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Project Safe Neighborhoods: Southern District of Indiana

Review of 2008 Subgrantees

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Kenna Quinet
Thomas D. Stucky
Samuel Nunn
Bill Newby



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334 North Senate Avenue, Suite 300
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-1708





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Authors

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Executive Summary

This report synthesizes the activities of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Southern District of Indiana subgrantees with active or awarded grants in 2008. PSN is a federal program established in fiscal year 2001 to reduce gun-related violence and gang activity. The Southern District of Indiana's PSN initiative, led by the U.S. Attorney's Office, began in 2003 and has focused mainly on Marion County and surrounding communities. This report summarizes the activities of 18 funding streams, (including 14 funded agencies or entities and 11 unique projects) active or awarded in 2008. Funded activities included a diverse array of anti-gang and gun programs including:

- community clergy to assist police after violent incidents;
- overtime for police agencies to track gang and violent offenders;
- funding for a school-based youth club to teach conflict resolution and combat gang involvement;
- a program that encourages at-risk juvenile females to make better choices regarding activities associated with drugs and gun violence;
- a large-scale pilot project to test the effectiveness and efficiency of using touch DNA technology to gather evidence from crime guns;
- the purchase of microscopes to identify trace evidence on firearms; and
- a large scale-multi-agency wiretap project to fund overtime for police officers to monitor phone intercepts to arrest, prosecute and dismantle a gang in Indianapolis.

Performance metrics provided by PSN subgrantees have improved over time and there is greater accountability for subgrantees to document metrics for their successful programs. PSN funds a diverse array of projects with many different types of partners. The key components of the PSN mission are well-represented by the 2008 subgrantees funded by the Southern District of Indiana.



History of PSN Activities in the Southern District of Indiana

This report synthesizes the activities of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Southern District of Indiana subgrantees with active or awarded grants in 2008. A similar report was issued that documented subgrantee activities for 2007.¹ The Southern District of Indiana’s PSN initiative, led by the U.S. Attorney’s Office began in 2003. Through PSN, a federal program established to reduce gun-related violence and gang activity, the state of Indiana has received \$5.2 million in funding with an average yearly award of \$654,838. This funding has been distributed as 22 grants to the United States Attorney’s Office, Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana (Table 1), with an average grant amount of \$238,123. Since 2003, the Southern District has received 58 percent of total awards and the Northern District 42 percent with each district receiving the same number of grants.

Historically, PSN in the Southern District of Indiana has funded a variety of community and law enforcement programs:

- Top Ten Violent Offender Lists
- Offender notification meetings (e.g., Lever Pulling)
- Targeted patrol strategies
- Case screening for federal prosecution and stricter federal prosecution
- Fugitive roundups and probation and parole and truancy sweeps
- Crime incident reviews
- Juvenile and adult re-entry programs
- Public service announcements
- Juvenile gun violence prevention
- Intervention programs

The 2008 subgrantees followed a similar pattern of diversity in strategies funded.

Table 1: Project Safe Neighborhood Grants to Indiana by District, 2002-2009

Year (FFY)	Grants (N)			Total Amount (\$)		
	Northern	Southern	Total	Northern	Southern	Total
2002	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	719,912*
2003	1	1	2	465,456	684,364	1,149,820
2004	1	1	2	379,219	557,569	936,788
2005	1	1	2	82,500	156,119	238,619
2006	2	2	4	320,614	456,727	777,341
2007	2	2	4	432,308	474,015	906,323
2008	1	1	2	120,851	156,225	277,076
2009	1	1	2	101,779	131,042	232,821
TOTAL	9	9	22	1,902,727	2,616,061	5,238,700

Notes:

N/A = Not Available

2004 and 2005 grants are considered “supplemental” grants to the 2003 grant.

* Total is for three of the four grants as one could not be accounted for.

¹ Quinet, K., Stucky, T.D., & Nunn, S. (2008). Project Safe Neighborhoods: Southern District of Indiana, review of 2007 subgrantees. Indianapolis: Center for Criminal Justice Research, Indiana Public Policy Institute. 08-C52.

