Multnomah County
Gang Assessment
Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
July 8, 2014
OJJDP Assessment Model

Phase 1: Assessment

Phase 2: Implementation Planning

Phase 3: Implementation
OJJDP’s Five Core Strategies

- Community mobilization
- Providing Opportunities
- Social Intervention
- Suppression
- Organizational change and development
Purpose

- Define the problem
- Explore opportunities to increase the efficiency & effectiveness of service delivery
- Build cross-agency & community understanding and collaboration
- Expand upon existing efforts
- Position the jurisdiction for federal & state funding opportunities
The Model In Multnomah County

- A collaborative process
  - Sponsored by LPSCC
  - Resources provided by:
    - Multnomah County DCJ
    - Multnomah County Health Department
    - LPSCC
    - City of Portland
  - Data Sharing by many agencies
  - Community input from over 1,000 individuals
Definitions

Key TERMS

- Gang Impacted
  - (Individuals, Families, & Communities)

- Gang Affiliated
  - (Individuals & Families)

- Gang Involved
  - (Individual)

Key STRATEGIES

- Primary prevention (community & system)
- Secondary prevention (individual & family)
- Intervention
- Suppression
- Reentry
A Public Health Perspective

- Welcome environmental and contextual data from the community
- Highlight the voices of those most affected by violence
- Define the problem through a systematic collection of information
- Establish WHY violence occurs and what works to PREVENT violence
- Consider the effects of trauma & exposure to violence
Tailoring the Model

- Health Department led qualitative data collection
- Increased focus on primary prevention
- More strengths-based survey & interview tools
- Protect the privacy of individuals sharing information
- Expanded the focus group process
Community Demographic Data
  ◦ Community characteristics, service needs, and school district characteristics

Law Enforcement Data
  ◦ Gangs, gang-related crimes, and victim data

Community and School Perceptions Data
  ◦ Surveys, interviews, and focus groups

Community Resources Data
  ◦ How has the community’s service provision responded to gang activity?
The Quantitative Data
Data Limitations

- Inconsistent definitions and flagging of gang-related crimes
- Crime trends and the impact of policy changes
- U.S. Census data race & ethnicity counts
Between 2005 & 2012, the County experienced:
- Population growth of 15%
- Increase in income and educational attainment
- Increased unemployment
- Shift in residency of people of color

Some communities are disproportionately experiencing:
- Low income
- Unemployment
- Low voter registration
- Low educational attainment
- Use of public assistance
- Rates of low birth weight
- Rates of teen pregnancy
Income

Median Household Income in the Last 12 Months

Datas Sources: US Census
American Community Survey
2008-2012 5-year Estimates
Relative Sampling Error 3%-22%
www.census.gov/acs
6/1/2014
Rate of Change of People of Color

Population of Color, Rate of Change from 2000-2010, within 2010 Census Tracts

Rate of Change 2000 to 2010
-96% - -50%  1% - 25%
-49% - -25%  26% - 50%
-24% - 0%   51% - 100%
0% - 101%  101% - 199%

Data Source:
Coalition for a Livable Future, Regional Equity Agenda 2014
www.cifuture.org
4/16/2014

multco.us
Multnomah County, Oregon
Median Home Value

Legend

Median Home Value (Sales Price)
- $139,283 - 257,149
- $257,150 - 370,789
- $370,790 - 535,467
- $535,468 - 806,160

Multnomah County
City Boundaries
Cities (outside Metro region)
Freeways

Source: 2010 Tax Assessor Database (Metro)
Note: Values are calculated and displayed using census tracts.
- African–American students are expelled at triple the rate of white students.
- Since 2009–2010, the rate of exclusionary discipline for students of color has increased.
- The racial group with the lowest rate of disciplinary actions is Asian–American students.
Multnomah County lacks a centralized method for identifying and tracking gang-related events and individuals.

Agencies are working to improve this

Recommendations for continued work include:

- Interagency Collaboration for Data Consistency
- Consistent Data Collection and Reporting Tools
- Training and Quality Assurance
Gangs in Multnomah County

- At least 133 gangs are known to be active in Multnomah County.
- This includes smaller sets or splinter groups of larger gangs.
DA’s Gang Unit Issued Cases

- 41% fewer gang-related felony cases issued
- 100% increase in gang-related misdemeanor cases issued
Safe Street Youth

- Average age = 16.9 yrs
- Average age of first referral = 13.3 yrs
- Average of 5.5 referrals
- 85% male
- 77% youth of color

**Safe Streets Youth: Charges**

- Other: 7
- UUMV: 11
- Unlawful Poss. Firearm: 19
- Theft: 10
- Robbery: 28
- Poss. Heroin/Meth: 2
- Crim. Trespass: 2
- Crim Mischief: 3
- Burglary: 25
- Att. Murder: 1
- Assault: 30
- Arson I: 1

N=139
Due to lack of consistent tracking of gang-related, we used aggravated assaults and shooting calls as proxy measures for gang violence.

Crime maps show a shift of these crimes from N & NE Portland to a more distributed pattern across the county.
There were 24% fewer reported incidents of non-domestic violence aggravated assault in 2012-2013 than 2003-2004.
2003-2004
4,661 "Shots Fired" calls for service.

