



DRAFT Youth Violence Prevention Project

Year 4 Evaluation 2010



July 2011
Prepared by CJC Staff

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1 INTRODUCTION

Concern over rising youth violence was first raised by the Board of County Commissioners in 2004, which was in part attributed to the growth of youth gangs and firearm-related homicide throughout South Florida. Following the November 2004 planning meeting, the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) made youth violence a priority and established the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. At that time the Committee¹ was mandated to:

1. **Goal:** to develop a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan to prevent and combat youth violence in targeted areas of Palm Beach County (PBC).
2. **Scope:** the youth violence reduction strategy consist of two primary coordinated strategies:
 - a. Targeted control of violent or potentially violent youth offenders in the form of increased supervision and suppression by the probation department and police; and,
 - b. Provision of a wide range of human services and opportunities for targeted youth to encourage their transition to legitimate behavior through education, jobs, job training, family support, and counseling.

As part of the program development phase, the CJC staff worked with the Steering Committee to study violent crime trends² and to identify potential solutions, including programming to help address this growing concern. With the assistance of Florida State University, Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research, the Steering Committee identified the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive, Community-Wide Approach to Gang Prevention model to combat youth violence in PBC. The model is nationally recognized as an evidence-based model and is listed as effective for reducing violence and delinquency by independent researchers and OJJDP.

In general, the gang prevention model is made up of five strategies³:

1. **Community Mobilization:** involvement of local citizens, including former gang youth, community groups, and agencies; and coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.
2. **Opportunities Provisions:** development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth.
3. **Social Intervention:** youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice organizations reaching out and acting as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and the conventional world and needed services.

¹ Gibson, Jenise., Summary Report on Youth Violence, Reduction and Prevention Strategy for Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, January 24, 2005 (working document). See page 4-5.

² Blomberg, Thomas G., et al., An Analysis of Violent Crime in Palm Beach County and Strategies of Violence Reduction Initiatives in U.S. Cities., Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. March 2006.

³ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model: Planning for Implementation, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, May 2009. See page 5-6.

4. **Suppression:** formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision or monitoring of gang youth by agencies of the criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.
5. **Organizational Change and Development:** development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.

On September 19, 2006, the PBC Board of County Commissioners approved funding to implement a multi-year youth violence prevention program developed by the CJC, Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The overarching goal of the prevention program was to reduce youth violence in PBC. The Project included five initial general components that were proposed to combat youth violence and that were based on the above noted model:

1. The Steering Committee and Countywide Youth Violence Prevention Project Coordinator was established to address organizational change and development and community mobilization, and to manage the overall implementation of the Youth Violence Prevention Project
2. Law Enforcement Work Group and Community Based Anti-Crime Taskforce (COMBAT) were established to realize the suppression component.
3. Courts Working Group was established to address the organizational change and development, and opportunities provisions.
4. Corrections Working Group was also established to work on organizational change and development and opportunities provisions.
5. Youth Empowerment Centers and Adult Justice Service Centers were created to address the opportunities provisions and social intervention components.

Between 2007 and 2009, Florida State University (FSU), College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, was commissioned to complete yearly evaluations of the Youth Violence Prevention Project. During this time they published two evaluations of the Youth Violence Prevention Project.^{4 5}

This 4th Year Evaluation covers program activities, process and outcomes for all four components of the Youth Violence Prevention Project (later renamed “the Project”) including prevention, law enforcement, courts and corrections from January – December 2010. It is important to note that the PBC Board of County Commissioners approved funding over three years contingent on the availability of funding each year.⁶ Furthermore, as funding was not requested in the fourth year, the CJC funded the fourth year with grant funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The majority

⁴ Blomberg, Thomas G., et al., An Evaluation of the Youth Violence Prevention Program in Palm Beach County (Year 1)., Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. April 2008.

⁵ Blomberg, Thomas G., et al., Palm Beach County: Evaluation of the Youth Violence Prevention Program in Palm Beach County (Year 2)., Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. April 2009.

⁶ Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director Criminal Justice Commission and Vince Bonvento., conversation with Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on April 28, 2008 (Time 1:58:00).

of the fourth year funds were dedicated to the operation of the YECs. Funding was also set aside for law enforcement operations, special projects, and for evaluation.

2 ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Project employed multiple strategies as outlined in Table 1 to mirror those strategies identified in the Comprehensive Gang Model. In using the strategies enumerated on the right side of the table, the Project is intending to replicate strategies of the Comprehensive Gang Model and achieve similar intended outcomes. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention and its intended outcome and is accepted by the Department of Justice as an evidence-based practice.⁷

Table 1 – Comparison of Program Strategies

OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model Strategies	Palm Beach County's Youth Violence Prevention Project Strategies Employed
Community Mobilization: involvement of local citizens, including former gang youth, community groups, and agencies; and coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee • Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Gang Prevention Coordinator • Countywide Gang Summit (sponsored by PBSO)
Opportunities Provisions: development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Empowerment Center services and outreach • Partnership and service provision with Workforce Alliance • Department of Labor grant and services – West Palm Beach
Social Intervention: youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice organizations reaching out and acting as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and the conventional world and needed services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Empowerment Center services and outreach • PBSO's Gang Prevention Coordinator • Community policing • School District of Palm Beach County, Collaborative • Department of Juvenile Justice Probation • Court Administration, Alternative Sanctions
Suppression: formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision or monitoring of gang youth by agencies of the criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBSO's Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring Unit (JAM) • Gang Unit (multi-agency) • Municipal law enforcement • Violent Crimes Task Force (multi-agency)

⁷ Office of Justice Programs., OJJDP-2011-2967, page 4.

3 EVALUATION DESIGN

3.1 Purpose of the Research

A critical purpose of this study is to determine the impact of the Project on participating youth, participating adults reentering society from incarceration, targeted communities, and PBC as a whole in 2010. This is a process study as well as an outcome study based solely on arrest and re-arrest rates. Future studies should include an evaluation of other variables (behavioral and attitudinal) as evaluating an intervention based solely on arrests rates is not recommended by many criminal justice experts.⁸

Since most youth prevention programs are trying to change attitudes and/or behaviors, the analysis of evaluation data often centers around trying to determine what changed, how much change occurred, for which youth participants, and why. Change can be measured by comparing the same youths' attitudes and behaviors prior to participating in the program and again afterward, or by comparing youth who completed the program to similarly situated youth (similar in terms of age and offense, for example) who did not participate.⁹ A secondary component of the evaluation is to ensure the validity of the implementation of the evidence-based program strategies which were identified on **Page 2, Table 1.**

3.2 Outcome Questions

This evaluation is designed to answer a variety of questions listed below and does so throughout the report.

Contextual and Implementation Questions

The primary research questions and sub-questions are:

- 1) To what extent is the Project being implemented as designed?
- 2) Were each of the five strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Gang Model deployed?
- 3) What are the demographic characteristics of the youth that receive services? Were the most at-risk youth served?
- 4) If one YEC seemingly out-performs the others, can it be attributed to the environmental context?

⁸ Ekblom, Paul et al., *Evaluating Crime Prevention*, 1995.

⁹ Ekblom, Paul et al., *Evaluating Crime Prevention*, 1995.

- 5) Are there barriers to implementing the Project as designed or with fidelity to the Comprehensive Gang Model?

Outcome Questions

- 6) Were youth who participated in Youth Empowerment Centers arrested in the post-initial service provision period (2009 to first 3 months of 2011)?
- Which Youth Empowerment Center did they attend
 - What was their length of service
 - What was the seriousness of the charge
 - Were they present or past participants
- 7) Were adults who participated in the Justice Service Center in 2010 arrested during the year or the first 3 months of 2011?
- What was their length of service
 - What was the seriousness of the charge
 - Were they present or past participants
- 8) Is there significant causal evidence to document a relationship between the applied interventions and their intended outcome to reduce youth violence in PBC?

4 PREVENTION FINDINGS

4.1 Summary of Services

The prevention strategies were implemented through the continuation of **Youth Empowerment Centers (YEC)** in each targeted area to provide activities and services to youth ages 13-18 who may or may not be involved in the justice system. Services include after school programs and activities, tutoring/mentoring, job training for in school and out of school youth, information on resources, gang prevention outreach, parenting classes, employment services, Safe Schools Programs and transportation. Each YEC has established a Youth Council consisting of youth who are active in the center. These youth collectively make programmatic decisions on behalf of the participants of each center.

4.1.1 Scope of Work

While each center has the flexibility to meet the needs of their respective community, a common threading of crime prevention components exists through the Centers:

- **Safe, Accessible Facility (for teens)** - Provide educational and recreational programming. Maintain a clean, safe, and secure environment with afterschool and weekend hours. Pro-social activities are selected with the input of participating youth.
- **Youth/Teen Advisory Council** - Council or Board of youth from each target area who meet

regularly for the purpose of recommending programs and policies to govern the YEC.

- **Alternative Education-Career Academy** - Designated Career Academies to provide opportunities for in-school and out-of-school youth without regard to grade point average
Develop a pilot career academy through a charter school to be located within the targeted area and based on the career choices identified by the Youth Council and/or Citizen Advisory Board.
- **After-school Activities** - Provide a variety of education and recreational programs offered during after school hours, evenings, and weekends.
- **Courts** - Partner with Alternative Sanctions by participating in the Evening Reporting Center program.
- **Tutoring** - Provide before school/after-school tutoring, including FCAT skill building.
- **Mentoring** - Provide mentors to support and serve as positive role models for youth.
- **Job Training and Employment Services** - Workforce Alliance is funding a program for approximately 100 at-risk youth to prepare them for careers and jobs that are in demand in Palm Beach County. The program will supplement existing programs at the high schools of the county and provide additional resources. Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches will manage the program with the objective of motivating selected at-risk youth to graduate, providing them additional workplace skills and then assist them with job placement. Workforce Alliance has contracted with three agencies to carry out academic and job-training services for at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Palm Beach County on a year-round basis.
- **Resource Information** - Provide information on existing community resources for youth including school programs, job training, employment opportunities, and other services available.
- **Community Outreach** – Designate a worker to intervene with youth in the YEC area to engage targeted youth in positive activities.
- **Transportation** – Provide transportation for youth who attend programs and participate in YEC services.
- **Life Skills** – Provide services to address a variety of pertinent life skills including violence prevention, gang awareness and prevention, teen parenting, computer readiness, and other skills.
- **Cultural Diversity Training** – Raise level of awareness regarding diversity issues.
- **Collaborative Partnerships** - Participate in a minimum of ten (10) Criminal Justice Commission sponsored collaborative meetings throughout the year.

Table 2: Unduplicated Count of Youth Served in YEC - Structured Programs 2010

	New Participants 2010	Youth served in 2010 who continued from 2009
Belle Glade	28	45
Boynton Beach	111	39
Lake Worth	59	78
Riviera Beach	75	51
West Palm Beach	218	81
Total	491	294

Source: Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2009 - 2010

Table 2 presents an unduplicated count of youth served in structured programs sometime during year four of the Project. The “new participants 2010” column includes youth who attended their first structured program session in calendar year 2010. The number of “youth served in 2010 who continued from 2009” column represents those youth who attended at least one structured program in 2009 and also attended least one structured program in 2010. Only youth with a date of birth entered on their registration form were included in the counts so that the average age of participants could be determined.

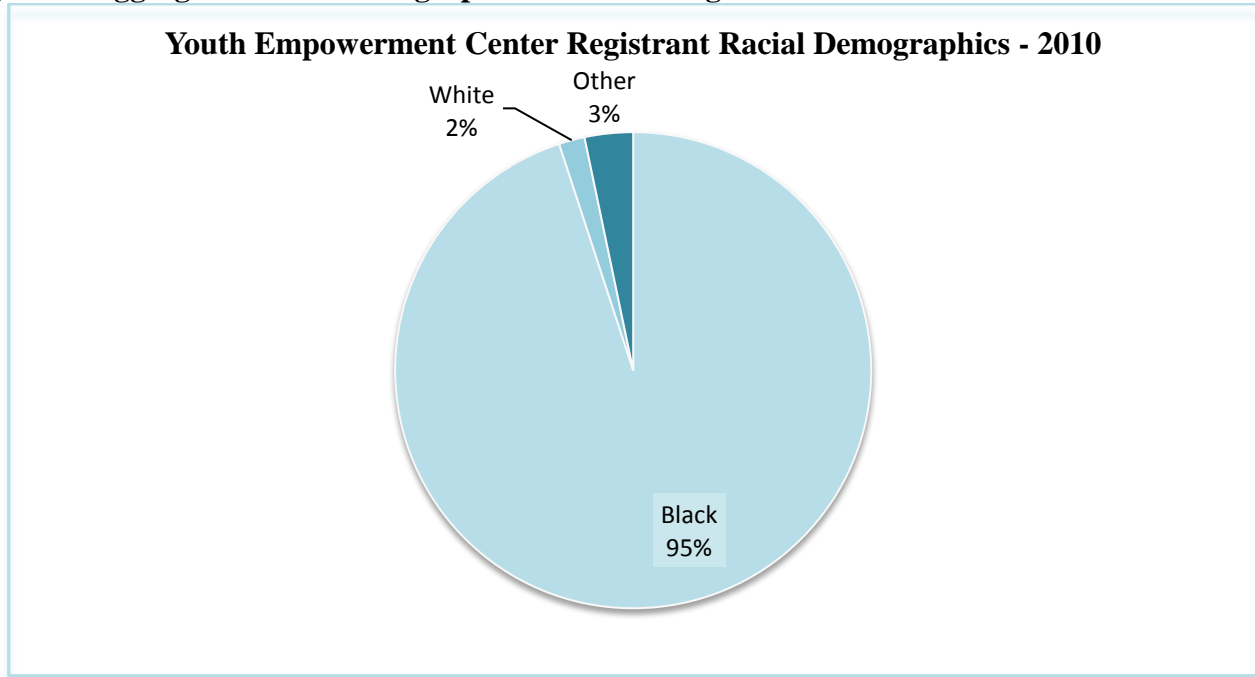
These numbers are not inclusive of youth who participated in one-time activities or events or youth who socialized at the YECs without enrolling in structured programs. Additionally, an average length of stay could not be determined for participating youth or individual YECs as most Centers operate as drop in centers and do not have official withdrawal or termination dates. **Table 3** presents the demographics for new participants in structured programs at the YECs in calendar year 2010.

