



Impact Report



Comprehensive Gang Model, Fort Pierce, FL
2014-2018

Roundtable of St. Lucie County

This report was prepared by an independent contracted evaluator, Stephanie Strutner, MPH, CPSII. No conflicts of interest have been identified.

Executive Summary

Following a series of deadly shootings in 2013 and 2014, community leaders in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Fort Pierce, FL came together with residents to create the Restoring the Village movement, a grassroots', anti-violence initiative aimed at addressing the city's violent crime problem. From this movement, the **Restoring the Village Youth Initiative (RTVYI)** was launched with the specific goal of reducing and preventing gang activity and related negative outcomes in Fort Pierce.

Theoretically grounded in the *Comprehensive Gang Model*, an evidence-based program developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, RTVYI is a community-wide collaboration involving more than 30 agencies and initially co-managed by the Roundtable of St. Lucie County (the Roundtable), under its Safe Neighborhoods Network, and the Fort Pierce Police Department.

In 2019, the Roundtable and community partners came together to sustain RTVYI, relaunched under its new name, **IGNITE Youth Alliance**, and to expand services to youth (including females) in the entire county of St. Lucie. The program is now solely administered by the Roundtable of St. Lucie County.

Since its inception, IGNITE Youth Alliance, has reached 191 participants through direct programming and 6,837 community members through strategic engagement. By engaging in comprehensive and coordinated strategies as prescribed by the Comprehensive Gang Model, the Roundtable, through RTVYI/IGNITE Youth Alliance has implemented a range of successful interventions that have contributed to significant community-level changes, including reduction in violence and enhancement of the systemic response to gang violence.

The large number of community partners working in concert for a common purpose is a key contributor to the successes and accomplishments of RTVYI/IGNITE Youth Alliance.

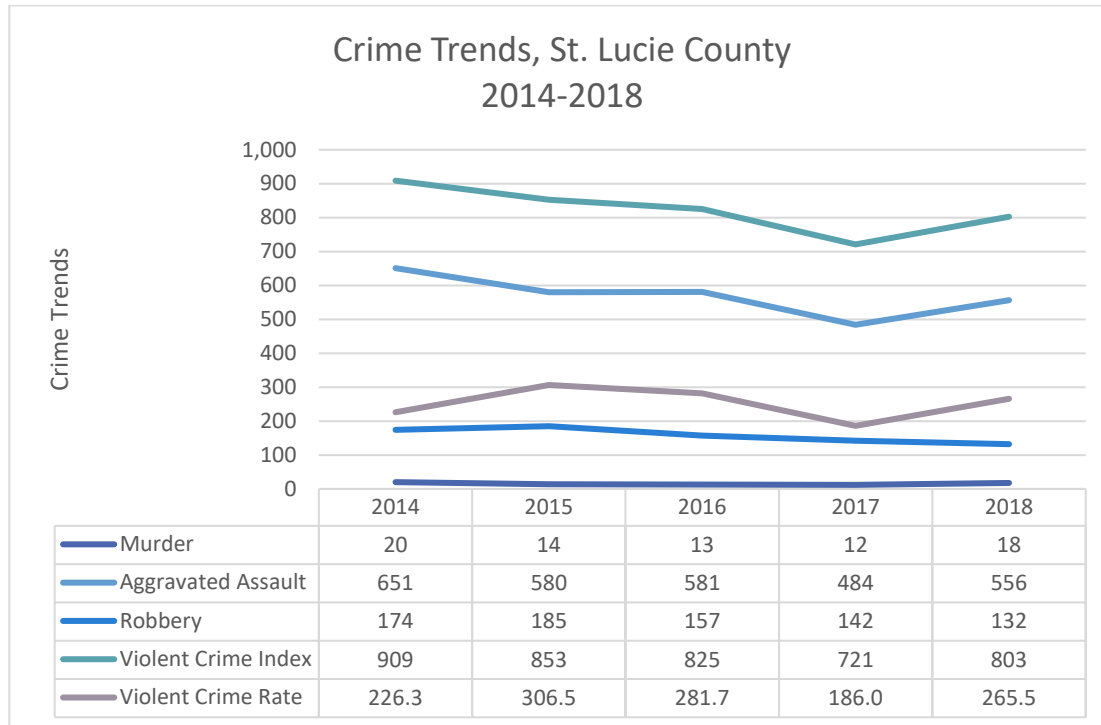
Crime Trends in St. Lucie County

While the population has increased by 6.9% since the project was launched in 2014, the violent crime rate has decreased by 13.4%, (increasing from 226.3 in 2014 to 306.5 in 2015 at the peak and then decreasing to 265.5 in 2018). Number of murders decreased by 10% from the peak



The Rev. William F. Richardson III, of Grace Baptist Church in Port St. Lucie, speaks to a panel of local community leaders during the Community Call to Action: Restoring the Village forum at Lincoln Park Academy on July 31, 2013. Photo credit TC Palm.

in 2014, robberies decreased by 28.7% and aggravated assaults decreased by 14.6%.¹ Program inputs, including efforts to increase community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development have contributed to the positive outcomes in reducing gang involvement within the target population.



Violent crime is assessed by monitoring four offenses consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These crimes are defined to be pervasive in all geographical areas of the country: murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault. Other crimes may be considered violent in nature; however, these crimes have historically been used to monitor violence in the United States. The violent crime rate estimates the number of violent crimes per 100,000 population, and murder, aggravated assault, and robbery identify number of charges. Between 2014 and 2018, this graph illustrates decreases in each of the aforementioned categories.²

¹ Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

² Ibid.

Change in Violent Crime from Peak Year —St. Lucie County, 2014-2018

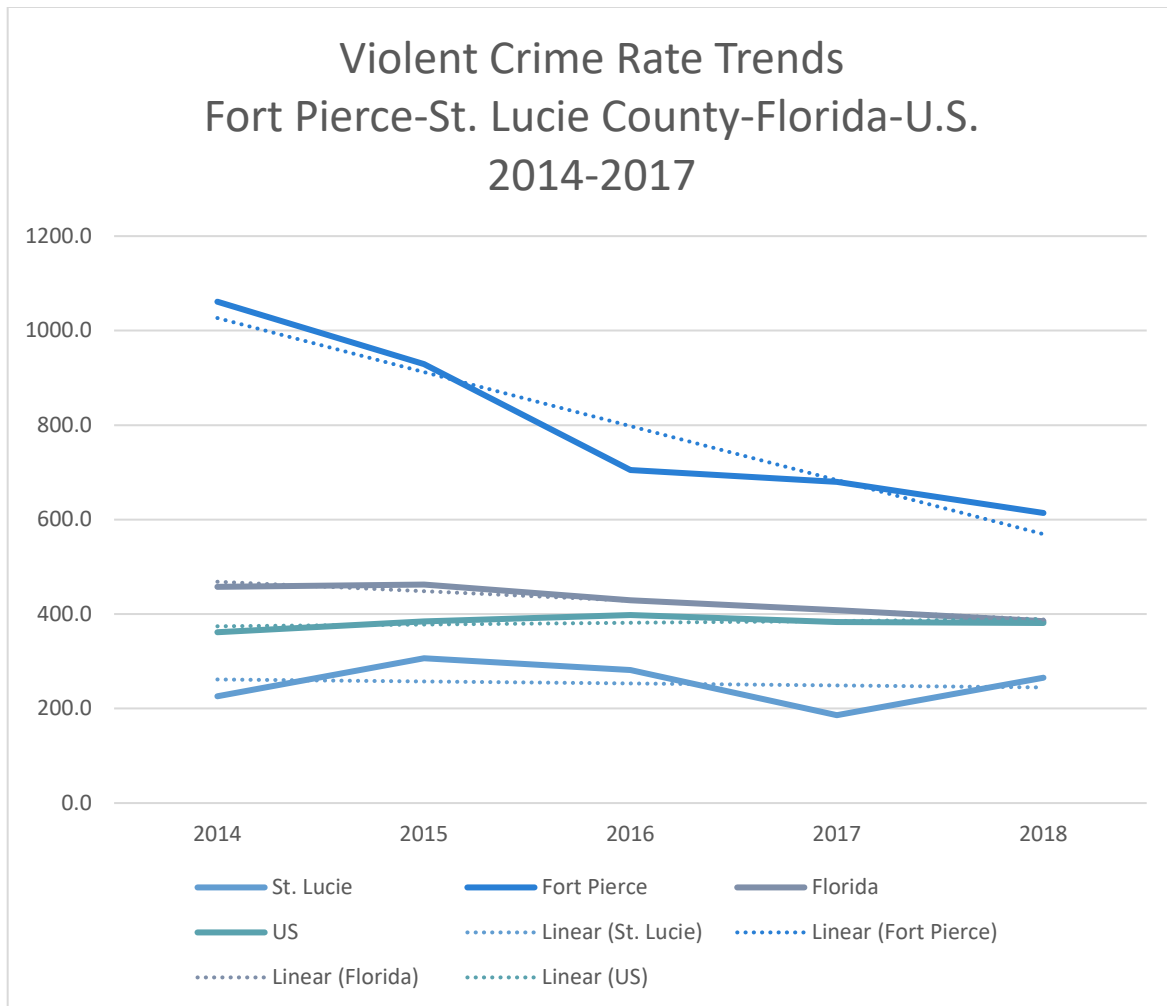
Year	Population	Murder	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total Violent Index Crime	Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population
Change From Peak Year to 2018	+6.93% (change from start year)	-10.00%	-14.59%	-28.65%	-11.66%	-13.38%
Peak Year	2018	2014	2014	2015	2014	2015

Violent Crime Rate Trends—City/County/State/Nation

Violent crime rates have been trending downward in the United States, and in Florida; however, rates in Fort Pierce have decreased at a significantly sharper rate. From its peak in 2015 to 2018, the violent crime rate decreased in the United States by 4.3%, Florida from its peak in 2015 by 16.8%, St. Lucie County from its peak in 2015 by 13.4%, and Fort Pierce by 42.1%.³ Based on the number of violent crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in 2014, Fort Pierce was identified as one of the “Top 100 Most Dangerous Cities” (number 64/100) in the United States by Neighborhood Scout. **By 2018, Fort Pierce had dropped off the “Top 100” list.**⁴

³ Ibid.

⁴ “Top 100 Most Dangerous Cities.” *Neighborhood Scout*. Retrieved 13 November 2019.
<https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/blog/top100dangerous-2018>.



As shown in this graph, the violent crime rate in Fort Pierce has decreased significantly. The linear trend lines show comparisons of the aggregate rates of change in each location (St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce, Florida, United States).²

Violent crime rates by location and year are illustrated in the table below:⁵

Violent Crime Rate	St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	Florida	US
2014	226.3	1061.2	457.8	361.6
2015	306.5	929.3	462.5	384.6
2016	281.7	705.0	429.0	398.0
2017	186.0	680.0	408.0	382.9
2018	265.5	614.0	385.0	381.0
Change from Peak Year	-13.4%	-42.1%	-16.8%	-4.3%
Significance FL	7.0463E-05	0.00553782		0.014922777
Significance US	0.00138978	0.00389085	0.009069237	

Significant decline in St. Lucie at alpha 0.05

Significant decline in Fort Pierce at alpha 0.05

Homicide Rate	St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	Florida	US
2014	7.1	27.7	4.9	4.4
2015	4.9	20.5	5.1	5.0
2016	4.4	15.6	5.4	5.4
2017	4.0	17.5	5.3	5.0
2018	6.0	15.2	5.2	5.0
Change from Peak Year	-31.0%	-45.2%	-3.3%	-7.8%
Significance FL	0.29022673	0.00180208		0.103461118
Significance US	0.21965999	0.00166816	0.103461118	

Significant decline in Fort Pierce at alpha 0.05

⁵Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

Aggravated Assault Rate	St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	Florida	US
2014	230.2	710.5	308.7	229.2
2015	210.6	556.7	315.6	238.1
2016	198.4	462.0	290.0	248.0
2017	162.6	427.0	277.0	249.0
2018	190.0	406.0	261.0	247.0
Change from Peak Year	-17.5%	-42.9%	-17.3%	-0.8%
Significance FL	0.00014819	0.00769626		0.00303947
Significance US	0.00716467	0.00414172	0.00303947	

Significant decline in FL at alpha 0.05

Significant increase in US at alpha 0.05

Significant decline in St. Lucie at alpha 0.05

Significant decline in Fort Pierce at alpha 0.05

Key findings from the impact of this collaborative approach to reducing gang violence include significant declines in St. Lucie County (alpha, 0.05) for the violent crime rate and the number of aggravated assaults from their peak year. Significant declines in Fort Pierce (alpha, 0.05) were also measured for the violent crime rate, homicide rate, and aggravated assault rate. **Given the target population for this gang violence prevention project, data indicates that collaboration among partners involved in the strategic plan implemented utilizing the Comprehensive Gang Model contributed to significant changes in violent crime, homicides, and aggravated assaults in Fort Pierce, Florida.**

Acknowledgements

A number of community members and agencies have been instrumental in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of this project to reduce gang-related violence in St. Lucie County. The Roundtable and IGNITE Youth Alliance would like to thank the agencies that signed agreements to participate in project planning and development, including the City of Fort Pierce; Fort Pierce Police Department; St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office; City of Port St. Lucie; Port St. Lucie Police Department; State Attorney of the 19th Circuit; Public Defender of the 19th Circuit; the 19th Judicial Circuit Courts; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 19th Circuit; Florida Department of Corrections, 19th Circuit; Florida Department of Children and Families; St. Lucie County Public Schools; Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County; Lincoln Park Ministers Association; In the Image of Christ, Inc.; Indian River State College; Florida Department of Health, St. Lucie County; CareerSource Research Coast; Fort Pierce Housing Authority; Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County; St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners; New Horizons of the Treasure Coast; and the Drug Abuse Treatment Association.

We are also indebted to the knowledgeable experts from the National Gang Center that have provided invaluable technical assistance, resources, materials and training to help us navigate issues such as hiring, training, establishing clear policies and procedures on information sharing, client services, personnel matters, and assessment/evaluation of client services and impact.

In addition to these partner agencies, a number of funders collaborated to make operations possible. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Children's Services Council (also MOU signatory), Allegany Franciscan Ministries, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners (also MOU signatory), Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Fort Pierce Housing Authority (also MOU signatory), Andrew and Robin Hunt Philanthropic Fund, Community Foundation of Martin and St. Lucie, Private Donor (Anonymous), and the Roundtable of St. Lucie County Board.

Other agencies that provide direct services to program clients have been critical and operations could not have gone forward without Communities Connected for Kids, LifeBuilders of the Treasure Coast, St. Lucie Regional Detention Center, United Against Poverty, St. Lucie County, GraceWay Village, Project L.I.F.T., Project Rock, Project Bridge, Sword Outreach Mentoring Center, Multicultural Resource Center, Sequel Care of Florida, Henderson Behavioral Health, Chrysalis Health, Employ U, Families of the Treasure Coast, Florida Rural Legal Services, and Fort Pierce Women's Club.

Contents

Executive Summary	i-vi
Acknowledgements	vii
Contents	viii
Program Overview	x-xii
Methodology	1-3
Scope of the Problem	4-20
Target Population	21-22
Community Mobilization	23-24
Opportunities Provision	25-26
Social Intervention	27-29
Suppression	30-31
Organizational Change and Development	32-34
Community Impact	34-47
Program Contacts	48-49
Appendix I: Data Tables	50-57
Appendix II: Target Geographical Area	58

Program Overview

IGNITE Youth Alliance, (formerly known as the Restoring the Village Youth Initiative, and going forward referred to as IGNITE Youth Alliance), implements the best practice program, the Comprehensive Gang Model, developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a cooperative agreement between the Office of Justice Programs and the United States Department of Justice.

Drawing on the principle of social disorganization as the basic stimulus for gang involvement, the Comprehensive Gang Model incorporates five areas of focus shown to be effective at suppressing and preventing gang involvement and gang-related violence and crime. The five strategies include:

- 1) community mobilization,
- 2) opportunities provision,
- 3) social intervention,
- 4) suppression, and
- 5) organizational change and development.

Community mobilization is the involvement of local citizens, including former gang members, community groups, and agencies, and the coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies. *Opportunities provision* includes the development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs, targeted at gang-involved youth.

Social intervention strategies involve the deployment of Street Outreach Workers who serve as an integral part of an inter-agency, and multi-disciplinary team of providers or “Intervention Team” to link gang-involved youth and their families to needed support and services. *Suppression* involves both 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. *Organizational Change and Development* shapes policies and procedures to make the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies to better address gang-related problems.⁶

In 2014, the Roundtable tasked its violence and delinquency subcommittee, the Safe Neighborhoods Network (SNN), with conducting a community-wide gang assessment and



Exhibit 1: The Five Core Strategies of the Comprehensive Gang Model

⁶OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model: Planning for Implementation. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; May 2009.

overseeing the implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM) in Fort Pierce. The Safe Neighborhoods Network includes representatives from organizations throughout the county with a vested interest in reducing violence in Fort Pierce.¹

To ensure that CGM was designed and implemented in alignment with the needs and desires of the Lincoln Park community, (the original target area), the Roundtable also convened the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC), as a sub-committee that included formal and informal leaders of the Lincoln Park area whose social or professional position, history of commitment to community activities, and role in neighborhood based organizations helps shape the attitudes and behaviors of key segments of Lincoln Park.