2012-2013
3,923 "Shots Fired" calls for service.

There were 16% fewer "Shots Fired" calls for service in 2012-2013 than 2003-2004. In 2003-2004 the calls were mostly concentrated in one large hot spot, while in 2012-2013 the calls were more dispersed resulting in multiple hot spots.
Density of Reported Incidents of Part 1 Violent Crime in Multnomah County

Legend:
- Freeways
- County Boundary
- City Boundary
- Rivers & Lakes
- Density of Incidents
  - Highest
  - Lowest

Regions of interest include:
- Maywood Park
- Fairview
- Wood Village
- Portland
- Gresham
- Trousdale
Victim Demographics:
- Most (65%) gang victims are men.
- Gang victims are 1.35 times more likely to be male than are victims of other crimes.
- People of color are 1.31 times more likely to be gang victims than they are to be victims of other crimes.
- Gang victims tend to be younger other crime victims.
Victim Impact and Reporting

- Victims of gang crimes were 1.27 times more likely to be angry as a result of their crime than are other crime victims.
- 99.4% of gang victims indicate that they have never received assistance from victim services agencies.
- Victims of gang crimes were 4.40 times more likely than other victims to say that they did not report the crime because “police are biased.”
“My education came to a halt and disappeared. I gave up on education when I wasn’t able to balance it out with the gang and hustling life that I was so heavily devoted to.”

“I came from a poverty house, for me it was survival.”

“Generations in jail or dead, no one is telling me what values to have.”

“This is not law enforcement’s responsibility alone. We need a coordinated approach to prevent violence and gangs.”

“The gang problem in Portland is mostly just one of media frenzy. Yes, some gangs do exist. No, they’re not running rampant and wrecking Portland.”

“I don’t want my kids to see or do the same [as I’ve done]. It’s unsafe, you die, or you will end up in jail.”

“Be an engaged, compassionate and caring community member. Advocate for equity & structural equality.”
Community Perceptions Data

- **Surveys**
  - Community leaders (100)
  - Community residents (150)
  - Youth-serving Agencies (43)
  - Parents and family members (25)
  - Youth Summit Attendees (200)
  - Students (200)
  - School Staff (7)

- Interviews of gang-involved individuals (80)
- Focus groups (9 groups)
Data Limitations

- On-line survey response varied
- Hard copy administration of surveys
- Interviews of gang-involved individuals
- Spanish translation of surveys
Most respondents were white (72%).
80% believe that gangs are a problem in the community.
While 35% are somewhat satisfied with the current response to gangs, 57% are somewhat or very unsatisfied.
What kinds of problems do gangs present in your community?

- Increased fear for safety
- Increase in weapon crimes
- Increase in violent crime against persons
- Family disruption
- Public nuisance
- Increase in drug crimes
- School disruption
- Increased fear in community
- Increase in vandalism/graffiti
- Increase in property crimes

Bar chart showing the percentage of community leaders who reported each issue as a problem caused by gangs.
Why do you believe there is gang activity in your community?

- To feel loved/sense of belonging
- Family/friends in gangs
- Prejudice
- Lack of activities
- Protection
- Power
- Family problems
- Boredom
- Gang members move to community from...
- Police labeling
- School problems
- Poverty

Bar chart showing the percentage of responses for each reason.
More than 150 community residents took the survey.

Respondents were mostly white (80%) and female (57%).

Most respondents (35%) were in the 50- to 64-year-old age bracket.

35% had completed a college degree.

66% indicated they felt less safe in their community than they did 2 years ago.
Most residents (80%) think that there are gangs in their community.

Most (61%) believe gang activity has stayed about the same during the past year; 33% think it has increased, and 7% think it has decreased.

Drug crimes, fear, violent crime, weapons crimes, and public nuisances were chosen as the top problems caused by gangs in their community.
Community Residents (continued)

Top things to be done to prevent gang activity

- More police protection
- Jobs provision and job training
- Programs/recreation
- Mentoring
- Quality education and educational...
- Transit and transportation...
- Tutoring
- Child and youth programming
- Health services (alcohol/drug, mental...)
- Gangs are not a problem here
More than 200 youth (62%) and adult (38%) respondents.

While 47% of the participating adults were people of color, 73% of the youth identified as such.

Female respondents outnumbered male respondents.

Most respondents came from SE, NE, and N Portland.
Respondents see violent crime and fear as the top problems that gangs cause in their community.

Both youth & adults attribute gang activity largely to a desire to feel loved & poverty.

Mentoring and jobs rated high among both adults and youth as ways to reduce the gang problem.

Why is there gang activity in your community?

- Poverty
- School problems
- Police labeling
- Gang members move to..
- Boredom
- Family problems
- Protection or power
- Lack of activities
- Family/friends in gangs
- To feel loved/sense of..

0% 10% 20% 30%

Adult—22 or older  Youth—21 or under
More than 200 students completed the survey.
Four alternative schools participated.
54% male and 43% female.
52% identified as white, 39% identified as African American, and 16% identified as Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish.
Students (continued)

Have you ever belonged to a gang?