Table 3: Demographics Youth New YEC Participants - 2010

	Male	Female	Missing Data	White	Black	Other	Missing Data	Ave Age
Belle Glade	14	13	1	1	25	1	1	14
Boynton Beach	48	57	6	2	98	1	10	14
Lake Worth	31	26	2	1	52	4	2	13
Riviera Beach	37	33	5	0	67	3	5	14
West Palm Beach	126	80	12	4	192	6	16	15
Totals	256	209	26	8	434	15	34	14

Source: Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2010

Figure 1: Aggregate Racial Demographics of Youth Registered at YECs – 2010



Source: Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2010

Table 4: Number of Structured Program Sessions Offered at YECs - 2010

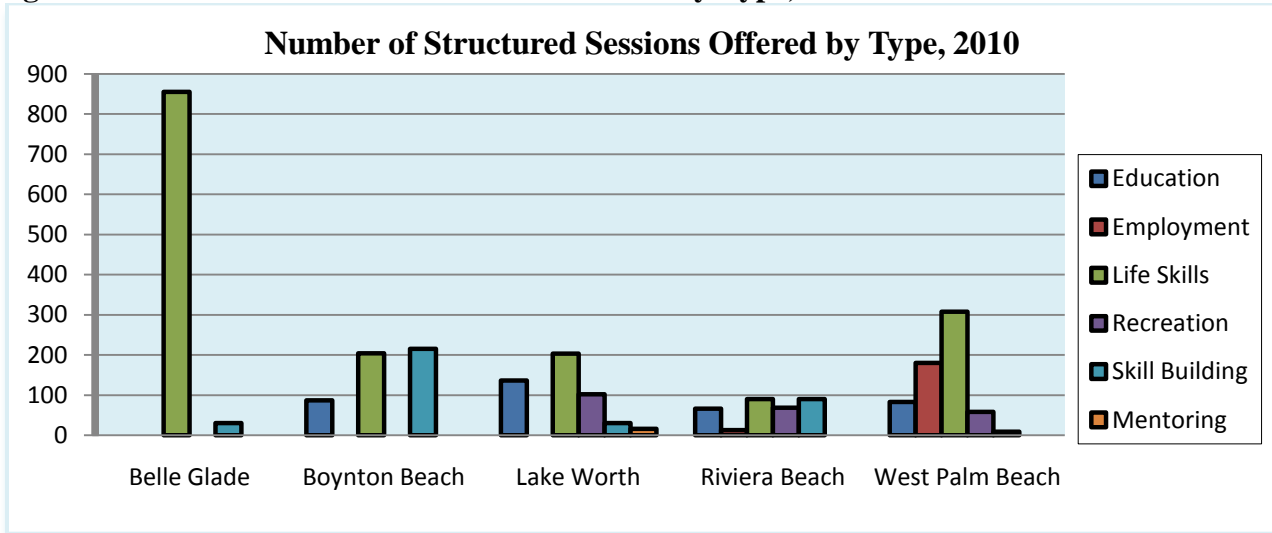
	Education	Employment	Life Skills	Recreation	Skill Building	Mentoring	Total
Belle Glade	0	0	855	0	30	0	885
Boynton Beach	87	0	204	0	215	0	506
Lake Worth	136	0	203	102	30	16	487
Riviera Beach	66	13	90	69	90	0	328
West Palm Beach	83	180	308	58	9	0	638
Total	372	193	1660	229	374	16	2,844

Source: Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2010

Table 4 represents the number of sessions offered at each; a youth could participate in multiple sessions of a single program. For example, if a program meets twice a week for twelve weeks, a youth would participate in twenty-four sessions for that single program. It should be noted that the definition of an “educational program” for purposes of consistent data collection is: *structured; utilizes a curriculum (some tutoring and homework assistance programs do not utilize a curriculum but they utilize a structure based on the needs of the students being serviced); and the subject matter should be appropriate for an educational program.* Therefore, most unstructured tutoring or home work assistance

isn't considered in the "educational program" category. Belle Glade's YEC has a part-time education coordinator who provides academic tutoring daily. The Northwood YEC also has a volunteer, retired school teacher who volunteers his time tutoring youth who request his assistance.

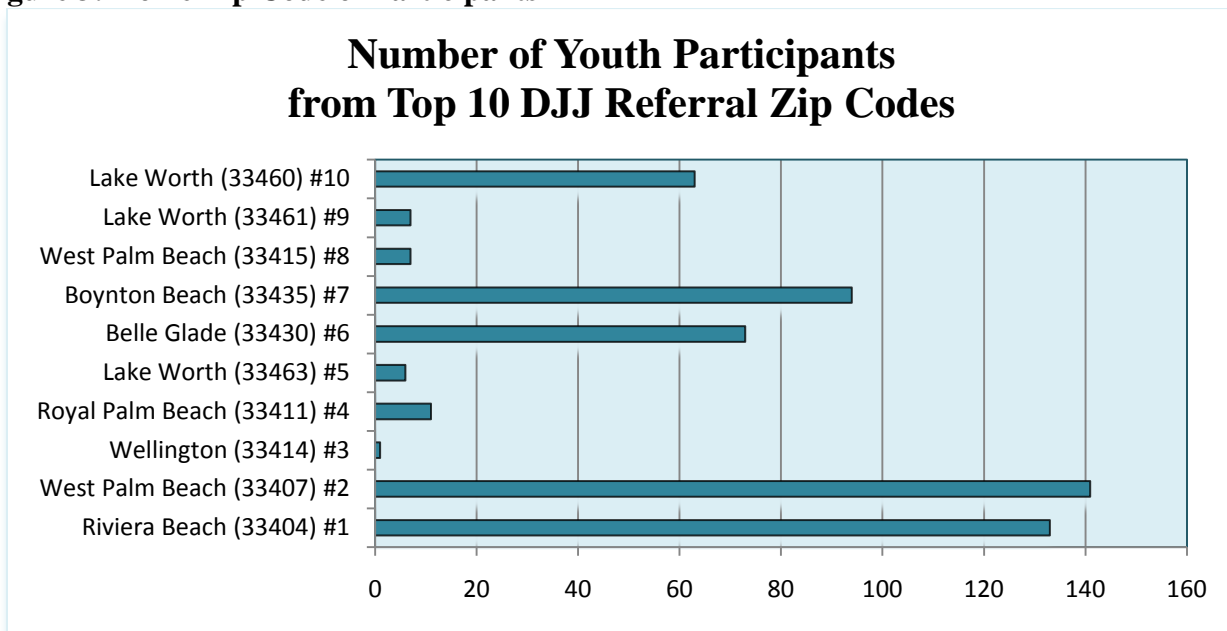
Figure 2: Number of Structured Sessions Offered by Type, 2010



Source: Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2010

Table 5 and **Figure 3** presents identifying zip codes of YEC participants. *Note that 77% of participants in 2010 were from one of the Top 10 DJJ Referral Zip Codes. This data confirms that the majority of YEC participants reside in the geographic areas targeted by the Project.*

Figure 3: Home Zip Code of Participants*



Source: Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2010

*Youth participating at Empowerment Centers that did not provide a zip code for registration purposes are not counted in this figure.

Table 5: Top 10 DJJ Referrals by Zip Code & YEC Participants by Zip Code – 2010 Comparison

Zip Code	DJJ Referral Ranking	% of County DJJ Referrals	# of YEC Participants for 2010
33404 (Riviera Beach)	#1	8.5%	133
33407 (West Palm Beach)	#2	5.3%	141
33414 (Wellington)	#3	5.1%	1
33411 (Royal Palm Beach)	#4	4.7%	11
33463 (Lake Worth)	#5	4.7%	6
33430 (Belle Glade)	#6	4.7%	73
33435 (Boynton Beach)	#7	4.5%	94
33415 (West Palm Beach)	#8	4.2%	7
33461 (Lake Worth)	#9	3.5%	7
33460 (Lake Worth)	#10	3.0%	63
TOTAL PERCENTAGES:		48.2% of County DJJ Referrals	536 of 646 participants* (83% of participants)

Source: FL Department of Juvenile Justice: Palm Beach County Referrals by Zip Code, FY08-09, and Youth Empowerment Center monthly reports, 2010
 *Youth participating at Empowerment Centers that did not provide a zip code for registration purposes are not counted in this figure.

Note that some youth residing in one geographic area participated in another area's YEC activities. For example, a number of youth from the Riviera Beach zip code registered and participated at the West Palm Beach YEC. Some youth with a West Palm Beach zip code had even registered and participated in the Boynton Beach YEC. Therefore, a number of participants were found to enter YECs that weren't necessarily in the same city as their registered address.

4.2 City of Belle Glade

4.2.1 Summary of Services

Community policing and the role of law enforcement in the Belle Glade YEC is ongoing. PBSO deputies provided "First Tee", a youth development program dedicated to providing young people of all backgrounds an opportunity to develop through golf and character development. First Tee was offered for six months of the year and 123 (duplicated) youth attended. In addition to structured programming, deputies participated in events such as: presentations on various topics, Stop the Violence marches' and Law Enforcement Q&A.

Belle Glade's Youth Council met eight times this year with an average membership of eight. In addition to meetings, they participated in: off-site learning experiences; a college tour; Belle Glade Commission meetings; and fund raisers to support their college tour. Space continues to be the greatest challenge for the Belle Glade Center; it is limited to serving 54 youth at a time. The Center kept a "wait list" most of the year.

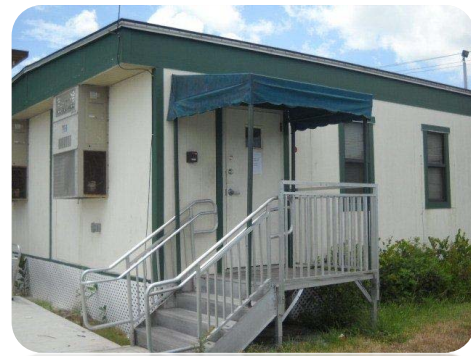


Table 6: 2010 Goals of the Belle Glade YEC

Status Key		
✓ met	✓ partially met	✓ previously met, not sustained

Goals	Status
To prevent violent crime involvement of Belle Glade youth.	✓ previously met, not sustained Violent crime arrests of YEC participants increased in 2010 from 2009. See Table 12 .
Expose youth to law enforcement (specifically, the Belle Glade Community police officer) in order to develop the view of police as an "asset."	✓ met
To expand the role of the youth council in order to take an active role in prevention of youth crime in the Belle Glade community.	✓ met

~S.P., a member of the Belle Glade YEC, is a 12 year old who attends Lake Shore Middle School. He is currently having behavior issues at school and is dealing with the juvenile justice system as well. Staff discovered that S.P.'s imposed criminal charges were as a result of the need to provide food for his siblings. He is now completing community service hours at the YEC and is working closely with one of Belle Glade's providers in the Prosperity Garden project.

4.3 City of Boynton Beach

~I.G., a long time member of the Boynton Beach YEC, has found employment. He is working as a part time professional tax preparer at Jackson Hewitt. He has successfully completed his training course and has acquired his Professional Tax ID number, which allows him to do personal taxes.

4.3.1 Summary of Services

The city of Boynton Beach has been open for three years providing service to 187 youth this year. The Boynton Beach YEC contracted with thirteen contract providers to offer youth a range of interest-based programming. The largest percent of their budget is allocated to contract providers who specialize in youth-focused areas such as film making, auto restoration, or life guard certification. Many of the service providers are unpaid and have an interest in the targeted population. This includes many city departments such as parks and recreation, law enforcement, and the utilities department. In addition, Boynton has a core group of community leaders who volunteer their time in direct contact with youth.

The city has considered moving YEC services to the Hester Center (located .83 miles from the current location) to service additional teens and to enhance the recreational programs.



Table 7: 2010 Goals of the Boynton Beach YEC

Goals	Status
To develop programming to prevent and reduce violent crimes among youth in Boynton Beach	✓ met
To coordinate government and private sector initiatives, law enforcement efforts, and human services; and concentrate those resources in the target area (YEC)	✓ met

<p>To mobilize Boynton Beach residents to assist law enforcement in identifying violent offenders and drug offenders in the area in which the YEC is located. Further, goal three involves assisting service providers in identifying and responding to social service needs of target youth and families.</p>	<p>✓ met</p>
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~After losing his mother, Boynton Beach YEC member R.B. became troubled and found himself in and out of the juvenile justice system. With the outreach efforts by Center staff, R.B found himself participating in Center programs. Throughout his time at the YEC, R.B has been involved in community events and served as a great mentor to the Center's younger population. He recently graduated from high school and plans on attending Palm Beach State College.

4.4 City of Lake Worth

4.4.1 Summary of Services

The Lake Worth YEC was one of the original Centers and has been operational for four years. Lake Worth administers its program slightly different than the others; direct services are contracted out to a non-profit, For the Children, Inc. with oversight by the city. This YEC operates out of the Osborne Community Center. In October 2010, the city expanded into a second YEC, housed at the Norman J. Wimbley Gymnasium. Although the YECs are less than a mile apart, participants and services differ. The Osborne Center continues to focus on academics and the gym more on athletics and recreation. The focus will be changing as the populations stabilize and more providers are added. The YEC at the gym is administered by the City of Lake Worth, Parks and Recreation staff.



Table 8: 2010 Goals of the Lake Worth YEC

Goals	Status
<p>To prevent violent crime involvement of Lake Worth youth.</p>	<p>✓ met</p> <p>No change from 2009 to 2010. See Table 13.</p>

To expand the role of the youth council in order to take an active role in prevention of youth crime in the Lake Worth community.	✓ met
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~D.D. came to the Lake Worth YEC with issues of anger management and failing grades. After mentoring him, YEC staff began to realize that his behavior was simply a defense mechanism as a result of his inability to communicate. As Center staff began to work with him, he realized a change in his academic progress; D.D.'s GPA has risen to 3.125. Staff continues to mentor D.D. by encouraging and rewarding positive behavior.

4.5 City of Riviera Beach

4.5.1 Summary of Services

The city of Riviera Beach built a permanent home for its YEC this year. The building is located in the heart of the Weed and Seed area on the grounds of the Lindsay Davis Center, allowing for shared resources. Riviera Beach has an outreach worker that also serves as an unofficial case manager. She has established partnerships with Palm Beach Lakes High, John F. Kennedy Middle, Howell L. Watkins Middle, Joseph Littles Charter School, Dwyer High School and Turning Points Academy. She serves as a resource to the above mentioned schools for youth who are gang-involved.

Youth who attend the Riviera Beach YEC have benefited from the presence of a full-time community police officer for the year. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, the officer will not be housed at the YEC in 2011. Implications as a result of this change will be discussed further in Chapter 7. Riviera Beach has a strong youth council boasting 7 members and hosting 10 meetings in 2010.



Table 9: 2010 Goals of the Riviera Beach YEC

Goals	Status
To identify a youth outreach worker to facilitate the implementation of the YEC goals and objectives, particularly to conduct outreach to local youth.	✓ met
To establish a youth council through the identification of 7-9 youth residing in Riviera Beach who have no less than a 2.5 GPA and no criminal history	✓ met
To collaborate with the Riviera Beach Police department in order to develop a forum with identified gang members, church pastors, community leaders, and YEC staff/council to discuss conflict resolution, problem solving, and to provide assistance utilizing community resources through the YEC.	✓ met
To create a YEC a brochure and website.	✓ met
To identify a youth referral source; possible referrals may be derived from identified gang members, local schools, neighborhood associations, local churches, and community agencies.	✓ met
To identify computer software to track youth admission and attendance in YEC programs.	✓ Not met
To enact a city-wide mentoring program to include: City of Riviera Beach employees, intergenerational mentoring through community residents, peer mentoring, local pastors, government/community leaders, and fraternities/sororities.	✓ Not met, initiated
To collaborate with prospective program providers reflecting multiple disciplines as outlined in specific programming above	✓ met
To identify funding sources to support the purchase of school supplies (uniforms, materials, haircuts, physicals, and shots) and extracurricular activities fees for YEC-involved youth.	✓ met

4.6 City of West Palm Beach

4.6.1 Summary of Services

The city of West Palm Beach has embraced the YEC and to this end worked this year on expanding into a second location at Gaines Park. The Audio Visual and Digital Connectors programs continue to be the flagship programs for the Northwood YEC. Many other career-oriented programs are

inter-related to the Digital Connectors program. Northwood continues to focus on multiple aspects of youth employment, including a strong relationship with Workforce Alliance and a Department of Labor grant to prepare youth for employment.

Space constraints continue to challenge the Northwood YEC and require staff to frequently transport youth to larger facilities for programming. Recreational opportunities for participants of the Northwood YEC are limited. Despite the space challenges staff continue outreach to: Palm Beach Lakes High School, Roosevelt Middle School, Roosevelt Full Service, Drug Abuse Treatment Association, Juvenile Courts - Alternative Sanctions program, area community centers and local youth and gang summits.



~T. L., a student at South Tech Academy and member of Northwood's YEC, has been participating in programs over the last year, including the Center's on-the-job Training Apprenticeship (OJT) program. He recently completed the Life Skills component of OJT and was able to move into the apprenticeship component. He is now working at the Pleasant City Multicultural Center as a Recreation Specialist.

Table 10: 2010 Goals of the Northwood (West Palm Beach) YEC

Goals	Status
To convert the existing Northwood Adult Center to the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center (YEC).	✓ met
To prepare youth for success in the workplace.	✓ met
To prevent youth crime, violence, and gang involvement.	✓ partially met Arrests for violent crimes decreased slightly from 2009 to 2010, while arrests for nonviolent crimes increased. See Table 14.