Southern District of Indiana PSN Subgrantee Funding for 2008

During 2008, 11 sub-grantees received grants totaling \$252,870 in the Southern District (Table 2).² These awards ranged from \$2,500 to \$80,000. Grant periods ranged from 4 to 17 months with an average length of 11 months. These grants and the programs they funded are discussed in detailed case studies below.

Similar to prior years, Southern District of Indiana 2008 subgrantee activities focused primarily on Marion County and surrounding communities. This report summarizes the activities of 18 funding streams, (including 14 funded agencies or entities and 11 unique projects) active or awarded in 2008. These projects reflect PSN priority areas, including gang and gun violence reduction strategies.

Table 2: Project Safe Neighborhood Subgrantees, Southern District of Indiana, 2008

Grant Number	Subgrantee	Grant Period	Length of Grant Period (Months)	Award Amount (\$)
03-GPS-021	IMPD - Community Clergy	01/01/08 - 07/31/08	17	3,600
03-GPS-022	IMPD - Violent Crimes Unit	01/01/08 - 04/30/08	4	21,000
06-AGS-006	Beech Grove Police Dept	01/01/08 - 12/31/08	12	15,000
06-AGS-007	Cumberland Police Dept	01/01/08 - 12/31/08	12	15,000
06-AGS-008	Speedway Police Dept	01/01/08 - 12/31/08	12	20,000
06-GPS-009	Watch Club	01/01/08 - 12/31/08	12	9,847
06-GPS-012	Christamore House - <i>Choices</i>	02/01/08 - 08/01/09	6	5,000
07-GPS-009	Community Video Project	03/01/08 - 02/28/09	12	2,500
07AGS-008, 06-AGS-009, 07-GPS-008, 06-GPS-011	IMPD Forensic ID	05/01/08 - 04/30/09	12	80,000
07-GPS-013	Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency	09/01/08 - 08/31/09	12	11,240
07-AGS-012, 07-AGS-009, 07-AGS-011, 07-GPS-011, 06-AGS-011	ISP/IMPD Wire Tap Investigations	10/01/08 - 05/31/09, 07/01/08 - 06/30/09, 10/01/08 - 05/31/09, 07/01/08 - 06/30/09, 07/01/08 - 04/30/09	12	69,683
TOTAL				252,870

Information on program descriptions and needs and collaborative partners included in this report was taken directly from grant applications, narrative reports on PSN projects, steering committee minutes, the PSN 2008 report to the Attorney General, and individual program reports. Overall program assessment was based on a review of final grant reports, site review information, PSN steering committee meeting minutes, and other supporting materials housed with the PSN fiscal agent (the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute).

² The Southern District may award PSN subgrants from its pool of PSN funds consisting of current and previous years' PSN grants to the District. Because of this, the total subgrant amount shown in Table 2 does not equal the total grant amount to the Southern District in 2008 shown in Table 1.



For the 2008 funding stream, PSN funded a diverse array of anti-gang and gun programs, including:

- community clergy to assist police after violent incidents;
- overtime for police agencies to track gang and violent offenders;
- funding for a school-based youth club to teach conflict resolution and combat gang involvement;
- a program that encourages at-risk juvenile females to make better choices regarding activities associated with drugs and gun violence;
- a large-scale pilot project to test the effectiveness and efficiency of using touch DNA technology to gather evidence from crime guns;
- the purchase of microscopes to identify trace evidence on firearms; and
- a large scale-multi-agency wiretap project to fund overtime for police officers to monitor phone intercepts to arrest, prosecute, and dismantle a gang in Indianapolis.

These projects continue to reflect the PSN goals in the Southern District of Indiana that include various *law enforcement strategies* of directed patrols and field interrogations, surveillance and arrests of gang and gun offenders, use of most violent offender lists, and law enforcement use of technology-based strategies including DNA swabbing, wiretaps, and microscopic analysis of trace gun evidence. The PSN objectives of *outreach and prevention* are also reflected in the 2008 funded projects through public service announcements, PSN participation in community events, the *Choices* project, and Watch Club.