- Yes: 8%
- No: 92%

Do You Feel safe at school?

- Never: 5%
- Rarely: 5%
- Sometimes: 16%
- Often: 30%
- Almost always: 44%
In the last year, has there been gang activity around your school?

- Yes, graffiti
- Yes, violence with a weapon
- Yes, physical violence or bullying
- Yes, selling drugs
- Yes, recruiting
- Yes, dating violence
- Yes, recruiting
- Yes, other activity (specify below)
- I don't know
- No

Percentage distribution:

- I don't know: 30%
- Yes, graffiti: 40%
- Yes, violence with a weapon: 20%
- Yes, selling drugs: 30%
- Yes, recruiting: 10%
- Yes, dating violence: 10%
- Yes, other activity: 5%
- No: 20%
How easy is it to get alcohol?

- Impossible: 11%
- Hard: 23%
- Sort of easy: 27%
- Very easy: 39%

How easy is it to get a handgun?

- Impossible: 33%
- Very easy: 15%
- Sort of easy: 20%
- Hard: 32%
80 gang-involved individuals were interviewed
Most (75%) were living in the community. 25% were in a correctional institution.
58% of the interviewees were African American and 19% were Hispanic
Most were male (82%)
45% of interviewees were between the ages of 18 to 25 years. 25% were older than 30 years.
Interviewees identified family/friends in gangs, poverty, and family problems as the top causes of gang problems.

About half (48%) of interviewees agreed that “being in a gang is a good way to make money.”

Two-thirds of the interviewees (53 of them) said they are not currently employed.

64% said there are areas in their community where they feel targeted or in danger when walking.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason to Leave a Gang</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation or sports program</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get into school or education program.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain a job</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Responsibilities</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become a parent</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get married.</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steady girl/boyfriend spouse</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move out of neighborhood.</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure by someone else</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure by family</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When asked what would make their community more positive, interviewees said:
- Jobs and activities (58%)
- Mentors & other caring adults (22%)
- Don’t know (11%)
36% described alcohol use as a “very serious” problem and Gang-to-gang confrontations as a “serious” problem.
68% feel they are not treated fairly by police some or most of the time.
How easy would it be to get drugs like cocaine, LSD, crack, etc?

- Very easy, 67.1%
- Somewhat easy, 19.0%
- Somewhat hard, 5.1%
- Very hard, 8.9%

How easy would it be to get a hand gun?

- Very easy, 55.8%
- Somewhat easy, 22.1%
- Somewhat hard, 14.3%
- Very hard, 7.8%
Gang-Involved Individuals (cont’d)

- Most interviewees (89%) indicated that a family member has been involved in gangs.
- A total of 48 interviewees (60%) indicated that they have children.
- 96% said they would not want their own children to be gang members.
- “I don’t want them to get locked up like I did.”
- “I would want something better for them.”
- “It’s not the life I would want my child to live.”
- “It’s not safe.”
- “This life is dangerous.”
- “I want them to live.”
- “I love them.”
- “I expect more from them.”
- “It is a very violent and dangerous situation.”
- “I don’t want my kids hurt.”

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Focus Groups

- Nine focus groups were completed with 83 participants.
- They were held at the following locations:
  - Helensview School
  - OYA (2 group)
  - Latino Network
  - DCJ Adult Probation
  - DCJ Juvenile Detention (2 groups)
  - CRCI
  - Rosewood Initiative

- What types of violence have you witnessed?
  - Domestic violence
  - Friends and family members who have been shot and killed
  - Robbery and other crimes
  - Physical abuse
Why do you believe there is gang activity?

- Lack of opportunities, resources, and mentors who “get it”
- Lack of hope
- Barriers in neighborhoods
- Lack of employment and housing
- Systems not meeting needs
- Instability in family structure
- Poverty allows for increased criminality
- Pressure from other gang members
- Lack of awareness and education about life-changing policies (Measure 11)
Focus Groups (continued)

- What should be done to reduce gangs?
  - Include people who have been involved in gangs in the development of the solution
  - Enhance family supports
  - Increase connection at school by providing more personal attention
  - Increase mentorship programs to include more mentors who have lived experience with gangs
  - Increased employment opportunities
Community Resources

- Using a variety of sources, we identified 469 programs in the Multnomah County area that provide services to youth and family
- 151 different nonprofit or governmental organizations
- Of those surveyed, 260 (55%) responded with detailed information about their services
Gang-Specific Programs

- Yes: 5%
- No: 95%

Experienced Serving Gang-Involved Individuals

- Yes: 51%
- No: 44%
- Some: 5%
Community Resources (cont’d)

- Reentry
- Suppression
- Intervention
- Secondary Prevention
- Primary Prevention

- Gang Responsive Programs
- Gang-Specific Programs
Next Steps

- Conduct Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Gang Model: Implementation Planning
  - Bring together a participative planning process
  - Continue with the public health perspective
  - Ensure a collaborative and inclusive process

“Make sure our voices are heard”

“We need sustained commitment to engage the voices of individuals & families who have been affected by gangs and gang activity”