TUEBOR

We Will Protect

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Reducing Guns, Drugs, and Violence: Targeted Patrol

"With traffic stops down, the cycle of violence is speeding up,' July 25, 2005, Joe Snapper, The Saginaw News."

This recent news article illustrates a growing issue. With tight government budgets, and fewer police to patrol our communities and enforce minor criminal violations, there is less deterrence and detection of serious crime.

The National Institute of Justice's "Reducing Gun Violence" series offers important research regarding deterrence, finding that "targeted patrol" may be one of the most promising remedies as a crime control tool.

To the extent that police departments have enough officers to break-away from answering calls, the NIJ found that the effect of routine patrol could be increased dramatically if police focused their patrol time toward suspicious individuals in high-crime locations. In other words, when possible, it suggests modifying a "general" deterrence strategy toward a "targeted" or focused deterrence strategy. The idea is to take the bad guys off the street while sending a message that "you can't get away with criminal activity."

Putting the Strategy in Place

The Indianapolis Police Department conducted a directed patrol experiment, starting by identifying areas that consistently had the highest levels of violent crime, drug distribution, and property crime. Then, to test the theory, IPD employed different strategies of patrol.

One district used a broader "general" deterrence strategy that maximized the number of police vehicle stops in a given area, thereby creating a sense of significantly increased police presence.

Another district followed a more "targeted" deterrence approach – this selective approach to patrol used collected intelligence to target specific individuals and specific locations suspected of being involved in illegal activities.

The district using a strategy of "general" deterrence used nearly 1,000 more officer patrol hours. The "general" deterrence strategy produced more arrests, issued more warning tickets and traffic citations, and seized more drugs.

The district that used a strategy of "targeted" deterrence resulted in the detection of more serious criminal activity during each patrol stop. Officers on targeted patrol made twice as many arrests per vehicle stop, and were three times as likely to uncover an illegal firearm. Note that as part of the targeted strategy, patrol officers made 126 proactive checks of probationers at their residences.

Both strategies created a deterrent effect, lowering the homicide rate.

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But the "targeted" strategy created a greater impact on all other gun-related offenses.

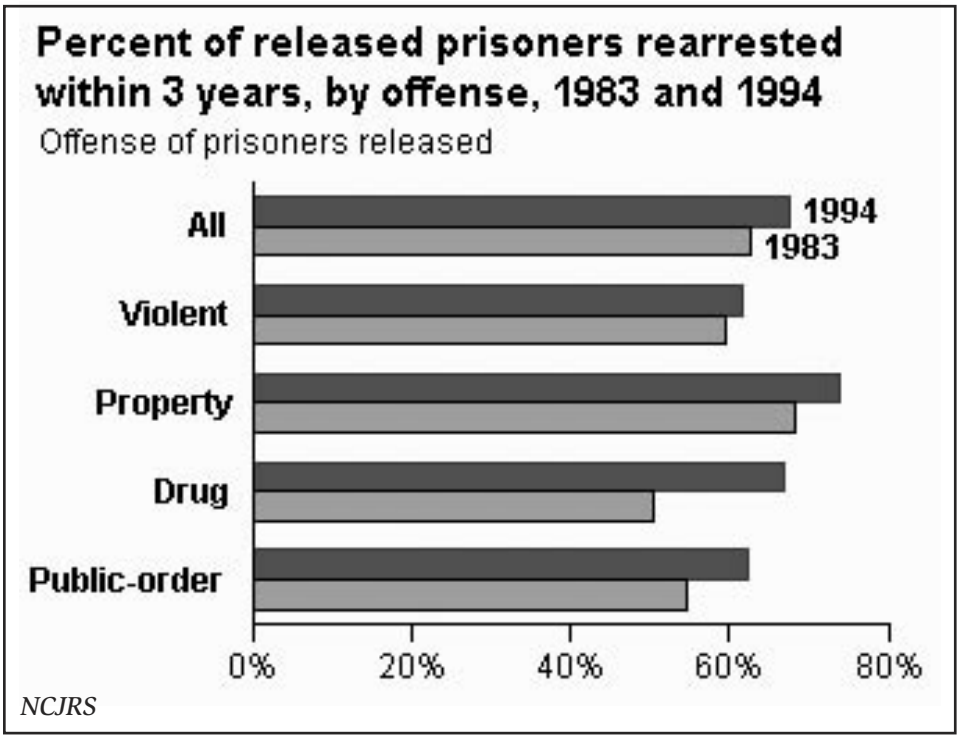
Will the Community Support Aggressive Patrol Strategies?

