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# Communities take on youth violence

### 'In My Shoes' walks at-risk youth through life with a disability

### By Jude Lemrow

A Chicago anti-violence initiative delivers a wake-up call to area young people who are at risk for gang, gun, and violent crime involvement.

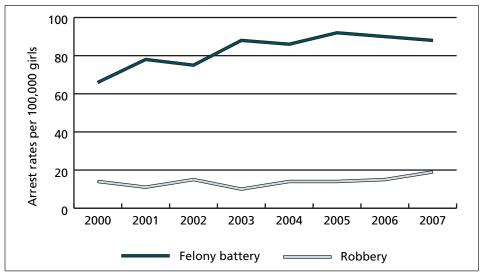
In My Shoes provides a first-hand look at the harsh realities of life with a disability endured by victims of gun violence and other crimes. The program works to raise awareness among at-risk youth of the possible consequences of violent behavior.

Administered by the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital in Chicago, In My Shoes allows youth to meet in person and listen to the stories of individuals whose lives have been forever shattered by a violent crime. Program speakers suffer severe and permanent disabilities and are often confined to wheelchairs.

Peer facilitators and speakers with the program are former Schwab patients whose injuries were a result of street violence. Many have brain and/or spinal cord damage. Some are former gang members. They all talk candidly about their experiences as permanently disabled people, providing a level of understanding that ordinary school teachers or other community leaders simply cannot match.

(See SHOES, page 4)

Figure 1
Illinois juvenile female arrests rates for felony battery and robbery in Illinois, 2000-2007



Source: Illinois State Police-August 2008

# Violent crime arrest rates among girls point to gender-specific service needs

### By Jessica Ashley

hile girls in Illinois commit violent crimes at lower rates than their male counterparts, violent crime arrests of girls have increased over time. Analysis of the Authority's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) datasets reveals that violent crime arrest rates of girls between 10 and 16 years old have increased 28 percent since 2000. Felony battery arrests of girls rose nearly 33 percent between 2000 and 2007.

Juvenile justice practitioners say these figures point to a growing need for services geared toward at-risk girls.

Factors putting girls at risk for delinquency include sexual and/or physical

(Continued on page 2)



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abuse, substance abuse, poor academic performance, teen pregnancy/parenting teens, gang membership, and early onset of puberty, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Programs that help girls address these issues may also divert them from criminal activity.

#### **Arrest trends**

In 2007, 10,550 arrests were reported of girls between the ages of 10 to 16 years old in Illinois. About one-third of arrests were the result of a violent crime, most often battery, followed by property offenses. More than 3,500 violent felony and misdemeanor arrests among girls were reported, making up 34 percent of all arrests of girls. Also in 2007, 29 percent of violent arrests of girls were for battery (n=3,011 felony and misdemeanor arrests).

Figure 1 depicts juvenile arrest rates per 100,000 girls in Illinois for felony battery and robbery. A 33-percent increase was seen between 2000 and 2007 in rates of arrests of girls for felony battery from 66 arrests to 88 arrests per 100,000 girls. Robbery arrest rates increased 36 percent from 14 arrests to 19 arrests per 100,000 girls during that period.

#### **Gender differences**

CHRI arrest statistics validate the common notion that girls in Illinois commit less crime overall than boys. In 2007, young males were arrested for 37,536 total offenses, while females were arrested for 10,550 offenses. In 2007, males made up 78 percent of youth arrests. This dynamic is also seen at other points in the juvenile justice system. In 2005, 83 percent of those detained. Further, in 2004, 89 percent of those committed to Illinois juvenile correctional facilities were male.

Since more girls are being arrested for violent offenses, gender-specific programming that caters to the unique needs of girls may prevent delinquency and help girls who are already in the juvenile justice system.

Rates of violent arrests for both boys and girls have increased significantly over time. The rate of felony violent crime arrests of girls increased 28 percent between 2000 and 2007, while the rate of arrests for boys increased 40 percent.

Violent offense categories selected for analysis are homicide, aggravated assault and battery, sexual assault, and robbery to approximate the violent Index offenses in the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. *Figure 2* depicts the felony violent index crime arrests for both girls and boys ages 10 to 16 from 2000 to 2007.

The populations of both girls and boys ages 10 to 16 increased slightly from 2000 to 2007.

