

SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE



Presented By the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center

23rd Annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference

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AGENDA

- Project Background
- Scanning
- Analysis
- Response
- Assessment
- Future Expansion
- Unanticipated Benefits

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- **Clark County School District**
- **Police Jurisdictions**
- **Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center**
- **Palos Verde High School Homicide**

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- CCSD encompasses all of Clark County
 - Covers 7,910 square miles
 - Includes all of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, outlying communities, and rural areas

- 5th largest school district in the country
 - 309,000 students

- Operates 352 schools
 - 213 Elementary Schools
 - 59 Middle Schools
 - 48 High Schools
 - 24 Alternative Schools
 - 8 Special Schools

- Clark County School District Police (CCSDPD)
 - 163 sworn officers



POLICE JURISDICTIONS

- 5 Police Jurisdictions
 - Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD)
 - North Las Vegas Police Department (NLVPD)
 - Henderson Police Department (HPD)
 - Boulder City Police Department (BCPD)
 - Mesquite Police Department (MPD)
- Population about 1.95 million residents

SOUTHERN NEVADA COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER (SNCTC)

- Established July 2007
- All Crimes, All Hazards Philosophy
- LVMPD is the host agency
- 17 Partner Agencies
- 24/7 Watch Station
- Analytical and Operational Component



PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL HOMICIDE

- February 15, 2008: Christopher Privett was shot and killed walking home after school
- Two high school students charged with and convicted of murder
 - Members of local hybrid gang – Squad Up
- Incident sparked community outrage and a media frenzy
- A Town Hall Meeting was held with community leaders, community members, and high school students
- Sheriff Doug Gillespie made preventing school shootings a top priority for LVMPD
- March 3, 2008: School Liaison is assigned to SNCTC



SCANNING

- Used CHEERS criteria to:
 1. Determine whether school violence could be addressed using POP
 2. Learn more about school violence incidents



Community

School Violence negatively impacts a large portion of Clark County; students of all ages are a very vulnerable population.

Harm

The harm stemming from these incidents greatly increases citizen fear of crime, psychological damage to children, loss of confidence in police and school leaders, and serious injury or death.

Expectation

The public exchange during the Town Hall meeting and the outcry documented in editorials and the media clearly demonstrated the public's expectations that the police intervene and find a solution to stem school violence.

Events

A cursory review of school violence incidents since 2000 revealed three types of dangerous behaviors: predatory, conflict, and endangerment.

Recurring

The Privett homicide was not the first incident of school violence on or near schools.

- Since 2000, 12 incidents of school violence occurred either at school, on a school bus or at a school bus stop.
- The frequency of school shootings was increasing, with 4 shootings occurring within the first few months of 2008.

Similar

All of the incidents involved shootings that killed or injured CCSD students or placed them at high risk of death or injury.

The CHEERS analysis indicated that the problem of school shootings could be addressed using a problem-oriented policing approach

ANALYSIS

Three primary goals:

- Analyze previous shootings to learn more about the scope and nature of the problem
- Evaluate existing police protocols, strategies, and tactics
- Utilize external resources to identify 'best practices' for preventing school shootings

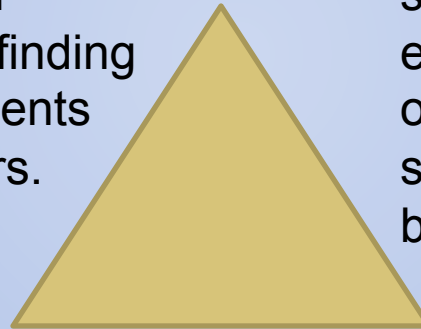
PROBLEM ANALYSIS TRIANGLE

OFFENDERS

Half of the incidents involved students. Five involved non-student offenders and one was an officer involved shooting. A significant finding was that only five incidents involved gang members.

PLACES

Not all shootings took place at high schools. Five shootings took place at schools (3 high schools, 1 middle school and 1 elementary school), six occurred on routes to and from school, and one took place at a bus stop.



VICTIMS

Of the twelve incidents, nine involved students and three were citizens. High School students were involved in eight incidents and one middle school student was involved.

