Youth Summit on Violence

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Summit on Crime Policy

House Judiciary Committee's

Subcommittee on Crime,

Terrorism and Homeland Security,

June 22, 2007

Youth Promise Act

HR 3846

Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education

Endorsed by the American Psychological Association, American Bar Association, Child Welfare League, NAACP, National PTA, and many others

Violent Crime in the Community
Virginian-Pilot Headlines

Police report says 67 street gangs are active in Norfolk

Norfolk homicides almost double in 2007

Virginia Beach community confronts gang violence

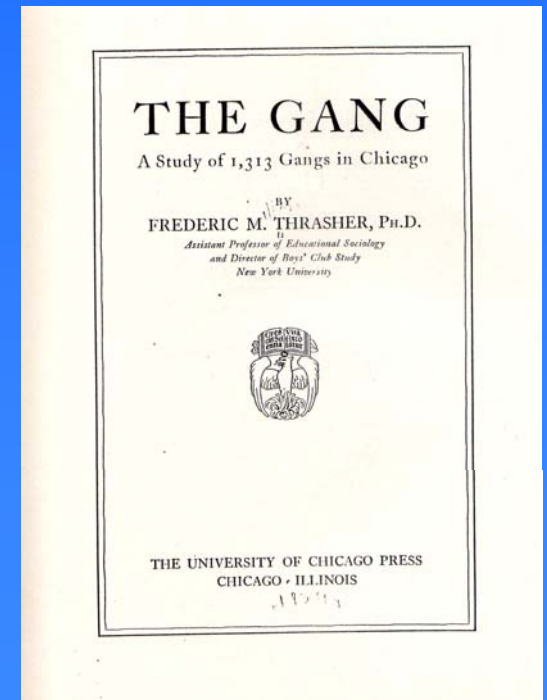Nearly 250 Suffolk students absent following gun rumor

Portsmouth teen's violent death spurs youth forum

Main Points

1. Gangs are a recurrent problem.
2. Beware of simple solutions
3. Prevention works.

1,300 Gangs in Chicago!

Reported by

Frederic Thrasher in

***The Gang*, 1927.**

THE GANG

A Study of 1,313 Gangs in Chicago

BY

FREDERIC M. THRASHER, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Educational Sociology
and Director of Boys' Club Study
New York University

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
CHICAGO · ILLINOIS

Most Common Ethnic Gangs in Chicago, 1927

- Polish
- Italian
- Irish

CHAPTER XII

RACE AND NATIONALITY IN THE GANG

The gang in Chicago is largely, though not entirely, a phenomenon of the immigrant community of the poorer type.[1] Of the 880 gangs for which data have been secured

TABLE III

RACES AND NATIONALITIES OF GANGS IN CHICAGO

Race or Nationality	Number of Gangs	Percentage of Total Gangs
Mixed nationalities.....	351	39.89
Polish.................	148	16.82
Italian................	99	11.25
Irish.................	75	8.52
Negro.................	63	7.16
American—white......	45	5.11
Mixed negro-white......	25	2.84
Jewish................	20	2.27
Slavic................	16	1.82
Bohemian.............	12	1.36
German...............	8	.91
Swedish..............	7	.79
Lithuanian............	6	.69
Miscellaneous.........	5	.57
Total.............	880	100

**From Thrasher's *The Gang*, 1927**

1,300 Gangs in Chicago!

Y. M. C. A. Photo

THE REESE STREET GANG

This gang, composed mostly of Italian boys from twelve to sixteen years of age, was alleged to have predatory activities. It was taken into the Boys' Department of the Young Men's Christian Associa Junior Cubs." In the beginning it was a nuisance in the "Y." breaking up games and shooting craps group games and showed poor sportsmanship. The group has shown great improvement, however, u pathetic leaders. (See pp. 314-17.)
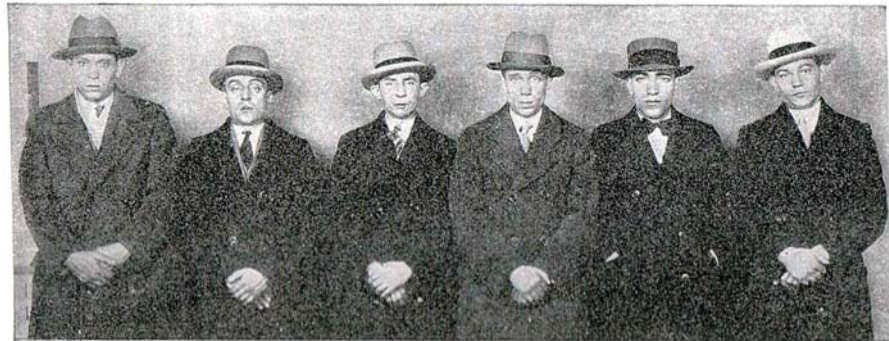
P. & A. Photo

A CRIMINAL GANG

This is a portion of the "Candy Kid" Whittemore gang, which operated on an interstate basis. This group has been held responsible for many murders and for robberies involving more than $1,000,000. Its leader, Richard Reese Whittemore (fifth man from the left), was hanged August 13, 1926, for the murder of a prison guard. Gangs of this type are at work in most large American cities. (See chap. xx.)