Despite the large number of contacts between police and citizens during the "general" and "targeted" patrol experiments – with many citations issued and arrests made – IPD officials said that no reported citizen complaints were tied to either patrol strategy.

IPD took several steps in preparation of this aggressive police strategy. First, the deputy chief of each district attended community meetings and spoke with neighborhood leaders before increased patrol was implemented. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the project would be implemented in a way that was respectful of the citizens with whom officers had contact.

Implications

The results of this study indicate that "targeted" patrol can play a significant part in a broader policing strategy. A targeted deterrence approach that increases surveillance of high-risk individuals and high-risk neighborhoods may be a key ingredient to reducing overall crime and violence. More research is needed.



Parolee and probationers are a high-risk group that police should target for maximum deterrence. This will usually require the assistance of parole and probation officers.

See these studies at the NCJRS website:

Reducing Gun Violence: Evaluation of the Indianapolis Police Department's Directed Patrol Project, http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/188740/pdf

Reducing Gun Violence: The St. Louis Consent-to-Search Program, http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/191332.pdf

Reducing Gun Violence: Operation Ceasefire in Los Angeles, http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/192378.pdf

Reducing Gun Violence: The Boston Gun Project's Operation Ceasefire, http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/188741/pdf

Reducing Youth Gun Violence: An Overview of Programs and Initiatives, http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/redyouth/pdf

Strategies To Reduce Gun Violence, http://www.ncjrs.org/txtfiles1/fs9993/txt

Setting Up and Operating Mass Dispensing Sites in Response to a Pandemic

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a large, national cache of anti-infectives, chemical antidotes, vaccines, and medical supplies that can be promptly deployed anywhere in the United States or its territories. But even if deployment works flawlessly, lives may be lost if a community cannot rapidly dispense medications to its population after a natural or manmade disaster.

The readiness of state and local planners to provide medications to a community is vital. Mass dispensing is where the rubber meets the road during an epidemic or bio-terror attack. Stakeholders will include local and state public health agencies, law enforcement, fire and emergency management.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, dispensing sites, also known as points of dispensing (POD), should be large shelters that are familiar to a community's population, with electricity, heat and air conditioning, water, adequate toilets, a parking area, material handling equipment, and a receiving area for supplies that is out of public view.

TRAFFIC CONTROL AND CIVIL ORDER

Every dispensing site must have some sort of security for asset and staff protection, and to help direct traffic and maintain civil order. This role of law enforcement should not be under anticipated. The ability to efficiently regulate people in and out the POD for inoculation will be essential.

Depending on the suddenness and spread of the emergency, hospitals could be overrun almost immediately. POD's would need to be quickly assembled and announced. Police could be placed in the position of handling thousands of sick and frightened people rushing to hospitals and POD's.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services provides fundamental instructions on setting up and operating mass dispensing sites: http://www.ahrq.gov/research/cbmprophyl/cbmpgde2.htm

NO SMALL SURPRISES

On a recent spring night, hospitals around Chicago unexpectedly found themselves in a perplexing situation. Without any warning, patients started streaming into emergency departments complaining of rapidly developing pneumonia-like symptoms. Most had fevers, nausea and shortness of breath. They were dehydrated, coughing and vomiting. And they just kept coming…and coming.

Several such disaster drills were conducted this year by the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council. And what did participants experience during the drills? The media kept calling – tying up the phones; hospitals and health departments needed to quickly coordinate in order to determine the cause of the illnesses; heavy rains were making travel difficult for extra staff coming to assist; and one hospital's air-conditioning system was malfunctioning. Fortunate for the hospitals, they only received 10 to 30 victims with fake symptoms. A real pandemic would have been much worse.

Coordination between organizations was the essential part of the exercise. Everyone was exhausted by the end of the drills, but the coordinators said it's imperative that organizations do everything possible to prepare for those worst-case scenarios, even those we think and hope will never happen.

Source: Homeland Protection Professional Magazine, August 2005

HOSPITALS ARE ON ALERT FOR POSSIBLE TERROR THREAT

Our nation's hospitals are on the alert for people with false credentials asking for information about a hospital's layout and capabilities.

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued bulletins to all hospitals earlier this summer, warning them about an increasing number of people trying to inspect or take pictures of hospitals while claiming to be members of a major hospital accreditation agency.

Federal officials are concerned because hospitals are easy targets for terrorists. In recent years, hospitals have become distribution centers for medical antidotes needed in the event of biological or chemical attacks.