EXISTING TACTICS, STRATEGIES, AND PROTOCOLS

Agency representatives met to discuss existing responses to school violence.

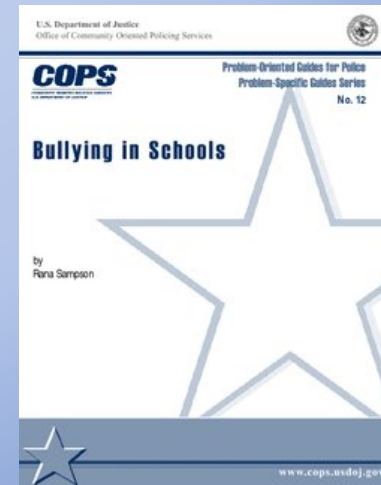
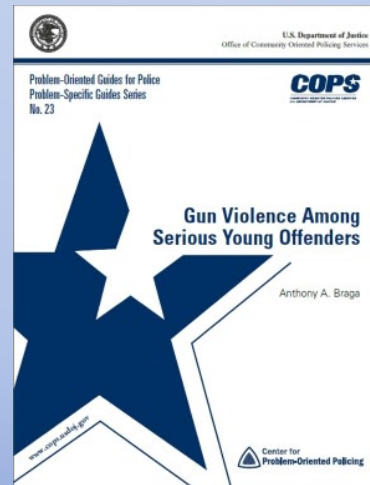
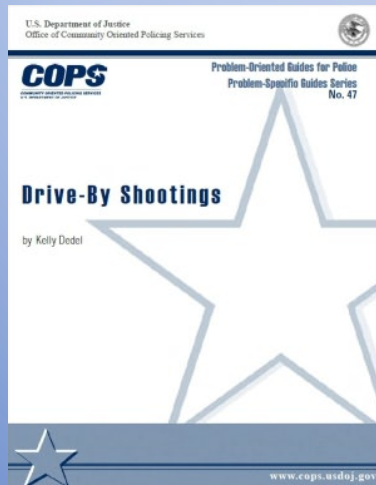
- Several weaknesses identified:
 1. No existing communication protocol
 2. Number of agencies involved
 3. Size of LVMPD and the number of specialized units

- Potential incidents could be identified from Calls For Service (CFS) data and reports made by students, parents, teachers, and administrators
 - This information was not adequately collected and documented
 - No consistent or timely dissemination of relevant intelligence

- There was an overreliance on the gang unit

RESEARCH ON BEST PRACTICES

- Center For Problem-Oriented Policing POP Guides were used to identify potential responses:
 - Drive-By Shootings
 - Gun Violence Among Serious Young Offenders
 - Bullying In Schools
- Researched what other law enforcement agencies were doing to curb violence
- Developed a strong partnership with Criminal Justice Department at University of Nevada, Las Vegas



THREE MAJOR ANALYSIS FINDINGS

Misplaced Resources

- Analysis revealed that school violence was not strictly a gang problem and the overreliance on the Gang Unit was not the appropriate response.

Information Silos

- Pre-incident information existed but there was no formalized procedure for information sharing. This made it difficult, and often impossible, to identify patterns and intervene to prevent potentially fatal events.

Lack of Coordination and Accountability

- No protocol was in place to compile and disseminate information in a timely manner to the appropriate personnel.

RESPONSE



Traditional Response:
More Cops on Dots

THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (SVI)

- Analysis revealed that improved data collection management and dissemination of intelligence would provide the best approach to preventing school shootings and the violent incidents that act as precursors to these events.
- The SVI uses a reiterative problem-solving approach. Analyses and assessments continue throughout the response phase.
- The SVI uses nine interventions that work in tandem to reduce opportunities for school shootings and violence.

THE NINE INTERVENTIONS

#1: Use of SNCTC as the information sharing hub

The Watch Station is used for 24/7 real time information dissemination. It allows analysts/officers to engage in horizontal information sharing.

#2: CCSDPD school liaison officer embedded at SNCTC

Improves communication between CCSDPD and the other partner agencies. The liaison officer keeps a daily log of all school incidents and analyzes the log for emerging trends.

#3: Patrol Directive issued

Sheriff Gillespie issued a Patrol Directive outlining responsibilities in responding to school violence information.