To help youth recognize the benefits of living tobacco-, alcohol-, and drug-free.	✓ met
To offer opportunities for incorporating real-world learning with skills for career development.	✓ met
To provide continuous outreach to local youth to maintain community relationships; outreach will focus on youth aged 12-14 years in an effort to prevent gang involvement.	✓ met

~T.J. is an 8th grader at Independence Middle School who attends both the Northwood and Riviera Beach YEC. T.J. relies on his skate board to get him to and from the Centers. After noticing the grave condition of his skate board, the staff at Northwood provided him a better one. While at the Center, T.J. has participated in many programs including Audio Visual. His instructor has been mentoring and preparing T.J for his upcoming audition at Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

4.7 List of Collaborative Partners

While the five partnering cities represent the administrating entities of the YEC's, it is the many partnerships and the interest-based programming provided as a result of the partnerships that attract and sustain many youth at the YECs. Each of the five cities contributed additional resources to the operations of the YECs in 2010. Listed below are agencies that partnered with the YECs and provided a no-cost service to youth:

YWCA	Workforce Alliance	School District of PBC	For the Children, Inc
Palm Beach County Health Dept.	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office	Boynton Beach Police Department	University of Florida
Center for Creative Education	Prime Time	Urban League of Palm Beach County	Palm Beach County Youth Services Bureau
Circuit 15-Alternative Sanctions	Palm Beach County Safety Council	Drug Abuse Treatment Association, Inc.	Planned Parenthood of South Florida and the Treasure Coast
Riviera Beach Police Department	Drug Abuse Foundation, Inc.	Boynton Beach Utilities Department	Multiple Middle and High Schools

4.8 Teen Councils

As previously mentioned, each YEC established a youth council to promote personal growth, leadership, self-determination, and empowerment. Self-determination skills have been established as a critical link to positive education and post-school outcomes for youth of varying abilities and risk

factors.¹⁰ In year four of the Project, all five YEC sites maintained youth councils. Youth councils are charged with providing leadership to the participants; reviewing and selecting providers; and identifying common interests of participating youth. **Table 11** represents the demographic data on youth councils.

Table 11: 2010 Youth Councils

Site	Average Size of Council	Number of Meetings Held
Belle Glade	8	8
Boynton Beach	7	7
Lake Worth	7	12
Riviera Beach	7	10
West Palm Beach	6	3

4.9 Youth Empowerment Center Outcomes: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Table 12: Belle Glade YEC Arrest Outcomes

	2009	2010
Total Youth Attending Any Structured Programming	99	88
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Violent Crime	0	1
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Violent Crime	0%	1%
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Non-Violent Crime	1	2
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Non-Violent Crime	1%	2%
Total Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth with Any Arrest During Year	1%	3%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Monthly YEC Reports, 2009-2010

Table 12 presents information on the number of youth participants at the Belle Glade YEC who were arrested some time after their involvement in structured programming for the calendar year displayed. For example, of the eighty-eight (88) structured program participants at the Belle Glade YEC in 2010, three (3) had been arrested at some point after attending their first structured program for the year at the YEC. One youth was arrested for a violent crime out of those three. There was a slight increase in the number of youth arrested who participated at the Belle Glade YEC between 2009 and 2010.

¹⁰ Test, et al, 2004; Vallerand, et al., 1997

Table 13: Boynton Beach YEC Arrest Outcomes

	2009	2010
Total Youth Attending Any Structured Programming	121	187
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Violent Crime	6	2
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Violent Crime	5%	0%
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Non-Violent Crime	21	11
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Non-Violent Crime	17%	6%
Total Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth with Any Arrest During Year	22%	6%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Monthly YEC Reports, 2009-2010

Table 13 presents information on the number of youth participants at the Boynton Beach YEC who were arrested some time after their involvement in structured programming for the calendar year displayed. For example, of the one hundred eighty-seven (187) structured program participants at the Boynton Beach YEC in 2010, thirteen (13) had been arrested at some point after attending their first structured program. Two youth were arrested for violent crime out of those thirteen. There was a significant 16% decrease in the number of youth arrested who participated at the Boynton Beach YEC between 2009 and 2010.

Table 14: Lake Worth YEC Arrest Outcomes

	2009	2010
Total Youth Attending Any Structured Programming	153	141
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Violent Crime	0	0
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Violent Crime	0%	0%
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Non-Violent Crime	0	1
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Non-Violent Crime	0%	>1%
Total Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth with Any Arrest During Year	0%	>1%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Monthly YEC Reports, 2009-2010

Table 14 presents information on the number of youth participants at the Lake Worth YEC who were arrested some time after their involvement in structured programming for the calendar year displayed. For example, of the one hundred forty-one (141) structured program participants at the Lake Worth YEC in 2010, one had been arrested at some point after attending their first structured program for the year at the YEC. There was one youth arrested for a non-violent crime in 2010, while there were no arrests of program participants in 2009.

Table 15: Riviera Beach YEC Arrest Outcomes

	2009	2010
Total Youth Attending Any Structured Programming	152	128
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Violent Crime	0	1
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Violent Crime	0%	>1%
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Non-Violent Crime	3	8
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Non-Violent Crime	2%	6%
Total Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth with Any Arrest During Year	2%	>7%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Monthly YEC Reports, 2009-2010

Table 15 presents information on the number of youth participants at the Riviera Beach YEC who were arrested some time after their involvement in structured programming for the calendar year displayed. For example, of the one hundred twenty-eight (128) structured program participants at the Riviera Beach YEC in 2010, nine (9) had been arrested at some point after attending their first structured program for the year at the YEC. One youth was arrested for a violent crime out of those nine. There was an increase in the number of youth arrested who participated at the Riviera Beach YEC between 2009 and 2010.

Table 16: West Palm Beach YEC Arrest Outcomes

	2009	2010
Total Youth Attending Any Structured Programming	119	325
Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Violent Crime	2	1
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Violent Crime	2%	>1%

Total Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested During Year for Non-Violent Crime	5	10
Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth Arrested for Non-Violent Crime	4%	3%
Total Percentage of Structured Program Involved Youth with Any Arrest During Year	6%	>4%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Monthly YEC Reports, 2009-2010

Table 16 presents information on the number of youth participants at the West Palm Beach YEC who were arrested some time after their involvement in structured programming for the calendar year displayed. For example, of the three hundred twenty-five (325) structured program participants at the West Palm Beach YEC in 2010, ten (10) had been arrested at some point after attending their first structured program for the year at the YEC. One youth was arrested for a violent crime out of those ten. There was an increase in the number of youth arrested who participated at the West Palm Beach YEC between 2009 and 2010, but a decrease in the number of youth arrested for violent crime.

5 CORRECTIONS FINDINGS

5.1 Summary of Services

The Riviera Beach **Justice Service Center (JSC)** provides the corrections component of the Project and continues to be the only full-service JSC serving ex-offenders in PBC. While other agencies/organizations serve ex-offenders, the JSC is unique in that it provides a comprehensive service for ex-offenders residing in the county, without geographic boundaries. Other programs focus on a geographic boundary or focus on ex-offenders returning from county, state or federal facilities. A similar program, the Community Justice Service Center located in West Palm Beach serving ex-offenders with a focus on employment was closed this year due to funding constraints. The program closed near the end of 2010; thus not impacting the JSC in 2010.

This year the JSC focused much of its efforts on an ex-offenders employment training program – Restoration Squared (R^2). R^2 provides a small, hand selected group of ex-offenders who are involved with the JSC a comprehensive construction training program and enhanced social services. The goal of R^2 is to provide on-the-job training for ex-offenders through community improvement efforts, such as restoring blighted homes. The first restored home was completed in May 2010 and a second home is planned for in West Palm Beach with a different group of participants in 2011.

Table 17: Goals of the Riviera Beach Justice Service Center 2010

Status Key		
✓ met	✓ partially met	✓ previously met, not sustained

Goal	Status
To complete a “needs assessment” of clients to determine the focus for services.	✓ met
To develop partnerships with community and county agencies and service providers for referral purposes.	✓ met
To contract with specific service providers for on-site delivery of services	✓ met

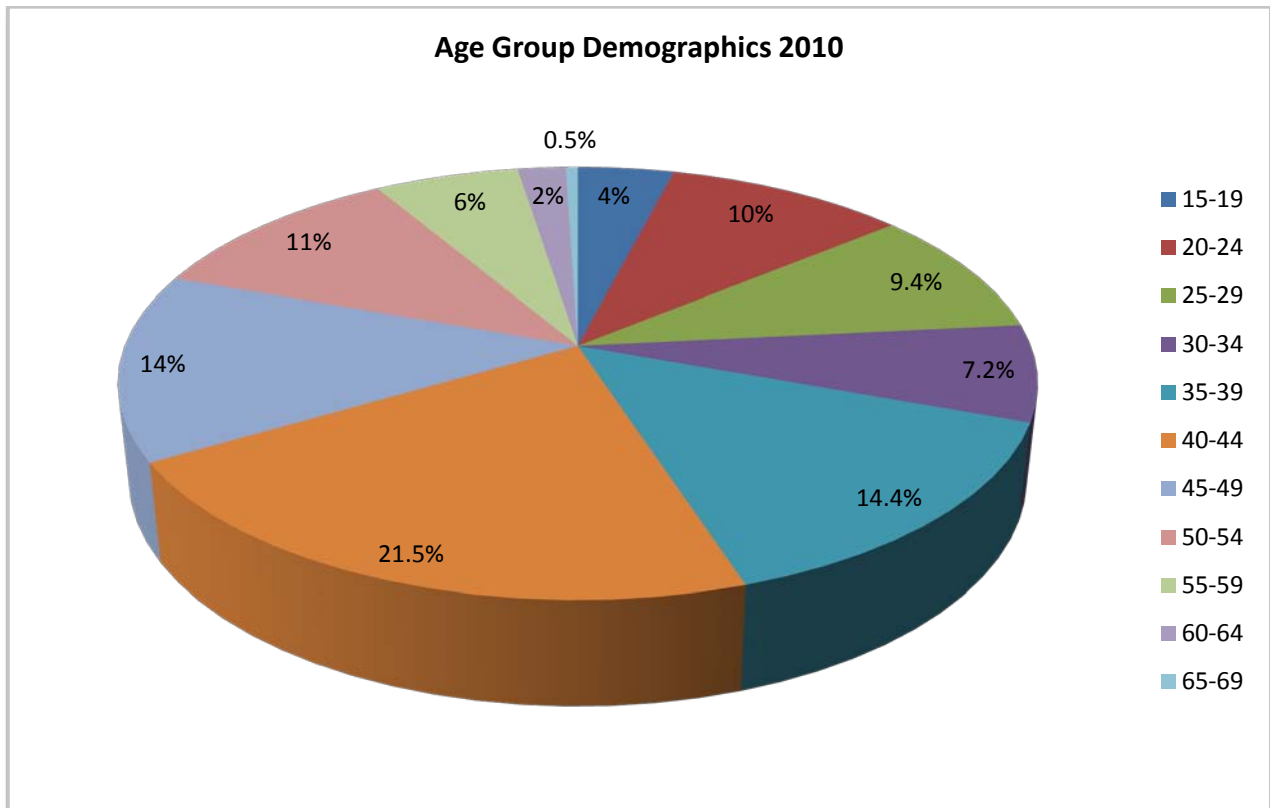
Table 18: Structured Programming – Riviera Beach Justice Service Center 2010

Clients Served, Hours of Programming, and Number of Programs	Total Annual Count
Re-Entry Assistance	
Client Intakes	83
Clients Provided Legal Assistance	29
Clients Provided ID/Driver’s License Assistance	23
Clients Provided Bus Pass Assistance	192
Clients Provided Birth Certificate Assistance	24
Employment	
Job Placements	7
Employment Readiness Orientation Sessions	49
On-the-Job Training Clients	13
Employer Contacts/Calls for Job Leads	6
Life Skills	
Peer Support Group Sessions	16
Mental Health Counseling	1
Partnerships/Collaboration	
Palm Beach State College	1
Urban Farmers, Inc.	1
J.A.Y. Outreach Ministries, Inc.	1
Florida Department of Corrections	1
# of referrals from	28
Riviera Beach Civil Drug Court	1

Table 19: Client Demographics – Riviera Beach Justice Service Center During 2010

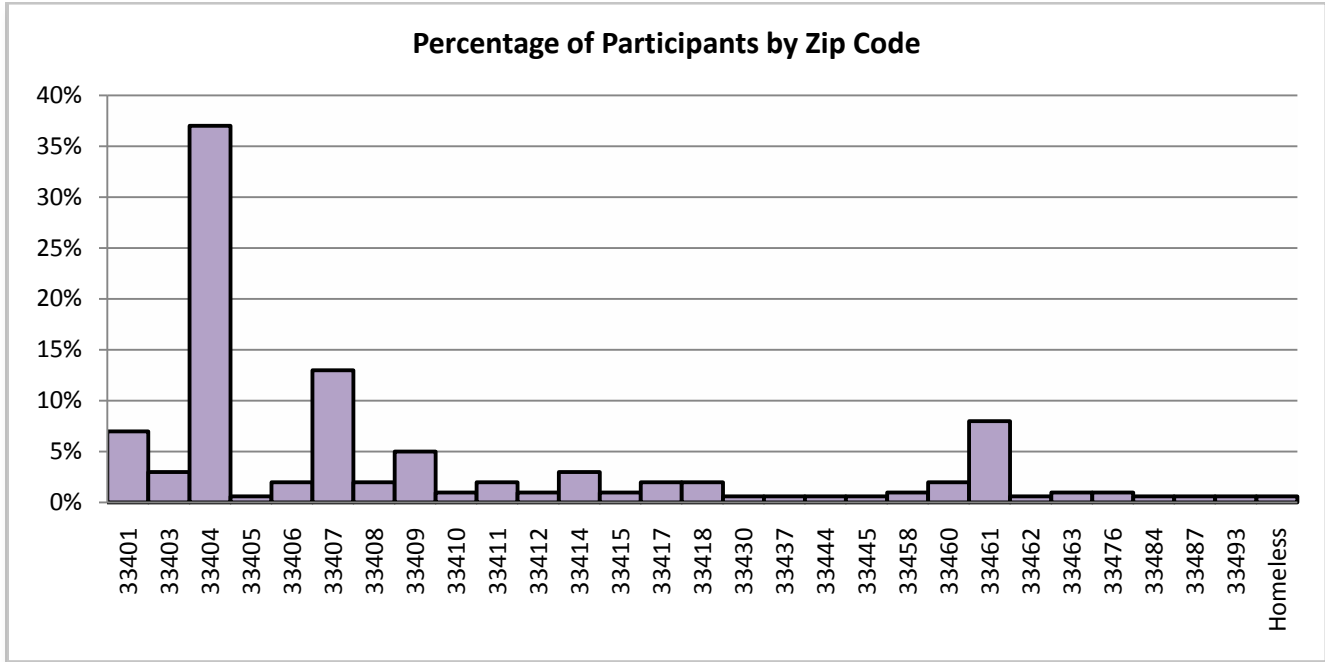
Race & Sex	Total Count	% of Total Clients
Black Female	17	9.4%
Black Male	127	70%
White Female	7	4 %
White Male	24	14.3%
Hispanic Male	6	3.3%
Hispanic Female	0	0 %
Age	Total Count	% of Total Clients
15 - 19	7	4%
20 - 24	18	10%
25 - 29	17	9.4%
30 - 39	39	21.6%
40 - 49	64	35.5%
50 and up	36	19.5%
TOTAL SERVED:	181	100%