Hospitals in Detroit, Boston, Phoenix, Indiana, Texas, New York and California have reported suspicious probes of their facilities by men and women posing as officials from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

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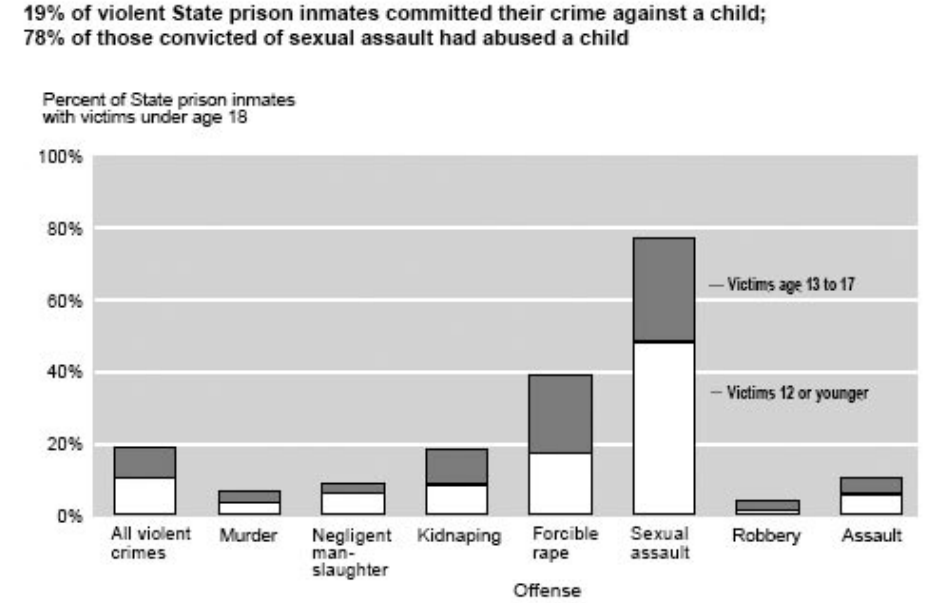
Forming A Multidisciplinary Team To Investigate Child Abuse



USDOJ

Even in the best economic times, no single profession or agency has the ability and resources to respond adequately to the complexity of a child abuse investigation. And with today's tight budgets, the urgency for teamwork has never been greater.

To promote the coordination and teamwork needed to ensure a response – and to minimize additional trauma to children – a growing number of jurisdictions have established multidisciplinary teams (MDT's), comprising professionals from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medicine, counseling, and related fields. An MDT may focus on investigations; policy issues; treatment of victims and their families; or a combination of these functions.

No single type of team is best. Some are part of a children's advocacy center, which provides a child-friendly facility where forensic interviews, and sometimes medical examinations and treatment, are conducted. However, there are hundreds of very effective teams that do not have special facilities, but work closely together nonetheless, easing the strain on member agencies while improving investigations.

FORMING A TEAM

Creating an MDT involves several steps: identifying and recruiting members, developing a specific mission and protocol, establishing and maintaining good working relationships among team members, and periodically evaluating the team's performance.

To be viable, an MDT must have support from the leadership of its members' organizations. To gain support for forming an MDT, seek out the fieldworkers and ask them to encourage their respective agencies.

The "investigations issue" will most likely be the most controversial, reflecting the frustrations of each member. Members will express opinions reflecting their own professional training, which may be far different from other members of the team. Their opinions may be heated because they feel defensive about criticism of their agencies or angry about the ways their agencies have failed to protect children from abuse. Statements like the following may set a tone of angry or bitter criticism:

- "Too many cases, not enough resources."
- "Someone dropped the ball."
- "No one understands the restrictions I face."
- "You didn't record the facts or preserve the evidence."
- "You didn't interview the victim using the forensic protocol."
- "All you want to do is keep the family together."
- "You crushed the victim."

It is important for all participants to hear what other people are saying and to be heard by others. It is vital that these comments be understood as the first step in acknowledging the failings of current investigative practice. These are the types of obstacles that face every new MDT. The use of a seasoned facilitator, who will not be a team member, can provide the structure necessary to create a climate of mutual respect and attention. Team effectiveness is measured, not by the amount of conflict, but by the manner in which conflict is resolved.

To successfully deal with conflict, three points are important:

- Characterize the problem – look at it from everyone's perspectives.
- Find common goals and interests to establish a foundation.
- Negotiate the conflicting goals and interests (but do not confuse negotiation with compromise, try to find win-win solutions).