From Thrasher's *The Gang*, 1927

Risk Factors for Gang Development

- Poverty and unemployment

- Dysfunctional families

- Social alienation/discrimination

- Frustration, anger, and a desperate desire for respect

Main Points

2. Beware of simple solutions.

For every problem there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong.   H.L. Mencken

Stages in Dealing with Gangs

1. Denial: "We don't have any gangs."
2. Minimize: "They're not real gangs, just wannabes."
3. Weak comparisons: "They're not as bad as those LA gangs."
4. Panic: "They're evil, super-predators on the loose!"
5. Over-reaction: "We have to get tough and build more prisons."
6. Prevention: "Let's help kids stay out of gangs."

Effects on Violence of Laws and Policies Facilitating the Transfer of Juveniles from the Juvenile Justice System to the Adult Justice System
A Systematic Review

Angela McGowan, JD, MPH, Robert Hahn, PhD, MPH, Akiva Liberman, PhD, Alex Crosby, MD, MPH, Mindy Fullilove, MD, Robert Johnson, MD, Eve Moscicki, ScD, MPH, LeShawndra Price, PhD, Susan Snyder, PhD, Farris Tuma, ScD, Jessica Lowy, MPH, Peter Briss, MD, MPH, Stella Cory, MD, MPH, Glenda Stone, PhD, Task Force on Community Preventive Services

Abstract: The independent, nonfederal Task Force on Community Preventive Services (Task Force), which directs development of the *Guide to Community Preventive Services* (*Community Guide*), has conducted a systematic review of published scientific evidence concerning the effectiveness of laws and policies that facilitate the transfer of juveniles to the adult criminal justice system, on either preventing or reducing violence (1) among those youth who experience the adult criminal system or (2) in the juvenile population as a whole.

This review focuses on interpersonal violence. Violence may lead to the juvenile's initial arrest and entry into the justice system and, for those who are arrested, may be committed subsequent to exiting the justice system. Here transfer is defined as the placement of juveniles aged less than 18 years under the jurisdiction of the adult criminal justice system, rather than the juvenile justice system, following arrest. Using the methods developed by the *Community Guide* to conduct a systematic review of literature and provide recommendations to public health decision makers, the review team found that transferring juveniles to the adult justice system generally increases, rather than decreases, rates of violence among transferred youth. Evidence was insufficient for the Task Force on Community Preventive Services to determine the effect of such laws and policies in reducing violent behavior in the overall juvenile population. Overall, the Task Force recommends against laws or policies facilitating the transfer of juveniles from the juvenile to the adult judicial system for the purpose of reducing violence.
(Am J Prev Med 2007;32(4S):S7–S28) © 2007 American Journal of Preventive Medicine

"…transferring juveniles to the adult justice system generally increases, rather than decreases, rates of violence among transferred youth."

The *Expansion* of Zero Tolerance

From No Guns to

- No Toy Guns
- No Nail clippers
- No Plastic utensils
- No Finger-pointing
- No Jokes
- No Drawings
- No Rubber band shooting

No Accidental violations

Annual Expulsions from U.S. Schools

Approximately 97,000 expulsions

- 80% involve alternative educational services

- 20% no educational services

Cost of Arming Teachers

3.6 Million teachers

X

$664 Smith & Wesson Model 10

$2.4 Billio

Sources:National Center for Education Statistics,
   http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d06/
Smith & Wesson http://www.smith-wesson.com/

