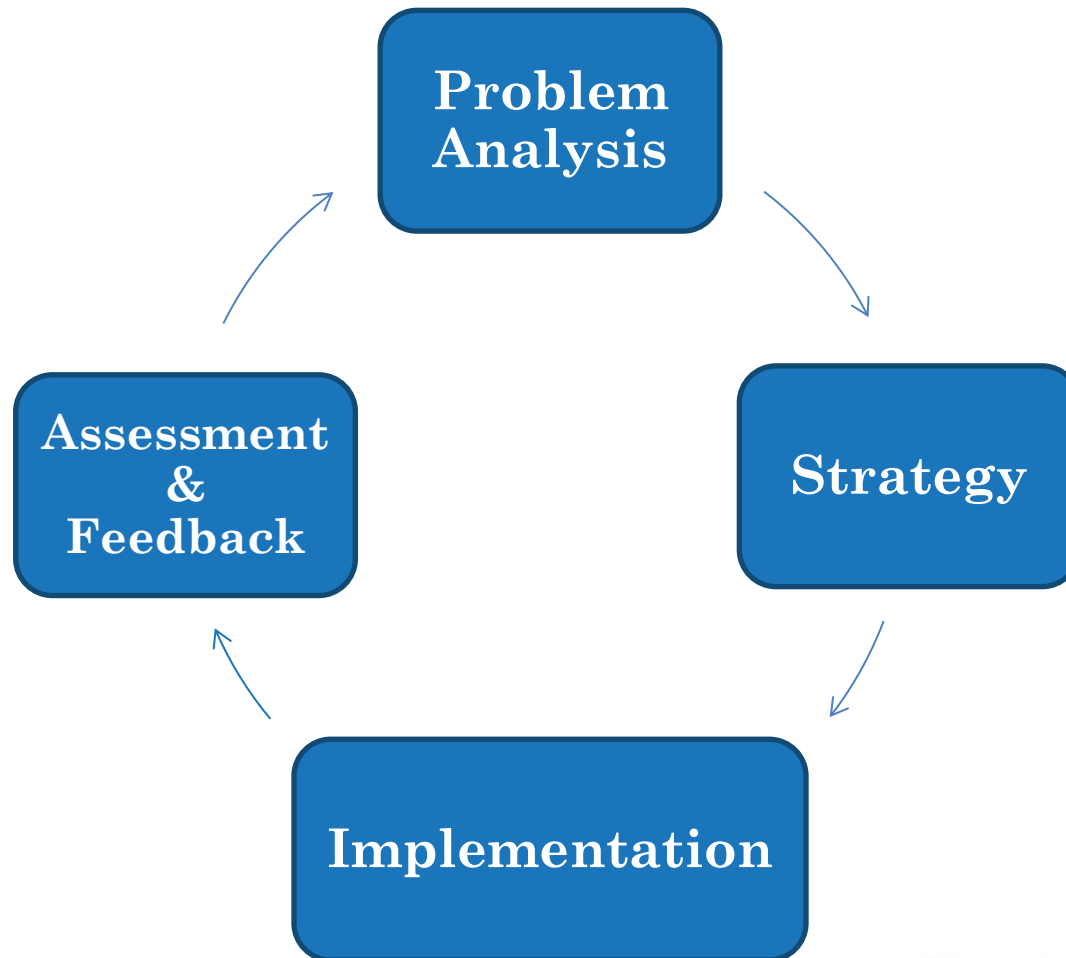
Community Voice



Linking Problem Analysis, Strategy and ONM to Enhance Group and Individual Accountability

- Variety of applications of ONM
 - Group-based Networks and Gangs
 - Illegal Gun Carrying
 - Drug Markets
 - Inmate Re-entry
 - Emerging Applications

Smart Policing and Problem Solving



Goal: Group Based ONM

- By prosecuting the most violent & calling in their associates, seek to:
 - Prevent back-fill of lower level players
 - Prevent retaliatory violence
 - Reduce illegal gun carrying among high-risk population
 - By reducing anonymity, disrupting network, and creating alternative pressures on group

Summary – Problem Analysis Dictates Nature of ONM

Analyze
Specific
Problem

Target A &
B List

Engage
Community

Conduct
Call-in

Conduct
Follow up

Steps in Planning and Executing the Meeting

Steps in Planning and Executing the Meetings

- Identifying Call-in Candidates
- The Invitation
- Influentials
- Community Engagement
- The Setting
- The Message
- The Follow Up

The Logistics of the ONM

- Identifying Call-in Candidates
 - Based on problem analysis
 - Crime information system & street level intelligence
 - Employ levers (probation, parole, warrants) or build cases
 - Criteria for A and B list
 - Systematic case review
 - Process becomes important because fairness and balance produce more positive results

The Invitation (or “Order”)

- Probationers & parolees may be ordered to attend as condition of status
- Drug offenders (or others) receive invite from Chief, Prosecutor, and/or U.S. Attorney
- Family

May 16, 2006

John Doe:

As Chief of Police with the High Point Police Department, I am writing to let you know that your activities have come to my attention. Specifically, I know that you are involved in selling drugs on the street. You have been identified as a street level drug dealer after an extensive undercover campaign in the South Side area.

I want to invite you to a meeting on June 8, 2006, at 5:30 PM at the Police Department. You will **not** be arrested. This is **not** a trick. You may bring someone with you who is important to you, like a friend or relative. I want you to see the evidence I have of your involvement in criminal activity, and I want to give you an option to stop before my officers are forced to take action. Let me say again, **you will not be arrested at this meeting.**

If you choose not to attend this meeting, we will be in contact with you along with members of the community. Street level drug sales and violence have to stop in High Point. We are giving you one chance to hear our message before we are forced to take action against you.