### Girl-specific needs

Juvenile justice decision-making, changing laws, and shifting societal views all may impact the arrests of girls. Since more girls are being arrested for violent offenses, gender-specific programming that caters to the unique needs of girls may help prevent delinquency and help girls who are already in the juvenile justice system.

Girls who have endured sexual and/ or physical abuse, gang violence, and other victimization are at increased risk for post-traumatic stress, psychi-

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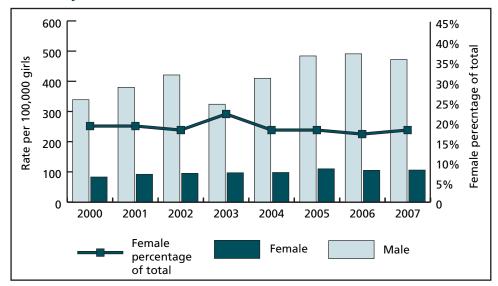
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Figure 2
Felony violent index crime arrest trends among juvenile males and females in Illinois, 2000-2007



Source: Illinois State Police-August 2008

atric disorders, self-harm, and suicide. Gender-specific programs can focus on female delinquency prevention and intervention and take into account the developmental needs of girls at adolescence. These programs can assist individual girls and their families while tackling larger systematic problems girls are facing such as sexism, victimization, poverty, and racism.

Little juvenile justice funding has been allocated for programs geared toward at-risk girls, especially outside of the Chicago metropolitan area. The Cook County Bureau of Public Safety established the GIRLS LINK Juvenile Female Offender Project in 1998 to change policies that address the unique needs of girls in the county's juvenile justice system. A collaboration of more than 20 public and private agencies, GIRLS LINK works to improve gender-responsive services to girls in Cook County through advocacy, education, policy development, and programming. The group has recently started to advocate for specialized services for pregnant and/or parenting girls in the juvenile justice system. GIRLS LINK was recognized by OJJDP as a national model.

Project RENEW (Reclaim Empower Nurture Embrace Womanhood) is another gender-specific initiative that began in 1998. The Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department established Project RENEW to provide specifically trained female probation

officers who can identify the needs of girls on probation and help them to receive the appropriate female-responsive services.

Jessica Ashley is a senior research analyst with the Authority. Authority Research Analyst Lindsay Bostwick contributed to this report.

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### **Publications**

The following publications are available from the Authority and may be accessed online at www.icjia.state.il.us.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority 2007 Annual Report

Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council 2007 Annual Report

Illinois Integrated Justice Information System 2007 Annual Report

Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data: 2005 Annual Report

Trends and Issues 2008: A profile of criminal and juvenile iustice

Trends and Issues 2008: A profile of criminal and juvenile justice is a valuable resource for criminal justice policymakers, practitioners, and anyone interested in crime and justice in Illinois.

The first large-scale report of its kind since 1997, *Trends and Issues 2008* paints a comprehensive statistical portrait of crime and justice in Illinois from 1995 through 2005. This state-of-the-state report highlights a decade of trends in criminal and juvenile justice and their components, including law enforcement, courts, corrections, and victim services. Topics that have become increasingly important during the course of the decade also are featured.

The Authority also has initiated **Trends** and **Issues Updates**, a publication series to follow up on issues covered in the full report.

# Underreporting of violent victimization impedes justice, services

An analysis of violent victimization data based on results of the Authority-sponsored 2002 Illinois Crime Victimization Survey is summarized in this **Research Bulletin**. The analysis indicated that less than half of all violent victimizations occurring in Illinois are reported to police. Crime reporting practices among Illinoisans parallels national trends, according to U.S. Department of Justice statistics. Severe underreporting to police of all types of crime, including violent crime, is a consistent finding in crime victimization research.

### Research

### Chicago sex trafficking report reveals recruitment strategies, coercion techniques

The Authority collaborated with De-Paul University researchers to complete, "Domestic sex trafficking of Chicago women and girls," a research study on the process by which young girls are recruited into the sex trade industry in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Between July and December 2007, 100 young women up to the age of 25 were interviewed. The participants were involved in the sex trade industry in Chicago and controlled by an individual serving the function of a pimp. Two survivors of prostitution conducted the interviews on the streets, and at Unhooked, a court-mandated, anti-prostitution program operated by a division of Christian Community Health Centers.

The study pinpointed strategies used by pimps, and levels of coercion, control, and violence that hold young women in prostitution. The report also describes where the women were active in the sex trade, whether they were transported to prostitution venues, how far they were transported, and whether they are taken across state lines.