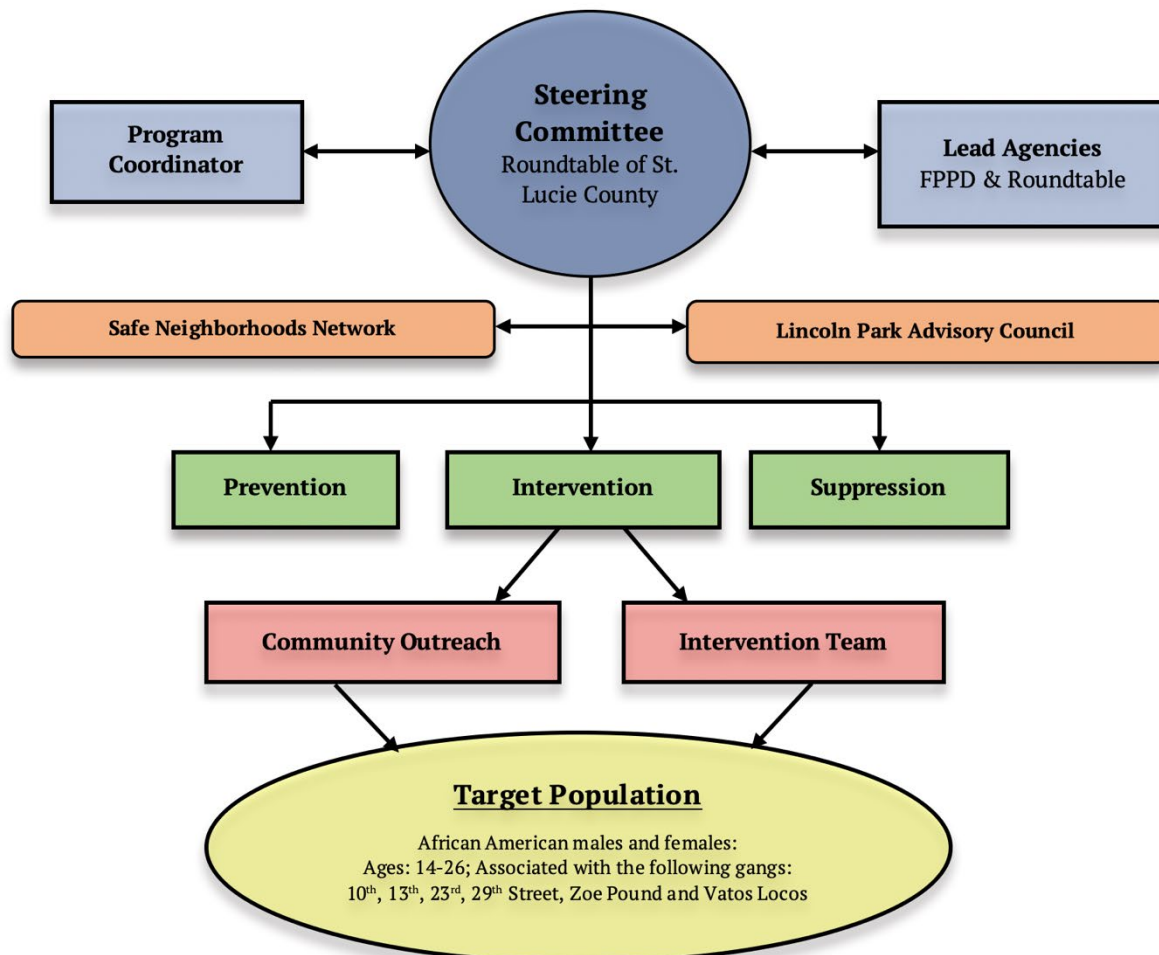
The membership of SNN and LPAC was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding outlining each agency's commitment to collaborate on implementing the Comprehensive Gang Model.

These original organizations were:

1. Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.
2. City of Fort Pierce/Fort Pierce Police Department
3. St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
4. City of Port St. Lucie/Port St. Lucie Police Department
5. State Attorney of the 19th Circuit
6. Public Defender of the 19th Circuit
7. 19th Judicial Circuit Courts
8. Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 19th Circuit
9. Florida Department of Corrections, 19th Circuit
10. Florida Department of Children and Families
11. St. Lucie County Public Schools
12. Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County
13. Fort Pierce Police Athletic Club – (no longer in existence)
14. Lincoln Park Ministers Association
15. In the Image of Christ, Inc.
16. Indian River State College
17. Florida Department of Health, St. Lucie County
18. CareerSource Research Coast
19. Fort Pierce Housing Authority
20. Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County
21. St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
22. New Horizons of the Treasure Coast
23. Drug Abuse Treatment Association

The role of the Safe Neighborhoods Network is to serve as the program steering committee. Comprised of local decision-makers in key agencies - the Fort Pierce Police Department (FPPD), St. Lucie County School Board, St. Lucie County Health Department, Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Department of Juvenile Justice, United States Attorney's Office, State Attorney's Office, and community leaders - that could affect organizational change within their own agencies. Network members met bi-monthly to conduct an assessment of the local gang problem, ensure the community was engaged throughout the entire process, crafted a comprehensive anti-gang strategy for Fort Pierce, conducted ongoing monitoring and evaluation, established policy for the project, and leveraged local, state, and federal resources, including grant funds, to support program activities. The Safe Neighborhoods Network created the Comprehensive Gang Model strategy which served as the city's youth violence prevention plan.

Exhibit 2: Program Organizational Structure



Methodology

Protected participant files are kept electronically in the IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System. Primary data from the IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System was used, in addition to secondary data, including indicators on:

Community Mobilization

- People reached
- People trained
- Advisory council meetings
- Participants in positive-alternative activities
- Outreach activities/community events

Opportunities Provision

- Job placements
- On-the-job training
- Participant encounters (paid internships, career coaching, educational opportunities, employment assistance, transportation to work)
- Community service opportunities

Social Intervention

- Participant referrals
- Outreach Worker client contact hours
- Number of clients linked to mentoring opportunities through Outreach Workers
- Pro-social mentoring opportunities
- Link to services
 - Physical exams
 - Treatment/ counseling for participant
 - Treatment/ counseling for family
 - Tutoring
 - Trauma therapy
 - Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- Individual assistance for independence



Suppression

- Officers trained
- Multi-agency operations
- Firearms seizures
- Arrests
- Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring Program (JAM) checks
- Resident fear of gang activity
- Perceived safety
- Perceived police-community relations
- Intervene in conflict

Organizational Change

- Surveys collected
- Perception of gang violence as a problem
- Community meetings/presentations/trainings/forums
- People reached
- Funding leveraged
- Collaborating agencies
- Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
- Organizational structure (multi-disciplinary team, Project Coordinator, Outreach Workers, Lincoln Park Advisory Council, Safe Neighborhoods Network)
- Enact community changes

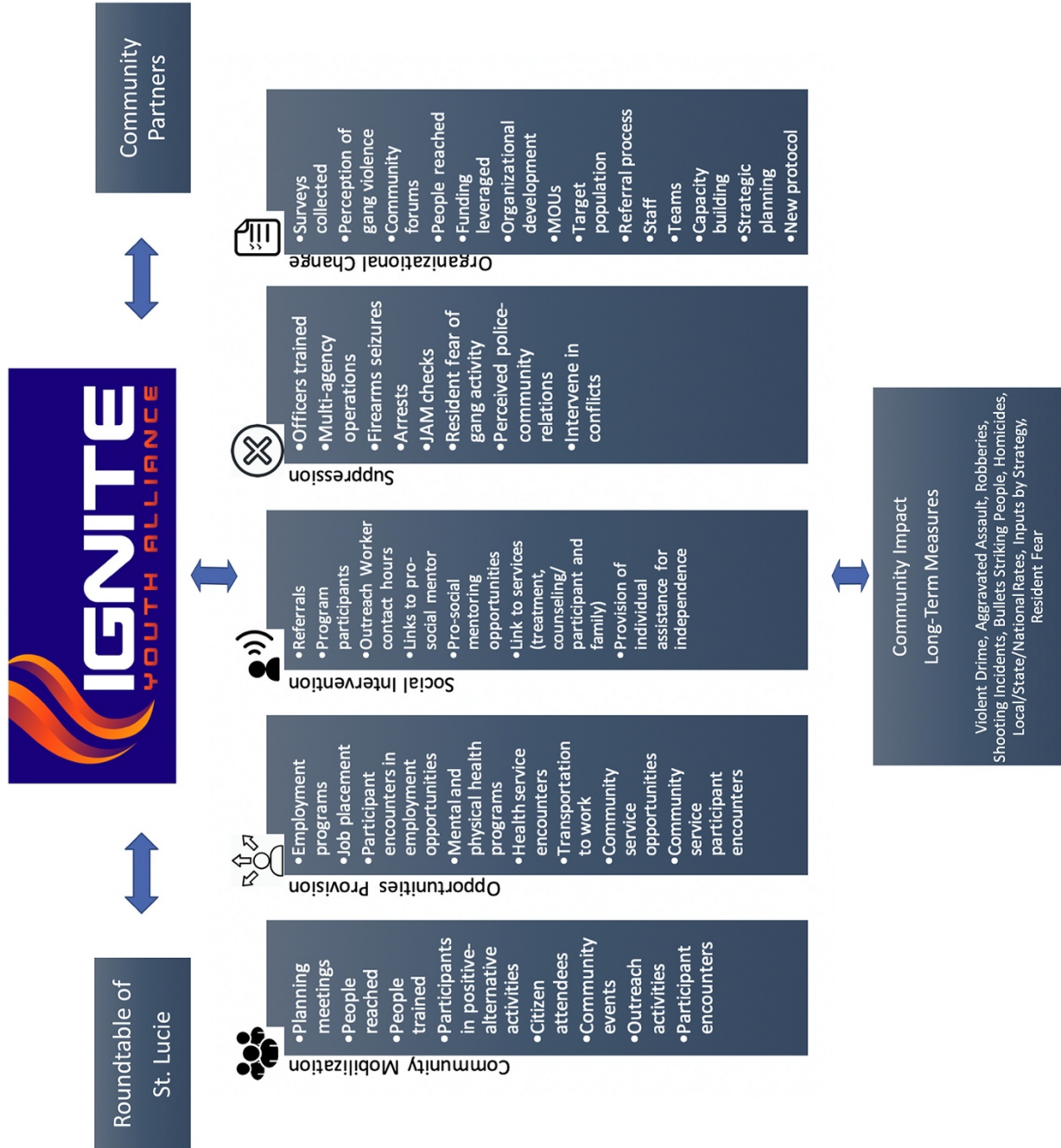
Strategies are measured by short-term and intermediate outcome measures, which result in larger scale long-term community impact, illustrated by Exhibit 3.

Limitations

As with any community impact evaluation, in addition to programs offered through this funded project, program participants are also exposed to additional community risk and protective factors. For this reason, this evaluation measures contribution and does not make any attempt to articulate direct attribution.

Indicators contained within the Uniform Crime Report changed in the way they were reported between 2016 and 2017; in 2017, some indicators were no longer available for the local jurisdiction and are otherwise reported as statewide figures. In that case, data are identified as “not available.” Furthermore, as any program begins, there is likely to be a peak in the indicator, followed by a decline. In these instances, change has been measured from the year the indicator reached its maximum level before declining.

Exhibit 3: Methodology Flow Chart



Scope of the Problem

Historically, Fort Pierce has suffered from disproportionate levels of crime, particularly violent crime, when compared to other jurisdictions nationwide. A significant amount of this violent crime is directly attributable to gun violence driven by youth gangs. In 2014, the violent crime rate in Fort Pierce was 1,061 incidents per 100,000 residents compared to rates of 466.8 in Florida and 365 nationwide. The homicide rate in Fort Pierce was 29 incidents per 100,000 compared to 5.8 in Florida and 4.5 nationwide. The rate of aggravated assaults in Fort Pierce was 735 per 100,000 residents, compared to rates of 366 in Florida and 232 nationwide.⁷ In September 2014, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) ranked Fort Pierce ninth on the list of Florida's most dangerous cities. This ranking was higher than the ranking given to the cities of Miami, Tampa, Tallahassee, and Riviera Beach.⁸

LOCATION	RATE OF VIOLENT CRIME
<i>FORT PIERCE</i>	1,061.0/100,000
<i>FLORIDA</i>	466.8/100,000
<i>U.S.</i>	365.0/100,000

Gang violence disproportionately impacts 23% of the city's population (approximately 9,961 residents) who reside in a three-square mile area in the northwest section of the city known as Lincoln Park (U.S. Census Tracts 3802 and 3803). In 2013, 80% of verified shooting incidents city-wide occurred in this area (Exhibit 4) and 46% of verified shooting incidents city-wide occurred in six hotspots identified within the target neighborhood (Exhibit 5). In 2013, 44% of the city's violent crime occurred in Lincoln Park, including 57% of murders, 18% of forcible sex offenses, 34% of robberies, and 49% of aggravated assaults. There are small pockets, or "hot spot" areas, in Lincoln Park where the violence is even more staggering. In 2013, a third of the city's violent crime occurred in an area of Lincoln Park encompassing ten street blocks. These ten street blocks had a violent crime rate that was 1.9 times higher than Fort Pierce as a whole, 6.2 times higher than St. Lucie County, 5.1 times higher than Florida, and 6.5 times higher than the national average.⁹

⁷2014 FBI Report of Offenses Known to Law Enforcement (fbi.gov); Florida Statistical Analysis Center: FDLE (2014), Florida Uniform Crime Report.

⁸ 20 Most dangerous Cities in Florida (2012) Home Security Shield.org. Accessed August 17, 2020. www.Homesecurityshield.org/news/most-dangerous-cities-in-florida.

⁹ Fort Pierce Police Department Report: 2013 Verified Shooting Incidents in Fort Pierce.

Exhibit 4 - Verified Shooting Incidents – Fort Pierce Police Department, 2013.¹⁰

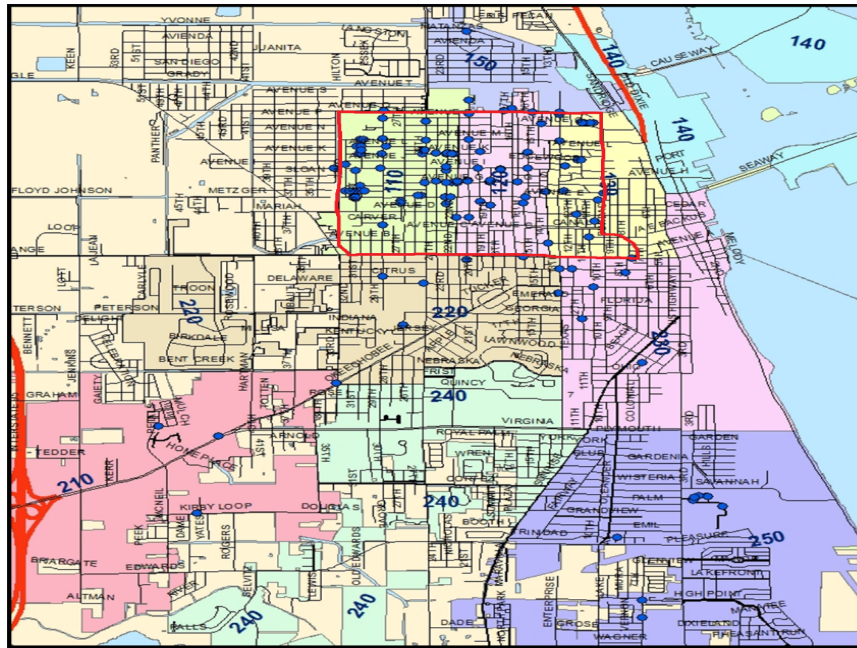
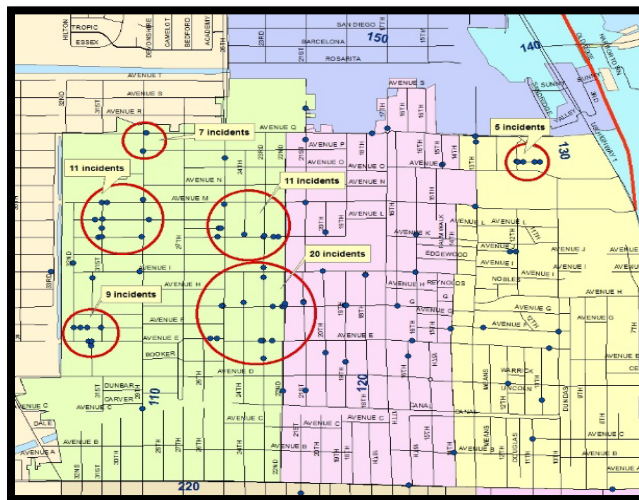


Exhibit 5 - Cluster Map, Verified Shooting Incidents – Fort Pierce Police Department, 2013.¹¹



Clustered Incidents	% of Total
20	14.71
11	8.09
11	8.00
9	6.62
7	5.15
5	3.68
63	46.25

46% of the verified shooting incidents that occurred city-wide in 2013 happened within the 6 identified clusters.

¹⁰ Fort Pierce Police Department Record Management System.

¹¹ Ibid.