Figure 4: Age Group Demographics – Riviera Beach Justice Service Center, 2010



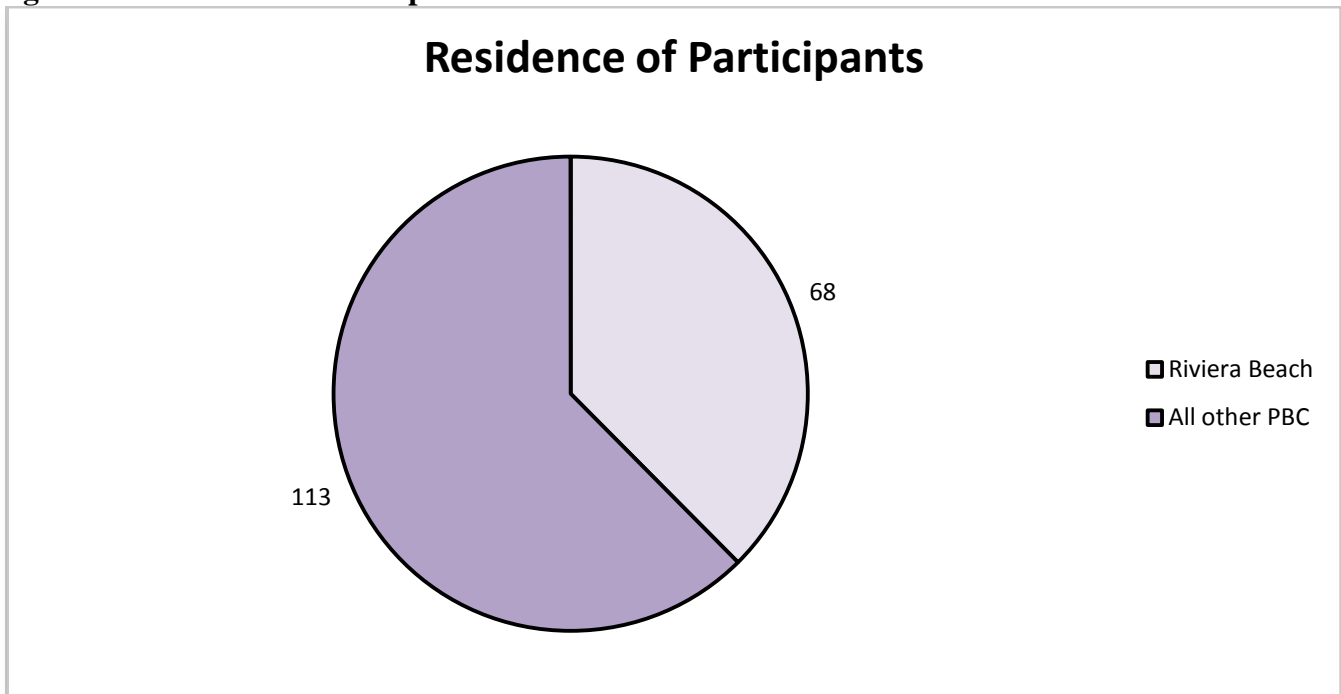
Source: Riviera Beach Justice Service Center, 2010

Figure 5: Participants by Zip Code: Riviera Beach Justice Service Center, 2010



Source: Riviera Beach Justice Service Center, 2010

Figure 6: Residence of Participants



Source: Riviera Beach Justice Service Center, 2010

While the initial intent was to focus on youthful offenders reintegrating, the intent was expanded in year one due to the overwhelming demand for services from offenders of all ages reentering from a

correctional setting. Programming efforts have included the development of partnerships, contract providers, and service agencies that assist clients with employment, substance use, mental health issues, legal issues, life skills, probation sanction assistance, and re-entry assistance.

The Riviera Beach JSC served 181 adults in 2010; a significantly lower number of participants than in 2008. The decrease is attributed to several factors including: a decrease in funding; county-released inmates now being served by PBSO; and lastly, the change in focus from job coaching services to on-the-job training. Clients ranged in age from 15 to 59 years. Services included: intake processing, re-entry (assistance with civil rights restoration, driver's license, banking, etc.), and employment assistance (R^2 and job readiness classes). The JSC provided 443 units of service in 2010.

Table 18 presents the activities and services delivered during year 4 of the Project. **Figures 4-6** present demographics of the clients served by the JSC. While many of the recipients live in Riviera Beach, 113 or 62% reside in "All other Palm Beach County" communities as presented in **Figure 6**.

5.2 Collaborative Partners

The JSC's strongest partner is the city of Riviera Beach itself which contributes considerably to the operations of the JSC and supports the reintegration of ex-offenders into the community. Additional partners are: the Public Defender's Office, PBSO, Palm Beach State College, Riviera Beach Police Department, Florida Department of Corrections, PRIDE Probation, and United States Probation. Contract partners are: Urban Farmers, Inc.

5.3 Riviera Beach Justice Service Center Outcomes

R^2 trained and supported seven (7) ex-offenders, participants this year who through on-the-job training, contributed to the rebuilding of a house in Riviera Beach. Four (4) of the participants were hired from the job; three (3) in the field of construction.

Recidivism rates for those served through the JSC are pending with the FDLE. Final results are expected in early August, 2011.

6 LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COURTS FINDINGS

6.1 Summary of Services

Crime + Forensics = Detection + Conviction

This 4th year of operations mirrors that of the first three, as the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, and the COMBAT Unit were heavily involved in the planning and

execution of activities with law enforcement entities (PBSO, local police departments, the Law Enforcement Work Group (LEWG), and the Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force (VCTF). These components are intricately woven together; therefore, the 4th year evaluation report reflects the combined efforts of these components. The 4th year added a strong focus on the forensic component of the criminal justice system.

The LEWG took the lead this year in coordinating law enforcement efforts to meet the established goals. Members of the LEWG include representatives of: PBSO, VCTF, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, the State Attorney's Office COMBAT Unit, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), and the Palm Beach Gardens, Boynton Beach, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach Police Departments.

Table 20: Goals of Law Enforcement

Status Key		
✓ met	✓ partially met	✓ previously met, not sustained

Goal	Status
To increase the level of education regarding the collection of evidence for all law enforcement agencies.	✓ met
To track “all” firearms cases to slow or reduce the increasing number of violent crimes; activities to achieve this goal mirror similar programs already in place	✓ met
To develop a plan to facilitate and support partnerships between gun dealers/suppliers and law enforcement agencies to better secure their firearms.	✓ met
To reduce the number of gun crime incidents in Palm Beach County through stronger prosecutions and diligent investigations; To raise community awareness (including among potential offenders) regarding targeted efforts to increase the likelihood of arrest, prosecution, and punishment of gun-related crimes.	✓ met
To collaborate with and share information among agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.	✓ met
To utilize such technology as the “license plate recognition” systems in areas where stolen vehicles are most likely to be located.	✓ met

6.2 The Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force

The Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) was established to assist PBC law enforcement agencies in investigating and reducing violent crimes countywide. Members include PBSO, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, and local municipal law enforcement agencies. The VCTF focuses on home invasion robberies, robberies resulting in serious injury, carjacking, non-domestic-related homicides, gang-related homicides, aggravated battery and/or related crimes, drive-by-shootings, as well as other cases that are deemed appropriate by the VCTF Executive Board. The VCTF Executive Board was established from representatives of participating agencies.

When a crime meets the VCTF criteria, a law enforcement agency may request the assistance of the VCTF through the VCTF captain or the PBSO communications division supervisor. Once the necessary information is collected by the captain, contact is made with the on-call VCTF supervisor and squad to initiate activation. The VCTF crime scene unit is notified once a case has been activated. The unit provides crime scene assistance such as the collection of evidence.

Upon arrival on the crime scene, a detailed briefing occurs between the requesting agency and VCTF members; subsequently, the VCTF supervisor assigns a lead detective to investigate the case. The VCTF may utilize additional resources to assist their investigations; these include the Gang Unit, the PBC Auto Theft Task Force, the PBSO Robbery Unit, the PBSO Tactical Unit, and the PBSO Homicide Unit. These available resources generate the availability of an additional 80 personnel. In addition, a crime lab, the PBSO Incident Command Unit (ICU), and analysts are also available to assist with VCTF investigations.

All cases adopted by the VCTF are assigned a PBSO case number. VCTF members assigned from outside agencies are assigned a VCTF radio ID from the PBSO. Additional investigators and attorneys are available for support. Additionally, ATF, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Marshals have committed personnel and resources to the VCTF.¹¹ In October 2010, the VCTF morphed into the Gang Task Force to focus its efforts on gang-related crimes which are typically violent crimes.

A number of tables follow this section of the current chapter. These tables present year 4 activities for the main stakeholders of the law enforcement and courts component.

¹¹ Bloomberg, Thomas G., et al., Palm Beach County: Evaluation of the Youth Violence Prevention Program in Palm Beach County (Year 2), Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. April 2009.

- ✓ Table 16 presents victim and case data for the VCTF cases that were tracked during year 4. Overwhelmingly, typical victims were Black males age 20-24 years old involved in an “other serious violent” crime in either Belle Glade or West Palm Beach. Other serious violent crimes (as defined by the task force) include: aggravated battery, aggravated assault, and shooting into an occupied vehicle.
- ✓ Figure 12 represents the VCTF/Gang Task Force gang-related homicides in year 4, depicting a downward trend with a four-year marked decline of 27% from 48% in 2006 to 21% in 2010.
- ✓ Listed in Table 17 and Figure # are BrassTRAX entries by Department. Entries made in 2010 represent 41 NIBIN hits and 3 BrassTRAX hits.
- ✓ Figure 13 presents summary data for BrassTRAX equipment usage. PBSO does not enter into BrassTRAX, they enter directly into National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).
- ✓ Table 18 highlights significant Office of Statewide Prosecution case work in year 4.
- ✓ Table 19 presents the COMBAT Unit Case Data (Violent and Gang-related cases) for 2010.

Table 21: VCTF Victim and Case Data 2010 (part 1)

Race of Victim			Age of Victims		
	n	%		n	%
White	3	7%	<14 years	3	7%
Black	27	63%	15-19 years	4	9%
Hispanic	7	16%	20-24 years	13	30%
Unknown	6	14%	25-29 years	7	16%
Gender of Victim			30-34 years		
	n	%		n	%
Male	35	81%	35-39 years	1	2%
Female	2	5%	40-49 years	0	0%
Unknown	6	14%	50-59 years	1	2%
Types of Crimes			60 or older		
	n	%		n	%
Homicide	6	14%	Unknown	8	18%
Robbery	0	0%	Case Dispositions		
Other Serious Violent	29	67%	Arrest		39%
Weapons	2	5%	Cleared		5%
Drugs	2	5%	Exc Clear		14%
Property	0	0%	Inactive		2%
Other	4	9%	Open		39%

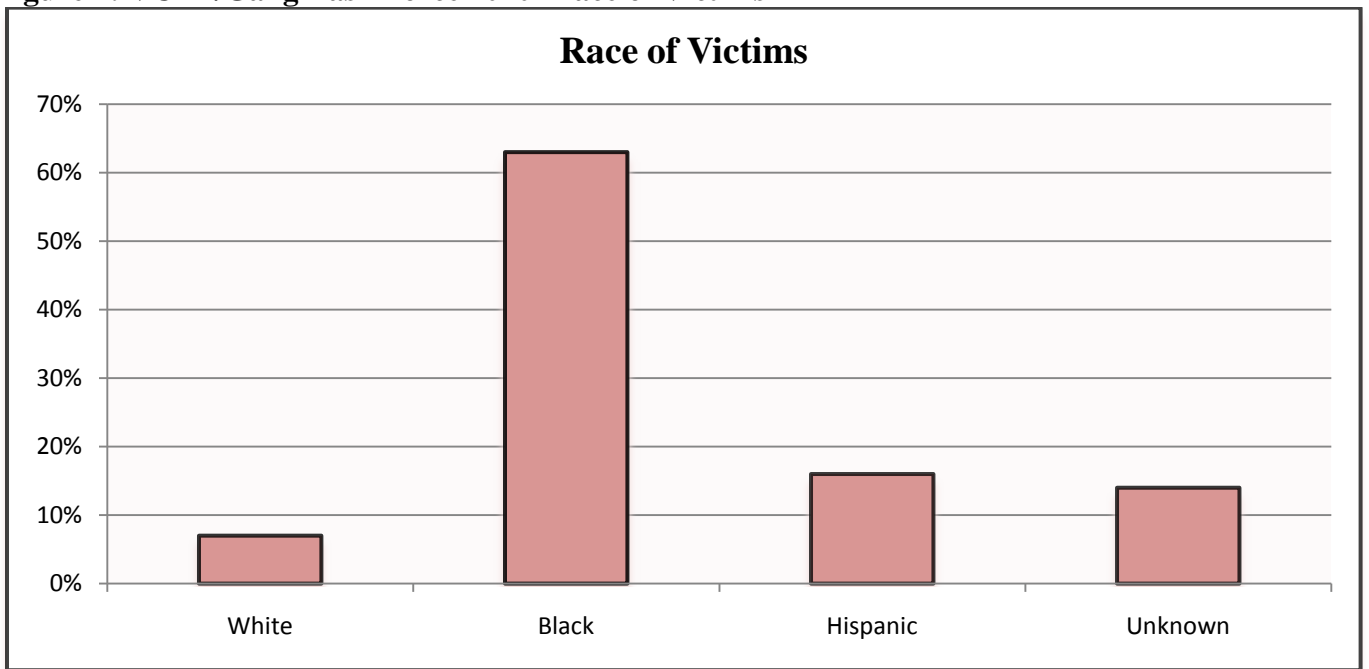
Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force, 2010

Table 22: VCTF Victim and Case Data 2010 (part 2)

Location of Incident			Referring Agency / Jurisdiction		
City	n	%	Agency/Jurisdiction	n	%
Belle Glade	19	44%	Belle Glade	19	44%
Boca Raton	1	2%	Boca Raton	0	0%
Boynton Beach	0	0%	Boynton Beach	0	0%
Canal Point	0	0%	Lake Clarke Shores	0	0%
Lake Clarke Shores	0	0%	Lake Park	0	0%
Lake Park	0	0%	Lake Worth	3	7%
Lake Worth	4	9%	Lantana	0	0%
Lantana	1	2%	Mangonia Park	0	0%
Mangonia Park	0	0%	Pahokee	3	7%
Pahokee	3	7%	PBSO-Unincorporated	12	28%
Palm Springs	0	0%	Palm Springs	0	0%
Riviera Beach	0	0%	Riviera Beach	0	0%
Royal Palm Beach	1	2%	South Bay	2	5%
South Bay	2	5%	West Palm Beach	2	5%
West Palm Beach	11	26%	Royal Palm Beach	1	2%
Greenacres	1	2%	Greenacres	1	2%

Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force, 2010

Figure 7: VCTF/Gang Task Force 2010- Race of Victims



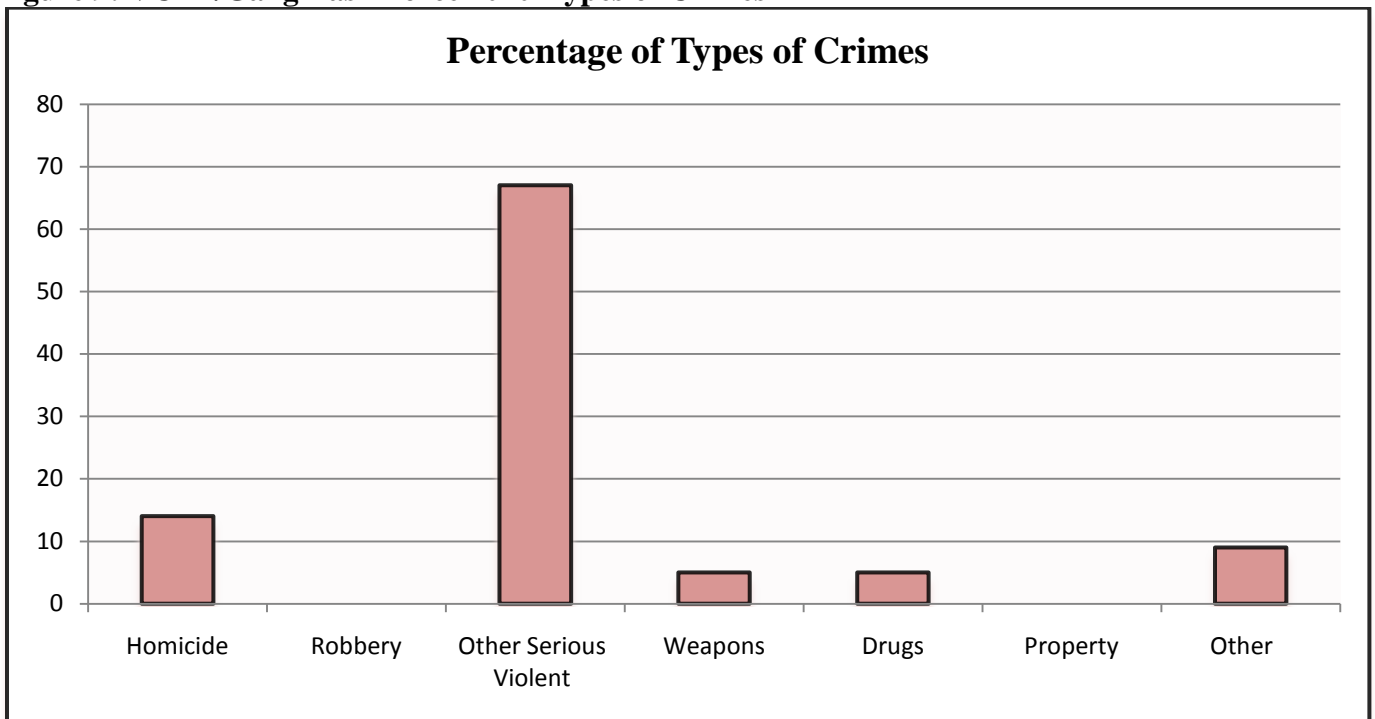
Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force

Figure 8: VCTF/Gang Task Force 2010- Age of Victims



Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force

Figure 9: VCTF/Gang Task Force 2010-Types of Crimes

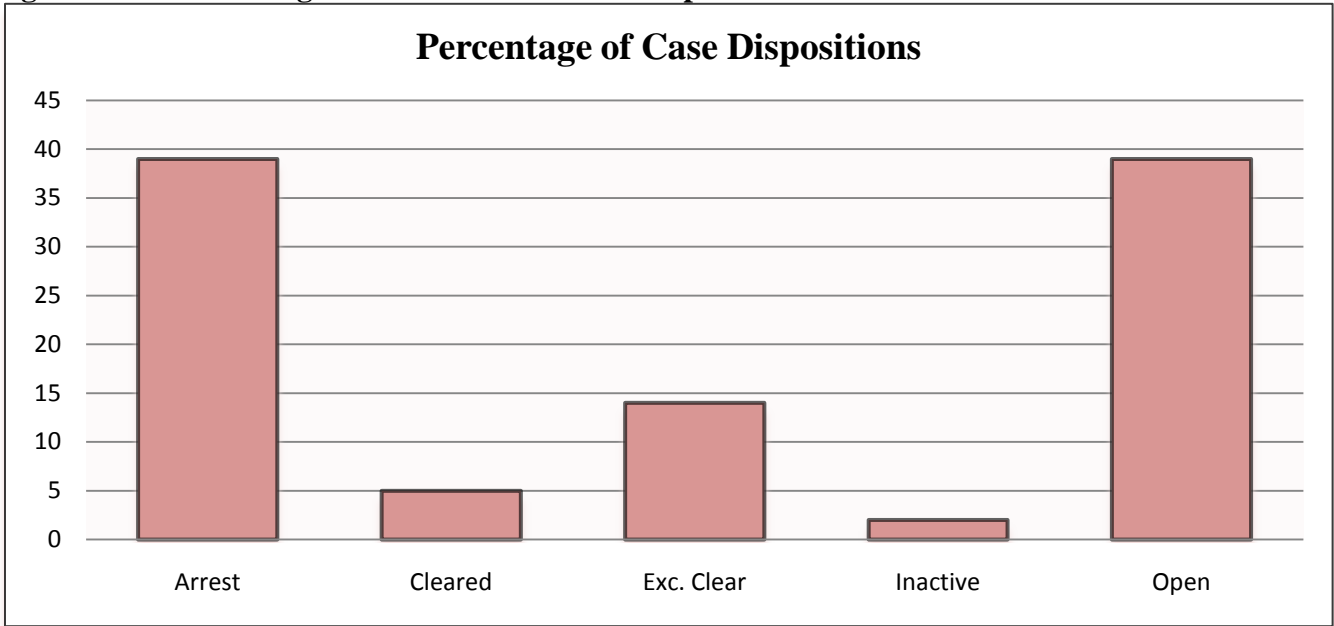


Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force

*Other Serious Violent includes: aggravated battery, aggravated assault, and shooting into occupied vehicle

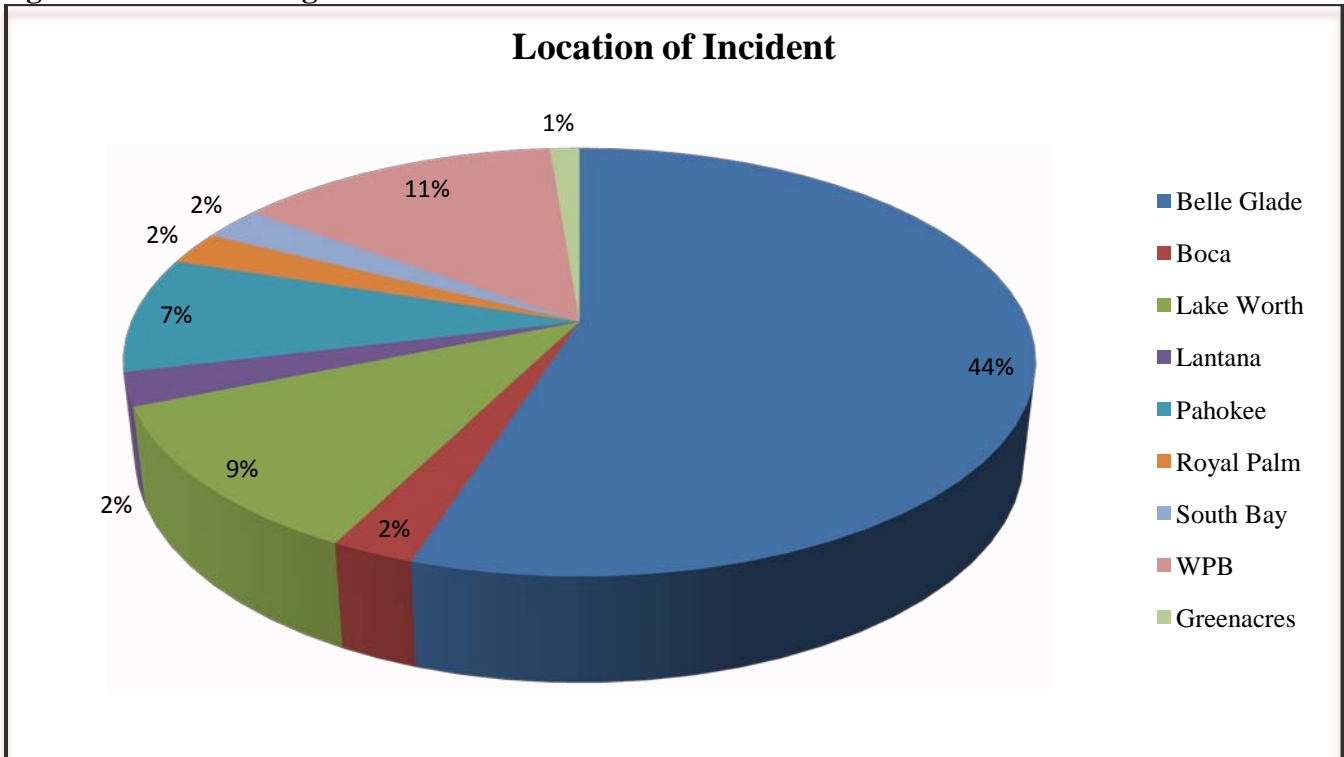
** Other is defined as gang recruit, home invasion, or case assistance

Figure 10: VCTF/Gang Task Force 2010- Case Dispositions



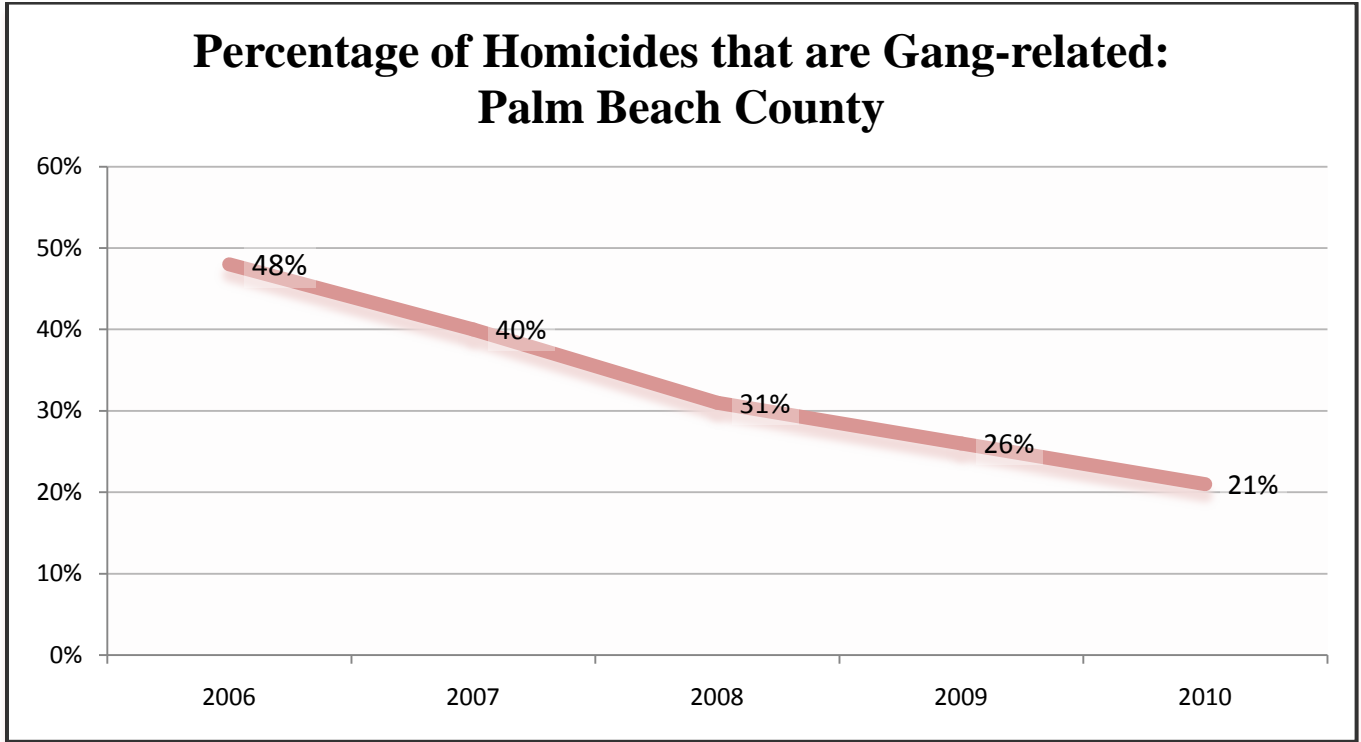
Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force

Figure 11: VCTF/Gang Task Force 2010- Location of Incident



Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force

Figure 12: VCTF/Gang Task Force 2010- Percentage of Gang-related Homicides Trend



Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Figure 7 indicates the race of victims in cases investigated by the Violent Crimes Task Force/Gang Task Force in 2010. Over sixty percent (60%) of victims have a black race definition. **Figure 8** displays the number of victims belonging to certain age ranges. The category containing the greatest percentage of victims is the 20 – 24 year old range, which represents approximately thirty percent (30%) of victims in VCTF/Gang Task Force cases. **Figure 9** indicates the crimes VCTF/Gang Task Force investigated during 2010, largely violent crimes such as aggravated battery, aggravated assault, and shooting into an occupied vehicle.

Figure 10 indicates that a majority of the VCTF/Gang Task Force cases either ended in arrest, were otherwise cleared, or are still open cases. There was only one inactive case in this report. **Figure 11** indicates the location of the incident initiating VCTF/Gang Task Force investigation in 2010; the greatest proportion among the locations was Belle Glade at forty-four percent (44%). Finally, in **Figure 12**, the data shows that the percentage of gang-related homicides dropped from 48% in 2006 to 21% in 2010.

6.3 Gains in the Science of Criminology



RECOVER IT//TRACE IT//SOLVE IT is the mantra of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF). Through its National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program, ATF deploys Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) equipment into Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies for their use in imaging and comparing crime gun evidence, including PBC. This equipment allows firearms technicians to acquire digital images of the markings made by a firearm on bullets and cartridge casings; the images then undergo automated initial comparison. The NIBIN system enables law enforcement agencies to discover links between crimes more quickly, including links that would have been lost without the technology. The system also makes it possible to share intelligence across jurisdictional boundaries, enabling Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to work together to stop violent criminals.¹² Take for example the most notorious case the local law enforcement community solved in 2010 partially credited to forensic science, the Circle K murders:

¹² Department of Justice, <http://www.nibin.gov/>.

“Authorities say eight men, who lived by the motto "thuggin to get money," aspired to make names for themselves as a notorious and ruthless group - and they did, in all the worst ways.

Alvarez and Razz are charged with first-degree murder in the April 30 double slaying at the Circle K at 5730 10th Ave. North.

Captain Jack Strenges, head of the Palm Beach County Violent Crimes Division, said a combination of ballistics tests and lengthy police work linked the crimes to the men.”

Palm Beach Post January 7, 2011

The Project has been instrumental in purchasing equipment to enhance forensic technology in multiple locations, coordinating and sponsoring training to preserve crime scenes where firearms have been recovered, and took the lead in developing the PBC Crime Gun Protocol Policy Recommendations (Appendix 3). The LEWG focused this year’s efforts on coordinating a comprehensive approach to combating firearm-related crime involving identifying, investigating, and arresting armed violent criminals, as well as those persons who illegally supply firearms to the criminal element.

In addition, “FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, and PROTOCOL FAMILIARIZATION COURSES” were offered to all law enforcement agencies in PBC by members of the LEWG including representatives from ATF, PBSO’s Firearms Laboratory, and Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. In year 4 of the Project, six (6) additional law enforcement personnel were trained to use BrassTRAX, increasing the number of trained law enforcement personnel in the County to thirteen (13). BrassTRAX allows for timely entries of bullet casings to link crimes (or “hits”) that are not usually able to be linked through the normal investigatory process.

Listed in **Table 23** and **Figure 13** are BrassTRAX entries by Department. Entries made in 2010 represent 41 NIBIN hits and 3 BrassTRAX hits. According to Commander Laurie J. Van Deusen of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department, “There has been a steady and significant increase in Inter-Jurisdictional case linkage, due to NIBIN/BrassTRAX and the outstanding work performed by the PBC Firearms Laboratory.”