The full report is available on the Authority website at www.icjia.state.il.us.

# Campus crime across Illinois the focus of new Authority study

Authority researchers have initiated a study on Illinois college campus crime trends.

The study will include crime trends over a six-year period at about 450 Title IV schools across the state with student enrollment of 2,500 or more.

Trend analyses will include reported burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, arsons, homicide and negligent manslaughters, sex offenses, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Researchers also will determine where crimes most often occur on and around college campuses.

Data for years 2001 through 2006 were collected from the U.S. Department of Education.

The study also will include a summary of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, proposed amendments to the Act, warning signs of violence on campus, campus prevention

(Continued on page 5)

### SHOES, from page 1

"I got involved because I felt a need to give something back to the community, and I felt that my story is one that my peers needed to hear," said Schwab Violence Prevention Coordinator DeVoy Boyd, 30, a former gang member who suffered a disabling spinal cord injury after being shot during a violent traffic confrontation in the fall of 1994. The injury left him confined to a wheelchair.

Boyd joined In My Shoes in 2003. He arranges presentations for schools, police districts, and other entities and conducts outreach efforts to community organizations. Many local community agencies have become familiar with the program, which has operated since 1997.

In My Shoes peer facilitator and program speaker Joel Irizarry also is disabled and in a wheelchair as a result of street violence.

"When I was younger, I always thought that if I was in a gang, I would either end up dead or I would end up in jail," said Irizarry, 27. "Nobody told me that there was a third possibility—that I might end up disabled and confined to a wheelchair."

### **Program history**

In My Shoes was created by Schwab staff members and former patients in response to the alarming number of young minority patients—especially blacks and Hispanics—with permanent disabilities resulting from street violence. The Authority first allocated federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act funding to the initiative as a court diversion program in 2000. Nearly \$195,000 in Authority-administered federal Project Safe Neighborhoods funds have supported the program since 2004.

The program serves more than a dozen South Side neighborhoods in police districts 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 15. More than 38,000 at-risk youth, as well as juvenile and adult offenders, have participated in the program since its inception. Recently, presentations were added to Project Safe Neighborhoods-supported Parolee Forums, which are designed to help offenders return to their communities after incarceration.

"When I was younger, I always thought that if I was in a gang, I would either end up dead or I would end up in jail. Nobody told me that there was a third possibility—that I might end up disabled and confined to a wheelchair."

### Joel Irizarry, In My Shoes program speaker

In My Shoes is the only anti-violence program in Chicago that focuses on disabilities. According to FBI Uniform Crime Reports, young people ages 24 and under in Illinois made up nearly 40 percent of all gun-related homicides in 2005.

# Hands-on, personal experiences

In My Shoes conducts hands-on workshops, and shorter presentations for large groups.

Workshops are held at Schwab and last about four hours. Designed to address small groups of young people between the ages of 10 and 25, workshops feature clinical and graphic presentations by peer speakers who describe the physiological damage that they have experienced. Speakers describe bowel and bladder management issues, including self-catheterization and what it is like to wear diapers. Attendees view photographs of wounds and pressure sores. Other challenges, such as loss of speaking ability and bodily control, also are discussed.

Four simulation stations were created by the program so that participants could personally experience various disabilities. An eating station simulates the difficulties a paralyzed victim might have with consuming regular food and drink. A dressing station helps illustrate difficulty in putting on clothing. A communication station simulates speech and hearing impediments. And a wheelchair station helps show victim mobility problems. Other commonly used teaching aids include diapers, catheters, tracheotomy supplies, and enemas.

The presentations are shorter than the workshops and are often given in community auditoriums, classrooms, or youth camps. Presentations focus on victim stories. Speakers describe their injuries, how they occurred, the immediate aftermaths, and the life-long effects. The speakers' stories are followed by question-and-answer sessions which help build relationships between the speakers and attendees who, it is hoped, will be persuaded to avoid pursuing dangerous and violent lifestyles.

In most cases, the presentations at schools are intended for general student and youth populations. The program conducts about five presentations to every one workshop. School administrators sometimes identify students who may benefit from the more intense workshops.

In My Shoes tailors workshops and presentations to accommodate the audiences. Speakers use discretion in determining topics to be discussed, and what, if any, photographs would be appropriate for young viewers. In an effort to better connect with the respective communities, speakers are often assigned to deliver presentations in neighborhoods that reflect their ethnicity.