#4: Routine planning meetings

Meetings are held on a routine basis to review the existing protocols, emerging trends, and to identify any new methods of intervention.

#5: Identification of Core and Watch Schools

These Core and Watch lists afford the police agencies to direct resources to high-risk schools.

THE NINE INTERVENTIONS

#6: Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

PSAs are used to increase communication between the police and the public.

#7: Social network monitoring

For specific incidents, social media is used to determine a threat level. In many instances, concerned parents are our best source of information.

#8: Incident Action Plans (IAPs)

IAPs are used to coordinate police resources during traditional problem school days.

#9: Training CCSDPD analysts

The training of the CCSDPD liaison officer in crime analytical techniques has been useful in identifying trends and patterns and communicating with SNCTC analysts. This officer also has been trained in local gang identification and culture.

Link Between Analysis and Response

Identified Weaknesses	Response #								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Misplaced Resources	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	X
Information Silos	X	X	--	X	X	--	--	--	--
Lack of Coordination/Accountability	X	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	--

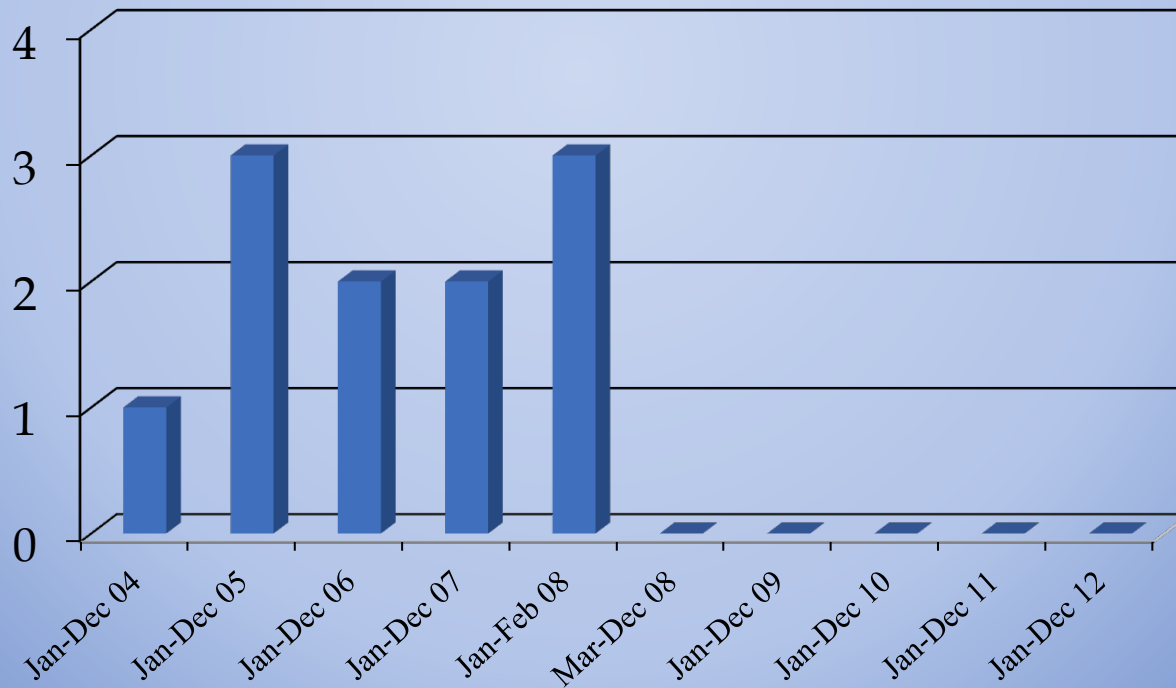
Each response directly affects at least one of the problematic conditions identified in the analysis phase.