Lincoln Park has a racial and ethnic composition of 91% African American, 9% White, and 6% Hispanic/Latino. Of these residents, 55% of families and 75% of children are at or below the federal poverty line: 33% of families are single parent homes headed by females, and 95% of these female-headed households are at or below the federal poverty level. Forty percent (40%) of residents age 25 and older never graduated high school. Transportation is a barrier to service delivery and stable employment as 27% of households do not own a vehicle. Substandard housing conditions, overcrowding, blight, and lack of affordable housing also plague this neighborhood¹²: 70% of housing units are renter-occupied and 26% are vacant or abandoned.¹³ Lincoln Park also suffers from high rates of death due to homicide, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS.¹⁴

In 2014, the birth rate to mothers ages 15-19 in St. Lucie County was 20.7 per 1,000 live births and had the highest African American infant death rate at 18.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.¹⁵

Contributing Factors

In 2014, the violent crime rate for Fort Pierce was 132% higher than that of the state of Florida and 193% higher than that of the national violent crime rate. The homicide rate in Fort Pierce was almost three times higher than the state and national levels. Aggravated assaults in Fort Pierce were 130% higher than Florida and 210% higher than the national rate.

Prevalence of Gangs and Gang Activity

Fort Pierce typically has a higher percentage of gang-involved crimes than neighboring jurisdictions, with the most common gang-involved crimes being aggravated assaults, which includes shooting incidents. For purposes of this report, “gang-involved” activity is identified as any criminal activity perpetrated by an individual who has been documented as a gang member or gang associate.

In 2013, Fort Pierce Police Department (FPPD) crime analysts reported 515 gang members and associates operating in Fort Pierce. Of these, 264 live within Fort Pierce city limits and their residences are clustered around hot spots of violent crime in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. The majority are male (98%), African American (93%), and between 14-24 years old (68%).¹²

There were twenty-one (21) documented gangs with three (3) or more members in St. Lucie County associated with gang-involved activity in 2013.¹⁶ Eleven out of the 21 documented gangs were involved in violent criminal activity within St. Lucie County. Seventy-two percent (72%) or eight (8) of the gangs involved in violent crime are located within the City of Fort Pierce and were responsible for 9% of the violent crime within the City of Fort Pierce. Exhibit 6 shows an overview of the gangs involved in violent crime:

¹² City of Fort Pierce Amended Consolidated Plan 2011-2015.

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; Florida Charts Interactive Community Map.

¹⁶ According to Florida Statute 874.03 “Criminal gang” means a formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group that has as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal or delinquent acts, and that consists of three or more persons who have a common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols, including, but not limited to, terrorist organizations and hate groups.”

Source: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0800-0899/0874/Sections/0874.03.html. Accessed on August 17, 2020.

Exhibit 6 – Gangs Involved in Violent Crime 2013¹⁷

Gangs involved in Violent Crime in 2013	
Gang Name	Jurisdiction
10TH ST	Fort Pierce
13TH ST	Fort Pierce
23RD ST	Fort Pierce
29TH ST	Fort Pierce
AECT/GTG/LOWLIFE	Port St Lucie
BLOODS	Fort Pierce
ISLAND BOYS CLAN	Unincorporated
LATIN KING	Port St Lucie
NTG - BLOODS	Fort Pierce
VATOS LOCOS	Fort Pierce
ZOE POUND	Fort Pierce

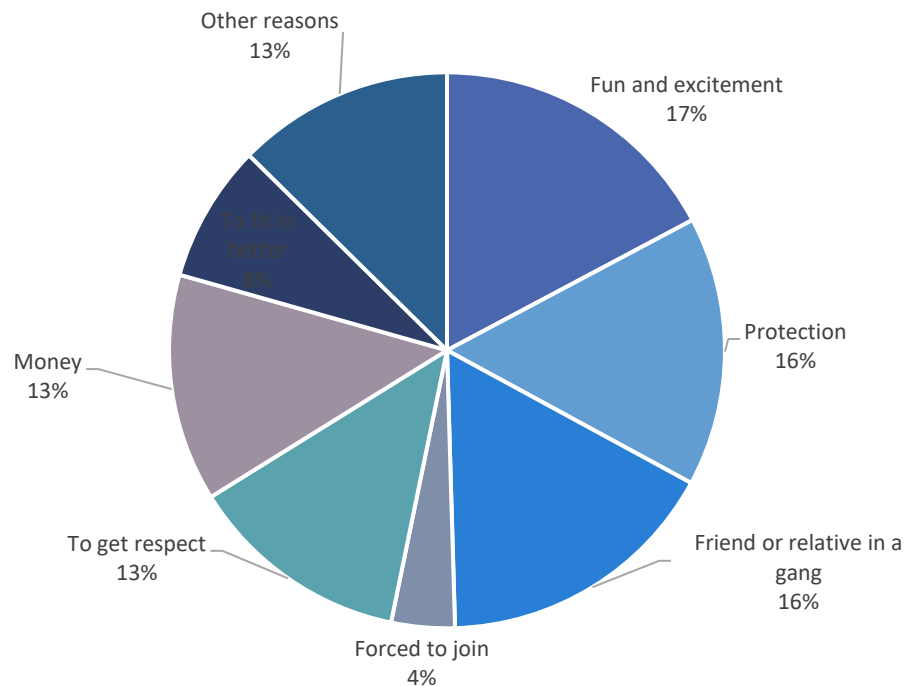
Unlike gangs whose organizations are based upon collective criminal enterprises such as drugs, firearms or prostitution, gangs in Lincoln Park are typically loosely organized groups of youth who associate with one another for protection based upon the neighborhood they are born and grew up in. They often commit crimes together, and some have an initiation process while others do not. The violence between these gangs is often sparked by some type of perceived insult followed by retaliation, and the shootings are often to gain “respect” by promoting widespread fear and terror among rival gangs and residents. The shootings are largely the result of “beefs” between rival gang members living in various pockets of Lincoln Park.

According to the 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, “fun and excitement” is the predominant reason St. Lucie County adolescents join a gang.¹⁸ (This measure was added in 2016 as a baseline in response to the need identified in the 2014 survey.)

¹⁷ *Rebuilding the Village: St. Lucie County Comprehensive Gang Model* (2014). Preliminary report on gang activity prepared by Fort Pierce Police Department.

¹⁸ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Florida Department of Families for St. Lucie County; 2016.

Exhibit 7 - Reasons Adolescents Join Gangs, High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2016¹⁹



As part of a comprehensive effort to assess the nature and scope of the gang problem in Fort Pierce, between July 2014 to February 2015, the Lincoln Park Advisory Council members conducted surveys, focus groups, and interviews with over 1,000 community residents and stakeholders to gather insight into the gang problem in Lincoln Park. Surveys revealed that Lincoln Park residents and stakeholders agreed gangs existed in the community. Gang activity ranked as the top community concern among residents.²⁰

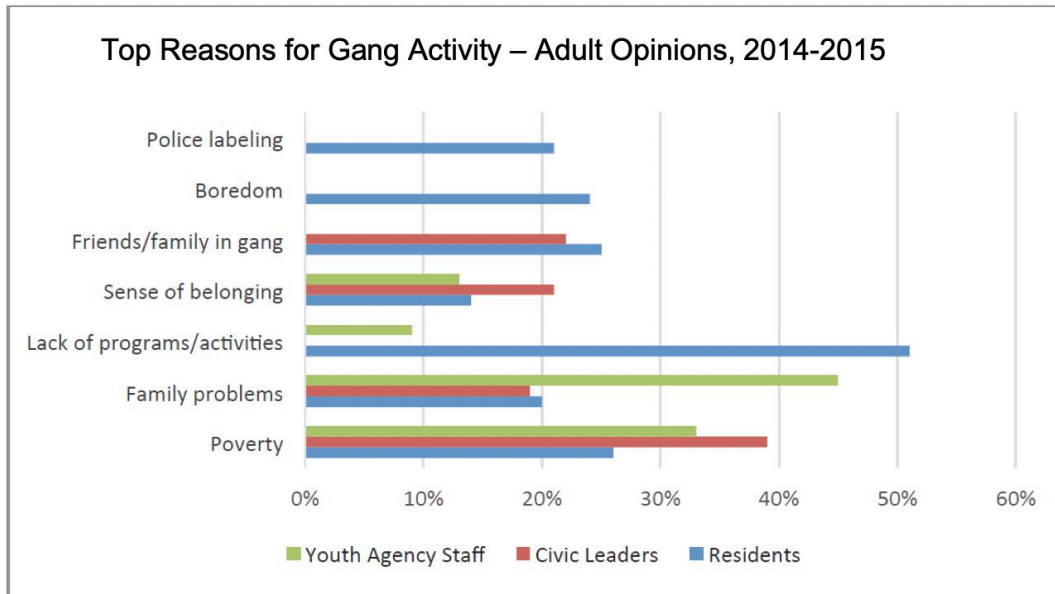
- 77% of Lincoln Park residents said gangs existed in their community
- 93% of Lincoln Park community leaders said gangs existed in their community
- 86% of Lincoln Park youth-serving agency staff said gangs existed in their community

The survey asked adults to list the top reasons why they thought youth joined gangs (Exhibit 8).

¹⁹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Florida Department of Families for St. Lucie County; 2016.

²⁰ *Restoring the Village Youth Initiative Comprehensive Gang Assessment*. A Report from the Safe Neighborhoods Network and Lincoln Park Advisory Committee of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County. (2016). Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, FL.

Exhibit 8 – Top Reasons for Gang Activity, Adult Opinions



Residents were more likely to externalize the problem, attributing reasons to factors outside of the home such as lack of programs and activities, while youth serving organizations largely attributed the issue to family problems at home. Civic leaders recognized poverty as a leading reason youth joined a gang.

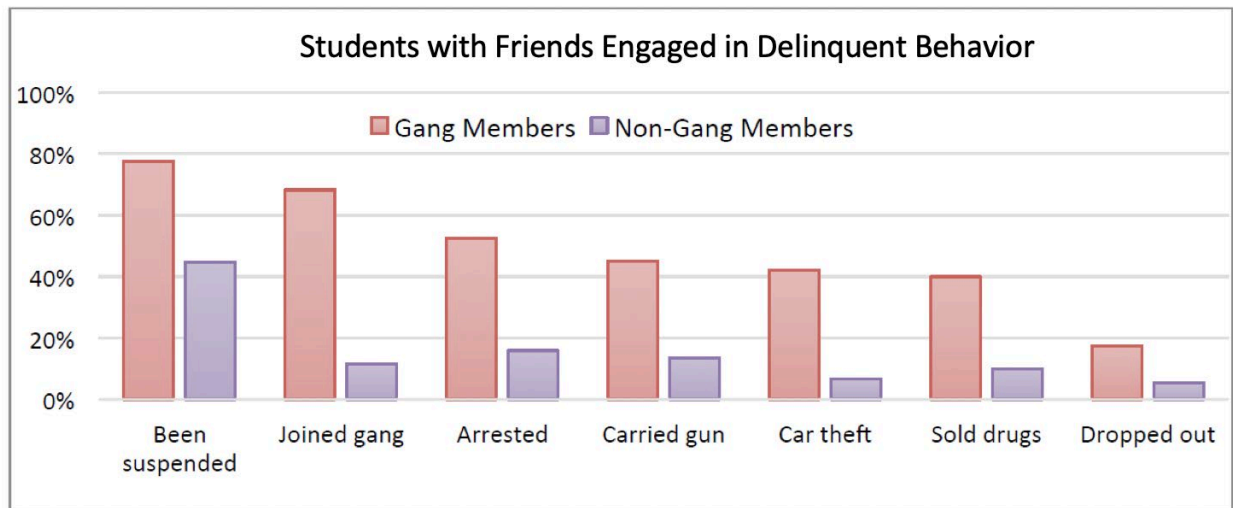
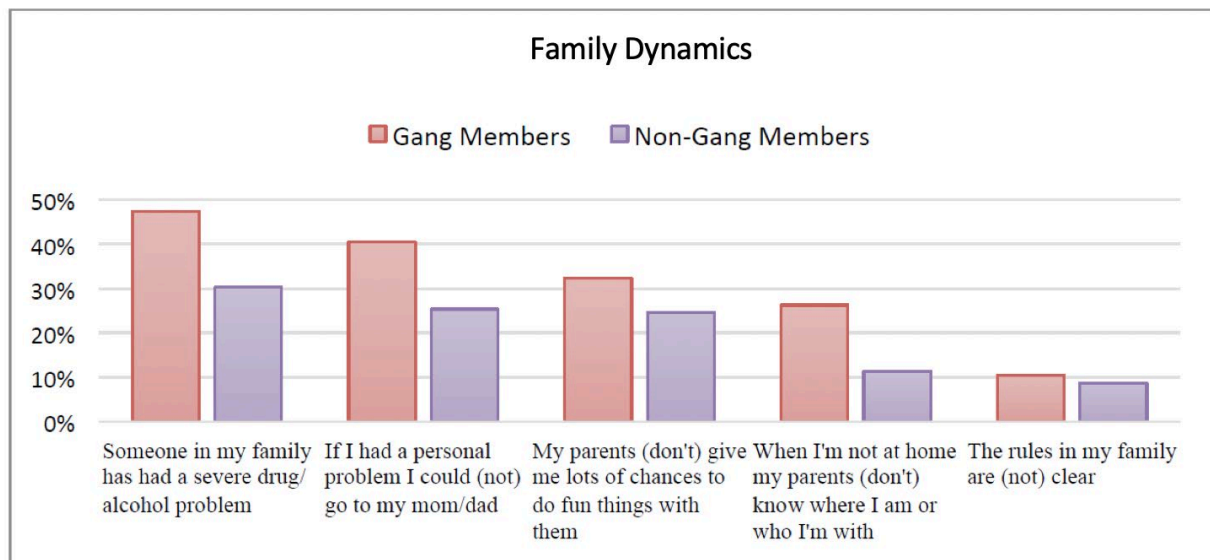
Student surveys were very clear about the existence of gangs in the community. A survey of students in 2015,²¹ mostly 8th and 9th graders at Dan McCarty Middle and Westwood High Schools,²² showed 63% knew of gang activity in the community. Moreover, 16% had friends who carried a handgun; 12% had friends who sold drugs; 8% had friends who had tried to steal a vehicle; 8% had friends who had been arrested; 14% had friends who were gang members; 25% had attacked someone with the idea to seriously harm them (7% of these said before the age of 10); and 35% believed gangs were present in their schools.

The student surveys also provide valuable insight into the perceptions of youth involved in gangs. Although not a statistically significant sample, at least 41 of the 623 students surveyed (6.5%) self-identified as gang members. Interestingly,

- Most joined gangs between the ages of 12-15 years, but 4 of them joined at age 10 or younger. They were more likely to have friends involved in delinquent behaviors (see Exhibit 9).
- They were more than twice as likely than their peers who were not gang-involved to say it was easy to obtain a handgun.
- They were more likely to come from families with challenges (see Exhibit 10).

²¹ Survey by Roundtable staff of 639 students; data analysis by C. Noel Huff, Keiser University.

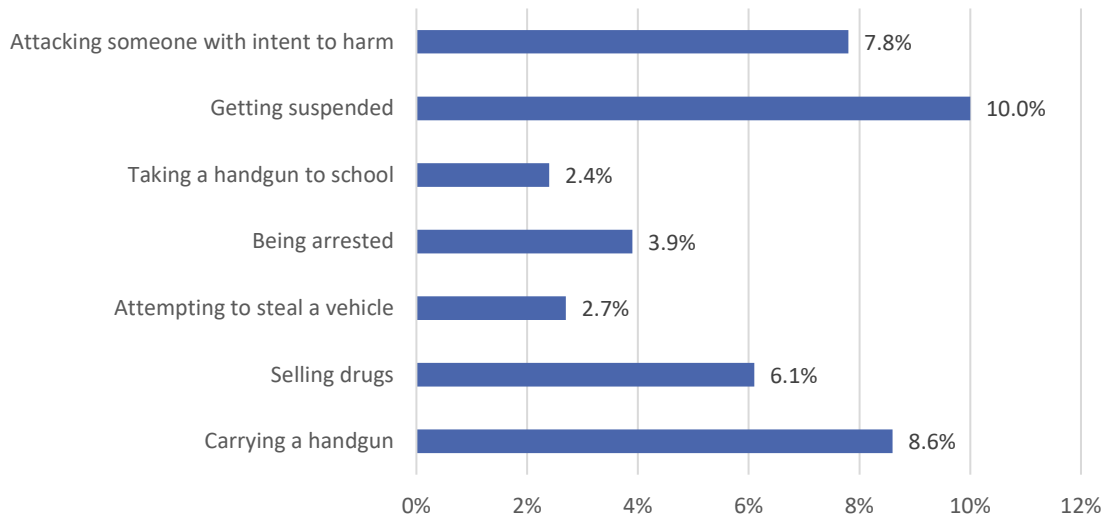
²² Dan McCarty and Westwood are two schools serving students in the green zone of St. Lucie Public Schools, which encompasses Lincoln Park and other areas in Fort Pierce.