It takes a special kind of person to become a peer facilitator or speaker for In My Shoes.

"Fundamentally, the individual must feel a willingness to help others," Boyd said. "Also, it is best that some time has passed since the individual was injured. Just because someone was violently injured doesn't mean that the person has abandoned a dangerous lifestyle. The individuals should feel ready to share their experiences."

New speakers are taught how to run the workstations at the workshops and coached to feel comfortable in telling their stories to others. The program has 10 speakers. Eight are gunshot victims, one suffered injuries from a severe beating, and one was stabbed. One speaker is female. Her case is unique because she was an innocent bystander in gang violence related to her boyfriend.

"She makes young women think about the young men they associate with," Boyd said. "A young woman might find herself a victim of violence if her boyfriend is involved in a gang. This shows that even if a person is not actively involved in a violent lifestyle, that person risks becoming a victim if he or she maintains relationships with people who do."

### **Impact**

In 2007, more than 10,200 youths attended 47 workshops and 117 presentations.

Attendees are quizzed at the start of each event to gauge awareness of the issues that will be addressed. At the end, attendees are tested again. The results of the two tests are compared to determine program effectiveness. Between September 2007 and March 2008, the average pre-test score was 6.76 of 12 and the average post-test score was 9.05 of 12.

Reactions to the presentations and workshops vary. Boyd said that younger children are often fascinated and squeamish when photographs are shown, while discussions of self-catheterization and bodily control elicit the most discomfort among older attendees.

School teachers and administrators have reported an increased awareness of the possible effects of violence instilled in their students. Speakers also get direct feedback from the attendees.

"There have been times when I have met somebody on the street or in the grocery store who said, 'Hey, I remember you. Your story really made me think twice about getting involved in a gang," Irizarry said.

Jude Lemrow is an administrative assistant with the Authority.

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### Research continued

measures, and institutional responses to crime.

Study completion is expected in the fall.

# Authority collaborates on health care workplace violence study

The Authority will participate in a national study of the magnitude and risk factors of workplace violence among health care workers and pharmacists.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health will sponsor the study, which will include data extracted from state and local police databases. The frequency, rates, and circumstances of homicides, simple, aggravated and sexual assaults, and robberies of health care workers and pharmacists will be analyzed.

Reasons cited for an upsurge in workplace violence in pharmacies include greater border and port enforcement leading to higher seizure of incoming illicit drugs, better quality of legitimate pharmaceuticals, and increased use of pharmaceuticals among young people.

Cities and states participating in the study include Chicago, Milwaukee, Wis., Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

# Evaluators to measure impact of transitional services for female probationers

The Authority awarded Loyola University a grant to conduct an impact evaluation of the Lake County Probation Department's Women's Specialized Services Program.

The program provides specialized services to women probationers who exhibit post-traumatic stress disorder. The study will determine whether the program reduced recidivism, and whether it assisted the women in obtaining employment, housing, food, and childcare.

The study follows an implementation and impact evaluation conducted between June 2004 and July 2006. Most program participants were still serving their probation sentences when data collection in that evaluation was completed, and measurements of program impact, including recidivism rates and mental health and substance abuse treatment success rates, could not be determined.

This evaluation will be completed in January 2009.

### **Grants**

# Federal fiscal year 2008 grant funding designations

The Authority received an appropriation of just more than \$4 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to administer the **Violence Against Women Act** (VAWA) in federal fiscal year 2008 (FFY08). This award was a slight increase over VAWA funding received in FFY07.

VAWA funds are used to improve the response of the criminal justice system to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The Authority received a \$12.4 million FFY08 appropriation from the U.S. Department of Justice to administer the **Victims of Crime Act** (VOCA). This award represented at 29 percent reduction over VOCA funding received in FFY07

Funded with fines paid by those convicted of violating federal laws, VOCA supports direct services to violent crime victims.

The Authority received about \$4.3 million to administer the FFY08 **Justice Assistance Grant** (JAG) program. This award is about 65 percent less than the amount received in FFY07.

JAG funds can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice in a variety of areas, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, prevention and education, corrections, drug treatment and planning evaluation, and technology improvement.

Finally, almost \$255,000 was received from the U.S. Department of Justice to administer the **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program** (RSAT).

RSAT provides funding for drug treatment programs in a correctional setting and initiatives providing aftercare services.