The 2008 funding streams also included partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies as well as probation, corrections, education, faith-based groups, Weed and Seed, Marion County health department, hospitals, researcher partners at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, and community centers, consistent with the primary mission of PSN to reduce gang and gun crimes.

The 2008 active and awarded funding streams included funding for 14 different agencies and 11 unique projects. The following case studies document the goals, activities, and results for these 11 projects.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Community Clergy, 03-GPS-021, 01/01/08-07/31/08, \$3,600

Project Description

This project was a partnership between the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and community clergy members, which focused on community relations in neighborhoods that had experienced a recent violent crime. Community clergy members were called to the scene of homicides, police action shootings, civil unrest, or other violent incidents to help prevent retaliation incidents, increase trust in the police department, and increase information-sharing that would lead to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators.

Project Need

This project provided funding for jackets for community clergy (identifying them as “CLERGY”) so they could be easily identified at the scene of violent incidents. Approximately 30 jackets were provided to pastors and associate pastors.

Work Plan

Community clergy participated in a four-hour training course, had background checks, and were issued identification cards and jackets. Clergy were assigned to specific districts and were on call to IMPD to share information with police about possible suspects, help develop community relations with citizens and police, and increase trust and awareness in the police role in investigating and solving crimes.

Collaborative Partners

No federal agency was an official partner for this project, but in many cases the Community Clergy work with federal law enforcement personnel at the scene of violent crime incidents since some of the crime incidents responded to by Community Clergy fall under the jurisdiction of various federal agencies.

Overall Project Assessment

Following training, the Community Clergy resource group responded to several violent crime incidents. Clergy worked with police department chaplains, family members, and bystanders to share information about crime scenes and investigations. Community Clergy plans to extend the project throughout Marion County as volunteers become available. The project currently has 11 trained members. Site review documentation at the mid-point of the project indicated that the program goals and objectives that included community outreach, involvement in Weed and Seed and Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership meetings, and other relevant task force and law enforcement meetings were being met and the program was being publicized. IMPD personnel were also attending Community Clergy meetings and including the group in community policing initiatives and information about reverse sting operations. Future performance metrics for this project should include number of events attended. The Community Clergy program also overlapped with two Weed and Seed sites (Martindale/Brightwood and Eagledale).



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Violent Crimes Unit (VCU), 03-GPS-022, 01/01/08-04/30/08, \$21,000

Project Description

The IMPD Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) targets repeat and violent offenders who have previous convictions for gun, drug, and gang-related crimes. Activities conducted by the VCU include surveillance, intelligence-gathering, review of old cases, and coordination with prosecutors and federal agencies to secure criminal charges for violent offenders. The VCU also receives the Top Ten Violent Offender lists from each IMPD district and concentrates their efforts on assisting in the apprehension of these offenders. Additionally, VCU assists district officers with the apprehension of other violent offenders not on the list. This project provided overtime funding for officers in the VCU.

Project Need

Funding was needed for overtime to conduct long term surveillance operations and to coordinate these activities with prosecutors and federal partners.

Work Plan

VCU assisted IMPD districts and Investigations Division to lower violent crime by concentrating on repeat and violent offenders on community corrections, probation and parole.

Collaborative Partners

VCU collaborated with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF), U.S. Postal Inspectors, U.S. Marshal's Office, Marion County Community Corrections, state and federal prosecutors, home detention officers, and U.S. Parole officers. The VCU also participated in Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed meetings, IVRP/LE meetings, and the Project Safe Neighborhoods Steering Committee meetings.

Overall Project Assessment

This unit participated in several high profile investigations including the Hovey Street quadruple murders and the Huntington Bank robbery and death investigation, both resulting in arrests. The unit also assisted in several joint investigations with other agencies resulting in 113 felony and 45 misdemeanor arrests, 29 guns seized, a large amount of drugs seized, and \$31,000 in cash seized. This is an active unit whose contributions are regularly acknowledged by IMPD. Future plans for the unit include participation with the Community Clergy and the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI).