Fear-based Reactions to Shootings

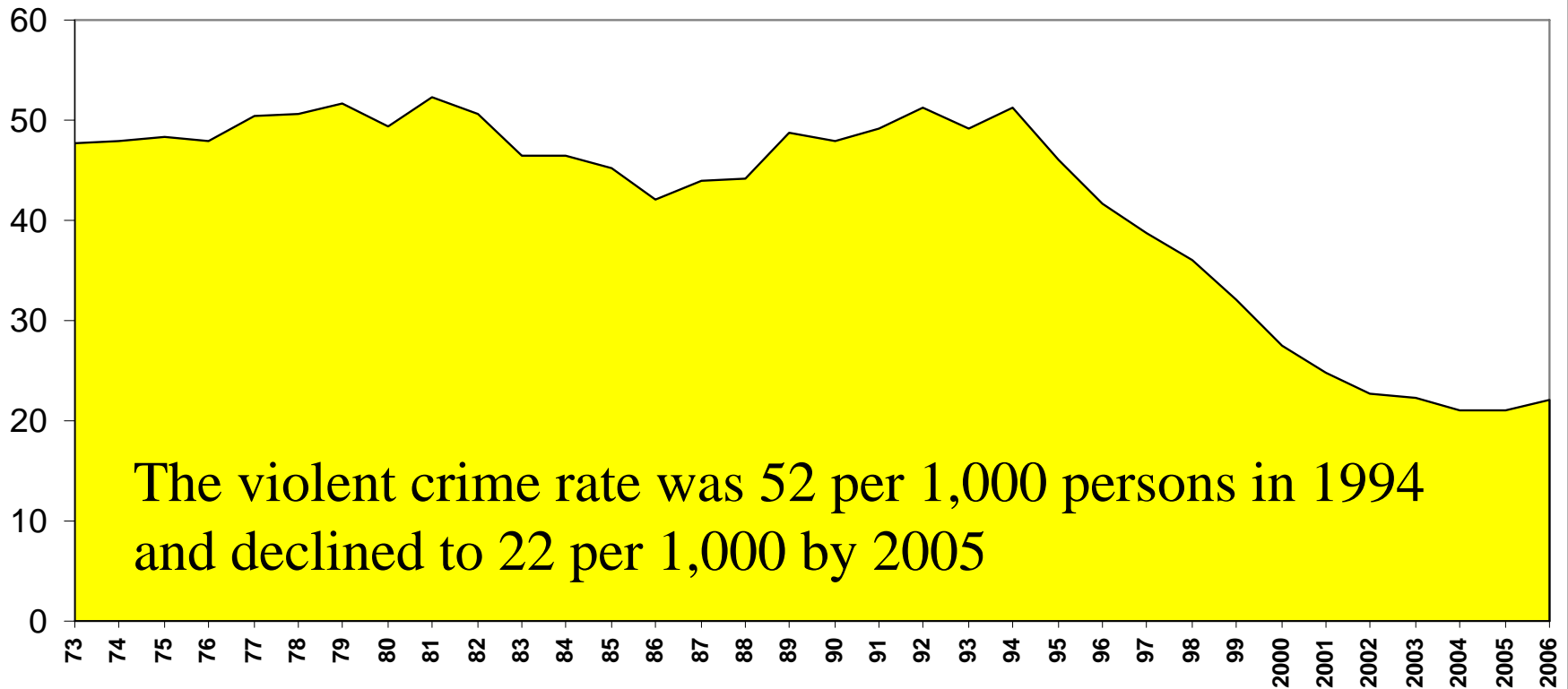**Prevention cannot wait until the gunman is at the door.