Exhibit 9 – Students with Friends Engaged in Delinquent Behavior**Exhibit 10 – Family Dynamics****Engagement with Delinquent Behavior**

Data from the 2014 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (illustrated below) reveal that 8.6% of (all) high school students (surveyed) carried a handgun and 2.4% took a handgun to school in a 30-day period. In addition, 6.1% sold drugs, 2.7% attempted to steal a vehicle, 3.9% were arrested, 10% were suspended from school, and 7.8% attacked someone with the intent to cause harm.²³

²³ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Florida Department of Families for St. Lucie County; 2014, 2016, 2018.

FYSAS Delinquent Behavior High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014

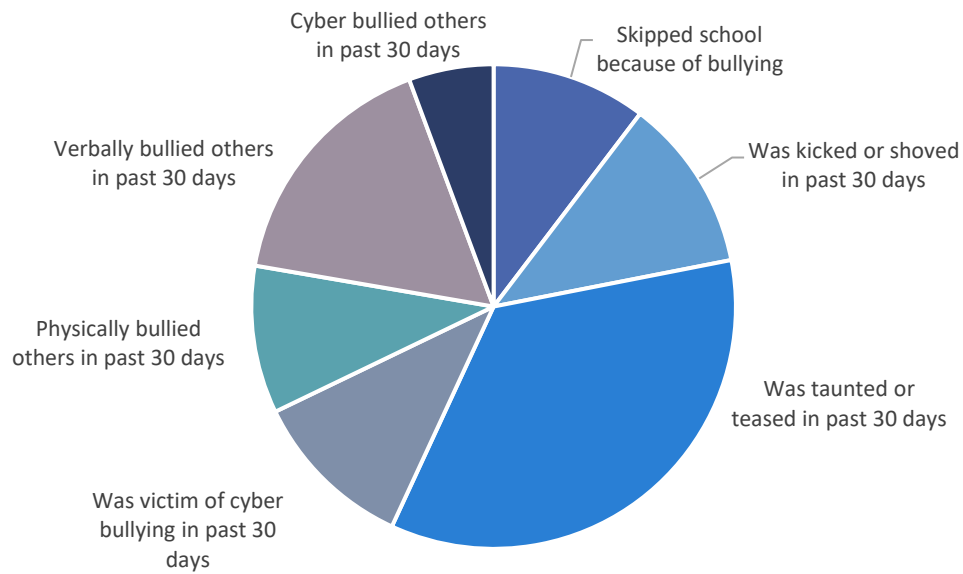


Involvement with Bullying

Bullying baseline data became available for the first time through the 2014 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Data from this survey shows that 8% of high school students skipped school due to bullying. Another 9% were kicked or shoved in the 30 days prior to the survey, 28% were taunted, 9% experienced cyber bullying, 8% were physically bullied, 14% verbally bullied others, and 5% cyber bullied others.²⁴

²⁴ Ibid.

FYSAS Bullying High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014



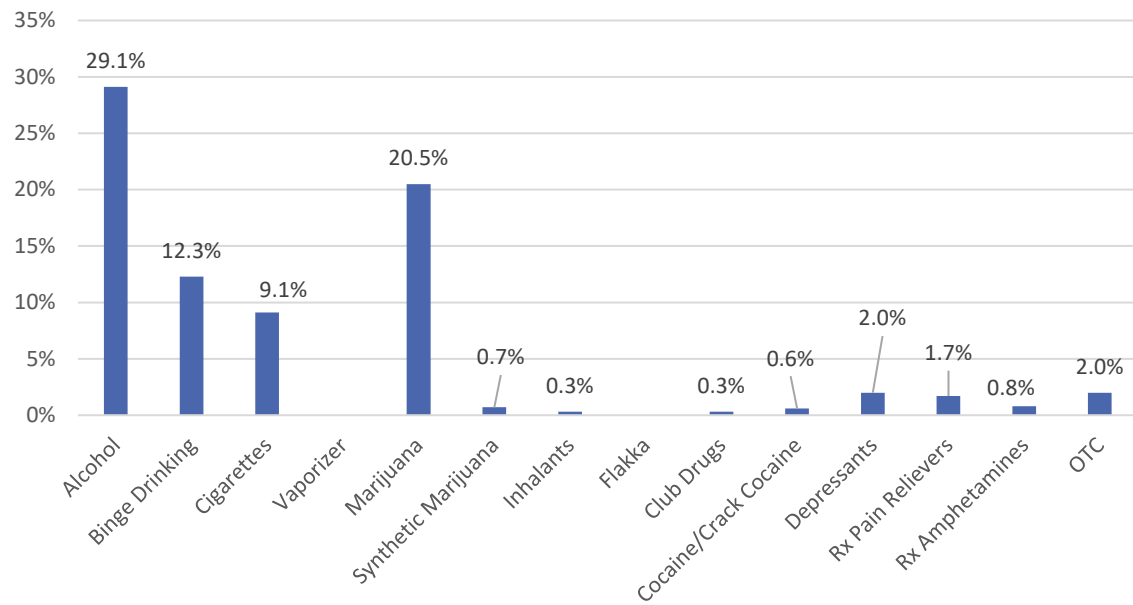
*Respondents could select multiple answers; totals may not equal 100%. Chart totals measure total survey respondents to display values.

Substance Misuse

Many students who misuse substances are poly-drug users. Thirty-six percent (35.9%) of high school students report combined alcohol or illicit drug use. In the 2014 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, alcohol (29.1%) ranked as the most widely used substance among high school students in St. Lucie County, followed by marijuana (20.5%).²⁵

²⁵ Ibid.

30-Day Prevalence of Use High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014



Trauma and Victimization

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gang violence threatens the health and safety of many communities, especially low-income urban areas, as minority youth are disproportionately involved as both victims and perpetrators. Nationwide, homicide is the leading cause of death for African American youth ages 15 to 24.²⁶ The impact of violence on youth is significant. According to Wallen et al. (1997), observing acts of violence or living in fear of neighborhood violence negatively affects children's mental health and psychological development.²⁷ Youth exposure to victimization is directly linked to negative outcomes for young people, including increased depression, poor mental and physical health, substance misuse, risky sexual behavior, homelessness, and poor school performance. Youth victimization increases the odds of becoming a perpetrator of violent crimes, including felony assault and intimate partner violence, doubles the likelihood of problematic drug use, and increases the odds of committing property crimes.²⁸ Repeated exposure to community violence is also linked to impaired intellectual development and school problems, underdeveloped or developmentally immature moral judgment and insensitivity or indifference to danger.

Youth often join gangs due to extreme maltreatment, adversity and abuse they experience as children, often as a means of protecting themselves or providing for their families. The stories of program clients illustrate this point. One client shared that growing up his mother regularly hit him and his brothers with a brick until they passed out in a bloody pulp on the floor. Another client, whose parents are both incarcerated for 10-15 years, was raped, and sexually abused while

²⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Violence Facts at a Glance, 2012: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention.

²⁷ Wallen J., Rubin and Jacqueline Wallen. *The Role of the Family in Mediating the Effects of Community Violence on Children*. Aggression and Violent Behavior 1997;2(1):33041.

²⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Violence Facts at a Glance, 2012: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention

in foster care. Yet another client, whose father is incarcerated and mother is a life-long substance abuser, told of his family being evicted from their place of residence three times in six months, while his mother encouraged him to sell drugs to bring money home. Another 15-year old, whose mother is unable to provide for him, lives with other relatives who push him to engage in criminal conduct and “be a man” to take care of his mom. He never knew who his father was until one day, while driving through the neighborhood, his mom casually pointed out a disheveled man having a psychotic episode and said, “That’s your dad.” Another client sells drugs because his father is unable to feed and clothe him and his sisters due to a gambling addiction. Although he is involved with a variety of community agencies, it was only when an Outreach Worker went into the house that these agencies learned the boy did not even have a bed to sleep in.

Exposure to community violence and trauma is also prevalent in the target area. In December 2014, a sixteen-year-old was arrested for opening fire on a group of children and teens attending a three-year-old’s birthday party.²⁹ In April 2015, a two-year-old was killed by a stray bullet fired into her home while she was sleeping.³⁰ In May 2015, an eighteen-year-old was shot in broad daylight in front of the library in Lincoln Park.³¹ Many of the shootings remain unsolved and the residents experience widespread fear, intimidation and terror as a result.

Because they fear retaliation from gangs, Lincoln Park residents are extremely reluctant to provide information to law enforcement. Focus groups with 200 teens and 50 parents in 2015 demonstrated that the “snitches get stitches” mentality is very prevalent. Several residents said they had personal knowledge of others being harmed because they provided information to law enforcement, and most residents did not feel law enforcement was able to protect them from retaliation. An audit of Fort Pierce Police Department police reports revealed a report in which the reporting officer was interviewing a thirteen-year-old gang associate who was being forthcoming about what he observed when the mother told him to “shut up.” In another report, a gang associate referred to the “code of the street” that prevents rival gang members from telling on each other even when a victim knows who shot him.³² Indeed, as recently as March 2016, a gunshot victim treated at the hospital blatantly refused to tell law enforcement who shot him.³³ The effect of this atmosphere on residents, particularly youth, is stark. In one focus group, Lincoln Park teens wrote the following sentiments on posters when asked to describe their community:

- People are starting to think the violence is ok.
- We feel like we are living in a dump.
- The violence makes us worry about our family and friends.
- If you snitch they are going to come after you.
- The violence makes us feel stupid, scared, and makes us want to fight.
- The violence makes us feel like we can’t go nowhere.
- The violence makes us wonder who will be next.
- It makes us feel like black people are targets.

²⁹ <http://www.wptv.com/news/region-st-lucie-county/fort-pierce/16-year-old-charged-in-saturday-fort-pierce-shooting>

³⁰ <http://www.wptv.com/news/region-st-lucie-county/fort-pierce/makeila-burkes-fort-pierce-girl-2-dies-from-shooting-injuries>

³¹ <http://www.wpbfl.com/news/man-18-killed-in-shooting-near-st-lucie-county-library/32873776>

³² Courtoy, Steve. Audit of Gang Violence Report. Fort Pierce Police Department. September 2015: p.1.

³³ <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/crime/st-lucie-county/birthday-party-shooter-in-2014-incident-shot-in-leg-in-fort-pierce-2f47b972-2530-4cf6-e053-0100007f9-374026791.html>

- We never know if we will make it another day.
- Our community is breaking apart.
- Everyone is in fear.
- The violence causes people to stay in their homes.
- We are learning to be isolated when we should not have to be isolated.

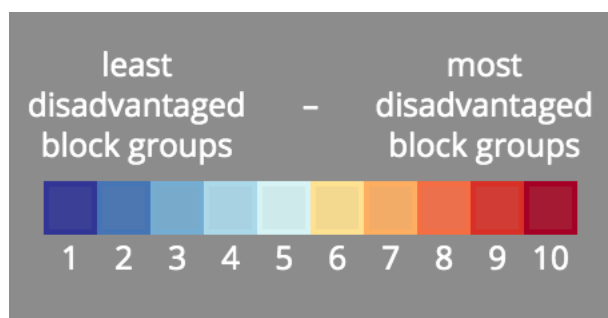
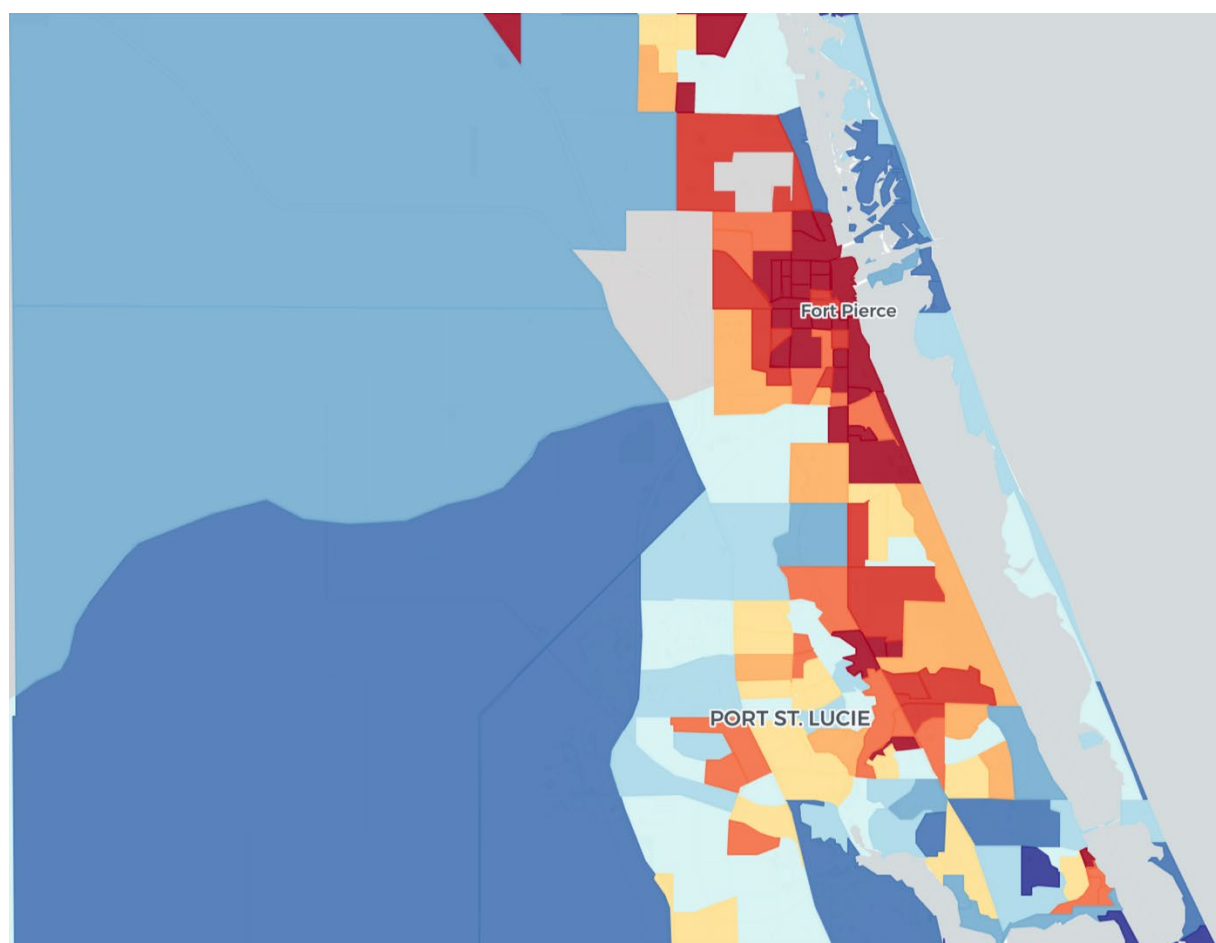
Violent crime and gang activity are not the only problems families and youth residing in Lincoln Park contend with – several other risk factors exist at high levels, including poverty, unemployment, poor health, incarceration, and physical disorganization. Youth residing in Lincoln Park face individual risk factors such as high levels of victimization and other negative life events; school risk factors including poor school performance, low school/teacher attachment, and a negative/unsafe school environment; community-level risk factors including crime, poverty, high unemployment, and neighborhood disorganization; societal factors including the availability of weapons and social and cultural norms that endorse or accept violence as a method to resolve conflict; and family risk factors such as low socioeconomic household status, single parent households, and poor family management.³⁴

According to the National Gang Center, research shows antisocial and delinquent beliefs/behavior, gun ownership/carrying, bullying, exposure to trauma, drug activity, life stressors, mental health problems, violent victimization, community disorganization, poverty, crime rates, family incarceration, and gang membership are just some indicators that lead to participation in gang-related activity.

³⁴ Ibid.

Deprivation Index

The county of St. Lucie is socioeconomically diverse. The Area Deprivation Index map shows the variety of deprivation (or lack thereof) across the county. The highest areas of deprivation over 75% of the national Area Deprivation Index are around Fort Pierce and in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, with scattered areas around Port St. Lucie and in the more rural part of the county.³⁵ (Dark red indicates most disadvantaged block groups: dark blue represents least disadvantaged block groups as referenced by the legend below.)