Beech Grove Police Department, 06-AGS-006, 01/01/08-12/31/08, \$15,000

Project Description

The original project proposal was a request for funding for overtime for police officers to conduct a violent crime-directed patrol initiative. Because of the rarity of violent crimes in Beech Grove (four violent crime incidents during the first quarter of the grant, 20 total incidents during 2008) the Beech Grove Police Department (BGPLD) did not feel it could spend the money as it had been approved by the PSN Steering Committee. Therefore, they amended their request for funds to include funding for DNA test kits from Forensic ID. The request was denied.

Project Need

The BGPLD requested funding to target specific neighborhoods in Beech Grove that were experiencing increases in violent crime, gun crimes, and narcotics violations.

Work Plan

The BGPLD planned to engage in surveillance of problem neighborhoods and businesses, identification of individuals involved in gang and drug crimes, and education of property owners and managers in locations with previous crimes.

Collaborative Partners

The BGPLD intended to collaborate with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the IMPD.

Overall Project Assessment

Only \$13.15 of the \$15,000 award was spent (to track and apprehend a suspect involved in pharmacy robberies) resulting in an arrest, guilty plea, conviction, and prison time. Although Beech Grove crime statistics for 2006-2007 did appear to justify the need for directed patrol initiatives, crime declines negated the need for the initiative and the bulk of the original funds were returned.



Cumberland Police Department (CPD), 06-AGS-007, 01/01/08-12/31/08, \$15,000

Project Description

The need for this project was established by the presentation of violent crime trends in the East District of IMPD, an area overlapping with Cumberland. Cumberland covers portions of Marion and Hancock counties. Criminal histories of victims and suspects as well as their associates and gun crime information suggested the creation of a special unit in the Cumberland Police Department that would focus on reducing gun crimes and other violent crimes. PSN monies were requested for overtime for the unit.

Project Need

Creating a Neighborhood Crime Action Unit to reduce gun crime and violence requires funding for overtime and rental cars for surveillance.

Work Plan

CPD intended to identify, investigate, and apprehend persons involved in gun crimes. The efforts were focused on those persons with firearms who have previous felony convictions, those in possession of illegal firearms, the capture of wanted felons, and strengthening cases and increasing the number of charges filed per arrestee, with the longer goal of increasing time served.

Collaborative Partners

The CPD planned on collaborating with the U.S. Marshall's office and attending IVRP meetings.

Overall Project Assessment

The CPD appears to have achieved the goals of conducting quality investigations, making productive stops to recover handguns and narcotics, and presenting strong cases to the prosecutor. Progress reports note that nine officers participated in the project, and performance measures included the recovery of 16 firearms, 101 grams of marijuana and .95 grams of cocaine, and a total of 34 arrests. The final report also notes no robberies occurred during the holiday period. CPD also reviewed cases that were not filed or were dismissed and will review these cases for possible re-filing. The progress report notes that a special tip line was created for CPD and attributes the lack of robberies during the holiday period to the efforts of officers funded by PSN monies. Future plans for CPD include training officers to improve the quality of arrests, reviewing and monitoring all cases, increasing public awareness of gang and gun crimes, and better interviews to collect intelligence. CPD also plans to focus gang surveillance on the "Code Red Gang." The CPD is to be commended for its level of documentation regarding all aspects of violent crime and departmental initiatives for use as measures of successful performance as a PSN subgrantee.

Speedway Police Department (SPD), 06-AGS-008, 01/01/08-12/31/08, \$20,000

Project Description

The SPD intended to implement a law enforcement strategy, including directed patrols, undercover surveillance, and probation sweeps to combat violent crime in a small geographical area of Speedway known as District 1A. This area accounted for the majority of Speedway's violent crimes in 2006 and 2007.

Project Need

The application described a need for overtime for the SPD Street Crimes Unit to saturate District 1A (far western corridor), focusing on three motels and two apartment complexes. Overtime monies were to allow the unit to add officers to the District 1A area, the location of most homicides as well as many armed robberies and other violent crimes. Directed patrols, undercover operations and sweeps in this small geographical area were to focus on violent crime reduction.