## Lapsing funds allocated for cars, video equipment

The Authority redirected lapsed FFY04 Anti-Drug Abuse Act (ADAA) funding to 20 sheriff's and police departments across Illinois for vehicles and in-car video equipment.

Nearly \$285,000 in unspent program funds were made available to agencies in need. The allocations were made in

(Continued on page 7)

# At-risk youth camp programs offer safe summer alternatives

By Ebony Evans

wo summer camp programs offer at-risk youth a safe diversion from the gang violence, homelessness, and other challenges that plague their daily lives.

The La Causa Community Committee provides nine weeks of summer camp to children ages nine to 14 on Chicago's South Side, while the Springfield Police Department offers a junior police academy program to downstate low-income and homeless youth. Both programs aim to empower area youngsters and counteract the negative influences by giving them safe, constructive alternatives during summer months when school is out.

A 30-year community staple, La Causa Community Committee focuses on youth development and delinquency prevention in its summer camp program. The committee hosts summer camp in its South Chicago facility starting the Monday following the end of the school year and ending the week before the fall term begins. Attended by 50 local elementary school students and guided by former participants of the program, the camp provides volleyball, softball, and swimming instruction, as well as gang, drug, and alcohol education in partnership with local advocacy groups and other volunteers.

The committee's role in the community became even more critical after the closing of U.S. Steel Company in 1992, said Victor Hugo Garibay, La Causa president and chairman.

"This program acts as a social blanket to promote sustainability in a community that was devastated by the economic loss of the steel mill industry, the rise of gang activity and crime as a whole, and the destabilization of the family structure," he said.

La Causa Community Committee staff strive to give young people options for their future that do not include violent pathways. The summer camp program highlights the positive attributes of becoming physically fit as well as the stability and discipline that team sports can provide them. The children also are prompted to use positive exchanges with one another.

Established in 2002, the Springfield Police Department Junior Police Academy is a youth violence diversion program that helps strengthen relationships between police and the community. The academy offers six one-week sessions throughout the summer, during which youth spend time with law enforcement officers who give them a first-hand account of police work. The officers simulate traffic stops, provide K-9 demonstrations, and collaborate with other agencies to educate the children on fire safety and the role of a bomb squad.

The program serves children ages eight through 14 in Sangamon County and the surrounding area. About 30 youth participate in each session. The children are recruited for the academy through the local Boys and Girls Club and other local outreach.

The academy provides participants with a healthy breakfast and lunch. The Springfield Department of Public Health has partnered with the program to provide physicals and school supplies. High school-aged youth are invited to participate in the department's Police Explorers program.

The program fosters a personal familiarity between youth and law enforcement.

"We're trying to build character one kid at a time by showing them professional career paths that will hopefully lead them to careers in law enforcement, and a positive path that will keep them out of crime," said Robin Dowis, Junior Police Academy program director.

Both programs are at least partially supported with federal Project Safe Neighborhoods funding administered by the Authority.

Ebony Evans is a research analyst with the Authority. Authority Communications Manager Cristin Monti Evans contributed to this report.

# Coalitions join anti-violence initiative in gang-ridden areas

**By Mark Powers** 

while Illinois has enjoyed an overall decline in violent crime over the past two decades, communities across the state are still experiencing problems with juvenile delinquency and youth gang crime.

According to FBI reported offense data, Chicago's violent crime rate ranked sixth among the nation's 25 largest cities in 2006. A large amount of variation in violent crime rates exists across Chicago communities, with several neighborhoods bearing the brunt of the most gang activity.

To address gang and youth violence in hotspot areas, in December 2007, Gov. Rod Blagojevich introduced The Safety Net Works, a multi-agency collaboration with a comprehensive model designed to locally address youth violence in gang-ridden communities. Seventeen sites have been targeted by the initiative, with 12 located in Chicago and others in Cicero, Decatur, East St. Louis, May-

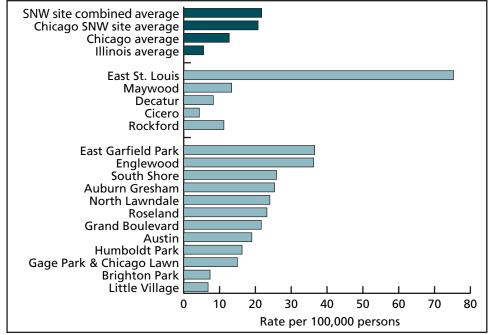
wood, and Rockford. Site selection was based on evidence of elevated levels of violent and gang-related crime.