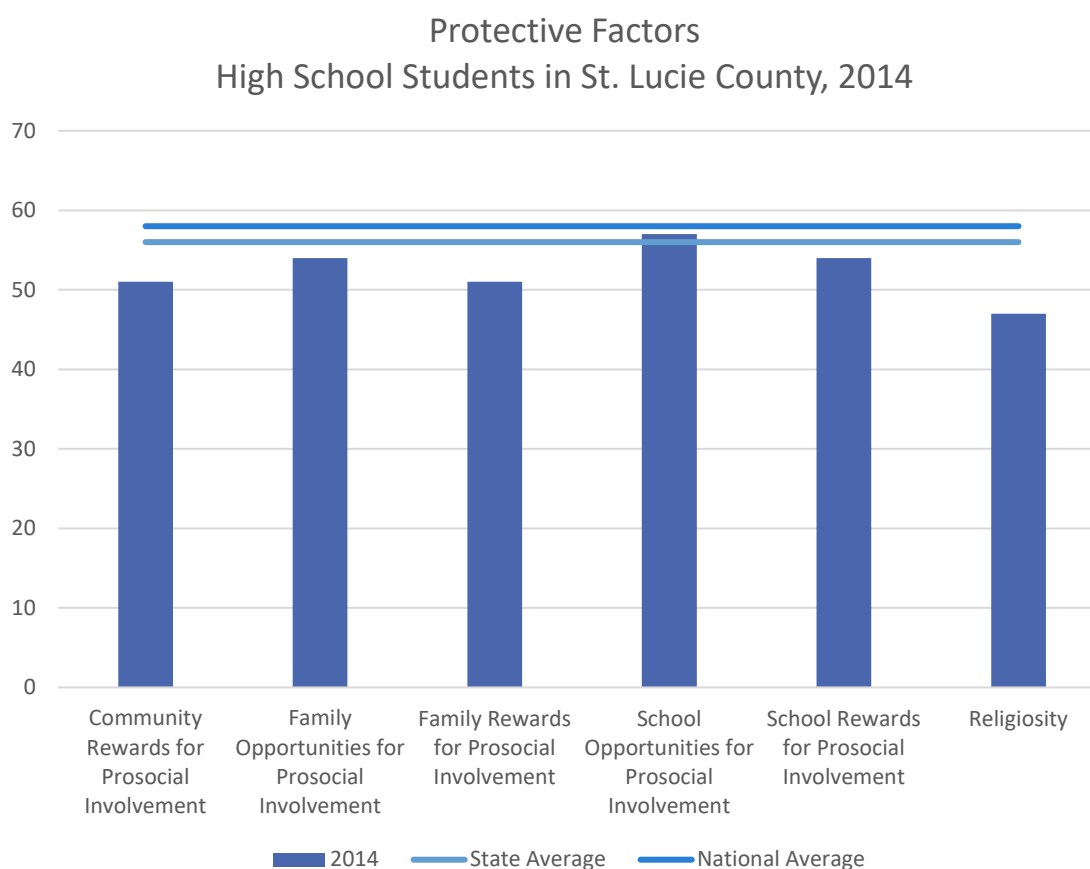
³⁵ Broadstreet Map Room; Area Deprivation Index, 2020. Retrieved <https://www.broadstreet.io/map/?id=Qm9hcmRDYXJkVXNlTm9kZTo1Njk0NDY=>.

School Dropout and Graduation Rates

The 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for students in St. Lucie County, Florida was 75% for the 2014-2015 academic year, according to the Florida Department of Education.³⁶

Risk and Protective Factors: School, Community, Peer/Individual, Community, Family

Based on the theoretical framework developed by Hawkins and Catalano's Risk and Protective Factor Theory, and supported by empirical evidence, increasing protective factors while mitigating risk factors is an important aspect of community-level prevention.³⁷ High school students in St. Lucie County report protective factors (58) just below the state normative rate (61) and national normative (59) rate.³⁸ In other words, adolescents in St. Lucie County exhibited fewer protective factors in 2014 than their state and national peers. (When normative protective values are below 50, there is less protection; when normative values are above 50, there is more protection.)

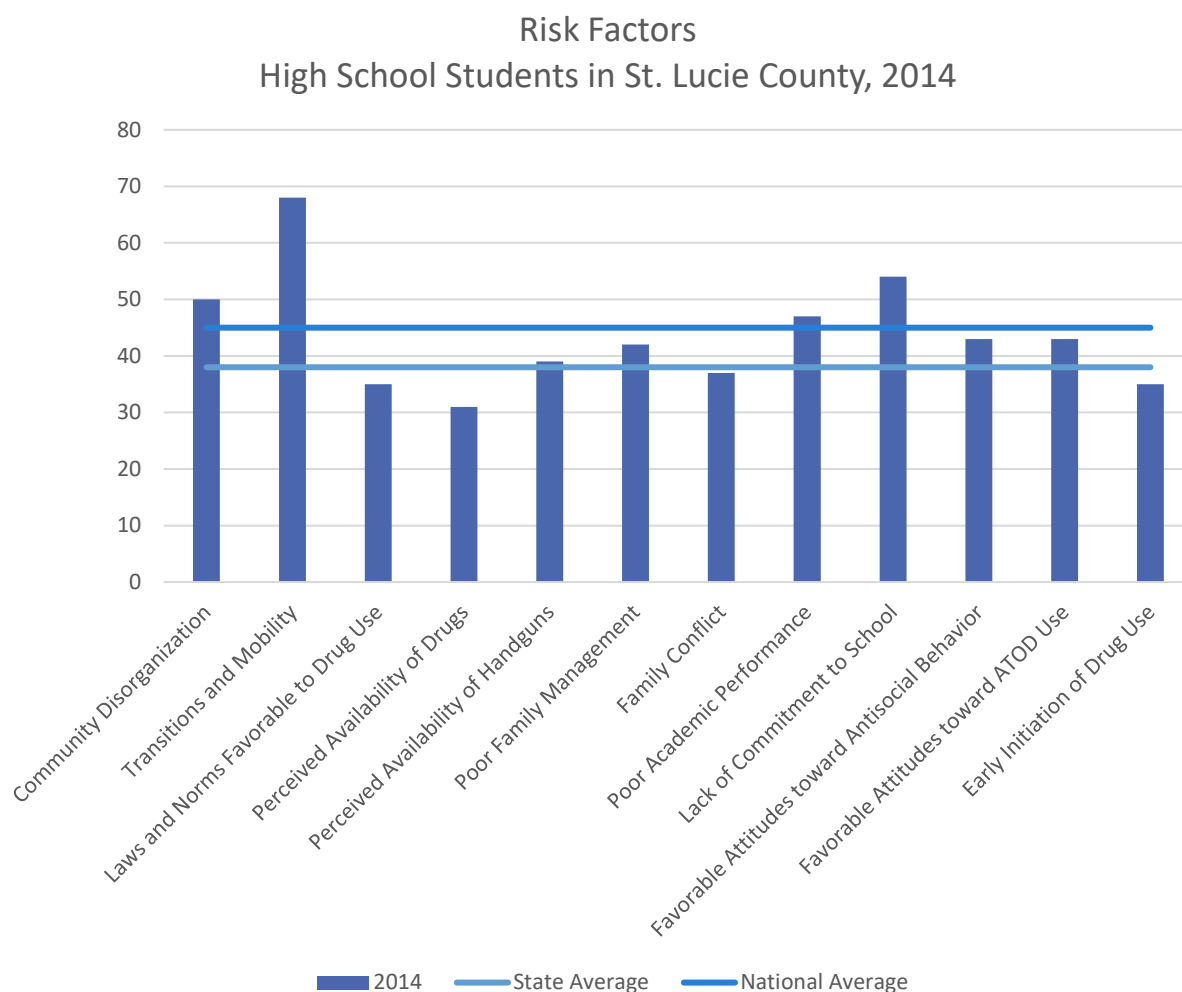


³⁶ 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates. Florida Department of Education; 2014-2015 through 2018-2019 Academic Years.

³⁷ Hawkins, Catalano, and Miller. Social Development Research Group, School of Social Work--University of Washington. Risk and Protective Factors for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Adolescence and Early Adulthood. *Psychological Bulletin*; 112; 1:64-105.

³⁸ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Florida Department of Families for St. Lucie County; 2014, 2016, 2018.

The social disorganization theory for gang activity is straightforward, according to research: “gangs arise either to take the place of weak social institutions in socially disorganized areas, or because weak institutions fail to thwart the advent of unconventional value systems that often characterize street gangs.”³⁹ Adolescents in St. Lucie County are at a significantly higher risk for community disorganization, transitions and mobility and lack of commitment to school than the normative values of their state and national peers in 2014. (When normative risk values are below 50, there is less risk; when normative values are above 50, there is more risk.)



³⁹ Papachristos and Kirk. *Studying Youth Gangs: Neighborhood effects on street gang behavior*. January 20, 2006; 20:26.

Summary of Indicators

The Roundtable utilizes the *Communities that Care* framework, in addition to the Comprehensive Gang Model to monitor and address risk factors, measured by the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Since research shows a multitude of risk factors are statistically linked to youth joining gangs, the Roundtable collaborates with community partners to address social developmental risk factors. Youth growing up in Lincoln Park are faced with a disproportionately high number of risk factors for gang involvement, including:

- Family risk factors
 - poverty, single headed household, family history of problem behaviors and gangs, family conflict and poor family management
- School risk factors
 - poor school performance, low school attachment
- Community risk factors
 - availability of drugs, alcohol, and firearms, community disorganization, laws and norms favorable to problem behaviors
- Peer group risk factors
 - youth associating with other youth who are behaving in a delinquent manner
- Individual risk factors
 - alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, victimization

The following section provides a summary of indicators monitored to measure risk associated with gang involvement among youth living in St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce, and Lincoln Park.

Summary of Indicators	2014
Antisocial and Delinquent Beliefs/Behavior³	
Carrying a handgun	8.6%
Selling drugs	6.1%
Attempting to steal a vehicle	2.7%
Being arrested	3.9%
Taking a handgun to school	2.4%
Getting suspended	10%
Attacking someone with intent to harm	7.8%
Skipped school because of bullying	8.4%
Was kicked or shoved in past 30 days	9.4%
Was taunted or teased in past 30 days	28.4%
Was victim of cyber bullying in past 30 days	8.9%
Physically bullied others in past 30 days	8.0%
Verbally bullied others in past 30 days	13.5%
Cyber bullied others in past 30 days	4.6%
30-Day Use of Alcohol or Illicit Drug	35.9%
Risk Factors³	
Community Disorganization	50
Transitions and Mobility	68
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	35
Perceived Availability of Drugs	31

Perceived Availability of Handguns	39
Poor Family Management	42
Family Conflict	37
Poor Academic Performance	47
Lack of Commitment to School	54
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	43
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	43
Early Initiation of Drug Use	35

Target Population

As postulated in the Comprehensive Gang Model, the Roundtable used a data-driven approach to determine the target community and target population. A comprehensive gang assessment conducted in 2015 determined the Lincoln Park neighborhood as the epicenter of gang-related shootings and violent crime in Fort Pierce. The data also identified African American males, ages 16-24, residing in Lincoln Park and associating with six key gangs as having the highest risk of being



involved in gang-related violence (either as a victim or a perpetrator). As a result, IGNITE Youth Alliance has concentrated their efforts in Lincoln Park and recruited program participants meeting these criteria.

After four plus years operating in the target area, insights from street Outreach Workers and staff at youth serving agencies, as well as violent crime data, suggests new target areas with emerging gang problems, new gang development and increased interaction with nearby counties and jurisdictions. Perhaps most alarming, a significant increase in females and younger males becoming involved in gang-activity and street violence.

Through new Federal funding starting in 2019, IGNITE Youth Alliance has been able to expand the target area to include the City of Port St. Lucie, as well as the unincorporated area of St. Lucie County. In other words, the new target area is comprised by the whole of St. Lucie County. Based on the same data, the target population was expanded to include males and females aged 6-24 with the following risk factors:

Males 6-11:

- Serious behavioral issues at school or at home
- Family history of violence, gang involvement, substance misuse
- Academic Failure, lack of commitment to school (truancy)
- Bullying and/or fighting behavior at school/street
- Victimization and exposure to street violence/trauma (friends/family members killed)

Males 12-24:

- Involvement in a gang or violent street organizations
- Recently released from prison
- Recently shot
- History of violence
- Weapons carrier
- Prior criminal history
- Involved in high risk street activity

Females 12-18:

- Family history of violence, gang involvement, substance misuse
- Friends (and significant others) who engage in the problem behavior (violence, gang involvement, substance misuse) and antisocial peers
- Sexual exploitation/Trauma
- Academic Failure, lack of commitment to school (truancy)
- Bullying or fighting behavior at school/street
- Victimization and exposure to street violence/trauma (friends/family members killed)

Community Mobilization

During the project period, the Roundtable's Safe Neighborhoods Network engaged with community residents in the target area and established a community mobilization arm for the initiative, the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC). This group has been instrumental in advocating for positive change for its residents, engaging the residents in healthy community activities and providing the community a voice in the implementation of IYA prevention efforts supported by the Roundtable of St. Lucie County.



Goal

Engage residents in target community in the implementation of the comprehensive anti-gang strategy.

Inputs

- Community meetings and events organized
- Collaboration with community agencies represented at events
- Number of residents engaged at meetings and events
- Participant encounters

Achievements

Short-Term Outcomes

Mobilizing and enhancing community collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders in new target areas by identifying emerging needs for gang-involved youth, by conducting a community assessment, and by continue ongoing program evaluation:

- Developed Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC); held 17 subsequent planning meetings
- 40 LPAC members participated in a visioning retreat
- Established bylaws and strategic plan to create community engagement activities
- Officers appointed to LPAC
- 11 Community LPAC meetings held

- Received gang assessment data from 215 residents and 50 community leaders⁴⁰

Intermediate Outcomes

Building Capacity to Respond to Emerging Needs for Gang-Involved Youth, by addressing system gaps and capacity building needs identified in assessment and program evaluation and to implement LPAC strategic plan

- 13 LPAC safety briefings held
- 61 Community events; reaching 2,625 people (including program presentations, outreach activities, training opportunities, community celebrations, conferences, retreats, peace rallies, block parties, resource hubs, memorials)
 - Trained 405 community leaders in community mobilization strategies
 - Trained 200 community members in community mobilization strategies
 - Trained 40 members on community in mobilization strategies⁴¹

⁴⁰ IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System, 2012-2020.

⁴¹ Ibid.

Opportunities Provision

Guided by the assessment report, the initiative developed programming shown to be effective in addressing gang-related violence and victimization. Youth who are at-risk for or actively involved in gangs often have multiple risk factors and significant barriers to being productive members of society. As a result, they are disconnected from educational, employment related and positive youth development opportunities. To assist the program participants, IYA utilizes a strength-based assessment to guide individual plan development as well as identify system gaps and specific needs for the target population. Outreach Workers provide youth opportunities for consistent, reliable mentorship and are integral to advocating for and ensuring access to a wide range of programs, supports and services targeted toward or customized for IYA's target population.



Specific services leveraged through new and existing partnerships included resources and programming related to education, employment preparation, housing, trauma, mental health, and substance misuse treatment. In addition, Outreach staff provide intense support that is critical to increased engagement and success for program participants in education, employment, and other program settings.

Goals

Reduce gang violence in Lincoln Park through intervention services and opportunities provision for gang-involved youth and families.

Inputs

- Meetings with *CareerSource Research Coast* to customize intake process for program youth in CareerSource programs (Youth Connections, Summer of Success, Pre-Apprenticeship Program)
- Communication to handle issues that arise while clients participate in a program (e.g. ensuring that they have transportation to appointments, handling conflicts in the workplace, etc.)
- Meetings with health department employees to develop customized access to health education and services.
- Coordination with Men of the Sword community organization for additional access to mentorship programs.

- Meetings and communication with United Against Poverty to develop customized access to UAP services (grocery store, employment, community service hours).

Achievements

Short-Term Outcomes

Increase access to resources, pro-social role modeling and encouragement for gang involved youth as measured by the number of program youth served by the Outreach Workers and Intervention Team, and the number of services provided to program youth:

- 10 Employment training and vocational programs and job opportunities
- 4 Mental and physical health programs
- 227 Client/participant encounters with Outreach Workers
- Reached 374 clients through evidence-based programs⁴²

Intermediate Outcomes

Increase educational opportunities for gang-involved youth as measured by the number of youth enrolled in, regularly attending, and successfully completing an educational program:

- 97.5% Completion rate of two-week work-readiness training
- 93% Completion rate 6-week work experience

Increase employment opportunities for eligible gang-involved youth as measured by the number of eligible program youth who are employed:

- 57 Job placements
- 369 Participant encounters for employment opportunities

Increase participation in mental health and substance/alcohol misuse services among gang-involved youth as measured by the number of program youth who have been identified as needing mental health or substance misuse treatment and are enrolled and participating in a treatment program:

- 404 Service encounters (treatment, counseling, family counseling, family de-escalation, aggression replacement, health screenings, gym memberships)

Increase behavioral change among gang-involved youth as measured by the number of youth who successfully participate in pro-social activities and/or achieve educational, employment, or other intervention plan goals:

- Reached 374 clients through different programs⁴³

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

Social Intervention

IGNITE Youth Alliance's primary mode of service delivery is intervention. Programs that provide youth with consistent, reliable mentorship, therapy and supportive services targeted toward healing survivors' experiences of sexual, physical, and emotional trauma have been shown to be promising strategies to serve gang-involved youth. Street Outreach Workers manage caseloads of up to 15 youth from the target area and provide each participant with a uniquely tailored outreach and intervention plan that reflects his/her assessed needs. The role



of the Outreach Worker is to develop trusting relationships and recruit and retain participants in the program by providing access to resources, prosocial role modeling and encouragement. Outreach Workers are individuals who live or were raised in the target areas, are comfortable with gang-involved youth, familiar with the gang culture in the Lincoln Park Area, the City of Fort Pierce, and the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County. Most importantly, they have street “credibility” and experience, possess

knowledge about youth development and have strong interpersonal skills to work effectively and develop relationships with high-risk youth (male and female).

Outreach staff are a part of a multi-agency Intervention Team consisting of youth serving agencies, schools, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations that serve as links to existing services for program participants and their families. These services include substance misuse treatment, mental and behavioral health counseling, job training, and employment opportunities, youth leadership programs, and anger management training. The Intervention Team also assisted with fulfilling a range of other essential needs (e.g. assistance with light bills, rent, furniture, and clothing for school and job interviews) for the clients and their families.