**
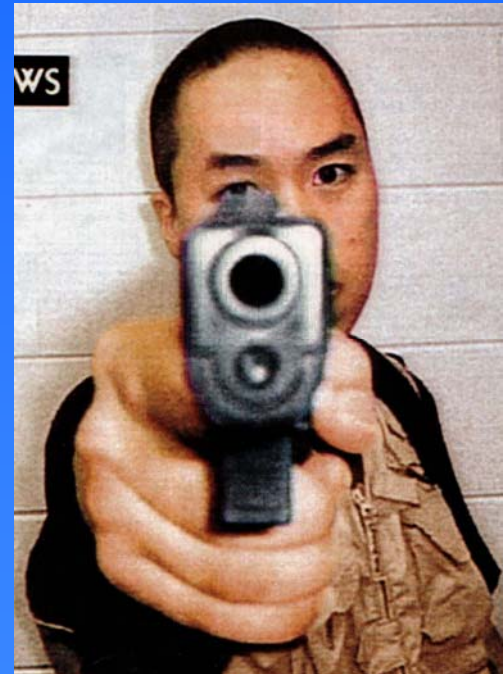
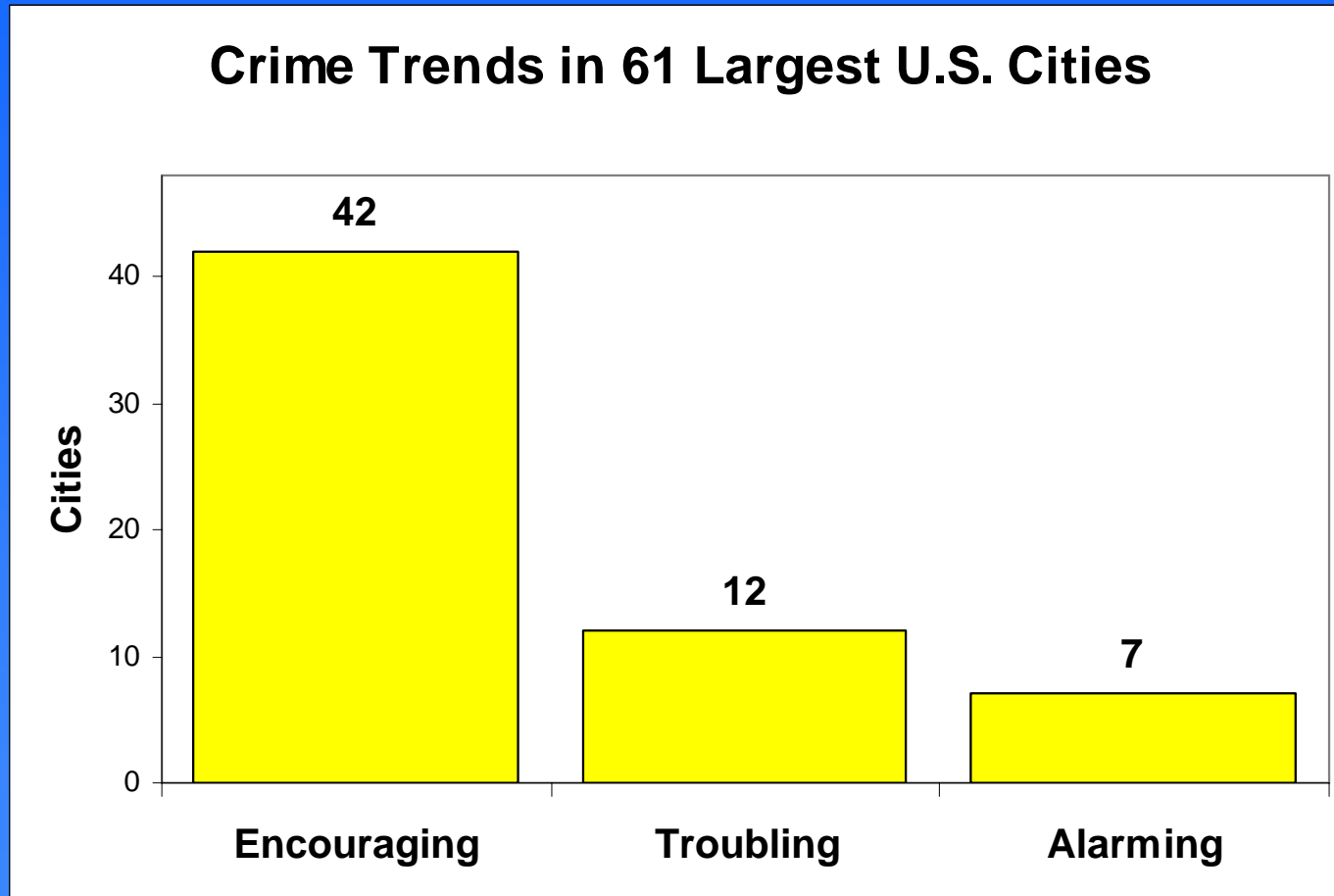# Main Points