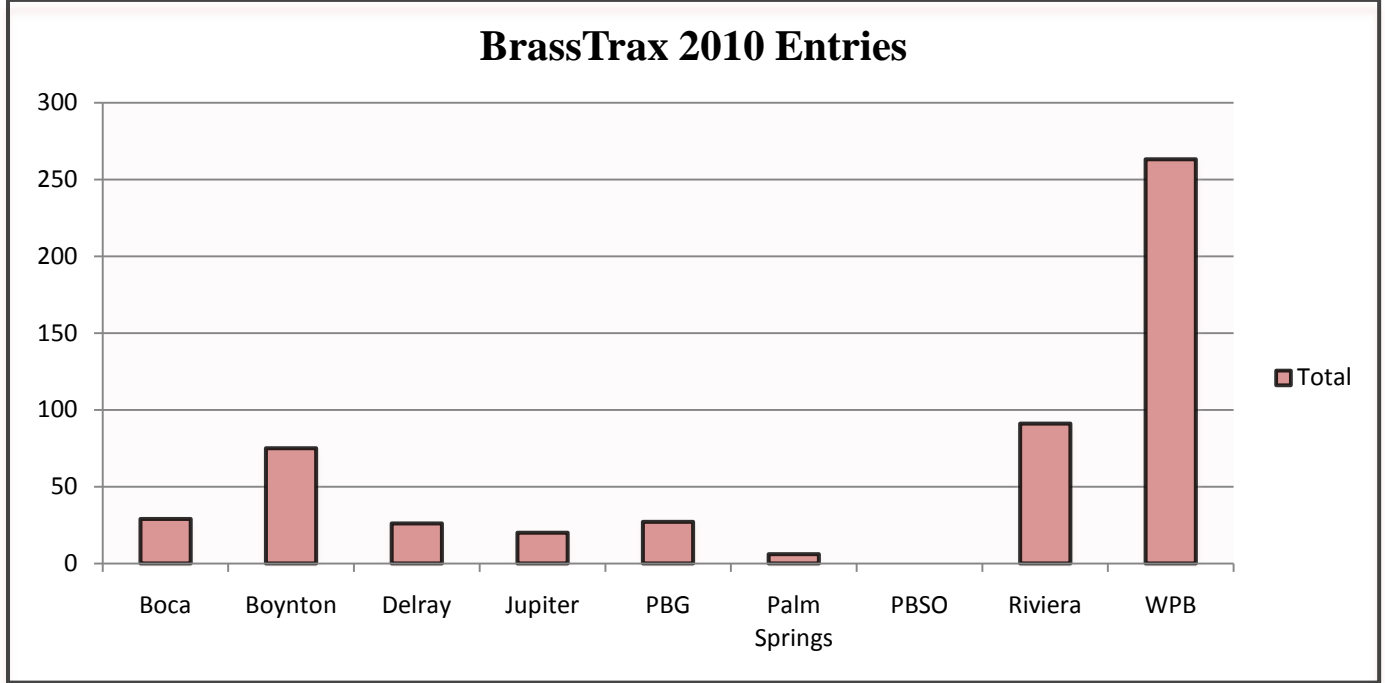
Table 23: BrassTRAX Entries 2010

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Boca Raton	12	0	5	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Boynton Beach	0	0	9	0	1	0	6	4	15	11	18	11	75
Delray Beach	3	0	2	7	2	2	3	5	2	0	0	0	26
Jupiter	0	0	0	8	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	20

Palm Beach Gardens	6	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	7	6	0	2	27
Palm Springs	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
PBSO***	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riviera Beach	0	10	27	0	12	4	5	13	10	10	0	0	91
West Palm Beach	18	17	29	11	14	33	19	28	35	18	31	10	263
Monthly Totals	39	27	72	26	48	50	34	52	69	45	49	26	537

***Note that PBSO does not use BrassTRAX
 Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab, Firearms Unit

Figure 13: BrassTRAX Entries by Law Enforcement Department



Source: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab, Firearms Unit -- ***Note that PBSO does not use BrassTRAX

6.4 The Office of Statewide Prosecution – Law Enforcement Work Group Activities in 2010

The mission of the **Office of Statewide Prosecution (OSP)** is to investigate and prosecute multi-circuit organized crime and to assist other law enforcement officials in their efforts against organized crime. The prosecutors in OSP work regularly with their federal and state counterparts to coordinate efforts against criminal activity.¹³

Year four activities of the OSP focused on efforts to combat criminal street gangs in concert with the statewide strategy as outlined in the Attorney General's *Florida Gang Reduction Strategy 2008-2012*. This effort was spearheaded in response to the recommendations of the 18th Statewide Grand Jury's 1st Interim Report on Criminal Street Gangs in January 2008. This report included findings and

¹³ Office of the Attorney General of Florida, <http://myfloridalegal.com/swp>.

recommendations for successfully gang abatement including objectives for prosecution. Specifically, Objective 7 under Law Enforcement Objectives: coordinate federal, state, and local prosecution efforts toward the common objective of combating gang activity in Florida including setting priorities and targeting certain gangs, gang activities, and gang related prosecutions all over Florida.

The confluence of efforts is clearly outlined in **Table 24** which highlights the significant actions of the OSP and their efforts towards combating gang activity in PBC and other communities.

Table 24: Significant Office of Statewide Prosecution Case Work

Quarter 1 January-March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debriefed Zoe Pound gang members in St. Lucie County pursuant to a RICO prosecution • Provided instruction on gang RICO to law enforcement
Quarter 2 April-June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised and assisted Jacksonville Office of the State Attorney (4th Circuit) regarding Gang RICO cases involving the 45th Street Players, who are slotted for trial • Debriefed SUR 13 gang leader who provided information on two cold homicides and Top 6 gang member was not given a reduction in bond after a hearing • Provided consultation with the Daytona State Attorney's Office regarding a Gang RICO they are building Pled and sentenced the SUR 13 gang leader who has agreed to cooperate
Quarter 3 July-September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended Top 6 Gang RICO indictment to include an additional gang member who committed some of his crimes while a juvenile • Sent a defendant to prison after being a fugitive for 10 years for committing a string of burglaries with his family • Finished a wiretap with taking down 4.2 pounds of cocaine being driven by 4 mules (3 juveniles) • Provided ongoing assistance to local State Attorney Offices in the 15th and 19th Judicial Circuits re: gang RICO cases related to motion hearings and legal issues; including but not limited to Buck Wild (15th Cir.), MLK (15th Cir.), and 13th Street Gang (19th Cir.)
Quarter 4 October-December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked closely with the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeal Division to respond to the issues involving the gang RICO case successfully prosecuted in Palm Beach County by OSP (Top 6) • Continued investigating and prosecuting pending gang RICO cases (Top 6, Sur 13, and Zoe Pound)

6.5 Office of the State Attorney - COMBAT

The COMBAT (Community-Based Anti-Crime Task Force) Program of the Office of the State Attorney is a unit of highly-experienced prosecutors who focus prosecutorial efforts on high crime hot-spot communities, including Weed and Seed and partnering communities of the Project. Typically they partner with local law enforcement and residents to address criminal activity with the goal of assisting residents to take control of their communities and restore safety and security. The strategy includes the need to assist local law enforcement in the preparation of criminal cases in order to improve the quality of justice in local communities as well as addressing local problem areas in an effort to bring all available resources to bear to improve public safety. The coordination of the community, the courts, and local citizens is central to the COMBAT approach designed to assist local areas to ultimately take responsibility for public safety in their own neighborhoods.

COMBAT prosecutors perform the following duties to achieve the above stated outcome:

- 1) file and review all felony cases generated in the Weed & Seed/the Project areas of PBC;
- 2) file and review all gang and violent crimes handled by the VCTF;
- 3) vertically prosecute cases that have a significant impact on the targeted geographic areas and targeted gang violence areas. These cases may include areas that have been targeted for particular increased enforcement or individuals who pose a particular significant threat to the community;
- 4) conduct routine training activities with officers assigned to the Weed & Seed/the Project areas and the VCTF in an effort to increase their effectiveness and ensure successful prosecution;
- 5) attend community meetings and keep residents informed regarding the progress made toward the goals of the community;
- 6) continue to stay aware of new and creative efforts of community prosecution in other jurisdictions to insure that COMBAT applies the best practices from across the country to our problems at home;
- 7) and coordinate the efforts of available state, local, and federal agencies to form an alliance to achieve the best results possible for the Project.

The COMBAT Unit in the 15th Judicial Circuit (PBC) was disbanded in October 2010 due to budget cuts. However, the case data included in **Table 25** includes a full twelve months of efforts.

Table 25: Combat Unit Case Data (Violence-related and Gang-related cases) 2010

Race	n	%		Age of Offender	n	%
White	213	41%		<14 years	34	>7%
Black	313	59%		15-19 years	209	40%
Gender	n	%		20-24 years	168	32%
Male	434	83%		25-29 years	104	20%
Female	92	17%		30-34 years	5	>1%

Case Disposition	n	%				
				35-39 years	1	>1%
Conviction	208	36%		40-59 years	3	>1%
Not Guilty/ Dismissed	99	17%		Unspecified	2	>1%
Pending	260	45%		Total	526	
Other	9	2%				
Number of Offenders Charged with Each Offense Category				Total Number of Charges by Offense Category		
Offense Type	N	%		Offense Type	n	%
Murder/Manslaughter	15	3%		Murder/Manslaughter	15	3%
Sexual/Rape	11	2%		Sexual/Rape	11	2%
Robbery	163	29%		Robbery	175	30%
Other Violent*	169	31%		Other Violent *	176	30%
Weapons	69	12%		Weapons	70	12%
Burglary	38	7%		Burglary	38	7%
Drugs	10	2%		Drugs	10	2%
Other Property	30	5%		Other Property	31	5%
Other**	50	9%		Other **	50	9%
				Total Number of Charges	576	

*"Other violent" charges include: any assault/battery charge

** "Other" charges include: Driving Under the Influence, Violation of Probation, etc.

7 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION OVERSIGHT

The CJC has primary oversight responsibility for the implementation and operation of the Project. As mentioned earlier, each component of the Project is operated by local municipalities or organizations bound by Florida Statutes and governed by their own internal policies and procedures. Much of the oversight is grant monitoring, coordination, and technical assistance. Oversight activities during year 4 of the Project implementation included:

- Processed Interlocal Agreement and contracts for services;
- Purchased equipment to sustain and enhance the law enforcement component of the Project;
- Modified data collection systems. This year, a new tracking system was implemented by the CJC to reduce errors and under-reporting;
- Provided marketing and community outreach for the Project;

- Hosted regular coordinating meetings to share and disseminate information;
- Continued to identify potential partners and providers for programs;
- Assisted sites in addressing service or programming gaps;
- Coordinated LEWG meetings and law enforcement trainings;
- Identified gaps in the current service continuum (interventions);
- Provided technical assistance as needed;
- Wrote/managed grants to sustain all components of the Project.

7.1 Summary, Discussion and Future of Project

Calendar year 2010 represents the fourth year of operations for the Project in the County. Prevention and Corrections efforts were sustained primarily with city and grant funding. PBC ad valorem funding ended in 2009 for all components of the Project. All five partnering cities increased financial support to the operations of their respective YECs. However, many changes occurred that likely will have an impact on the Project and the county's incidences of youth violence.

- Sheriff Bradshaw formed a Gang Task Force and disbanded the Violent Crimes Task Force.
- Juvenile and gang-related crimes are on a positive trajectory (decreasing); as a result, resources have been reallocated to address other crimes in PBC. Pill Mills are front and center in the law enforcement community currently. According to Greg Kridos, Assistant State Attorney for the Office of the State Attorney, "we are going strong on the investigative and prosecution side of it."
- While violent crime is decreasing countywide, violent crime is increasing in three of the five targeted communities, suggesting that there continues to be a need for a sustained, comprehensive approach to youth violence in the county.
- The CJC was successful in securing two major competitive grants to continue and enhance the prevention and corrections components of the Project.
 1. The CJC, in partnership with The Florida Department of Corrections, was awarded a Department of Justice, Second Chance Act grant for \$750,000 to deliver a comprehensive model for inmate reentry into the county. The grant was matched by funds from the County, The Florida Department of Corrections, The Lord's Place, Gulfstream Goodwill, and the City of Riviera Beach. This initiative is designed to reduce recidivism by 50% over a 5-year period for the target population by identifying needs, providing targeted evidence-based programs, and coordinating pre- and post-release services that will assist

inmates transitioning from prison to the community. The unique approach of the initiative is the delivery of reentry services pre- and post-release.

2. The second grant is through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) grant titled Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention Program. The CJC received \$324,901 for an eighteen month period to enhance their existing community-based, comprehensive anti-gang strategy. The YECs will be enhanced with targeted outreach and case management to mirror the Boys and Girls Clubs Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach. The grant targets a population of youth at-risk of gang activity, delinquency, and violence residing in the hotspot areas identified by law enforcement, courts, school personnel, or parents. The overarching goal is to reduce delinquency and gang activity by enhancing the current prevention strategy.
 - PBSO employs a full-time Gang Prevention Coordinator who serves all of PBC. The position was initially funded through an OJJDP grant as well. Funding for this position ends August 2011. PBSO has a grant application pending to support this position, gang prevention at the YECs, parenting programs, and the county's overall gang reduction strategy.
 - The Department of Juvenile Justice continues to take reductions annually as the Florida Legislature grapples with their budget. PBC (Circuit 15) in 2009 supported 63 juvenile probation officers, in 2010 was reduced to 57 with 5 vacancies. The overall Department of Juvenile Justice budget shrank from 707.4 million (FY 05-06) to 603.1 million (FY09-10) in a four year period.
 - Each of the five municipalities and the county are presently faced with dwindling budgets and being asked to do more with less. For example, the new Riviera Beach YEC has only one floor that is built-out and can house youth services. The upper floor remains a shell and cannot be occupied.
 - Staff and youth safety was brought to the forefront as a potential barrier to services in 2010 as a result of funding cuts to the YECs. Riviera's community policing officer has been reassigned and no longer provides security (or other services), leaving three female staff alone with youth who have a variety of psychosocial issues including histories of violence. This poses a safety issue for the Riviera Beach YEC. The Director of the YEC prides herself with tackling the most difficult youth in the area, but has expressed reservation about her outreach efforts, feeling the need to put safety first. A non-participating youth was shot one night in the front yard of the Northwood YEC, who also no longer has a law enforcement presence on property. A firearm was discovered in the backpack of a youth attending the Lake Worth YEC. Lake Worth does not have security or a law enforcement presence.

Many components of the Project are well supported and continue to function despite funding cuts and other barriers. All components of the Project are operational and functional in the first quarter of 2011. As the county and local municipalities prepare for another year of cuts and lay-offs the future of the Project is not clear. Community leaders in all five partner municipalities publically have recognized the need for the services of the Project to continue despite the uncertainty of future funding.

8 EVALUATION FINDINGS

8.1 Outcome Results

For the overall outcome results for the prevention component of the project, YEC participant arrest records were obtained from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The time frame represented for these results is the post-initial service provision period (2009 to the first 3 months of 2011). These arrest records were then compared against monthly reports submitted by YECs, and then this combined information was analyzed to present the following outcome results.

Table 26 includes all youth who participated in YEC structured programming in 2010, including those with missing demographic data that were not counted in previous tables. These youth were included in outcome data because this total number more accurately reflects the number of youth that participated in structured programming as a whole. Further, it presents the number of youth arrested before and after YEC structured programming. The 50 “After” consists of 29 youth who had no prior arrest history, yet were arrested subsequent to involvement at a YEC. The other 21 youth out of the 50 total had a previous arrest history prior to their involvement at a YEC in 2010 **and** were subsequently arrested after their involvement in the YEC during the post-initial service provision period. The number of youth arrested for violent crime after their involvement at a YEC in 2010 is slightly less than the number of youth having been arrested for violent crime prior to their involvement in structured programming.