Studies that test the capacity of the social development model to predict the developmental pathways that increase or decrease the likelihood of gang membership suggest key interventions to consider in preventing the likelihood of gang membership. First, focusing on enhancing prosocial socialization and reducing antisocial socialization is a proven concept. Second, increasing the availability of prosocial activities and decreasing antisocial activities while incentivizing engagement in prosocial opportunities is shown to influence positive beliefs. Finally, intervening early to reduce antisocial socialization during middle school and high school has proven to be an effective target. Ignite program activities were designed with these factors in mind.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Bishop, Asia S, MSW, et al. Developmental Pathways of Youth Gang Membership: A Structural Test of the Social Development Model.

Goals

Provide high-risk and gang-involved youth residing in the target area access to high quality resources, pro-social role modeling, and encouragement that minimizes risk factors and increases protective factors.

Inputs

- Referred youth, locating youth, gaining consent
- Identified opportunities and participating in social activities with clients
- Contacted youth, family members, school staff (and other relevant parties) at home, school and in the streets to deescalate, provide support, and clarify issues in conflict between parties
- Provided support in aftermath of gang violence and homicides
- Identified clients with barriers to services; reviewed clients at bi-monthly Intervention Team meetings
- Provided skill-building prosocial opportunities
- Completed individualized case plans and linked participants to appropriate services
- Provided transportation to and from services, set appointments, communicated with parents about appointments, made sure clients had clean clothes and appropriate documents for appointments⁴⁵

Achievements

Short-Term Outcomes

Increase the knowledge of Roundtable executives, network members, service providers and community members about the nature and scope of gang-violence and victimization in St. Lucie County, as measured by the number of stakeholders provided with an overview of the community gang assessment

- 30 Community partner agencies provided with assessment data
- Countless downloads of assessment posted to agency website

Increase use of evidence-based programs for gang-involved youth as measured by the number of evidence-based programs implemented and the number of program youth who participate

- 10 Evidence-based programs implemented⁴⁶
- 92 Organized pro-social activities offered
- 191 Program participants accepted into program
- 191 Program youth participated in evidence-based programs
- 222 Total referrals to the IGNITE program
- 191 Linking gang-involved youth to a pro-social mentor

⁴⁵ IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System, 2012-2020.

⁴⁶ Comprehensive Gang Model, Nurturing Fathers Program, Aggression Replacement Training, Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World. Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring Program. Juvenile Alternative Diversion Program, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Juvenile Diversion Program, Juvenile Court.

- 284 Pro-social mentoring opportunities provided

Intermediate Outcomes

Increase opportunities for youth to interact in positive prosocial activities and with adults who act as role models and mentors

- 191 Youth matched with a mentor, receiving mentoring
- 10,883 Outreach Worker client contact hours
- 62 Referrals for treatment/ counseling for participant
- 280 Referrals for treatment/ counseling for participant and family
- 36 Participants completed Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- 251 Individual assistance services provided to program participants (haircuts, clothing, personal identification materials, bill assistance, rental assistance) for independence ⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Suppression

Through IGNITE Youth Alliance, law enforcement agencies in St. Lucie County collaborates with service providers on gang intervention through the Intervention Team. In addition, all agencies implement innovative community policing and problem oriented policing strategies to suppress gang violence in St. Lucie County. These include a multi-agency task force, targeted data-driven enforcement, and community-oriented policing. The task force consists of local and federal partners, including the Fort Pierce Police Department (FPPD), St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLCSO), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Marshals Service (USMS), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Department of Homeland Security, with the goal of targeting gang members and their illicit activities. The task force focuses on reducing gang crime, with a special emphasis on arresting and successfully prosecuting the most violent gang members. Key components include proactive and coordinated investigations, expanded cooperation and communication, data driven analysis, joint patrol of hot spots, strengthening witness protection and collaborating with the State Attorney's and U.S. Attorney's Office to enhance charges and prosecute successful cases.



Sample Law Enforcement Gang Suppression Strategies in CGM

During the project period, law enforcement partners utilize a Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring (JAM) program to monitor high risk youth who are on court appointed curfew. The intent of the program is to hold the youth accountable for their actions, while also building positive relationships with law enforcement.

Goals

Reduce gang violence in Lincoln Park through targeted enforcement of the most serious and chronic offenders.

Reduce youth gang crime, especially violent crime, and gun violence, in the target area and create a safe neighborhood that promotes healthy youth and families.

Inputs

- Training and capacity building
- Gang suppression related data collection
- Documentation of gang members
- New technology (cameras in hot spots, license plate readers)
- Gang suppression operations
- Information-sharing between IGNITE Youth Alliance and law enforcement
- Fort Pierce Police Department sponsored community events
- School mentoring programs
- Listening sessions ⁴⁸

Achievements

Short-Term Outcomes

Increase arrests and prosecutions of offenders committing homicide, aggravated assault, and firearms crimes

- 72 Law enforcement officers trained
- 7 Multi-agency operations
- 109 Firearms seizures
- 214 Arrests
- 820 Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring (JAM) Program checks
- 201 Gang mediations and de-escalation interventions by Outreach Workers⁴⁹

Intermediate Outcomes

Decrease resident fear of gang activity

- 78% Residents surveyed said they felt safer now than two years ago (follow-up listening sessions, 2017)⁵⁰

Increase resident trust in law enforcement

- 48% Residents said police and community relations had improved in the last two years (follow-up listening sessions, 2017)⁵¹

⁴⁸ IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System, 2012-2020.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ *Restoring the Village Youth Initiative Comprehensive Gang Assessment*. A Report from the Safe Neighborhoods Network and Lincoln Park Advisory Committee of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County. (2016). Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, FL.

⁵¹ IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System, 2012-2020.

Organizational Change and Development

IGNITE Youth Alliance has engaged in policy changes, collective problem solving and agency relationship building in order to focus and leverage community resources toward problems caused by gang involvement. Both the Roundtable and the Steering Committee are well-positioned to address and implement programmatic changes, modifications of policies and practices recommended by the Safe

Neighborhoods Network. The major policy accomplishments implemented include the Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring Program and the Child Welfare “Lock Out Protocol”. The former is designed to increase community safety through added community supervision of high-risk gang involved youth. The “Lock Out Protocol” activates staff at key agencies when a youth is at risk for entering the foster care system (due to family abandonment), to put family support services in place with the goal of successful integration to the home.



Goals

Develop and implement a comprehensive anti-gang strategy in the target community.

Inputs

- Key community leaders discussed gang violence at multiple Roundtable meetings
- Formalize collaboration on Comprehensive Gang Model
- Hire full-time Project Coordinator
- Conducted gang problem assessment
- Hired full-time street Outreach Workers to provide wrap-around services to gang-involved youth, their siblings, and parents, which increase protective factors and decrease risk factors
- Formalized a multi-disciplinary Intervention Team
- Provided wrap-around services to gang-involved youth, siblings, and parents
- Organizational changes & resource development strategies
- IGNITE Youth Alliance staff trainings
- Community policing/suppression

Achievements

Short-Term Outcomes

Increase community awareness to acknowledge the problems associated with gang involvement.

- 1,192 Surveys collected (community residents, students, youth serving agencies, community leaders, school staff)
- 115 Youth focus groups
- 84 Parents focus groups
- 41 Community meetings/presentations/trainings/forums held; 1,411 people reached
- 35 Agencies assign staff to Safe Neighborhoods Network; 24 SNN meetings held

Intermediate Outcomes

Built capacity to garner community support for program initiatives.

- 77% Lincoln Park residents believe gangs are a problem (Gang Assessment Survey, 2015)
- 52% Lincoln Park residents rate gang activity as one of the top three community concerns
- \$1,229,111 additional dollars leveraged
- 12 Agencies assigned to formalize multi-disciplinary Intervention Team
- 1 Project Coordinator hired; 12 interviewed; 52 applicants
- 4 Outreach Workers hired and trained
- 40+ Members on the Lincoln Park Advisory Council
- 35 Agencies represented on the Safe Neighborhoods Network
- 4 Community policing protocols adopted
- 9 Gang assessment protocols adopted
- 13 Organizational changes:
 - Enacted community changes to reduce gang violence
 - Roundtable Executive Director and IGNITE Youth Alliance (IYA) Project Coordinator worked with the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, and the Economic Development Council to identify ways in which they could incentivize employers to employ program youth
 - IGNITE Youth Alliance Program Coordinator appointed to the School Advisory Council for Dale Cassens Education Complex and Fort Pierce Westwood High School
 - Outreach Workers granted special access to clients during school hours
 - Law enforcement provides safety briefings for the Intervention Team and Outreach Workers when appropriate
 - Establishment of referral committee consisting of law enforcement, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Corrections
 - Outreach Workers granted special access to youth on probation in the juvenile detention center
 - Enacted community policing elements with the Fort Pierce Police Department

- Gang-Intelligence Sharing & Safety Briefings initiated, bi-weekly meetings between the Program Coordinator and the Fort Pierce Police Department's Deputy Chief, who is in charge of the target area and oversees the gang task force
- Fort Pierce Police Department created a gang task force officer liaison position
- Launched Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance with support from US Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
 - Fort Pierce Police Department road patrol officers assigned as Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring (JAM) officers
 - Regional gang intelligence meetings enacted to share intelligence



Community Impact (Long-Term Outcomes)

Community Impact is a result of the combined outputs, accumulated from the total inputs associated with the Comprehensive Gang Model strategies: Community Mobilization,

Opportunities Provision, Social Intervention, Suppression, and Organizational Change.⁵² Partners of the Safe Neighborhoods Network (SNN) established inputs, which were measured by process and outcome measures. The outcome resulted in contributions to reducing gang involvement among the target population.

Gang violence has historically disproportionately impacted the population of Fort Pierce, specifically Lincoln Park. Part of the Comprehensive Gang Model is to address ancillary risk factors that contribute to gang involvement. Not only has the graduation rate increased over the project period, housing, poverty, and social determinants of health have improved too. In 2014, 26.1% of children under 18 in St. Lucie County lived below the poverty level; by 2017, that number dropped to 19.1%. In 2014, the birth rate to mothers ages 15-19 was 20.7 per 1,000 live births; by 2017, that number dropped to 18.9 per 1,000 live births. In 2014, the African American infant death rate in St. Lucie County was 18.5 deaths per 1,000 live births; by 2017, that number dropped to 7.3 African American infant deaths per 1,000 live births.⁵³

⁵² OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model: Planning for Implementation. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; May 2009.

⁵³ Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/Charts/DataViewer/InfantDeathViewer/InfantDeathViewer.aspx?indNumber=0053>

Goals

The overarching goal of IGNITE Youth Alliance is to reduce gang violence in Lincoln Park 1) through intervention services and opportunities provision for gang-involved youth and families; 2) through targeted enforcement of the most serious and chronic offenders; 3) through primary prevention services targeting youth living in Lincoln Park, and secondary prevention services targeting youth identified as being at high risk of joining a gang.

Inputs

- Safe Neighborhoods Network partners
- Lincoln Park Advisory Council
- Comprehensive Gang Model strategies
- Community mobilization
- Opportunities provision
- Social intervention
- Suppression
- Organizational change and development

Systems Change (2015-2018)

- 56 Program youth involved in the criminal justice system; reduction of 60%
- 15 Program youth sentenced to juvenile commitment programs; increase of 15%
- 64 Program youth sentenced to adult jail/prison; decrease of 57%
- 179 Program youth sentenced to probation; decrease of 11%
- 19 Program youth sentenced to probation; decrease of 52%
- 17 Program youth who committed violent gun-related offenses; decrease of 68%
- 105 Program youth who committed non-violent gun offenses; decrease of 52%
- 12 Program youth who re-offend; decrease of 80%
- 12 Program youth who had a new arrest for a violent gun offense; decrease of 80%
- 87 Program youth who are victimized; increase of 49%
- 51 Program youth who are re-victimized; increase of 135%

Contributing Factors and Outcomes

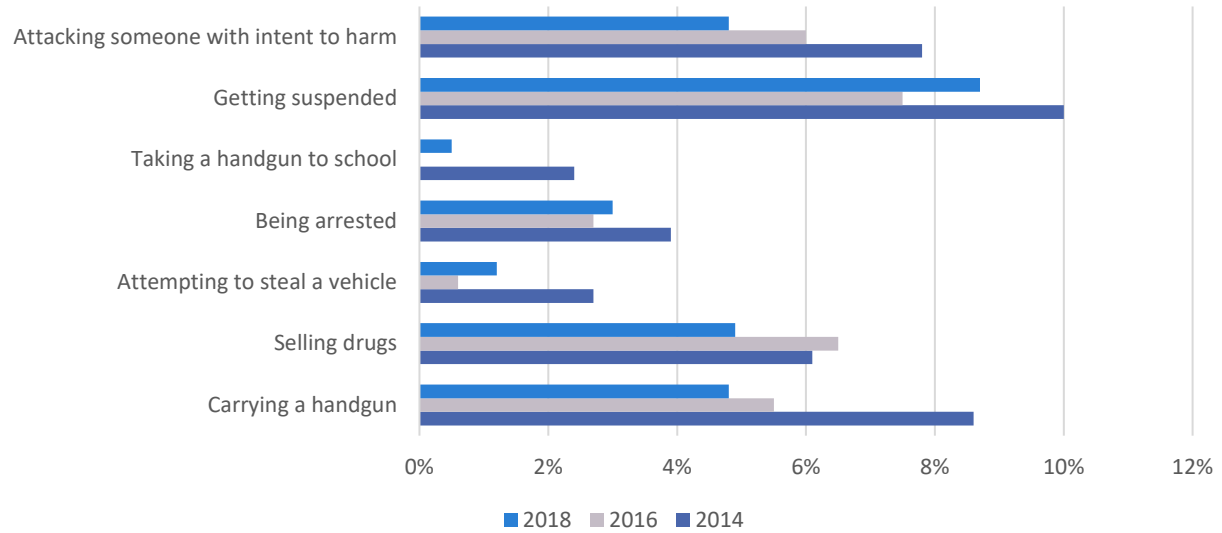
Long-Term Outcomes (2015-2018)

Engagement with Delinquent Behavior

Data from the 2018 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey reveal the change in high school students who reported carrying a handgun decreased 44% and those who reported taking a handgun to school decreased 79%. In addition, decreases were noted for the following indicators of delinquent behavior: sold drugs, -20%; attempted auto theft, -56%; arrests, -23%; school suspensions, -13%; and attacking someone with the intent to cause harm, -39%.⁵⁴

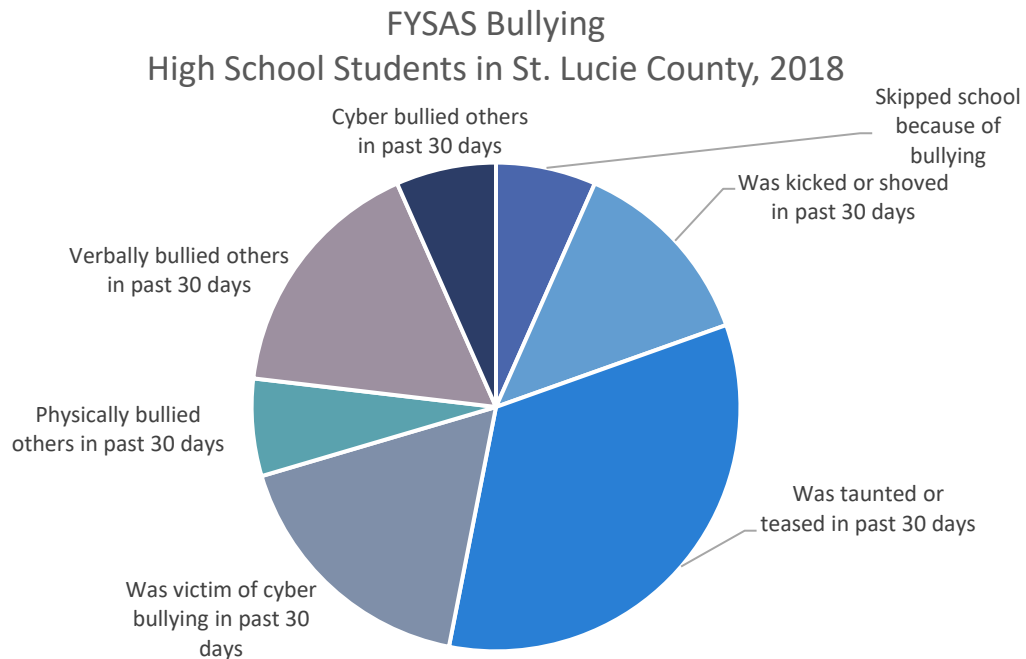
⁵⁴ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Florida Department of Families for St. Lucie County; 2014, 2016, 2018.