Work Plan

The work plan proposed that the existing Street Crimes Unit would conduct surveillance and saturation patrols of high crime areas, motel sweeps for wanted persons, consent searches of residences and motel rooms for narcotics or other criminal activity, covert operations for undercover narcotics and weapons transactions, and probation searches for local offenders.

Collaborative Partners

The SPD proposed collaborating with the U.S. BATF, Indiana Department of Health, Speedway Fire Department, Speedway Code Enforcement, and Speedway Building Inspector.

Overall Project Assessment

Proposed SPD performance measures included reductions in violent crimes and the number of incidents the SPD responded to and complaints received through the Crime Tip line. The proportion of all Speedway robberies experienced in District 1A declined from 53 percent in 2007 to 32 percent in 2008. In 2006, all Speedway homicides (3) occurred in District 1A; by year end 2008, there was one homicide in Speedway, which occurred outside of the targeted area. In 2006 there were 19 robberies in District 1A, in 2007 there were 24 robberies, and in 2008 there were 5 robberies in District 1A—a significant decrease. Project documentation noted two warrant sweeps and one probation sweep at 37 separate addresses in the International Village Apartments, but found only one suspect, due in part to the 50 percent vacancy rate at the apartment complex. Officers funded by the PSN grant generated 76 total arrests, 2 narcotics arrests, and 392 separate contacts.³ In addition, the project completed 60 directed patrols and 10 instances of undercover surveillance. Although some of the grant money was returned (\$7,563.31) because of a late start date on the project, it appears that efforts at reducing violent crimes in District 1A were successful.

³ Statistics from the Narrative Report on PSN Projects and Activities for Calendar Year 2008 as reported by the PSN Steering Committee to the Attorney General.



Watch Club, 06-GPS-009, 01/01/08-12/31/08, \$9,847

Project Description

The Watch Club Initiative began at Warren Central High School (WCHS) in 2006. The goals of the program were to get youth involved in having a voice in their school and neighborhood and speak out about negative activities that impact the school and their community. Youth were trained in a 20-week curriculum that was led by a teacher trained in peer mediation, and focused on teaching the students conflict resolution skills (and other skills, see below). Participants would be encouraged to look for and report negative behaviors such as gun violence, substance abuse, bullying, gang involvement, and other crimes.

Project Need

WCHS is located in an area of the city that has had significant violent crime problems in the past. The Watch Club Initiative proposed to train youth to work together to create a safer school environment, learn about respect and respecting diversity, understand peer pressure, learn conflict resolution skills, and to learn about bullying, dating violence, and gun violence. Additional lessons in the Watch Club Initiative curriculum focused on gangs, vandalism, reporting crime, alcohol and drug abuse, and leadership. The PSN grant was to pay for personnel costs for youth facilitators, supplies, tee shirts for participants and facilitators, and other promotional items.

Work Plan

Although the initial proposal was to expand the program to other locations, the program focused on WCHS, and the refinement of the program at that location. The plan was to involve 35-40 youth in the curriculum at three different locations. The youth would meet twice a week over a period of 20 weeks.

Collaborative Partners

The project intended to include Warren Central High School and Martindale-Brightwood Weed and Seed as partners.

Overall Project Assessment

Early on, the Watch Club Initiative struggled to find a suitable fiscal agent, had staff turnover when the teacher-sponsor left and, the nature of the project changed over the course of the grant period. Originally the project was to expand the WCI to other locations. However, under the tutelage of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute staff and the PSN Steering Committee, the Watch Club revised their plan to focus on only one location (WCHS). The Watch Club program was able to expand to include 40 youth in at least one of their meetings and was also able to train two students to facilitate the curriculum. Students requested that the program be extended to 4 days a week so that more student athletes could attend meetings. WCI appears to be reaching an increasing number of youth.

Christamore House-*Choices*, 06-GPS-012, 02/01/08-08/01/09, \$5,000

Project Description

The *Choices* program focuses on female youth to help them avoid bad choices. A documentary of three incarcerated female offenders is shown to participants and a former female prisoner, Ramona Johnson, speaks with the girls (and in some cases groups of young males and college students) about her own choices and her time in prison.