3. Prevention works!

Is there a national trend of increased violence?
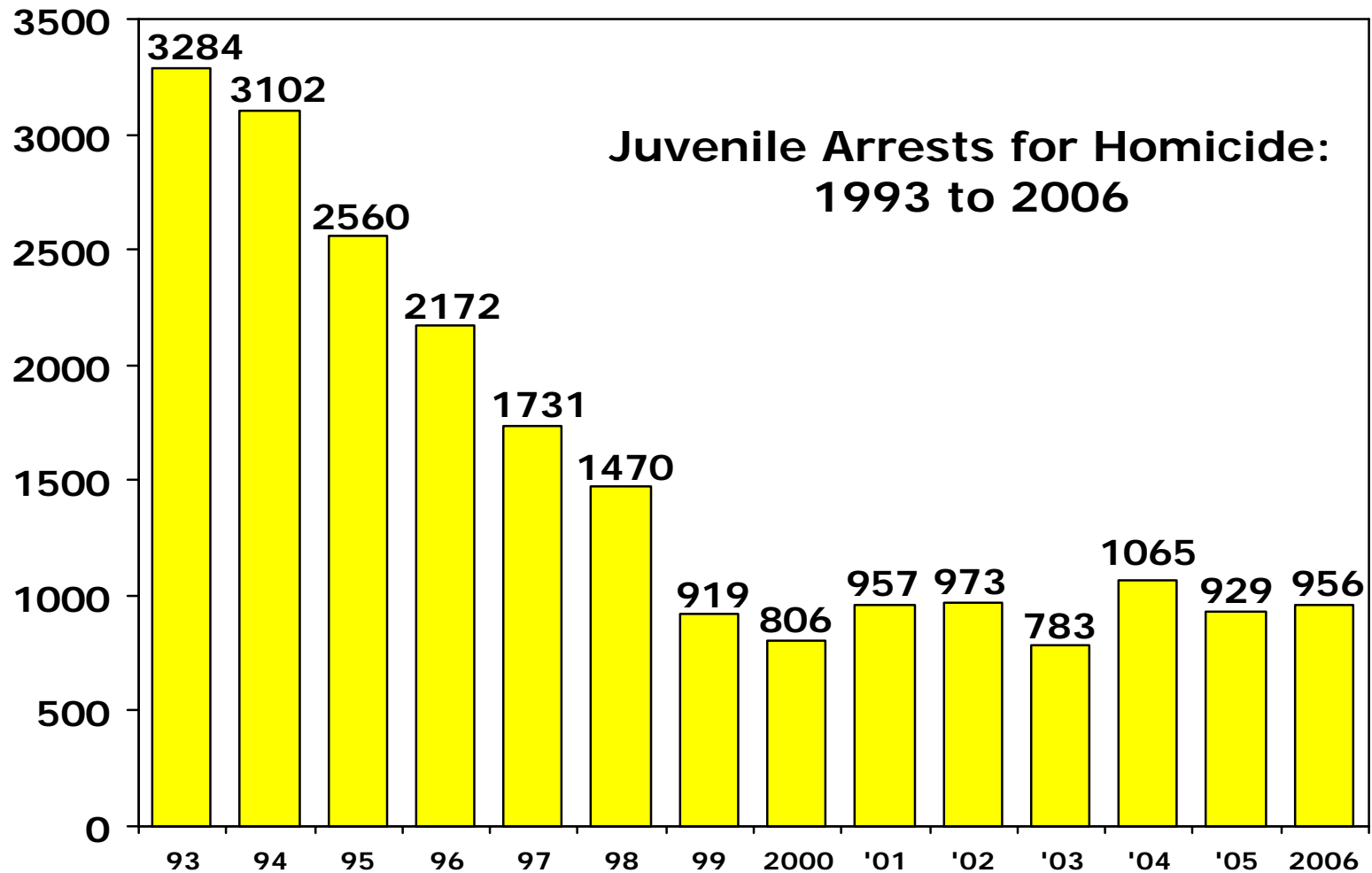
Total Violent Crime Victim Rates

The violent crime rate was 52 per 1,000 