

Center for Public Safety Initiatives

Newsletter Fall 2012

www.rit.edu/cpsi
585.475.5591

Thank you for reading another installment of the CPSI Newsletter. We will be keeping you updated on our funding, research projects and community involvement throughout the year. Our students are working diligently on locally relevant, community based research and we are proud to share their accomplishments with you.

We are always looking for ways to serve the community with research and welcome any ideas. Please contact Janelle at jmdgcj@rit.edu or 585-475-5591 to speak about possible research opportunities. For a complete list of working papers outlining our research, visit www.rit.edu/cpsi.

The Center for Public Safety Initiatives is funded solely through grants and sponsorships; CPSI receives no funding through RIT. If you would like to support research on local issues through CPSI please send a check to CPSI at RIT, Dept. of Criminal Justice RIT, 93 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. All donations are tax deductible. If you would like to support a student research fellowship which would be named after you, another person or your business, please call Janelle at 585-475-5591.

Students are continuing research and our weekly meetings are scheduled for Friday at 10am. All are welcome; please contact us if you're interested in attending. Our CPSI meetings are bigger than ever this year - we have secured a larger meeting space, so please join us!



September 7, 2012 CPSI Meeting

Under Construction: Building a Community Violence Reduction Plan

The Center for Public Safety Initiatives has recently started working on an initiative to develop a plan to reduce community violence. We call it "Under Construction" because it will be ongoing, and are now seeking your help! We will be collecting ideas about specific programs or interventions that you feel can help reduce the level of violence in our community. When we receive submissions, our research staff will produce a brief summary of the program, evaluate the effectiveness of the program, and note whether it is being done in Rochester or other communities and, if so, how it is being implemented. All submissions will remain anonymous, and periodic updates will be sent out via our mailing list. We will also keep a running list of evaluated programs on our website. For more information, please see www.rit.edu/cla/cpsi/WorkingPapers/UC.pdf. All ideas can be submitted via email to cpsi@rit.edu.

Criminal Justice Graduate Program

The Criminal Justice Masters program at RIT welcomed six new graduate students this fall who are all working closely with CPSI faculty and staff. Students have already begun working on the evaluations of ideas submitted for the Community Violence Reduction Plan. For more information about the CJ Masters program, visit www.rit.edu/cla/criminaljustice/graduate.php.

Research Spotlight: Rochester Safe and Sound

In 2007, Rochester was awarded funding through CPSI from the US Department of Justice to form a comprehensive anti-gang initiative in our community. Through this funding, Rochester was able to collaboratively organize prevention, enforcement and re-entry programs dealing with gang violence. For the past five years, CPSI has worked closely with Rochester Police Department, Monroe County Office of Probation, Crestwood/Hillside, Catholic Family Center, and the Community Place of Greater Rochester for program implementation, fiscal management and research/evaluation of the efforts. We would like to share with you some brief results from the program. A complete evaluation report will be posted on our website shortly.

Primary and Secondary prevention targeted third through sixth grade students at School #33 in the Rochester City School District. The best practices program, Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies (PATHS), was delivered by staff from the Family Resource Center of Crestwood Children's Center. The PATHS curriculum was designed to promote emotional/social competencies, reduce aggression/acting out behaviors, and improve peer relations. Home visits and support services were provided to families identified as being especially high risk. Results demonstrated modest improvements in students' socio-emotional adjustment and protective factors after exposure to the curriculum. These improvements were most pronounced for students whose families received supplemental home visits and support services. As part of the prevention efforts RSS also targeted 110 gang-affiliated juvenile probationers with a program called Lead the Way. This intervention was delivered in sessions over 12 weeks by probation officers and violence intervention specialists from Pathways to Peace. These leaders facilitated activities, group discussions, and interactive DVDs focusing on conflict resolution, violence avoidance, and leaving gangs. Completion of the program was associated with lower rates of re-arrest and violations of probation. Participants also reported significant improvements in risk factors and self-reported delinquency by the conclusion of the intervention.

Enforcement efforts were conducted by the Rochester Police Department (RPD) with activities targeting well established drug markets with associated gang violence. RPD employed intense covert narcotics investigations culminating in the execution of approximately 118 search warrants over a two year period. These efforts netted over \$70,000 cash, close to 1,000 grams of cocaine and heroin, and over two dozen firearms seized. Arrests lead to over 400 individual charges with close to 70% at the felony level. Approximately half of the arrests led to convictions and sentences to state prison. In half of the targeted drug markets there was a significant decline in robbery and burglary associated with the enforcement efforts. RPD also sponsored seven offender notification call-in meetings. These deterrence-focused meetings targeted 104 gang-affiliated probationers and were supplemented by intense case management and monitoring by probation officers and a case manager from Catholic Family Center (CFC). Approximately a quarter of the participants failed to complete the six month follow-up due to a violation of probation or a new arrest. However, 10% successfully completed their GEDs and 22% found new employment during this same period.