Project Need

Female incarceration rates are increasing faster than those of males and many incarcerated women found their way to prison via the negative influence of a male friend or family member. The curriculum focuses on educating females about the dangers of holding firearms for a friend or making straw purchases. The project monies were used for travel to and from presentations and educational materials (e.g., DVDs, handouts).

Work Plan

The work plan involved approximately six presentations per month. Target audiences include lever pulling meetings for juveniles and adults, the *Educating Kids about Gun Violence* (EKG) program participants, schools, IMPD Police Athletic League program, community and church programs, youth services bureaus, and re-entry programs.

Collaborative Partners

The project intended to include the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Women's Prison, IVRP, Marion County Prosecutor's EKG program, WXIN/Fox 59, and Wishard Hospital as partners.

Overall Project Assessment

The *Choices* documentary was selected for the 2008 Indianapolis International Film Festival and the *Choices* affiliation with PSN was well-advertised. The *Choices* website received 2,000 hits from May 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009 (<http://www.doe.in.gov/media/video/choices.html>). The Indiana Department of Education has distributed more than 500 copies of the *Choices* DVD to interested agencies. The presenter, Ramona Johnson, made 26 presentations to approximately 500 participants, and currently serves on Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard's Offender Transition Advisory Board. She also participates in the Wishard Hospital *Prescription for Hope* program as a Trauma Support Specialist to assist families and victims of violence-related injuries. Presentations have been added at the Indiana Correctional Juvenile facility (ICJF), the Marion County Jail, and the Indianapolis Police Department BRIDGES Boot Camp for Hispanic girls.

The *Choices* program has invested significant time and effort in evaluating their program. The assessment includes a pre/post survey of 222 participants (53 from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and 105 from the Juvenile Detention Center, 22 from the ICJF, and 42 unknown), measuring knowledge of laws and attitudes towards gun crimes, status offenses, substance abuse, and willingness to commit a crime for a friend. Surveys include quantitative and qualitative performance measures. The qualitative measures include verbatim comments from the juvenile female participants, which are overwhelmingly positive.



Pre- and post-surveys included questions regarding participation in various crimes and delinquencies, including gun crimes, as well as how the participant believes she would behave in various circumstances. Quantitative evaluation of the *Choices* program included some pre-and post survey items measuring knowledge and attitudinal change across several dimensions. Participants were asked about what they would do if they were asked to hide a gun for a friend and their knowledge of firearms laws. The formal report documenting the evaluation of the *Choices* program at three separate locations is underway by faculty and staff from the Center for Criminal Justice Research, SPEA-IUPUI. Initial findings suggest that the program produces some short-term increases in legal knowledge and positive changes in attitudes.

Community Video Project, 07-GPS-009, 0301/08-02/28/09, \$2,500

Project Description

Missionary's Heart Ministries and the United Northwest Area, Inc. (UNWA) joined forces to provide media arts and leadership training for young people in the UNWA community. Youth act as documentary film-makers and create a video project that was anti-gang, drugs, and violence.

Project Need

Funding was requested to pay for personnel for the project (Kim Flowers), printing costs for the DVD, cameras, and other operating expenses.

Work Plan

The Community Video Project planned to identify seven different story lines that included gang, drug, and gun crimes, and how these crimes affected the area. UNWA youth planned to act as documentary filmmakers.

Collaborative Partners

Partners in the project were proposed to include NASCAR (Soap Box Derby), IMPD, DJ Productions, and Ball State University Media Students.

Overall Project Assessment

There appears to have been a lack of oversight and coordination for this project. The original proposal claimed involvement with IMPD and UNWA, although IMPD appears to have played little, if any, role in the production of the video. Progress on the development of the video was unclear and a site review of the project noted unsatisfactory progress and no further grant funds were disbursed to the project (\$5,000 was originally awarded to the project, but the award amount was changed to the \$2,500 that was spent).