Table 26: Summary Arrest Data for Youth Involved in Structured Programs in YECs 2010

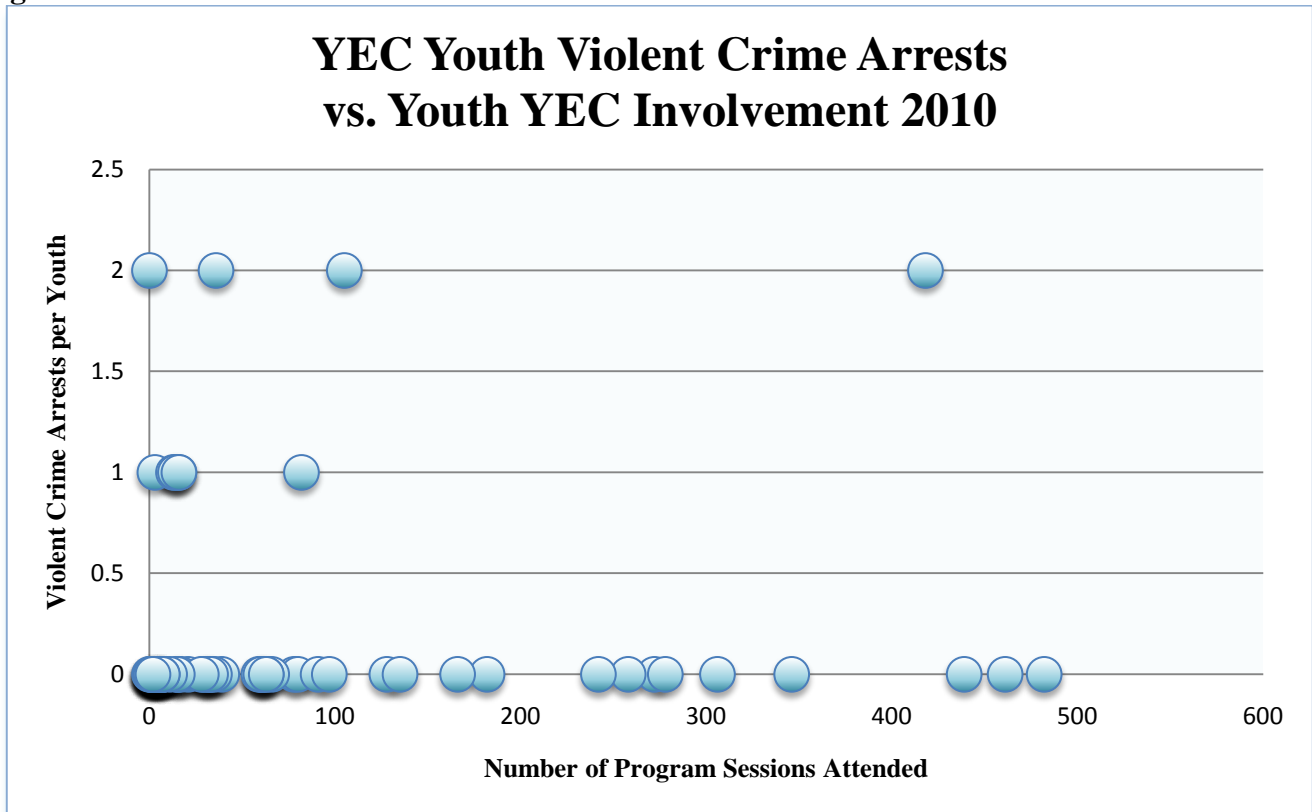
	Before 2010 YEC Structured Sessions	After 2010 YEC Structured Sessions
Total Number of Youth Involved in Structured Programs in 2010	864	
Number of Youth Arrested	50	50
Number of Youth Arrested for Violent Crime	13	10
Percentage of Total Youth Participants Arrested for Any Crime	6%	6%
Percentage of Youth Participants Arrested for Violent Crime	1.5%	1.2%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2010; Youth Empowerment Center Reports, 2007-2010

Figure 14 represents a correlation between incidents of youth violence and frequency and longevity of YEC participation. The numbers along the left side of the figure represent the number of

violent crime arrests after participating in YEC structured programming in 2010. For example, the line “0” would mean no arrests for violent crimes after attending structured programming in 2010, the line “1” would mean one arrest for violent crime after attending, and so forth. The numbers along the bottom represent the number of structured programming sessions the youth ever attended. For example, the number “0” there would mean the youth attended 0 structured sessions overall, the number “100” would mean the youth attended 100 structured sessions overall, and so on. This figure indicates that more involvement in structured programming at a YEC in 2010 signified a drop in the overall number of arrests for violent crime. Therefore, longevity and frequency of participation has a significant impact on the desired outcome of reducing youth violence.

Figure 14: YEC Youth Violent Crime Arrests vs. Youth YEC Involvement 2010



Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2010; Youth Empowerment Center Reports, 2007-2010

8.2 Conclusion

In sum, on the basis of implementation findings and program outcomes reported in this evaluation, the fourth year of PBC’s Project demonstrates marked improvement in many areas from the first year. The county has demonstrated an ability to mobilize and sustain a variety of agencies, services, youth, and other citizens in a common collaborative mission to reduce violent crime.

Contextual and Implementation

While the Project is not implementing the Comprehensive Gang Model with complete fidelity, rather a hybrid of the model, all five strategies have been implemented to varying degrees. The addition of case managers to each YEC further complements the array of service provision. The reviving of a countywide steering committee would enhance community mobilization. There is a clear correlation between the residence of youth served and DJJ high referral zip codes, indicating high-risk youth are being served. While each YEC subscribes to the same model and scope of work, they differ greatly in their environmental context; therefore, their performance cannot be compared with any degree of fidelity or empirical evidence. Overall, the progress reveals a trajectory toward successful implementation of the program.

However, at the conclusion of the fourth year of implementation, the Project continues to experience some challenges. The prevention component expanded to the point where all five YEC sites were operational, while the current economic climate and the sun setting of county ad valorem funding contributed to the downsizing of staff and in-kind contributions. Data collection in year four was much more timely and comprehensive and continues to be a challenge. A new system was created to minimize errors and underreporting. However, multiple funding sources have complicated the revised system. Outcomes measures beyond arrests and recidivism should be assessed in subsequent years to create a more accurate outcome evaluation.

The corrections component (JSC) has been implemented in only one site, Riviera Beach. The impact of the West Palm Beach, Community JSC closing is not known yet will likely have an impact on reentry services, as will the implementation of the Second Chance Act grant.

The law enforcement component, which includes PBSO, municipal law enforcement, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, the LEWG, and the COMBAT unit have remained highly committed to implementing their stated goals. Again, with a reduction in federal, state, and local budgets, some efforts have been refocused. There remains a *high level* of collaboration and coordination among the PBSO, local police departments, the LEWG, the VCTF/Gang Task Force, the Office of the State Attorney, the Office of Statewide Prosecution, the COMBAT unit, ATF, and other local and federal agencies. The 4th year added a strong focus on the forensic component of the criminal justice system and the Project supported training and equipment enhancements.

As the county and local municipalities prepare for another year of cuts and lay-offs, the future of the Project is not clear. Community leaders in all five partner municipalities publically have recognized the need for the services of the Project to continue despite the uncertainty of future funding.

Outcome Question

Is there significant causal evidence to document a relationship between the applied interventions and their intended outcome to reduce youth violence in PBC? While this question cannot be answered with empirical evidence absent a reliable and valid control group and control sites, the supporting data indicates a positive trajectory. Summary of year four progress:

- **Prevention:**

- 94% of YEC participants were not arrested after YEC involvement
- All five YECs continue to operate despite obstacles and funding cuts
- YECs provided 2,844 structured program sessions to 864 participants in 2010
- 83% of participants are from the top 10 DJJ referral zip codes
- Boynton Beach YEC participant arrests dropped 16% from 2009 to 2010
- Longevity and frequency of participation at YECs are variables correlated to reducing youth violence arrests

- **Corrections:**

- The Riviera Beach JSC began an initiative called *R²* which trained and supported 7 ex-offenders who received on-the-job training while rebuilding a fire damaged home in the community
- The Riviera Beach JSC served 181 ex-offenders in 2010
- The Riviera Beach JSC continues to serve the entirety of the County, with 62% of ex-offenders served residing outside of Riviera Beach

- **Law Enforcement and Courts:**

- The Office of Statewide Prosecution and the Office of the State Attorney collaborated on gang RICO cases related to Buck Wild, MLK, and 13th Street Gang
- Increased the number of staff trained to use forensic technology to solve gun-related crime
- Office of the State Attorney's COMBAT unit and Office of Statewide Prosecution actively targeted violent and gang-affiliated offenders
- VCTF/Gang Task Force reported an over 50% drop in gang-related homicides from 2006 to 2010

9 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concern over rising youth violence was first raised by the Board of County Commissioners in 2004, which was in part attributed to the growth of youth gangs and firearm homicides throughout South Florida. Following the November 2004 planning meeting, the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) made youth violence a priority and established the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The Steering Committee identified the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive, Community-Wide Approach to Gang Prevention model to combat youth violence in Palm Beach County (PBC). The Youth Violence Prevention Project (later renamed “the Project”) employed multiple strategies as identified in the Comprehensive Gang Model. The prevention, corrections, and law enforcement components are summarized, followed by relevant information obtained through the CJC’s oversight of the Project.

9.1 Prevention

Prevention strategies were implemented through the continuation of Youth Empowerment Centers (YECs) in each targeted area to provide activities and services to youth ages 13-18 who may or may not be involved in the justice system. Over two-thousand (2,844) structured programming sessions were offered at YECs in 2010. There were 294 youth who had been involved in YEC structured programs in 2009 who continued their involvement into 2010, and 491 youth attended their first YEC structured program during 2010. This total, 785 youth, does not count the additional 79 youth attending programming in 2010 who did not have a registered date of birth or who began attending programming again in 2010 after skipping 2009. Therefore, the overall number of participants attending structured YEC programs in 2010 was calculated to be 864 youth. Based on youth registration information, 83% of youth participating in these programs were from zip codes that ranked among the top 10 for Department of Juvenile Justice referrals in PBC.

Of the 864 youth who attended structured programming at YECs in 2010, approximately nine percent (n=79) had any arrest on record with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Fifty (50) youth had an arrest record before their involvement with YEC structured programming, and 29 obtained an arrest record after their involvement with YEC structured programming. Regarding violent crime, 14 youth had an arrest record with a violent crime prior to YEC structured programming involvement in 2010; 10 were arrested for a violent crime after involvement.

9.2 Corrections

The Riviera Beach Justice Service Center (JSC) continues to be the only full-service JSC serving ex-offenders in PBC, serving 181 ex-offenders in 2010. Slightly more than 62% of these ex-offenders were from zip codes other than Riviera Beach (n=113), indicating that the Riviera Beach JSC provides re-entry services to individuals throughout PBC. Clients ranged in age from 15 to 59 years old. Services included: intake processing, re-entry specific (assistance with civil rights restoration, driver's license/identification, transportation, etc.), and employment assistance. The Riviera Beach JSC began an on-the-job training initiative in 2010, Restoration Squared (R2), in which seven (7) ex-offenders were trained and contributed to the rebuilding of a house in Riviera Beach. Four (4) of the participants were hired from the job; three (3) in the field of construction.

9.3 Law Enforcement

The Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF), now called the Gang Task Force, assists PBC law enforcement agencies in investigating and reducing violent crimes countywide. In 2010, forty-three (43) cases were investigated by the VCTF/Gang Task Force. The majority of the crimes investigated (81%) were homicide or other serious violent crimes. Seventy percent (70%) of the incidents investigated occurred in Belle Glade and West Palm Beach. Approximately fifty-nine percent (59%) of cases in 2010 ended in arrest or were otherwise cleared with the majority of the remaining cases still open. The percentage of homicides that were gang-related in the county was 21% for 2010, significantly lower than the 48% rate in 2006.

The availability of firearm forensic technology for law enforcement has increased in PBC via the Project. Such technology was used by law enforcement in the county to aid in the successful investigation of the 2010 "Circle K" murders. During 2010, six (6) additional law enforcement personnel were trained to enter into BrassTRAX, increasing the total number of law enforcement personnel trained to use this technology in PBC to thirteen (13). BrassTRAX allows for timely entries of bullet casings to link crimes; 537 entries into this system were made in 2010 by law enforcement agencies in PBC.

Activities of the Office of Statewide Prosecution in 2010 focused on efforts to combat criminal street gangs in concert with the statewide strategy as outlined in the Attorney General's *Florida Gang Reduction Strategy 2008-2012*. The COMBAT Unit (Community-Based Anti-Crime Task Force) of the Office of the State Attorney is a unit of highly-experienced prosecutors who focus prosecutorial efforts on high crime hot-spot communities, including Weed and Seed and partnering communities of the Project. The COMBAT Unit in the 15th Judicial Circuit (Palm Beach County) was disbanded in October

2010 due to budget cuts. While operational during the year of 2010, the COMBAT Unit pursued criminal prosecution for 576 cases, 65% of which were cases involving murder or other violent crime.

9.4 Criminal Justice Commission Oversight

Calendar year 2010 represents the fourth year of operations for the Project in PBC. Prevention and Corrections efforts were sustained primarily with city and grant funding. County ad valorem funding ended in 2009 for all components of the Project. All five partnering cities increased financial support to the operations of their respective YECs. Many components of the Project are well supported and continue to function despite funding cuts and other obstacles. All components of the Project are operational and functional in the first quarter of 2011.

A number of changes occurred that likely will have an impact on the Project and the county's incidences of youth violence:

- A new Gang Task Force was created in lieu of the Violent Crimes Task Force.
- Juvenile and gang-related crimes are decreasing; as a result, resources have been reallocated to address other crimes in the county.
- While crime in general is decreasing in the county, violent crime is increasing in three of the five targeted communities, suggesting that there continues to be a need for a sustained, comprehensive approach to youth violence in the County.
- The CJC was successful in securing two major competitive grants to continue and enhance the prevention and corrections components of the Project.
 1. The CJC in partnership with The Florida Department of Corrections was awarded a Department of Justice, Second Chance Act grant for \$750,000 to deliver a comprehensive model for inmate reentry into the county.
 2. The second grant is through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention grant titled Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention Program. The CJC received \$324,901 for an eighteen month period to enhance their existing community-based, comprehensive anti-gang strategy.
- The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) employs a full-time Gang Prevention Coordinator who serves all of PBC. Funding for this position ends August 2011. The PBSO has a grant application pending to support this position, gang prevention at the YECs, parenting programs, and the county's overall gang reduction strategy.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice continues to take reductions annually as the Florida Legislature grapples with their budget.
- Each of the five municipalities and the county are presently faced with dwindling budgets and are being asked to do more with less. The new Riviera Beach YEC has only one floor that is built-out and can house youth services. The upper floor remains a shell and cannot be occupied.

- Staff and youth safety has become an issue in 2010 as a result of funding cuts to the YECs. Riviera's community policing officer has been reassigned and no longer provides security at the Center, leaving three female staff alone with youth who have a variety of psychosocial issues including a history of violence. A non-participating youth was shot one night in the front yard of the Northwood YEC, which also no longer has law enforcement presence on property. A firearm was discovered in the backpack of a youth at the Lake Worth YEC. Lake Worth does not have a security or law enforcement presence.

As the county and local municipalities prepare for another year of cuts and lay-offs, the future of the Project is not clear. Community leaders in all five partner municipalities publically have recognized the need for the services of the Project to continue despite the uncertainty of future funding.

APPENDIX:

Appendix 1 – Literature Review (Due to size, this is made available online at the following web address: <http://www.pbcgov.com/criminaljustice/youth/Reports.htm> -- select the link named “Evidence-Based Crime Prevention Programs: Literature Review, Dr. Thomas Gabor, March 2011”)

Appendix 2 – Service Locations

Appendix 3 – Palm Beach County Crime Gun Protocol, Policy Recommendations, Revised February 11, 2010

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**Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
Youth Violence Prevention Project**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER LOCATIONS

Riviera Beach

1550 W. 28th Street
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

West Palm Beach

Northwood - 723 39th Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Lake Worth

Osborne Community Center - 1699 Wingfield Street
Lake Worth, FL 33460

Boynton Beach

Carolyn Sims Center – 225 NW 12th Avenue
Boynton Beach, FL 33425

Belle Glade

227 SW 6th Street
Belle Glade, FL 33430

JUSTICE SERVICE CENTER LOCATIONS

Riviera Beach

The Port Center
(First Floor-1st and only door on the left)
2051 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Riviera Beach, 33404

Palm Beach County Crime Gun Protocol Policy Recommendations

Revised February 11 2010

Purpose:

Firearm related crime often crosses multiple jurisdictional areas and, therefore, the mutual sharing of certain types of firearm crime information is important to achieve a coordinated approach to solving these crimes. A comprehensive approach to combating firearm-related crime involves identifying, investigating and arresting armed violent criminals as well as those persons who illegally supply firearms to the criminal element.