persons in 1994 and declined to 22 per 1,000 by 2005

Most major cities have experienced declining violence

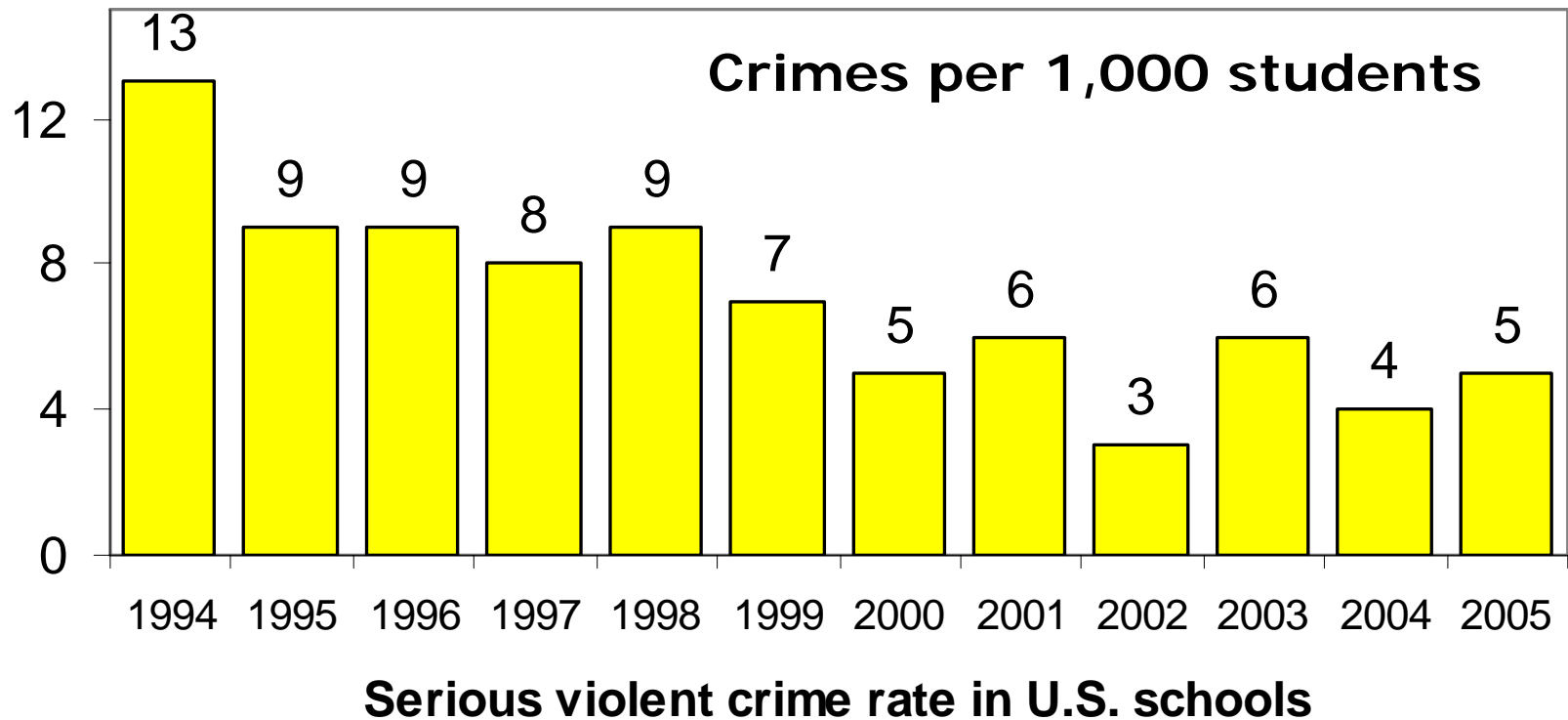**Crime Trends in 61 Largest U.S. Cities**