IMPD Forensic ID, 07-AGS-008, 06-AGS-009, 07-GPS-008, 06-GPS-011, 05/01/08-04/30/09, \$80,000

Project Description

This project is a pilot study to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of touch DNA technology (Trigger Pro ID). More specifically, the technology purports to be better at producing usable DNA samples from firearms than fingerprinting. Historically, firearms were potentially linked to offenders by fingerprint examination, though fingerprints are rarely recovered from guns (2-5 percent identification rate according to the proposal). Indianapolis is a pilot city for testing the new technology to prevent gun and gang crimes, with the goal to identify 70 percent of those who were in possession of a firearm. Trigger Pro ID hopes to show that their technology is ten times more effective at identifying an offender than is fingerprinting technology.

Project Need

Funds were requested for 400 kits to collect DNA evidence, analysis of the kits by Strand laboratories, training, and 24-hour support offered by Forensic ID.

Work Plan

This project is a coordinated effort between Strand Laboratories, the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Marion County Judges in Criminal Courts, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. BATF, and IMPD. Officers within the targeted area as well as special response teams (SLED, Narcotics Detectives, the Violent Crime Unit, and the Achilles Unit) will be trained and expected to use the Trigger Pro kits. Strand Laboratories will contract with the Marion County Forensics Agency to do the laboratory analysis and an evaluation of the program will be conducted by the PSN research partner, the Center for Criminal Justice Research.

Collaborative Partners

Partners in this project were to include the U.S. BATF, Strand Laboratories, the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency (IMCFSA), Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Marion County judges, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Overall Project Assessment

The project implementation has faced several challenges. All officers in the target district (Northeast) were intended to use the DNA kits when they found a gun. Training took longer than expected and officers did not use the technology as frequently as anticipated in the project proposal. Lab time for analysis has added to the delays and the project has exceeded the originally proposed timeline (initial proposal estimated the evidence collection part of the project to be completed by July 1, 2008, with analysis completed 45 days later, and this project is still underway as of October 1, 2009). As of January 2009, Northeast district officers and special unit officers were trained in the technology and all kits had been delivered to the officers. Best practices for processing the evidence were established by the IMCFSA and IMPD property room. As of January 2009, lab analysis of 65 cases involving 225 swabs had been conducted with 150-170 of the 225 testing positive for DNA. Historical data from fingerprinting technology are being collected by the project research partner (Center for Criminal Justice Research). As of April 2009, 41 cases had been

returned from Strand Laboratories to the IMCFSA, and of these 41 cases, 13 were still in progress at the IMCFSA and 28 cases have testing completed. Of the 28 completed cases, 13 have resulted in test failure or inconclusive results, 8 have resulted in DNA profiles that have not been tested against a suspect, and 7 cases resulted in DNA matches with suspects (thus 15 of the 28 completed cases have DNA profiles). As of September 11, 2009, IMPD had assigned 169 case numbers involving 182 TriggerPro kits, which have utilized another 94 buccal swabs.

Longer term evaluation of the project will compare the number of suspects identified with the DNA swab technology to fingerprinting analysis of guns. The original proposal suggests that performance measures will be decreases in crime rates, identification of more suspects, increases in conviction rates, and cost savings to law enforcement, and that potential future gun offenders could be deterred by the knowledge that this technology exists. It seems more reasonable that performance metrics focus on the number of matches to offenders with DNA technology versus fingerprints.

This project has been delayed and final evaluation of this project will occur in 2010.



Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency (MCFSA), 07-GPS-013, 09/01/08-08/31/09, \$11,240

Project Description

The IMCFSA proposed the purchase and use of two stereo zoom microscopes used by the forensic scientists in the Firearms Unit to examine firearms with obliterated serial numbers. These microscopes may also be able to identify additional trace evidence on guns and various markings on cartridge casings.

Project Need

The agency has an enormous caseload and serves all of Marion County and surrounding departments. In any given year there can be as many as 1,176 requests for examinations related to a firearm (2007). Additional equipment will help to alleviate the caseload.

Work Plan

The National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) allows the input of weapon, bullet, and cartridge information for comparison to other cases across the United States. This grant would allow for the purchase of equipment needed to analyze guns whose serial numbers are tampered with, allowing for identification of the gun and a link to an offender. The equipment and overtime would also help address the backlog of gun cases at IMCFSA.