FYSAS Delinquent Behavior High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014-2018



Involvement with Bullying

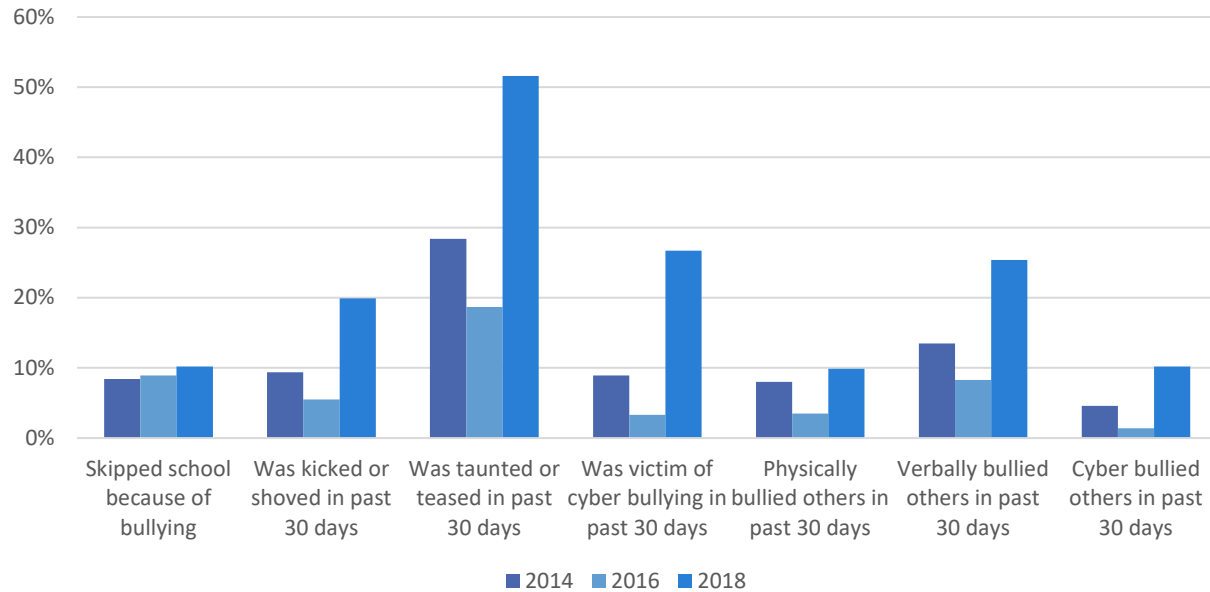
Bullying measures increased in the 2018 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Data from this survey show that 10% of high school students skipped school due to bullying. Another 20% were kicked or shoved in the 30 days prior the survey, 52% were taunted, 27% experienced cyber bullying, 10% were physically bullied, 25% verbally bullied others, and 10% cyber bullied others.⁵⁵



*Respondents could select multiple answers; totals may not equal 100%. Chart totals measure total survey respondents to display values.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

FYSAS Bullying Trends High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014-2018

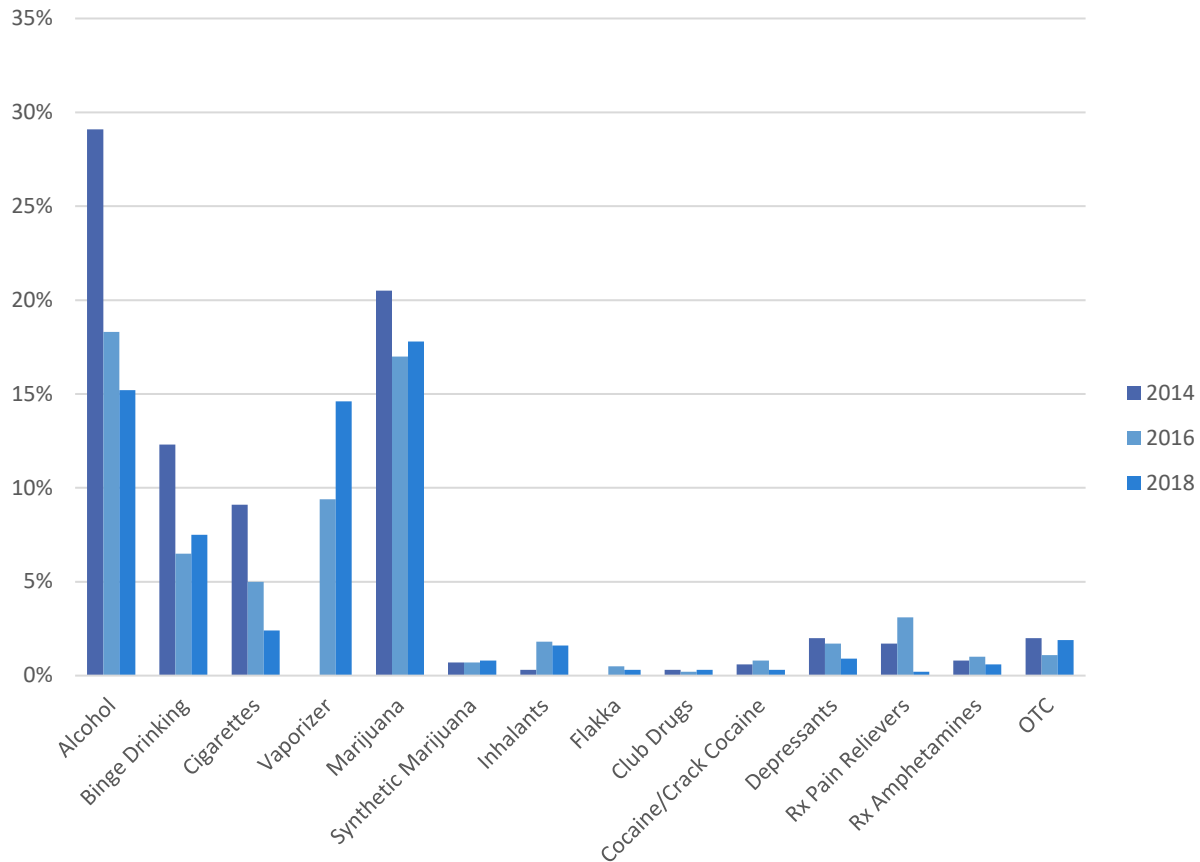


Substance Misuse

Many students who misuse substances are poly-drug users. In the 2018 survey, 26% of high school students report alcohol and illicit drug use, followed by 7% who report alcohol use only and 12% who report illicit drug use only in the past 30 days. Total alcohol and tobacco prevalence of use has decreased; however, illicit drug only use has nearly doubled between 2014 and 2018. In the 2018 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, marijuana (18%) ranked as the most widely used substance among high school students in St. Lucie County, followed by alcohol (15%). Nearly all substances measured marked a decline in prevalence of 30-day use: significant declines were observed for alcohol, binge drinking, and cigarettes. A significant increase in use of vaporizers was noted, as has been recorded across the country.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Ibid.

30-Day Prevalence of Use High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014-2018



Trauma and Victimization

Risk factors including antisocial and delinquent behaviors decreased between 2014 and 2018; however, prevalence of bullying increased. Past 30-day drug and alcohol use decreased and in 2018, 52 program participants had been victimized and 36 were re-victimized (70%).⁵⁷

Additional changes were noted among client involvement in the criminal justice system following their enrollment into the program. The most notable changes include the reduction of program youth who re-offend, program youth involved in the criminal justice system, program youth who committed violent gun-related offenses, and the number of program youth sentenced to adult jail or prison.

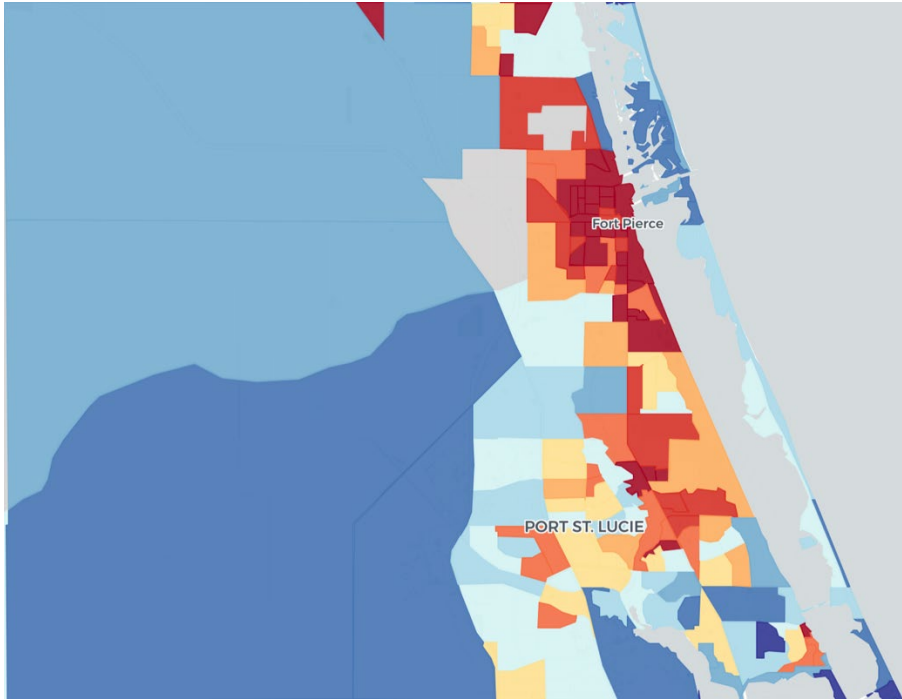
⁵⁷ Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), Participant Facesheet, 2012-2020.

Client Involvement in Criminal Justice System	2017	2018	Adjusted Rate of Change
n	134	187	
Program youth involved in criminal justice system	40	16	-60.5%
Program youth sentenced to juvenile commitment programs	7	8	14.7%
Program youth sentenced to adult jail/prison	45	19	-57.5%
Program youth sentenced to probation	95	84	-11.5%
Program youth who offended	13	6	-52.2%
Program youth who committed violent gun-related offenses	13	4	-68.2%
Program youth who committed non-violent gun offenses	71	34	-52.2%
Program youth who re-offend	10	2	-79.5%
Program youth who had a new arrest for a violent gun offense	10	2	-79.5%
Program youth who are victimized	35	52	49.0%
Program youth who experience a violent gun-related victimization	14	31	122.1%
Program youth who experience a non-violent gun-related victimization	8	18	115.0%
Program youth who are re-victimized	15	36	134.5%

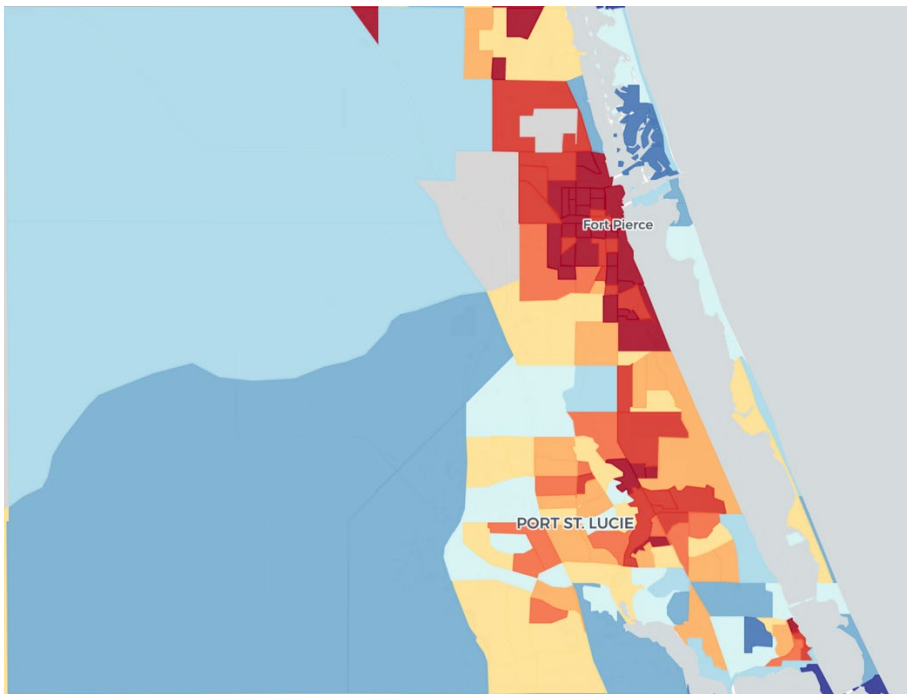
Deprivation Index

St. Lucie County is socioeconomically diverse. The Area Deprivation Index map shows the variety of deprivation (or lack thereof) across the county. The highest areas of deprivation continue to be around Fort Pierce and in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, with scattered areas around Port St. Lucie and in the more rural part of the county.⁵⁸ Slight changes for the better can be identified; however, this measure will be more significant the more time passes. (Dark red indicates most disadvantaged block groups: dark blue represents least disadvantaged block groups as referenced by the legend, below.)

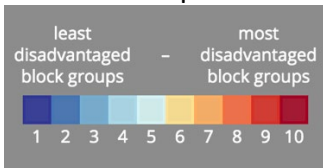
⁵⁸ Broadstreet Map Room; Area Deprivation Index, 2020. Retrieved <https://www.broadstreet.io/map/?id=Qm9hcmRDYXJkVXNlTm9kZTo1Njk0NDY=>.



2015 Area Deprivation Index

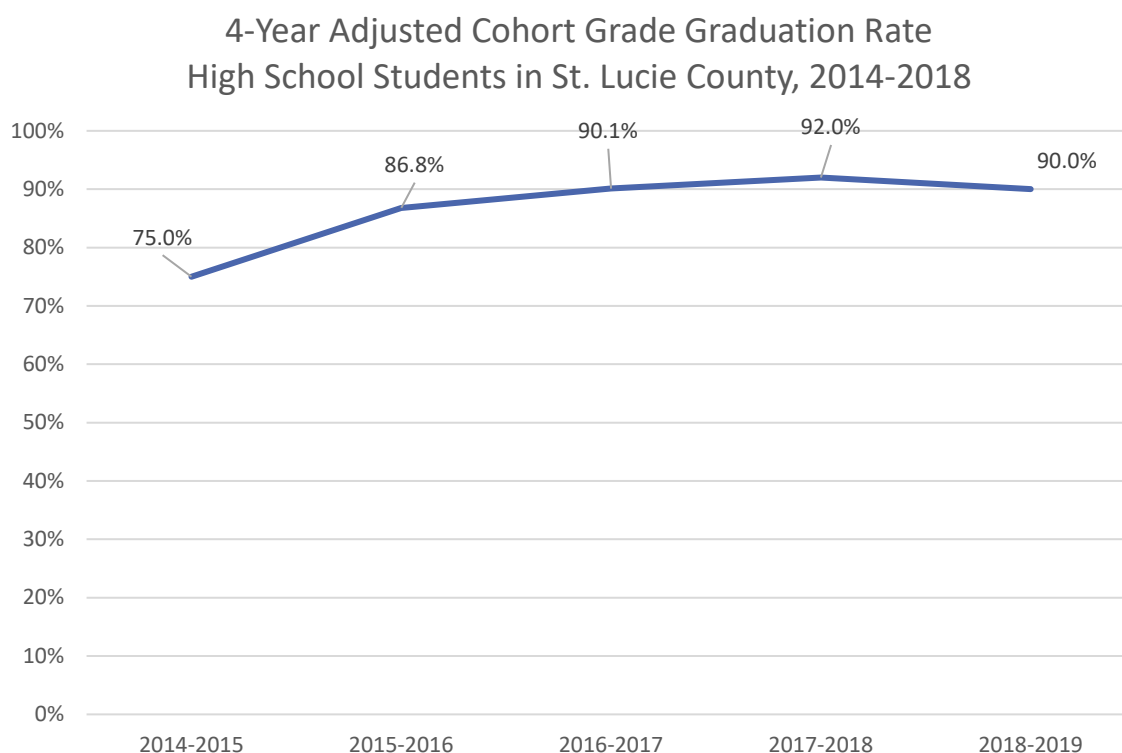


2020 Area Deprivation Index



School Dropout and Graduation Rates

The 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for students in St. Lucie County, Florida was 75% for the 2014-2015 academic year and increased to 90% for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to the Florida Department of Education.⁵⁹



Risk and Protective Factors—School, Community, Peer and Individual, Community, Family

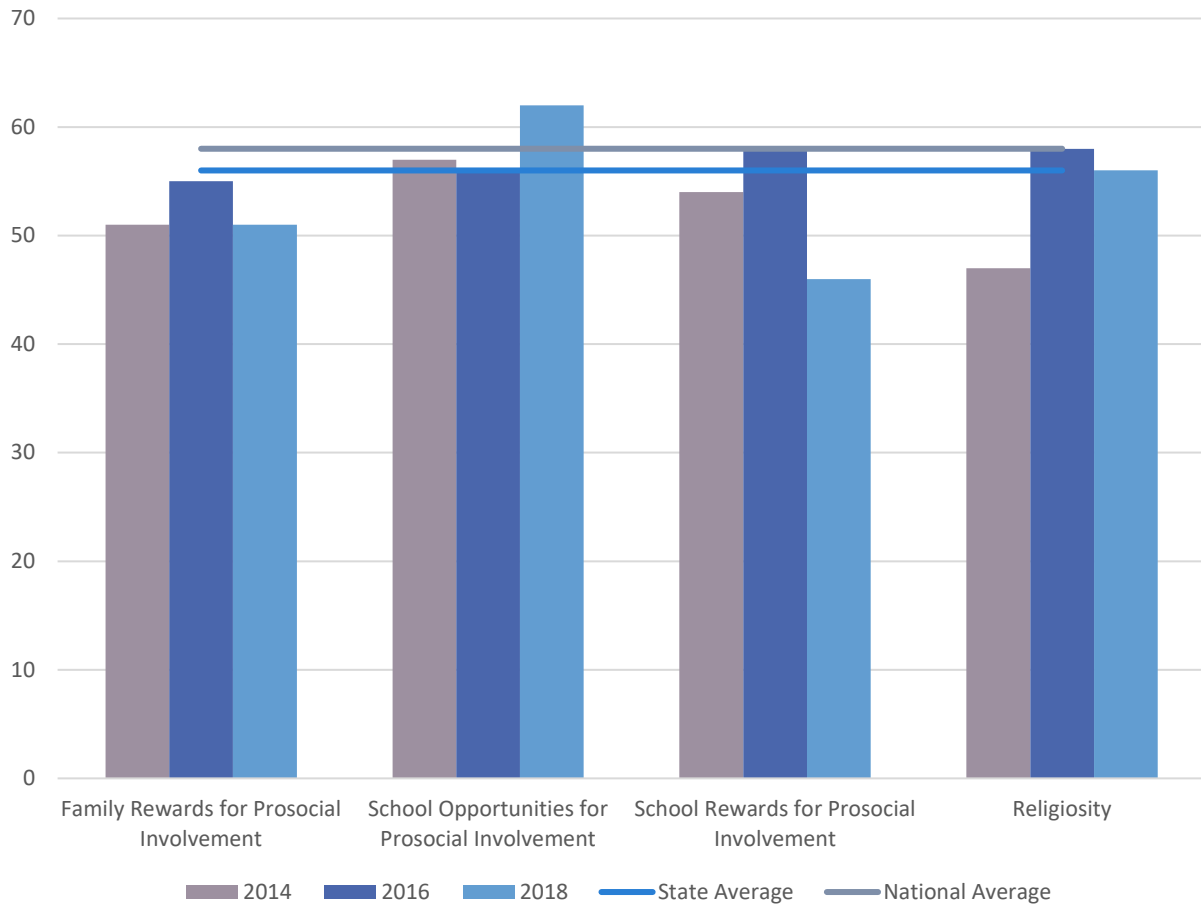
Based on the theoretical framework developed by Hawkins and Catalano's Risk and Protective Factor Theory, and supported by empirical evidence, increasing protective factors while mitigating risk factors is an important aspect of community-level prevention.⁶⁰ High school student protective factors should increase when improvements are noted, but decreased slightly in St. Lucie County overall between 2014 and 2018; however, it is encouraging to note the increase in the normative score for school opportunities for prosocial involvement during this time period.⁶¹

⁵⁹ 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates. Florida Department of Education; 2014-2015 through 2018-2019 Academic Years.