Chief James Fealy
High Point Police Department

Role of Influentials

- Who?
 - Members of informal social networks
 - Mother, father, grandparent, minister, coach, etc.
 - Express moral voice of those most important to offender
 - May increase informal surveillance & support

Identifying Influentials

- All sources of information available
 - Intelligence databases, community knowledge, school resource officers, jail visit records
- Invitation to influential
 - Team involving police, minister, community member
 - Face-to-face visit

Community Engagement

- Presence & role of community has varied from place-to-place
 - Criminal justice system opportunity to show community its concern & fairness of message
 - Enlist community as “co-producers” of order
 - Enlist community moral voice
 - NOT enforcement only

Guest Presenter

Lt. Tom Woodmansee, Madison Police Department

- Description of our model
 - Development and evolution
 - Unit structure and partnerships

Stop & Think



- How has your department used problem analysis for ONMs?
- What strategies has your department used for planning and executing ONMs?

The Meeting

Choosing the Setting

- Most common
 - Police department
 - Community center
 - School
 - Church
 - Court

The Meeting

- Order of Presentations – Key Components of Message
 - Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice (CJ)
 - Community
 - Social Services and Employers

Key Components of Message – Law Enforcement/CJ Officials

- Violence/drug dealing must stop
 - Deliver the message in an unequivocal and direct manner using examples if possible.
 - The things you have been involved in and the people you hang with put you at high risk for being either a victim or an offender
- Here are people who did not listen. (Use posters of those killed or incarcerated)
- If the violence/dealing continues, we will do everything in our power to arrest and prosecute you to the fullest extent (you are on a list)
- For gangs/groups/crews: We are holding all of you accountable for what members of your group do

Key Components of Message - Community

- We are tired of the violence/drug dealing, as it affects our children and our lives.
- The shootings and the drug dealings are wrong
- We value you and want you to be a positive part of the community
- We will help you in whatever way we can
- However, if you choose not to listen, we will support the police and prosecutors as they remove from the community

Key Components of the Message – Social Services

- We also hope you will choose to go forward in a positive manner
- We are here to work with you and offer you support in as many ways as we can
- We invite you to meet with (services coordinator/case manager) who will talk with you about services that you may be interested in and find helpful
- Opportunities Provision

The Message – Lessons Learned

1. Be credible in both threats & offers of support
2. Don't promise what you can't deliver

The Message – Lessons Learned

- Multiple voices (examples)
 - Chief & Prosecutor or U.S. Attorney
 - Neighborhood leader, crime victim, faith leader
 - Ex-offender, former gang member
 - Social services coordinator
 - Employment coordinator
- Prepare speakers
- Stay on script

Post Meeting Issues

Post Meeting Issues: Follow-up & Maintenance

- Individual Level Follow-up: Needs Assessment, Referral, Case Management
- Varies from site to site & based on type of call-in
 - Some sites order individualized meeting at end of ONM or next day
 - Some sites encourage but do not demand post meeting follow up

Follow-up & Maintenance

- Individual Level
 - Needs assessment & referral
 - Case management
 - Skill building
 - Job Referrals
 - Remain crime free, no violence, no drug dealing
 - Participate in/complete services

Follow-up & Maintenance

- Community Level - Reactive Follow-up
- “Pulling Levers”
 - Knock & talks
 - Directed patrol
 - Probation/parole home visits; drug screens
 - Warrant service/fugitive task force operations
 - Issuing warrants (where cases held)
 - Targeted undercover operation
 - Gang injunctions

Community Engagement

- Neighborhood/block watch
- Town hall meetings (report back)
- Community clean-ups (parks, problem properties)
- Landlord education
- Code enforcement/nuisance abatement
- Celebration of success

Guest Presenter

Lt. Tom Woodmansee, Madison Police Department

- Description of our model
 - Selection process
 - Call-Ins
 - Our follow-up
 - Current data on effectiveness
 - Lessons learned
 - SPI site examples – Cambridge, MA and Kansas City, MO

Stop & Think



- What challenges or lessons learned have resulted from conducting an ONM?
- How does your department engage offenders after an ONM?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FAQs

- Will they show up?
 - Experience shows “yes”
 - Lower rates with letter only (+/- 50%); prepare for bad addresses
 - 90-100% with letter, face-to-face delivery and/or face-to-face with influentials

FAQs

- How to handle an unruly attendee?
 - We are here to give you information
 - This is not a two-way dialogue
 - Have someone ready to take control
 - Have people ready to escort out

FAQs

- Who Gets Invited, Who Gets Prosecuted?
 - This can only be addressed at local level
 - Key is to reach agreement on criteria and process for determining
 - May wish to consider what would likely happen if case goes to court

FAQs

- What Do We Promise? (credibility for enforcement and services)
 - Can you really prosecute for spitting on the side walk?
 - Can you really provide a job?
- “We are going to do our best to”

FAQs

- What type of security has been employed?
 - For most sites, heavy law enforcement presence considered adequate
 - Several sites have utilized metal detectors

FAQs

What are some of the problems that have sometimes arisen?

- Off message speaker
- Shouting match (initiated by animated CJS official)
- Inattentive, disruptive attendee
- Challenge evidence (e.g. Drug Market Interventions)



Resources and Contact Information

Additional resources can be found on the SPI website at:

- www.smartpolicinginitiative.com/library-and-multimedia-resources/deterrence

Contact information of speakers:

- Dr. Scott Decker: Scott.Decker@asu.edu
- Lt. Tom Woodmansee: TWoodmansee@cityofmadison.com