



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES



STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES



COMMITTED TO
SAVING LIVES,
SAVING COMMUNITIES

CENTER FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL
JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
899 Tenth Avenue New York, NY 10019
Tel 212.484.1323 Fax 212.237.8937 www.jjay.cuny.edu/ccpc



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

The National Network for Safe Communities is a coalition of police chiefs, prosecutors, community leaders, service providers, mayors, street workers, scholars, and others concerned about the impact of crime and current crime policies on communities.

COMMITTED TO SAVING LIVES, SAVING COMMUNITIES

The National Network
for Safe Communities believes:

THE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA ARE UNACCEPTABLE

Each year, 16,000 people die from violent crime in America. The levels of homicide are four to seven times higher than in Europe. Among young men of color living in high crime neighborhoods, the risk of becoming a homicide victim is 65 times higher than the national average.

THE REALITIES OF DRUG MARKETS ARE UNACCEPTABLE

In many neighborhoods, drug dealers and drug buyers have taken over the streets, forcing residents to stay in their homes. These drug markets are violent and volatile, undermining community safety and inhibiting development of local economies.

THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES ARE UNACCEPTABLE

Police and residents of minority neighborhoods too often distrust one another, which undermines respect for the law and impedes enforcement of the law.

THE LEVELS OF INCARCERATION IN AMERICA ARE UNACCEPTABLE

The four-fold increase in the rate of incarceration in America since the late 1970s has caused enormous strain on the same minority neighborhoods that are living with excessively high crime rates. These neighborhoods are given a false choice between lower crime rates and fewer arrests.

THE NATIONAL NETWORK
FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES
is committed to building a
new standard of practice aimed at

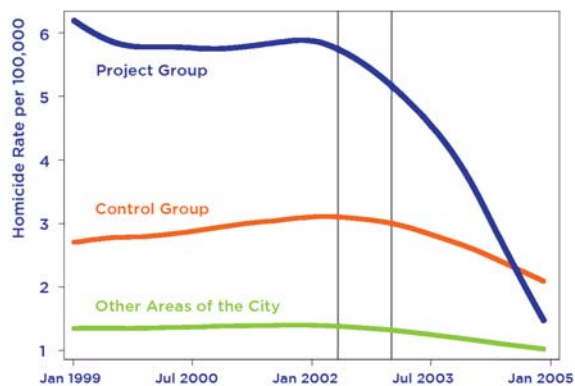
- Reducing levels of violent crime
- Eliminating overt drug markets
- Promoting racial reconciliation between minority communities and police
- Reducing high levels of incarceration

The new standard is to be rooted in the systematic implementation of two proven crime prevention strategies:

A STRATEGY TO PREVENT HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Pioneered in Boston, MA, this strategy brings together offenders, their families, law enforcement and criminal justice officials, service providers, street workers, and community leaders to set clear community standards against violence; help offenders leave the streets; and establish clear, predictable, and meaningful consequences for groups whose members commit homicide and serious violence.

- The original Boston Ceasefire intervention cut youth homicide by two thirds, and homicide citywide by half
- In Indianapolis, the strategy cut homicide citywide by over a third, and homicide victimization among young black men in the city's five most dangerous areas by 70 percent
- In Chicago, a variation of the strategy cut homicide in two of the city's most violent neighborhoods by 37 percent



Drawn from Andrew Papachristos et al (2007) "Attention Felons: Evaluating Project Safe Neighborhoods in Chicago" *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 4 (2)

A STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE OVERT DRUG MARKETS

Pioneered in High Point, NC, this strategy brings together drug dealers, their families, law enforcement and criminal justice officials, service providers, and community leaders to eliminate overt community drug markets; arrest and prosecute violent drug dealers; offer non-violent dealers education, job placement, and other assistance; and establish clear, predictable and meaningful consequences for those who return to dealing.

- The original intervention in High Point eliminated drug markets citywide, and reduced violent crime in the first neighborhood in which it was implemented by 57 percent
- In Providence, RI, calls for police service in the city's worst drug market fell 58 percent; reported drug crime 70 percent; and drug calls to police 81 percent
- In Hempstead, NY, drug arrests dropped 87 percent in the year after its drug market was shut down

Both the group and gang violence and the drug market strategies directly address, reduce, and even reverse the profound tension between minority communities and police. "The most important benefit of this work," says High Point Chief of Police James Fealy, "is the reconciliation that emerges from the dialogue between the minority community and police. It's nothing short of miraculous."

The National Network for Safe Communities is dedicated to implementing these strategies nationally; to institutionalizing them; to continuing to evaluate and improve them; and thereby to dramatically reduce crime and incarceration in America.

We are guided by an Executive Board

Our Executive Board is comprised of leaders from the national, state and local level who have been involved in testing and evaluating the strategies of the National Network for Safe Communities over the past several years, have seen the positive results first-hand, and are committed to sharing their experiences and insights to a larger network.

CO-CHAIRS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Professor David M. Kennedy
<i>Director, Center for Crime Prevention and Control
John Jay College of Criminal Justice</i> | Mr. Jeremy Travis
<i>President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice</i> |
| Dr. Anthony Braga
<i>Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management
Harvard University</i> | Professor Tracey Meares
<i>Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law
Yale Law School</i> |
| Colonel Dean Esserman
<i>Chief of Police
Providence Police Department
Providence, RI</i> | Ms. Meg Reiss
<i>Executive Assistant District Attorney
Investigation Division
Nassau County
District Attorney's Office, NY</i> |
| Chief Jim Fealy
<i>High Point Police Department
High Point, NC</i> | Mr. Mark Schoofs
<i>Fellow, Open Society Institute</i> |
| Ms. Elizabeth Glazer
<i>Special Counsel to the Attorney General
New York State
Attorney General's Office</i> | Dr. Ellen Scrivner
<i>Director, Leadership Academy
John Jay College of Criminal Justice</i> |
| Mr. Teny Gross
<i>Executive Director
Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence
Providence, RI</i> | Mr. Paul Seave
<i>Director
Gang and Youth Violence Policy
Office of the Governor
California</i> |
| Mr. Ted Heinrich, Esq. | Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.
<i>Cincinnati Police Department
Cincinnati, OH</i> |
| Mr. Glenn Ivey
<i>State's Attorney
Office of the State's Attorney
Prince George's County, MD</i> | Reverend Jim Summey
<i>Executive Director
High Point Community Against Violence
High Point, NC</i> |
| Mr. Robert A. J. Lang, Esq. | Dr. Doug Thompkins
<i>Department of Sociology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice</i> |
| Pastor Sherman Mason
<i>Greater New Hope Baptist Church
High Point, NC</i> | Mr. Stewart Wakeling
<i>Project Director/Principal Investigator
Public Health Institute
Michigan State University</i> |
| Dr. Ed McGarrell
<i>Director
School of Criminal Justice
Michigan State University</i> | |