The comprehensive and timely submission of all recovered “known and suspected crime guns,” and firearms related evidence to the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Crime Laboratory for entry into the NIBIN program (National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network.) through the IBIS computer, or by the entry of a casing, by agencies participating in BrassTRAX, through BrassTRAX, will assist in linking and solving shooting-related crimes and generating additional investigative leads. Nothing will take the place of a thorough and well documented investigation. The more timely entries are made into NIBIN or BrassTRAX, by all participating agencies, increases the likelihood of crime linkage to obtain our ultimate goal to solve crimes.

The complete processing and documentation of all recovered guns, both “known crime guns” and “suspected crime guns” (more commonly referred to as ‘found guns’), and all firearm related evidence, in conjunction with thorough documentation of case facts and statements made by possessors, associates of possessors, witnesses, and arrestees, produces stronger cases, often resulting in multi-jurisdictional crime linkage. “Crime plus forensic, equals detection plus conviction.” Thorough documentation, processing and forensic analysis is more likely to support a successful prosecution or result in a substantial plea agreement, hence, reducing law enforcement officers’ time spent in state or federal court.

As such, the following techniques and procedures are outlined and are intended to be guidelines in the implementation of a multi-jurisdictional and comprehensive approach to combating firearm-related crimes. These guidelines are not intended to replace, supersede or otherwise preclude the application of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure and/or Florida Rules of Evidence in any court hearing. They do however supersede previous recommendations and agreements by agencies regarding this policy.

Policy Recommendations:

General:

- It is recommended that agencies adopt a policy consistent with these recommendations, and protocols to be utilized when investigating firearm related crimes and incidents.

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- It is recommended for all agency issued firearms, issued to personnel, be test fired with two casings maintained by the agency, for NIBIN entry or Firearms Laboratory comparison, if the firearm is stolen from a law enforcement officer, or fired in an officer involved shooting incident.
- A “known crime gun” or “suspected crime gun” is any firearm illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected by law enforcement to have been used in a crime. This may include a firearm found abandoned gun, regardless of circumstances, if the recovering law enforcement agency has reason to believe the firearm may have been used in a crime or illegally possessed.
- **Definitions:**
 - A “spent casing” is what is ejected from a semi-automatic firearm, or what remains in the cylinder of a revolver after a gun has been fired.
 - A “shot shell” is a spent or unspent cartridge fired from a shotgun.
 - A “jacket” is the covering of a bullet, which is may or may not be separated from a casing once the gun is fired.
 - A “projectile” is the portion of the bullet, covered by the jacket, which may separate from the casing once the gun is fired.
 - A “fragment” is a portion of the jacket or projectile which may be recovered when a projectile does not remain intact.
- All known crime guns, suspected crime guns, and other firearms related evidence and items, whenever possible, should be photographed at the crime scene, or location recovered if not a crime scene, prior to being moved, collected, or processed, as photographs may help to develop an investigation, support probable cause, and strengthen the prosecution of those charged with firearms related crimes.
- All recovered “known crime guns” and “suspected crime guns”, and all other firearms related evidence should be collected, documented and considered for forensic examination by the Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory and entry into the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN), or for BrassTRAX entry by trained and qualified members of the law enforcement agencies who participate in the BrassTRAX Program. The circumstances of each case will determine if the gun and other firearms related evidence or items will initially need to be examined and worked by the Palm Beach County Firearms Laboratory, or if the gun and other ballistics related evidence will remain with the respective law enforcement agency until called for.
- NIBIN entry through the IBIS terminal will be completed by members of the Palm Beach County Firearms Laboratory.
- BrassTRAX entries will be for cases involving the recovery of guns only, or cases in which a single casing was recovered, unless otherwise authorized by the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Firearms Laboratory manager or designee. BrassTRAX entries

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will only be made by trained and qualified members of law enforcement agencies. The Palm Beach County Firearms Laboratory manager, on questionable cases, will have the final authority as to the entry point of a test fired casing or casing(s) recovered at a crime scene or location. When questions exist the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Firearms Laboratory Manager should be contacted to discuss circumstances and firearms related evidence and items submitted.

- All guns coming into the possession of any law enforcement agency should be traced through the U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Tracing Center to assist in Identifying illegal sources of crime guns. This may be accomplished by submitting an ATF Form 3312.1 (National Tracing Center Trace Request Form) via mail or fax to the ATF NTC at the toll free fax number listed at the top of the form, or through the internet based tracing system, eTRACE.
- The tracing of all firearms and review of trace results may develop investigative leads, as guns impounded by law enforcement agencies may be unreported stolen guns or guns which are reported stolen to law enforcement but a serial number of the gun was not available by the victim or owner to provide to law enforcement, or the trace results may link individuals with no criminal history who is supplying guns to those with criminal records. Appropriate follow-up investigations of successful traces may too help crime victim in recovering their stolen property and help to solve crimes.
- To perfect a strong prosecutable case and for developing crime gun intelligence, officers at the scene of a crime, or when seizing a firearm for legitimate law enforcement purposes, should ask a series of basic questions of the suspect(s), possessor, or associates of the possessor(s) and/or witnesses to establish gun possession. Obtaining statements from everyone contemporaneous with the incident involving the gun, helps limit or prevent the potential for false alibis at a later time in an investigation, as to ownership, possession, and the source of the firearm.
- Known crime guns and suspected crime guns, when "clear" through NCIC/FCIC should be entered into NCIC/FCIC as "Recovered Guns," as this will prevent another agency throughout the United States from entering this same gun as "Stolen", when an agency already has the gun in their possession. Guns are sometimes recovered during crimes or incidents, prior to a victim or owner realizing a gun has been stolen, or before a serial number is provided to law enforcement for enter stolen into NCIC/FCIC. (See NCIC/FCIC Criteria detailing the specifics of "Recovered Gun" entries.
- Establish processes to ensure all guns entered as stolen, lost or recovered into NCIC/FCIC are accurately entered, which is part of the validation processes mandated through NCIC/FCIC Terminal Agency User Agreements, as inaccurately entered gun information will negate or minimize the opportunity for recovering a stolen or lost gun.
- A copy of teletype entries or clearances for stolen, lost, recovered, or stolen recovered guns, should be included as documents within the original offense, as these serve as excellent references and are important to case investigations.

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- Processes should be in place at each agency and within the Palm Beach County to verify the accuracy of gun information entered into NCIC/FCIC. When and if discrepancies are realized, modifications should be made immediately, with copies of the modifications again verified to ensure accurate records. The modified entry, actual teletype copy, should be included in the original report.

Procedures for Processing Known Crime Guns, Suspected Crime Guns, and all other Firearms Related Evidence or Property Evidence:

- Clean latex gloves should be worn when handling any gun or firearm related evidence to prevent cross contamination. Only when exigent circumstances exist should a gun or any firearm related evidence handled without gloves. Exigent circumstances as to why gloves were not worn should be documented in police reports.
- Depending on the case facts and situation, known crime guns, suspected crime guns, and any firearms related evidence or items will be processed for latents and DNA in a manner set forth by the respective law enforcement agencies policies, which are consistent with obtaining the best forensic evidence results. Processing for latents and DNA may be accomplished by agencies Crime Scene personnel, or other properly trained personnel within the agency impounding the gun or other firearms related evidence or items, or by submitting the known or suspected crime gun(s) and other firearms related items or items to the Palm Beach County Firearms Laboratory for processing. Known case facts will determine the need to process or not process for latents or DNA. Exceptions for not processing should be documented in incident reports.
- The recovering department will be responsible for the collection and submission of all DNA suspect/elimination standards to the PBSO Crime Laboratory, when necessary and upon the approval of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office DNA Coordinator. All requests for DNA analysis requests must be initiated by telephoning the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office DNA Evidence Coordinator in advance of any submissions.
- Known crime guns and suspected crime guns should be submitted to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Firearms Laboratory for NIBIN entry, if the agency is not participating in the BrassTRAX Program. Law enforcement officers and agency personnel should not "test fire" any gun in the field, solely for the purpose of determining if the gun is functional; all test firing and function testing will be performed by personnel trained in the handling of firearms, in a controlled setting, such as a firearms range, with all safety practices and protection gear utilized. The "test firing" of all known and suspected crime guns may be performed by any recovering department participating in the BrassTrax program, where that capability exists, or the firearm may be submitted to the PBSO Crime Laboratory for test-firing and NIBIN entry when multiple casings exist at a crime scene or location, or when called for by Firearms Laboratory personnel.
- When submitting any gun, "known crime gun" or "suspected crime gun," or firearms related evidence to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory, the recovering department should complete a Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory Property Receipt for all guns submitted to the Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory. The Palm Beach County Firearms Laboratory Property Receipt should include, when known by the

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submitting agency, all pertinent descriptive information on each gun submitted; i.e., make/maker, country of origin and importer, model, serial number, caliber, type (pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, derringer), finish/color, unique markings or modifications (scope, owner applied numbers), Cyrillic or other unique markings. Information relative to the possessor and associates of possessor (name, alias, DOB, race, sex, identification numbers (driver's license, ID card, etc...), recovery date (crucial), recovery location (be specific), whether the gun is clear NCIC/FCIC or if the gun is a recovered stolen firearm.

- If a gun is known to be a 'recovered stolen firearm,' a copy of the NCIC/FCIC Teletype "HIT" should be attached to the submitting agencies Property Receipt and to the Palm Beach County Firearms Crime Laboratory Property Receipt, or document information as to the entering agency and the entering agencies case number on the Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory Property Receipt, as this information is important for eTRACE and further investigation should there be a NIBIN 'HIT.'
- If the recovering agency has submitted a trace of the gun to the ATF Tracing Center, the assigned eTRACE number or other method used to trace the gun should be documented on the Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory Property Receipt, as this prevents duplication of effort.
- The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory Property Receipt must indicate the type of processing and analysis requested for each gun and other items; i.e., latents, fingerprints, photographing, test firing, and/or just entry into NIBIN. Note if the submitting agency has already processed the gun for latents and swabbed for DNA and NIBIN entry only is required, or other requested Crime Laboratory examination.
- Requests for all firearms related work, to include comparisons related to other cases, should be noted specifically on the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Crime Laboratory Property Receipt, to include the name of agency and the respective agency's case number, along with Crime Laboratory case numbers when known. Requests for firearm related comparison cases will require a call and/or email to the Firearms Laboratory Manager in advance of submissions, to discuss case facts and items impounded which may need to be compared, as it is best for all firearms related evidence to be examined and compared at the same time, rather than separately whenever possible.
- Maintaining control and care over all known crime guns and suspected crime guns, as well as all other firearms related evidence is crucial, as loss of any such items may lead to the suppression of the Firearms Examiners expert testimony which may link the firearm related evidence to the defendant(s) or to other cases dependent upon forensic examinations of firearms or firearms related evidence.
- All guns submitted, regardless of circumstances, should be checked in NCIC/FCIC for information regarding its status as being entered as lost or stolen. The status "Clear NCIC/FCIC" or "HIT", with the entering agencies name and case number noted, should be noted for every gun submitted...
- A copy of the teletype confirmation of an NCIC/FCIC "HIT" record should be included within the original case file, working case file, and a copy attached to the Property

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Receipt on which the gun is documented upon submission to the respective agencies Property and Evidence Section.

- When a gun is brought to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory, note on the Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory Property Receipt if the gun is a "stolen recovered gun" or not, the name of the entering agency resulting in the "HIT" and the entering agencies case number. This serves multiple purposes. NOTE: Pertinent information is contained within each entry which may be needed for future reference and may be valuable to an investigation. Once the stolen firearm record is cleared (removed) from NCIC/FCIC, the record will no longer be available, without an arduous off-line search.

Procedures for processing all crime gun related arrests:

- Advise the defendant of his or her Miranda Rights when required.
- The arresting officer should ensure the defendant is fingerprinted if arrested. This will assist in defendant identification at a later date. Whenever possible, if no arrest is made relative to a gun or casing being impounded, a thumb print should be obtained on a notice to appear form, or field interview card/report, if circumstances dictate that a subject will not be transported to a booking facility. Adherence to this process will be of value if a gun is linked to other incidents through NIBIN, latents, or DNA, and when there may be a question as to the true identity of the person encountered and released in the field.
- Request for the defendant to provide a DNA standard. Refusal to cooperate or voluntarily submit a DNA standard should be noted in the report and probable cause affidavit (arrest report.)
- Attempt to obtain a written or taped statement from the defendant, possessor, or associates of possessor, regarding the defendant's or possessor's possession of the firearm; i.e., how the firearm was obtained, when, where and from whom the firearm was obtained. Ask if the defendant or possessor has any prior felony conviction(s). Document all statements by the defendant, whether formal or spontaneous, relating to the firearm and/or criminal record in the police report. Document all refusals by the defendant to provide information relating to the firearm(s). Gun trace results may identify an original retail purchaser. The gun may be an unreported stolen or lost gun or a reported stolen or lost gun when the serial number was not available to the victim/owner to provide to law enforcement when initially reporting.
- Attempt to obtain statements from any witnesses, associates, and accomplices; (i.e., other passengers in a car stop) of the defendant regarding the facts and circumstances of the offense. This assists in establishing the defendant's or possessor's firearm possession, by precluding false alibis by accomplices or associates, claiming ownership of the firearm post arrest.
- Prepare a detailed narrative report as to the circumstances leading to the arrest, or seizing of the firearm, including a complete description of the firearm, make/manufacturer,

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country of origin, importer, model, serial number, caliber, type of gun, status in NCIC/FCIC (stolen or not. Include complete vehicle information, witness/accomplice information, and a listing all officers present at the arrest. If the arrest began with or involved a 9-1-1 call(s), obtain and preserve a copy of the 9-1-1 call(s) and CAD report(s). If the arrest involved a video-taped traffic stop, obtain and preserve a copy of the recorded encounter. If the arrest involves a foot pursuit, fight or struggle which was audio recorded by the communications center, request and preserve a copy of the tape.

- Obtain a criminal history printout for the defendant and ascertain the number and types of prior felony convictions and ascertain the first date of conviction for a felony. It is important to determine the exact date of the first felony conviction, as this date could be an important factor when charging a Convicted Felon with possession of a firearm, particularly if the defendant's DNA is on a gun, and the gun was reported stolen after the exact date of the first felony conviction. Having this information will help in solidify a prosecution for this charge.
- Use the criminal history information, coupled with the defendant's actions for which you made the arrest, to determine which law violations apply and which venue (Federal or State) provides for the maximum possible sentence.
- Casings entered into NIBIN are automatically correlated to other casings and test fired casings from guns impounded and entered NIBIN, via IBIS or BrassTRAX, throughout our NIBIN Region. If the defendant or possessor is from outside our NIBIN Region, which includes Miami Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Indian River Counties, all of which have firearms laboratories, request through the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Firearms Laboratory Manager, (e-mail, telephone call, or document on Property Receipt), for the test fired casing from a known or suspected crime gun to be "manually correlated" in other NIBIN Regions where the subject may have lived or traveled through, or investigative information suggests the gun was fired during the commission of a crime outside our NIBIN Region. By doing this on a case by case basis, will increase the likelihood of inter-jurisdictional crime linkage. This must be requested; it is not done automatically. The areas or regions of correlation can be expanded at any time after entry into NIBIN, but justification must exist. As an example, if an associate or a possessor, or confidential information says, "possessor shot the gun during the commission of any type of crime in Tucson, Arizona," you may request for the test fired casing to be correlated in those NIBIN Regions between South Florida and Tucson, Arizona (essentially the I-10 east to west corridor.) The Firearms Laboratory Firearms Examiners will handle this aspect.

On February 11, 2010 The Law Enforcement Planning Council voted to recommend to the member agencies that they review the revised protocol and implement it in their agencies.