University of Chicago report presented to the Summit on Crime Policy of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, June 22, 2007

Juvenile violence is **not** increasing

Juvenile Arrests for Homicide: 1993 to 2006

Year	Arrests
93	3284
94	3102
95	2560
96	2172
97	1731
98	1470
99	919
2000	806
'01	957
'02	973
'03	783
'04	1065
'05	929
2006	956

FBI Uniform Crime Reports

School violence is <u>not</u> increasing.

Crimes per 1,000 students

Serious violent crime rate in U.S. schools

Indicators of school crime and safety: 2007

School homicides are <u>not</u> increasing.

Homicides on school grounds during school day

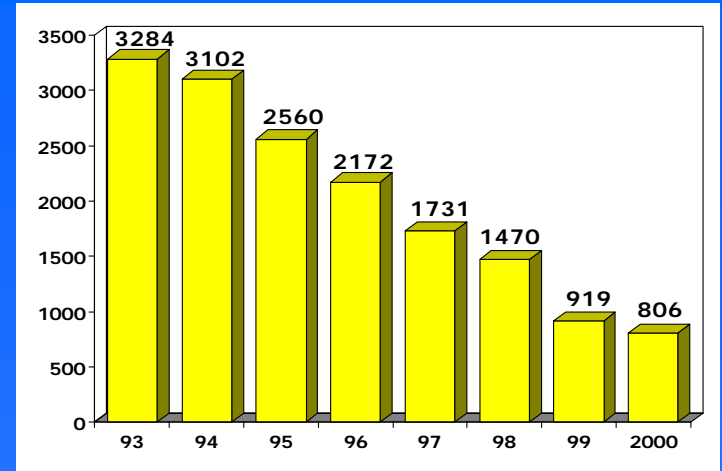| Year	Homicides
92-93	42
	42
-95	17
	29
-97	23
	35
-99	25
	9
2001	8
	2
2003	4
	10
2005	13
	4
2007	11
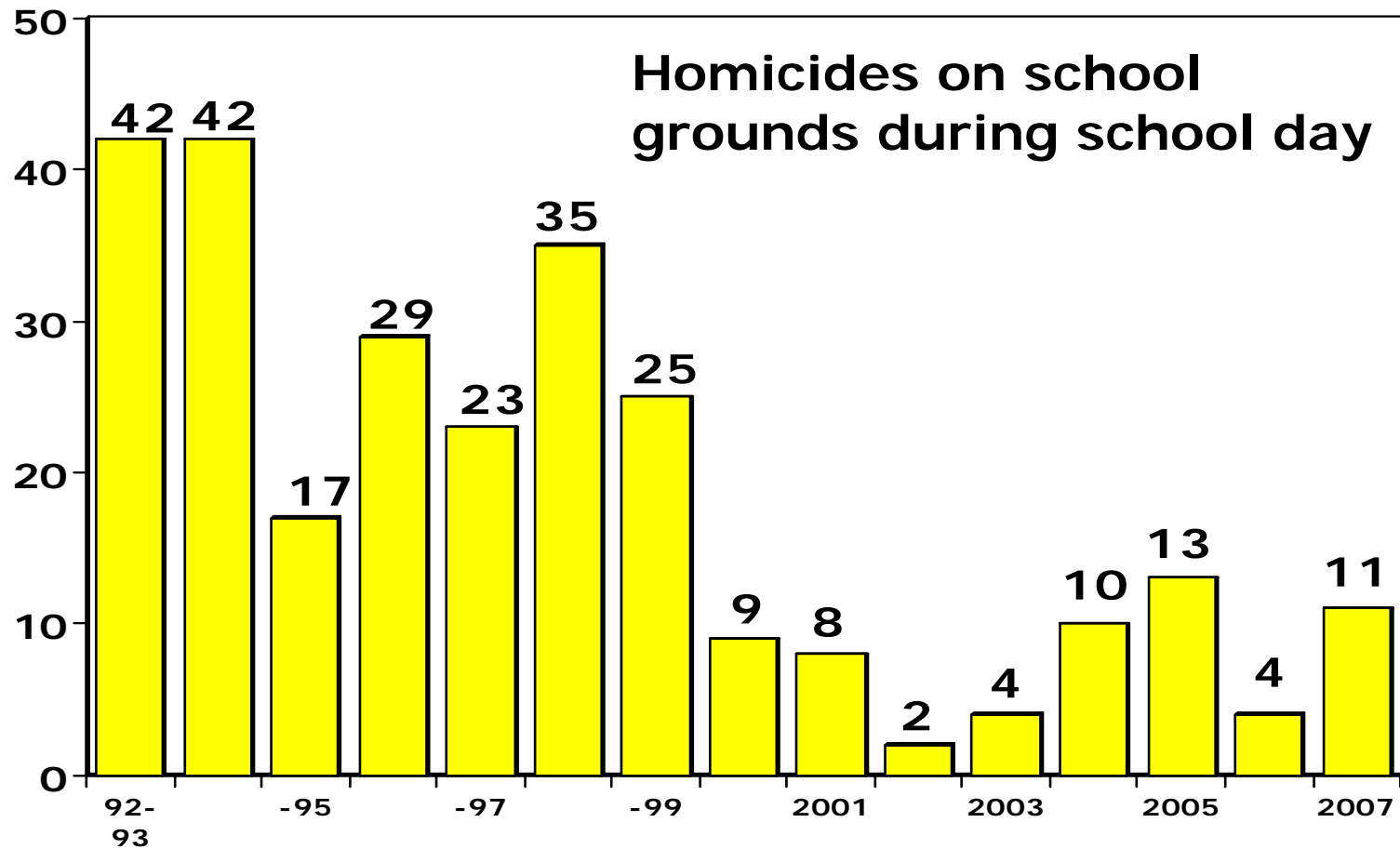
Selected cases from records of the National School Safety Center.

Why the decline in juvenile violence?

- Community-oriented policing
- Employment opportunities
- Prevention programs
  - School–based
  - After-school
  - In-home treatment
  - Residential

School-Based Interventions for Aggressive and Disruptive Behavior
Update of a Meta-Analysis

Sandra Jo Wilson, PhD, Mark W. Lipsey, PhD

Background: Research about the effectiveness of school-based psychosocial prevention programs for reducing aggressive and disruptive behavior was synthesized using meta-analysis. This work updated previous work by the authors and further investigated which program and student characteristics were associated with the most positive outcomes.

Methods: Two hundred forty-nine experimental and quasi-experimental studies of school-based programs with outcomes representing aggressive and/or disruptive behavior were obtained. Effect sizes and study characteristics were coded from these studies and analyzed.

Results: Positive overall intervention effects were found on aggressive and disruptive behavior and other relevant outcomes. The most common and most effective approaches were universal programs and targeted programs for selected/indicated children. The mean effect sizes for these types of programs represent a decrease in aggressive/disruptive behavior that is likely to be of practical significance to schools. Multicomponent comprehensive programs did not show significant effects and those for special schools or classrooms were marginal. Different treatment modalities (e.g., behavioral, cognitive, social skills) produced largely similar effects. Effects were larger for better-implemented programs and those involving students at higher risk for aggressive behavior.

Conclusions: Schools seeking prevention programs may choose from a range of effective programs with some confidence that whatever they pick will be effective. Without the researcher involvement that characterizes the great majority of programs in this meta-analysis, schools might be well-advised to give priority to those that will be easiest to implement well in their settings.
(Am J Prev Med 2007;33(2S):S130–S143) © 2007 American Journal of Preventive Medicine

- 249 controlled studies of school-based programs
- Behavioral, cognitive, and social skills programs reduced student aggression.