USING A PROTOCOL

A properly written protocol is essential if a team is to function well. For an MDT, it is the written understanding of how investigations and other functions will be pursued by team members and the roles and responsibilities of member agencies. But even the best written protocol will not help if it is not practiced and reinforced.

Many teams have found that joint training fosters good teamwork. Team members who train together may find opportunities to discuss issues of

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mutual concern, both in the training itself and during social breaks.

The State of Michigan has a Model Child Abuse Protocol, and there are many counties that have already built lasting MDT's. (Additionally, the State of Michigan is currently working on a Model Drug Endangered Children Protocol.)

PREVENTING BURNOUT

People who work in child protective services, law enforcement, prosecution, medicine, mental health, and other fields associated child abuse require an inordinate amount of emotional energy, and tragedy becomes almost the norm of everyday work. The load can be crushing and can lead to burnout.

Burnout is a syndrome of physical and emotional exhaustion caused by overcommitment. It is a gradual process of loss that can lead to cynicism and ineffectiveness. It can create depersonalization, and a reduced sense of personal accomplishment.

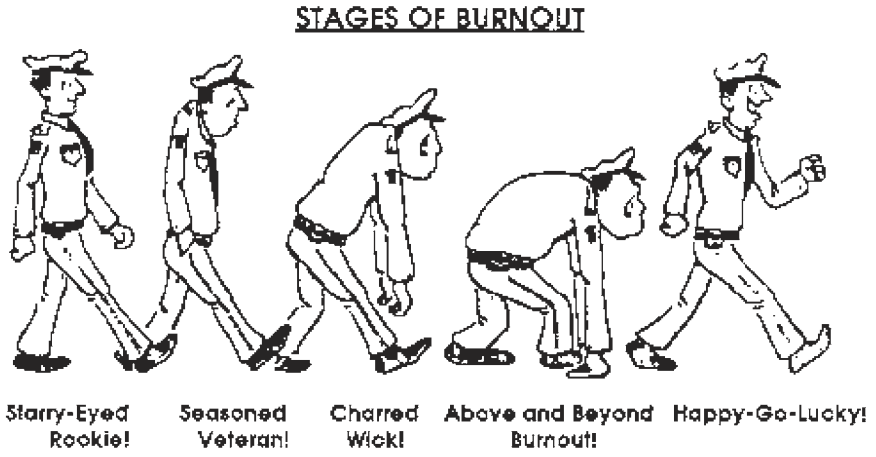
Recently, burnout has been recognized as a problem, not of the individual worker, but of the social environment in which people work. Burnout is a situation where committed men and women use up their will-power under discouraging circumstances while one by one their moral props are knocked down. Burnout in child abuse investigators is often indicated by the taking "mental health" days, requesting transfers, or retiring early.

While physical exercise can help cope with the stress, the real problem is the work culture that is causing the burnout. Building and maintaining "moral props" within a strong team culture, is the best way to prevent burnout.

A well-functioning team can provide a much-needed sense of support. When there is a sense of shared commitment, there is relief from the crushing emotional load associated with child abuse intervention. Team members can actively encourage one another, understand the stress as others cannot, and work together to find ways of improving working conditions.

Rules for Effective Teamwork

- Identify a leader or group facilitator.
- Meet regularly.
- Respect others, even if you disagree.
- Listen to one another.
- Be open to constructive criticism.
- Be honest, and polite.
- Know respective abilities and limitations.
- Understand respective roles and responsibilities.
- Contribute to the team by maximizing what you do best.
- Above all – lend a hand when someone needs help or is showing signs of burn-out.



Only the Best Get Burnout

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

"Forming a Multidisciplinary Team To Investigate Child Abuse," U.S. Department of Justice, www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/170020.pdf

"Building Partnerships that Protect Our Children," International Association of Chiefs of Police, www.theiacp.org/research/CPSummitReportFinal.pdf

"A Model Child Abuse Protocol: Coordinated Investigative Team Approach," Michigan Department of Human Services, www.michigan.gov/documents/FIA-Pub794_13083_7.pdf

"Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims," U.S. Department of Justice, two datasets are cataloged, Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities, and the Uniform Crime Report, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvvoatv.pdf

"Police Burnout and Attitudes to Domestic Violence," Justice Studies Department Australia, Queensland University of Technology, www.aic.gov.au/conferences/policewomen2/Alcorn.html

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Suspects also have identified themselves as being with the Department of Defense and the CIA, the Homeland Security bulletin said.