Collaborative Partners

The project planned to include the Marion County Sheriff's Department, IMPD, and Marion County Prosecutor's Office as partners.

Overall Project Assessment

Although the original proposal included the purchase of two microscopes, the MCFSA was able to purchase three microscopes with the funded amount. The number of "hits" in the National Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) increased from 168 at the beginning of the grant period to 266 at the end of the year. The Firearms section was able to reduce the backlog for NIBIN entries by 27 percent and the backlog for firearm examination was reduced by 70 percent over the grant period. In addition, the turnaround time required to process a firearm was reduced from 147 days to 87 days. The amount of evidence analyzed also increased drastically (33 percent) over the grant period as compared to the same period in 2008, and by the end of the period the firearms section had analyzed 4,147 items of evidence (e.g., casings, weapons, bullets). MCFSA should be commended for outlining specific performance measures in their original proposal for funds and providing those measures at the completion of the project.

Indiana State Police (ISP)-Title Three, 06-AGS-011, 7/01/08-04/30/09, \$7,183.19

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Wiretap Investigations, 07-AGS-012, 10/01/08-05/31/09, \$30,000

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department-Title Three, 07-AGS-009, 07-GPS-011, 07/01/08-06/30/09, \$22,500

Indiana State Police Wiretap Investigations, 07-AGS-011, 10/01/08-05/31/09, \$10,000

(Note: Several funding streams were all part of one large project and the overall project assessment statistics reported for each of the streams is actually the cumulative performance measures for the five combined funding streams.)

Project Description

Funding was for overtime for ISP and IMPD officers, in conjunction with the U.S. BATF, to monitor phone intercepts to arrest, prosecute, and dismantle a gang in Indianapolis. Intelligence from IMPD suggested that a key gang member had been released from prison and was likely to resume control of the gang. This gang was known to be involved in narcotics trafficking, kidnappings for ransom and revenge, murder, robbery, trafficking in firearms, intimidation, sex crimes, and narcotics trafficking within the Indiana prison system.

Project Need

Funding was needed for overtime for personnel to monitor wiretaps, gather intelligence, and conduct surveillance to dismantle a violent criminal gang.

Work Plan

This was a multi-agency law enforcement project involving manpower and equipment as well as surveillance and intelligence gathering and processing. The ISP is the only agency legally allowed to conduct state wiretap cases. ISP supplied manpower, the wire room, and monitoring equipment; IMPD provided surveillance teams (see funding stream below), equipment, and technical support; and BATF acted as the operations center for the investigation.



Collaborative Partners

Partners included the U.S. BATF, and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Overall Project Assessment

This project was part of several funding streams that supported a major wiretap investigation and collaboration between the ISP and the IMPD. The project generated 27 search warrants, 40 arrest warrants, 36 arrests, 24 guns seized, 25 vehicles seized, \$70,000 cash seized, 50 lbs. of marijuana seized, and two ounces of cocaine seized.

Ongoing Grants

PSN subgrantees funded as of 07/30/09 for 2009 and 2010 included ISP Targusinfo, Marion County Prosecutor's Office-Grand Jury, IMPD Night Vision Equipment, IMPD Forensic ID, and Cumberland Police Department.



Summary and Recommendations

The case studies above document a diverse array of activities that were funded by the Southern District of Indiana PSN in 2008. Performance metrics provided have improved for PSN subgrantees. Measures of success for most projects were provided in a manner consistent with the original application for funding. The PSN steering committee is to be commended for the accountability required of all funding streams. Some implementation problems still exist for some types of projects (e.g., Community Video project) and the PSN steering committee is encouraged to closely monitor these sorts of initiatives and cease funding when goals are not being met. Subgrantees should be encouraged, when possible, to publicize projects as funded by PSN. The PSN steering committee is encouraged to continue funding a diverse array of projects that include both law enforcement strategies and outreach and prevention, and include many different types of partners.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

334 North Senate Avenue, Suite 300 | Indianapolis, IN 46204 | Phone 317.261.3000 | Fax 317.261.3050 | www.criminaljustice.iupui.edu



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