The Safety Net Works sites are located in communities with high violent index offense rates or known gang problems (*Figure 1*). A 2006 study of gangs by the Chicago Crime Commission showed an especially elevated gang presence in the selected Chicago sites and indicated a need for a comprehensive approach to gang violence prevention.

Research indicates that a lack of positive social opportunity and social organization in a community causes youth to gravitate toward gang membership and violence. Community coalitions can create a buffer for youth by providing positive opportunities and collective organization. The Safety Net Works provides funding and guidance to communities as they work to form effective coalitions.

(Continued on page 8)

Figure 1
Violent index offense rates in
The Safety Net Works (SNW) communities, 2006



Sources: Chicago Police Department, Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau

### Grants continued

January and June. The agencies used the funding to purchase 14 law enforcement vehicles and 10 video systems.

These funds were set aside for vehicle and video equipment purchases to augment the \$820,594 in FFY05 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding that was made available for vehicle and video purchases via a request for proposals in fall 2007.

The lapsed FFY04 ADAA funds were made available to agencies that demonstrated financial need for equipment but did not qualify for the JAG funding.

### Elder abuse pilot program in development for Chicago's South Side

The Authority will partner with Metropolitan Family Services, police, geriatricians, attorneys, and others to address abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of the elderly in the 2nd Congressional District.

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., presented a congressionally mandated award of \$178,870 to the Authority in June to administer and provide oversight of the Metropolitan Family Services Coordinated Response Initiative.

The pilot program will work to hold abusers accountable in the legal system for the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults, and enhance coordination between elder victim advocates and the legal system. The program will target 71,000 seniors in the 2nd District living within Chicago city limits.

# Funding addresses gang migration from Chicago to suburbs

More than \$570,000 in Authority-administered Project Safe Neighborhood funds were awarded in May to help combat gang migration throughout northern Illinois.

Funding was used to purchase surveillance and tracking equipment and to support gang crime analyst personnel. Grants were given to Aurora, Carpentersville, Evanston, Palatine, and Waukegan police departments, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Winnebago county sheriff departments, and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office.

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Chicago Police Department also received funding to support collaborative efforts with federal ATF agents to enforce and investigate gun crimes throughout Chicago.

### **Technology**

# Authority secures grant to improve data accessibility

The Authority was awarded \$60,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics to update CJ DataNet, an online statistical database available to the public on the agency's website.

The grant supports web enhancements that will allow public availability of data on all aspects of the criminal justice system, including offenses, arrests, court filings, sentences, and corrections, for both juveniles and adults. Social indicators that are risk factors for crime also will be available, including employment, education, poverty, and demographic characteristics of victims and offenders.

CJ DataNet currently allows users to view and print state maps and trend graphs for many of these same datasets, but the available data have not been updated since 2002. The enhancements will allow the Authority to continually update the site with current data and provide users with more graphing and mapping capabilities. Project completion is expected in fall 2009.

The population targeted for prevention by the sites includes young adults up to 24 years of age, after which violent offending substantially decreases.<sup>1</sup>

A 2002 evaluation conducted for the Authority of the Gang Violence Reduction Project in Little Village indicated that the inclusion of a faith-based organization can be a critical component in successful gang violence prevention strategies. Coalitions in each Safety Net Works site are required to have at least one school and one faith-based organization as core members, and are given flexibility to include remaining members based on community needs and resources.

Additional coalition members can include state-funded service providers, community-based organizations, local government bodies, individual community representatives, and representatives from local businesses. Strategies to be implemented include youth and peer mentoring, job training and employment assistance, cognitive and educational workshops addressing peaceful conflict resolution, and community-oriented safety practices.

Safety Net Works coalitions will work to engage communities in comprehensive and coordinated youth violence prevention activities while promoting youth leadership. To achieve this, the coalitions must examine individual, family, and community factors that may prevent young people from achieving maximum potential, and provide services and interventions to sustain healthy environments that will allow youth to thrive.

Coordinated by the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority and Department of Human Services, the initiative is supported in part with federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program funding administered by ICJIA. ICJIA also is collaborating with other state agencies to evaluate implementation of the initiative.

#### Note

1 Butts, Jeffrey A., "Youth Crime Drop," Urban Institute (December 2000): 7.

Mark Powers is a research analyst with the Authority.

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