"The use of false credentials to gain entry to hospitals is not new," the DHS bulletin says. "However ... these new events mark a different trend because of the number of incidents ... and the nature of the questions. As an emerging pattern, this activity needs to be closely followed and reported."

This warning is not intended to frighten citizens and hospital staff, but rather to remind everyone to remain vigilant, and challenge the identity of any stranger requesting information about the layout of any major building or infrastructure.

POLICE LAW BULLETIN

Police Entry of an Enclosed Porch to Knock on the Residence Door Does Not Violate the 4th Amendment.

The defendant was a suspect in a homicide. The police went to his parent's home to make contact with him. They heard loud music coming from inside the home. They knocked on the porch door, but no one answered. They then entered the porch and went to the entry door to the house. Through the door window they saw the defendant with his head down on a table and rifle on the table next to him.

Fearing the defendant may be injured, they entered the home. The defendant was depressed and had been drinking, but was not injured. He made statements implicating himself in the homicide, and after Miranda warnings, gave a confession.

The defendant was convicted of two counts of 1st degree murder. He appealed, alleging that it was a violation of the 4th amendment for the police to enter the enclosed porch and look in the house door window. Judges Murray, O'Connell and Donofrio held that the defendant lacked a reasonable expectation of privacy in the enclosed porch. They stated:

Accordingly, the trial court did not err when it concluded that the police lawfully entered the enclosed porch. Like any other visitor desiring to speak to an occupant of the residence, the police entered the porch simply to access the door immediately adjacent to the residence. . . There was no intention or attempt to search the porch or its contents. Instead the police merely attempted to gain the attention of the occupant of the house, who presumably because of the loud music, could not hear a knock on the porch door. The police actions were reasonable, did not violate a reasonable expectation of privacy, and did not violate the 4th amendment.

People v Tierney, CA No. 252185, June 14, 2005.

6th Circuit Approves Terry Stop of a Vehicle Suspected of Being Used in an Armed Robbery.

An armed robbery victim said that a tall black male and a white female robbed him. The get away car was described as a silver Altima, license plate number 002 FCJ. The car was registered to the defendant, a white male. Because the defendant did not match the description of the robbers, he was placed under surveillance for several days.

After 6 days of surveillance, he was pulled over, and a marijuana pipe was seen in the defendant's lap. He was arrested, the car was searched, and marijuana was found. After waiving his Miranda rights, he admitted his involvement in several armed robberies.

The 6th circuit upheld the stop, even though the defendant did not match the description of the robbers, and the officers did not have a traffic violation on which to base the stop. They stated:

In summary, we conclude that police are permitted to conduct a Terry stop to investigate completed felonies if they have reasonable suspicion to believe that the vehicle stopped was involved in criminal activity and the stop may produce evidence of a crime even if officers do not have reasonable suspicion to believe that the owner and/or driver of the vehicle was directly involved in the criminal activity.

U.S. v Marxen, No. 04-6053, June 14, 2005.

Indecent Exposure Includes Exposures Made to a Child in the Privacy of a Bedroom.

The defendant called the minor female into his bedroom. His erect penis was exposed through his zipper. After the jury convicted him of indecent exposure, the judge granted a directed verdict of acquittal, and the prosecution appealed.

Judges Murray, O'Connell and Donofrio held that the defendant's conduct violated the statute as both an open exposure and an indecent exposure. The fact that the exposure occurred in the privacy of the defendant's bedroom did not preclude application of the statute because the defendant intentionally made the exposure to a witness. *People v Neal,* CA no. 252669, June 9, 2005.

Consult Your Prosecutor Before Adopting Practices Suggested By Reports In This Newsletter.

Our reports of decisions from other states are to help you keep up with trends in the law. Even Michigan decisions may conflict with decisions of other Michigan courts. Discuss your practices which relate to these cases with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney, before changing your practices in reliance on a reported court decision or legislative change. Our editorial office welcomes your suggestions for improving this publication to serve you.

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(FYI FOR POLICE INVESTIGATORS AND CRIME SCENE TECHS)

New Online Program: Forensic Entomology

The Role of Insects in Crime Scene Investigations

Forensic Entomology is a branch of forensic science that involves the use of insects to assist in legal investigations and to solve crimes. Michigan State University is now offering Forensic Entomology as an online course, ENT 401 sec 615/ENT 890 sec 601. Much of the material was geared specifically for the law enforcement community, including how to collect entomological evidence. This program can be taken for credit or certificate only.

Course description (under "list of non-credit courses"): vu.msu.edu/site/

More information email Ryan: forensic@msu.edu

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