ASSESSMENT

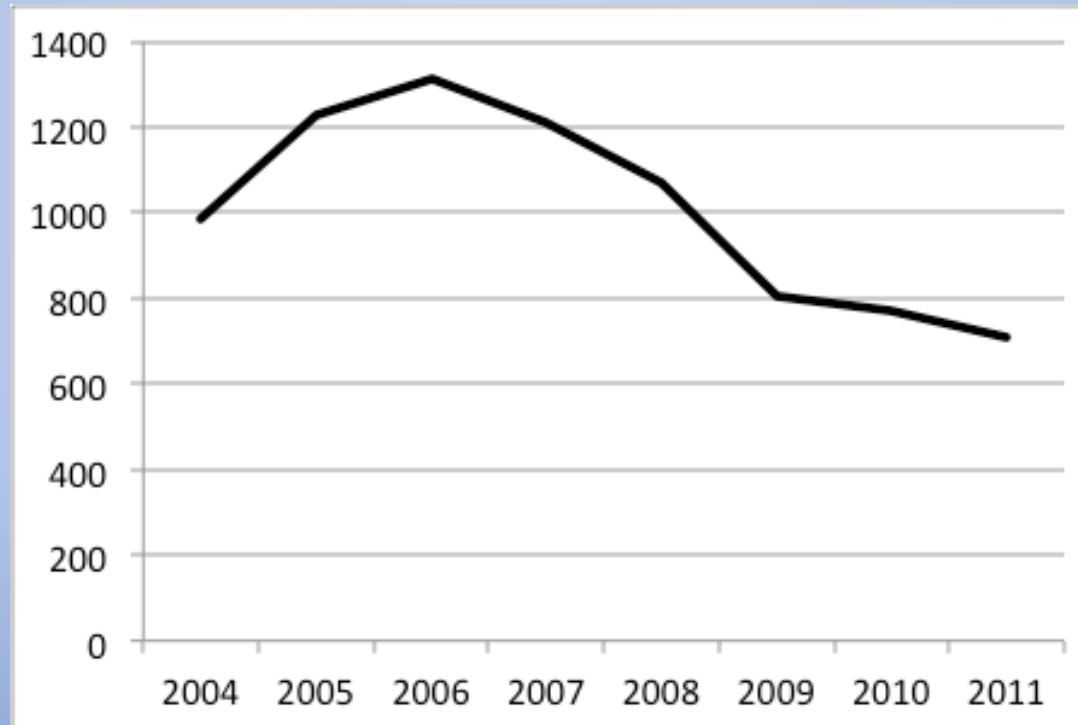
- Impact of SVI on school shootings
- Displacement
 - Spatial
 - Tactical
- Impact on all violent calls for service
- Qualitative measures of success

Since the inception of the School Violence Initiative in March 2008, there have been no school shootings.

Number of School Shootings



There appears to be no spatial displacement of gun violence. Gun violence continues to decrease in Clark County.



Handgun and knife recoveries
have decreased
 since the program's inception.

Weapon	07-08	10-11	11-12	% Change
Handguns	25	8	7	-72%
Knives	163	121	105	-36%

The decrease in knife recoveries
 provides partial evidence to suggest that
tactical displacement is not occurring.

Violent CFS
decreased by 44%
 between the 2007-2008 and
 the 2011-2012 school year.

*07-08	*08-09	*09-10	*10-11	*11-12	%Change
268	205	228	196	151	-44%

*Violent calls include: robbery, robbery attempts, person with a gun, knife and other deadly weapon, assault and battery, assault and battery with a gun and other deadly weapon, fights, sexual assault, kidnap, child molestation, and illegal shootings

QUALITATIVE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

- SNCTC received information from a concerned parent regarding a shooting at a high school football game.
- Analysis revealed a pattern of disturbances and fights caused by students attending a Core school. This school ended classes before most other schools ended their day. During one of the planning meetings, we convinced school officials to change the release time of this school.
- A student threatened to bring a gun to school. The student was admitted to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation, but was released and attended school that day. This caused an emergency meeting of the SVI agencies.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Recent expansion to private schools
 - SNCTC analysts geographically mapped Clark County private schools with CCSD public schools
 - Terrorism Liaison Officers (TLOs) made contact with each private school and identified key stake holders to receive information
 - Private schools were added to the protocol
- Continue UNLV partnership
 - Explore methods to increase promotion of SVI
- Alert ID application
- Increase Social Media Analysis (SMA)

UNANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- The SVI has identified many instances of bullying.
- The SVI has identified suspicious activity related to terrorism.
- The SVI has received national recognition and has been identified as a best practice model by the Department of Homeland Security.