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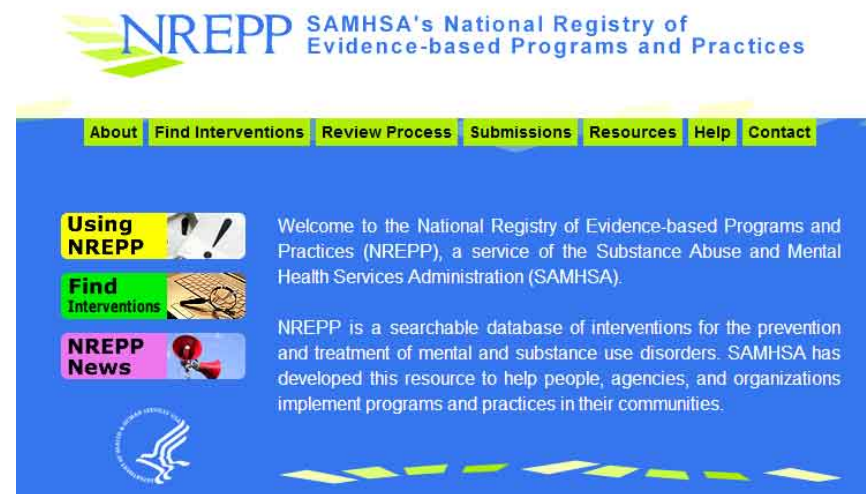
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- Staff must be adequately trained to implement programs correctly.
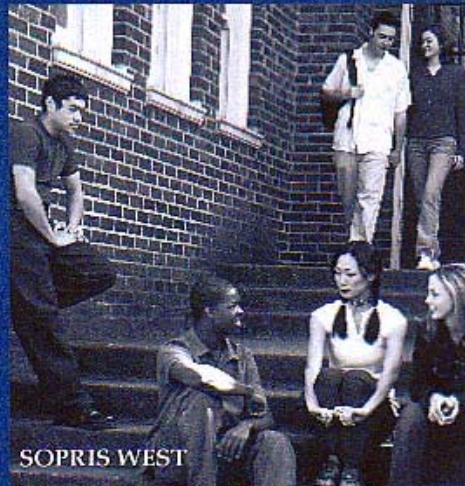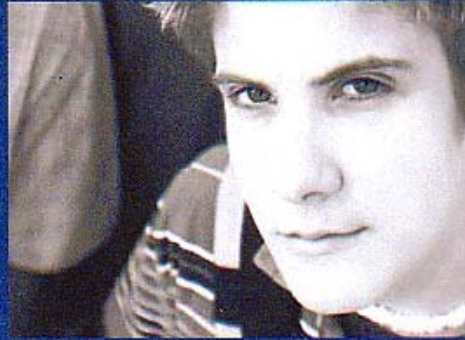- Many programs are ineffective because they are not properly implemented

Numerous Effective Programs

- Anger management
- Bullying prevention
- Conflict resolution
- Family therapy
- Parenting skills
- Problem-solving
- Social competence
- Substance abuse resistance
- Etc.

NREPP SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

About | Find Interventions | Review Process | Submissions | Resources | Help | Contact

Using NREPP

Find Interventions

NREPP News

Welcome to the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

NREPP is a searchable database of interventions for the prevention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders. SAMHSA has developed this resource to help people, agencies, and organizations implement programs and practices in their communities.

DEWEY CORNELL & PETER SHERAS

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO STUDENT THREATS OF VIOLENCE

SOPRIS WEST

- **Legally defensible procedures for responding to student threats**

- **Step-by-step guidelines and decision-tree**

- **Research-based and field-tested**

- **Covers K-12, regular and special education**

Available from
soppriswest.com

Why didn't you tell anyone?

"I didn't want to be a snitch."

"I'm no narc."

"I'm not a tattletale."

"I didn't want to get anyone in trouble."

Crime in Newport News

- "People are not telling us what they see," the city's police chief says.

Quotes from Daily Press

What is snitching?

Snitch

1. *intransitive verb* **inform on somebody:** to tell somebody in authority about another person's wrongdoing
  Friends don't snitch on each other.

Encarta® World English Dictionary [North American Edition]

Why is snitching so reviled?

Snitch: blabbermouth, canary, fink, narc, rat, sneak, squealer, stoolie, stoolpigeon, tattletale, etc.

Seeking help is not snitching

- **Snitching:** informing on someone for personal gain

- **Seeking help:** attempting to prevent violence

Make your voices heard

Worried residents march for peace

Daily Press, August 15, 2007
Bishop Kendrick Turner of The Faith Deliverance Outreach Ministry leads a prayer during a "Stop The Violence March and Prayer Vigil".