Re-entry services were provided to 65 gang members who were incarcerated locally in Monroe County. In-custody jail services were cognitive-behavioral based and included anger management, substance abuse, and transitional planning. On average, participants received six weeks of pre-release services and they were provided by jail staff and case managers from the CFC. Post-release follow-up lasted up to six months and was provided by CFC. The most common forms of assistance included wrap around financial aid, employment assistance, and GED programs. During the six month follow-up, close to 30% of participants were re-arrested for a new offense, 5% completed their GED, and 12% maintained stable employment.

CPSI Project Updates

Burglary Analysis

The Burglary Analysis Team has been working on analyses of recorded burglaries as well as data on arrested burglars in the city of Rochester. The preliminary research indicates that the arrested burglars tend to commit crimes close to their home addresses and has also begun to explore variations between male and female arrestees and the patterns of relationships with burglary victims. Further research on these two questions will elaborate on neighborhood-level variations in distance to crime and also involve further data collection on male and female differences in terms of motive. In addition a city-wide examination of burglaries as a “repeat” phenomenon has begun, which will offer insight into patterns of persistent burglary victimization.

Rochester Shooting Database

CPSI is working with the Monroe Crime Analysis Center and the Rochester Police Department on the development of an inclusive shooting database for RPD, consisting of all shooting incidents resulting in injury within the city of Rochester from 2001 onward. The database will provide law enforcement and crime analysts with extensive and easily accessible information regarding these incidents.

Repeat Victimization

CPSI has begun to look at repeat victimization in seven years of crime data provided by the Monroe Crime Analysis Center. Comprised of more than 129,000 police reports, this data will provide a unique insight into repeat victims and offenders. A preliminary analysis showed that about 60,000 of these reports are for approximately 20,000 repeat victims.

Marijuana Markets & Street Sales

The goal of the analysis of the open air drug markets in neighborhoods is to expose characteristics that may help community to successfully integrate restorative justice practices. According to the recent TIPS surveys, one of the highest ranked concerns within the in some neighborhoods is the public disturbances associated with drug sales. The quasi-legal status of marijuana in New York State limits the action of law enforcement and judicial decisions, thus producing a sustainable environment for drug sales. Currently CPSI is focusing on mapping and graphing techniques that will help illustrate the inner workings of the open air drug market in the northern section of the city. We have found that many buyers or individuals who associate themselves with marijuana markets are from outside of the city, which demonstrates that the city’s marijuana market also caters to people who do not live within the city. Currently there is a paper in progress that will outline New York State’s marijuana laws and the concerns of the neighborhood regarding the sale of drugs. The paper will also analyze TIPS data, survey results, arrest maps, and license plate zip code maps. Along with the analysis of data, the paper will outline tools for addressing the problem of open air drug markets and the desired goals of the neighborhood.

CPSI is working closely with Project Hope and the IBERO-American Action League to secure external funding to address the street-level marijuana markets, in conjunction with the City of Rochester, Rochester Police Department and other community non-profit organizations.

International Research Exchange Project with Mount Royal University

In the past year, CPSI has hosted a series of *Adobe Connect* meetings with criminal justice students and faculty at Mount Royal University in Calgary. The project provides a forum for students from both institutions to present their research and gain an international perspective on crime and criminal justice. Most recently, several CPSI students from the Burglary Assessment Team (BAT) presented their analysis of arrest data that examined spatial (journey to crime) patterns as well as gender differences in motive and victim-offender relationships. Student researchers from Mount Royal University are slated to present their research in January and discussions are currently being held to explore the possibility of collaborating on research projects in the future.

Farewell!

I wanted to take a moment to let you know I will be leaving RIT & CPSI. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here in the CJ department with CPSI & thank each of you for the support & guidance. I’ve had a great 8 years at RIT, made especially memorable by my time working with CPSI & its law enforcement & community partners. I wish you all the best of luck!

-Kendell Jones, Grant Manager & Project Coordinator

Thank you for your interest in CPSI. Don't hesitate to contact us if we can be helpful

Kendell Jones

Janelle Duda

John Klofas

Special thanks to

We are especially grateful to our generous supporters and partners:

- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Justice: Project Safe Neighborhoods
- Department of Justice: Rochester Safe and Sound
- Monroe County District Attorney's Office
- United States Attorney's Office of the Western District of New York

We are grateful to our sponsors to provide us the opportunity to support a wide array of community organizations. These have included:

- Rochester Police Department
- Monroe Crime Analysis Center
- Catholic Family Center
- Monroe County Probation
- Monroe County District Attorney's Office
- Crestwood/Hillside
- Community Place of Greater Rochester
- Boys & Girls Club of Rochester
- Huther-Doyle
- Pathways to Peace
- Camp Good Days & Special Times
- Theatre for Change
- Grace United Methodist
- Buffalo Police Department
- Child & Adolescent Treatment Services
- Compass House
- Compeer
- Partners in Restorative Initiatives
- Community Missions
- Boys & Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County
- Olean YMCA
- Jamestown YMCA
- Rochester YMCA
- Glove House
- Avenue D Reading Club
- Advocate Custom Works
- Teen Empowerment
- Judicial Process Commission
- Stop the Violence Coalition
- West Side Youth Violence Prevention Task Force
- GoodFellas