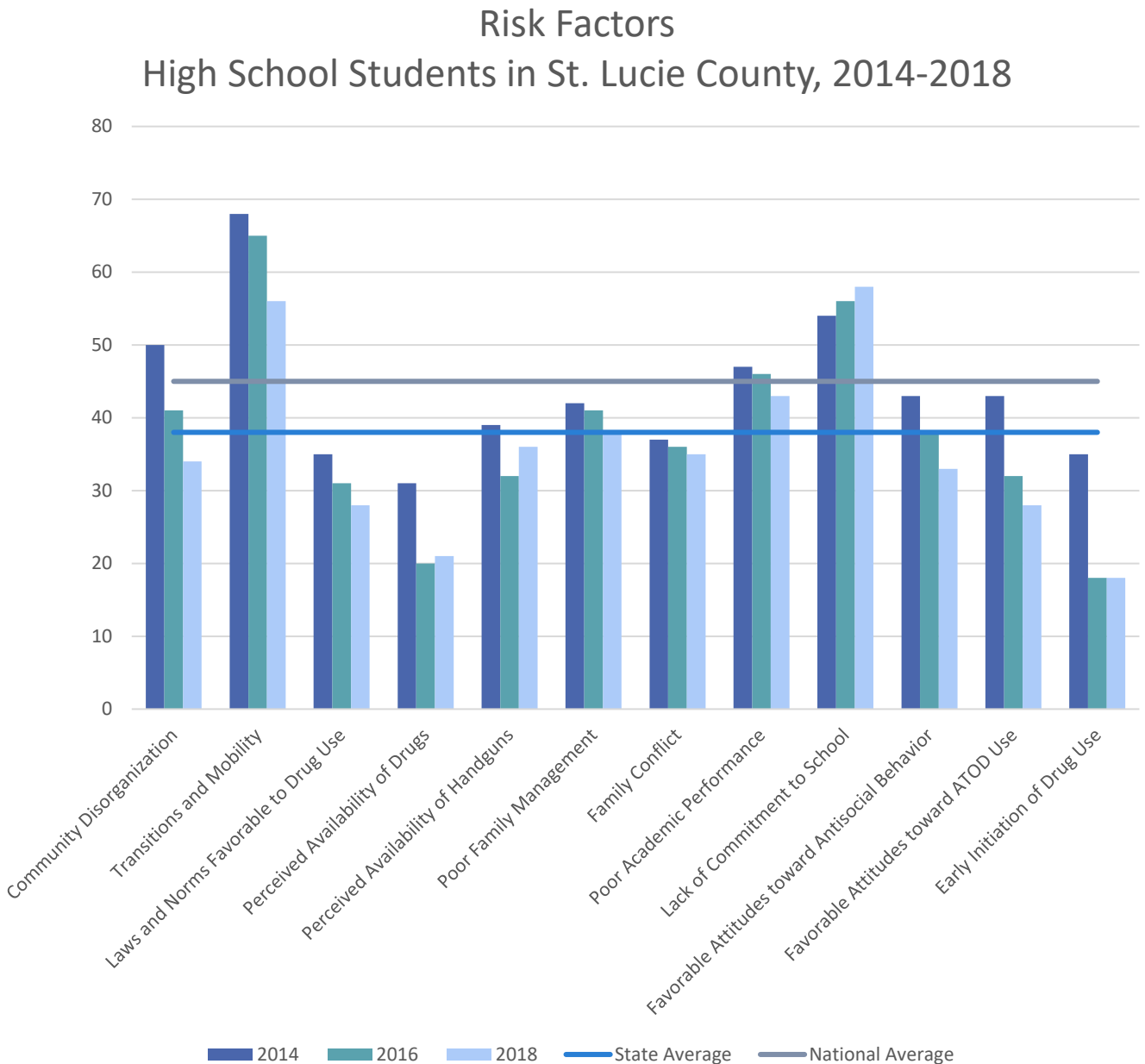
⁶⁰ Hawkins, Catalano, and Miller. Social Development Research Group, School of Social Work--University of Washington. Risk and Protective Factors for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Adolescence and Early Adulthood. *Psychological Bulletin*; 112; 1:64-105.

⁶¹ Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Florida Department of Families for St. Lucie County; 2014, 2016, 2018.

Protective Factors
High School Students in St. Lucie County, 2014-2018

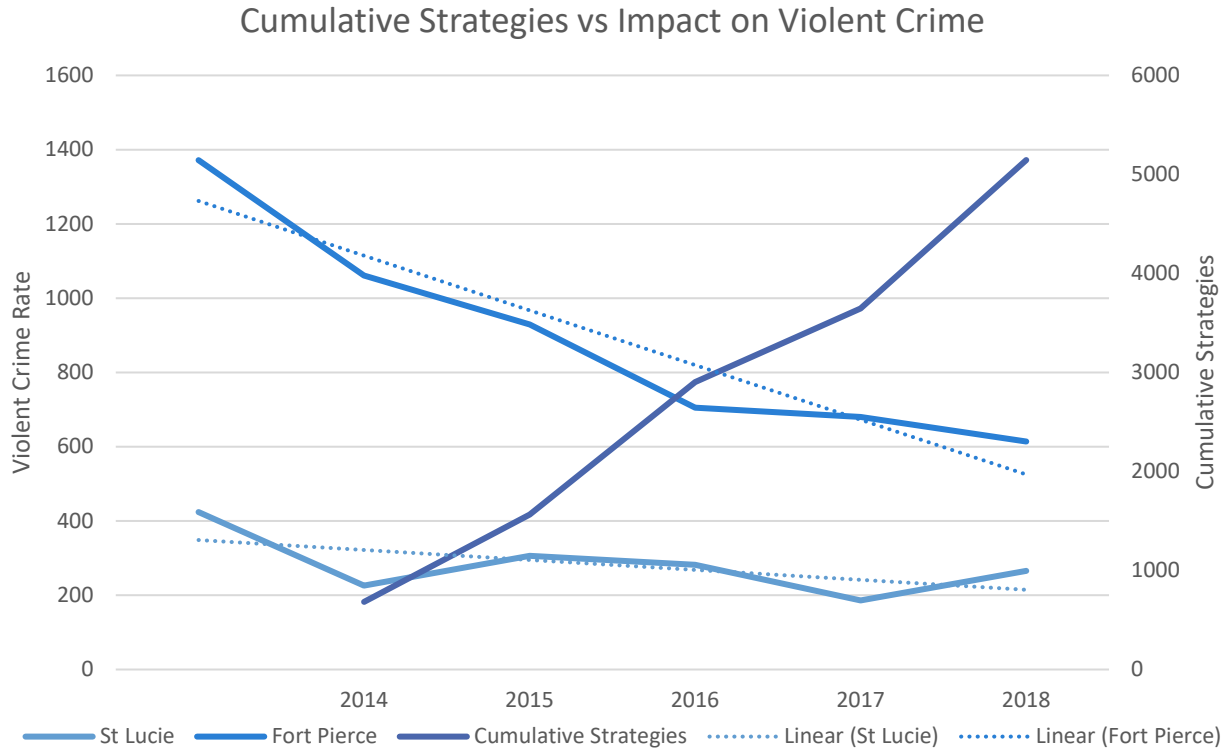


High school student risk factors should decrease when improvements are noted and did so in St. Lucie County overall between 2014 and 2018 (dropped from 43 to 36 normative values). Notable decreases in risk factors include, community disorganization, which decreased from 50% in 2014 to 34% in 2018, dropping below both the state and national normative rates. In addition, decreases in transitions and mobility, poor academic performance, poor family management, favorable attitudes toward antisocial behavior, and favorable attitudes toward drug use were reported.⁶²



⁶² Ibid.

As IGNITE Youth Alliance utilized strategies by adding inputs toward gang violence in the target communities, the rate of violent crime went down, as illustrated by this graph. The linear trend lines show the downward trends for violent crime in St. Lucie County and Fort Pierce, as measured by the Florida Uniform Crime Report.⁶³ Cumulative strategies include all activities, programs, and initiatives within the Comprehensive Gang Model components of 1) community mobilization, 2) opportunities provision, 3) social intervention, 4) suppression, and 5) organizational change and development.



⁶³Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

Summary of Indicators

The Roundtable utilizes the *Communities that Care* framework, in addition to the Comprehensive Gang Model to monitor and address risk factors, along with the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. Research shows a multitude of risk factors that are statistically linked to youth joining gangs. These risk factors are typically grouped into five categories (called social developmental “domains”): individual, family, school, peer, and neighborhood/community.⁶⁴ Youth growing up in Lincoln Park are faced with a disproportionately high number of risk factors for gang involvement, including family risk factors (poverty, single headed household, family history of problem behaviors and gangs, family conflict and poor family management), school risk factors (poor school performance, low school attachment), community risk factors (availability of drugs, alcohol, and firearms, community disorganization, laws and norms favorable to problem behaviors), peer group risk factors (youth associating with other youth who are behaving in a delinquent manner), and individual risk factors (alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, victimization).

The following section provides a summary of indicators monitored to measure risk associated with gang involvement among youth living in St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce, and Lincoln Park.

Summary of Indicators	2014	2016	2018	Relative Change
Antisocial and Delinquent Beliefs/Behavior³				
Carrying a handgun	8.6%	5.5%	4.8%	-3.8%
Selling drugs	6.1%	6.5%	4.9%	-1.2%
Attempting to steal a vehicle	2.7%	0.6%	1.2%	-1.5%
Being arrested	3.9%	2.7%	3.0%	-0.9%
Taking a handgun to school	2.4%	0.0%	0.5%	-1.9%
Getting suspended	10%	7.5%	8.7%	-1.3%
Attacking someone with intent to harm	7.8%	6.0%	4.8%	-3.0%
Skipped school because of bullying	8.4%	8.9%	10.2%	+1.8%
Was kicked or shoved in past 30 days	9.4%	5.5%	19.9%	+10.5%
Was taunted or teased in past 30 days	28.4%	18.7%	51.6%	+23.2%
Was victim of cyber bullying in past 30 days	8.9%	3.3%	26.7%	+17.8%
Physically bullied others in past 30 days	8.0%	3.5%	9.9%	+1.9%
Verbally bullied others in past 30 days	13.5%	8.3%	25.4%	+11.9%
Cyber bullied others in past 30 days	4.6%	1.4%	10.2%	+5.6%
30-Day Use of Alcohol or Illicit Drug	35.9%	27.7%	26.4%	-9.5%

⁶⁴ Howell, James C. and Elizabeth Griffiths. “Gangs in America’s Communities.” Third Edition, 2019.

Risk Factors				Relative Change
Community Disorganization	50	41	34	-16
Transitions and Mobility	68	65	56	-12
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	35	31	28	-7
Perceived Availability of Drugs	31	20	21	-10
Perceived Availability of Handguns	39	32	36	-3
Poor Family Management	42	41	38	-4
Family Conflict	37	36	35	-2
Poor Academic Performance	47	46	43	-4
Lack of Commitment to School	54	56	58	+4
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	43	38	33	-7
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	43	32	28	-15
Early Initiation of Drug Use	35	18	18	-17
Family members in jail/prison	N/A	49	49	-7
Exposure to Trauma and Victimization⁶⁵				Relative Change
30-Day Use of Alcohol or Illicit Drug	35.9%	27.7%	26.4%	-9.5%
Program youth who are victimized	25 (2017)		52	
Program youth who experience a violent gun-related victimization	10 (2017)		31	
Program youth who experience a non-violent gun-related victimization	6 (2017)		18	
Program youth who are re-victimized	11 (2017)		36	

⁶⁵ Began tracking in 2016.

Program Contacts

Project Director (0.2 FTE; in-kind from Roundtable)

The Executive Director (ED) of the Roundtable serves as the Project Director and provides direct oversight of the Project Coordinator. In addition, the ED oversees the data collection workgroup, monitors activities and outputs to ensure that project goals are met, supervises the hiring of personnel and manages interactions with Roundtable members in the strategic planning process.



Project Coordinator (1.0 FTE; in-kind from Roundtable)

The Project Coordinator develops and implements the IGNITE Youth Alliance and oversees day-to-day management of outreach and case management services. The Project Coordinator is responsible for meeting grant obligations, interacting with funding agencies, developing resources with community partners, disseminating program results, and fulfilling all reporting requirements. Finally, the Project Coordinator coordinates all proposed project activities, oversees the Data Assessment Workgroup, and serves as the liaison to the Roundtable, advisory committees, community partners, Intervention Team members, and program staff.

Project Assistant (0.5 FTE; in-kind from Roundtable)

The Project Assistant works collaboratively with the Project Coordinator to ensure smooth and timely completion of administrative tasks, events, and supports other programmatic functions. The Project Assistant helps plan meetings, maintains client database, helps with preparing project reports, tracks performance measures, tracks expense reports, verifies receipts, assists with budget requests, assists with events and presentations, and assists with case management.

Community Outreach Workers/Intensive Case Managers (7.0 FTE; 5.0 in-kind from Roundtable, 2.0 funded by project)

The Community Outreach Workers are responsible for providing street outreach services to gang-involved youth, ages 10-17, both male and female. The Community Outreach Workers are responsible for outreach, prosocial role modeling, and participate in the multi-disciplinary Intervention Team, tasked with providing wrap-around services to each youth in the program.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counselor (contract)

The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counselor is a licensed mental health specialist who provides individual and group counseling and develops customized and evidence-based programming for clients, targeting behavioral, mental health, and substance misuse concerns.

Job Developer and Special Education Advocate (contract)

The Job Developer and Special Education Advocate works with employers in St. Lucie County to develop employment opportunities for clients, assist with job readiness, and liaise between the Program and employers. Additional responsibilities include working with students, parents, schools, and program staff to ensure clients with special education needs receive appropriate assistance.

Evaluator (contract)

The Evaluator assists with quality control of data collection and analysis, analyzes quantitative and qualitative data, prepares reports, and assists staff with data needs. The Evaluator has a degree and experience specialized in epidemiologist, biostatistics, and community impact.

Appendix I: Data Tables

Violent Crime Rates, St. Lucie County⁶⁶

Levels of Community Violence	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change
Violent Crimes Reported/Cases Cleared	460	409	317	312	-32.2%
Homicides Reported/Cases Cleared	12	9	7	8	-33.3%
Aggravated Assaults Reported/Cases Cleared	566	301	208	196	-65.4%
Robberies Reported/Cases Cleared	114	122	79	78	-31.6%
Verified shooting incidents	109	123	108	Not Available	-0.9%
Bullets struck	53	47	40		-24.5%
Homicides	12	7	7		-41.7%

Change in Violent Crime Rates⁶⁷

Year	Population	Murder	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Forcible Sex Offenses	Total Violent Index Crime	Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population
2014	282,821	20	651	174	64	909	226.3
2015	287,749	14	580	185	74	853	306.5
2016	292,826	13	581	157	74	825	281.7
2017	297,634	12	484	142	83	721	186.0
2018	302,432	18	556	132	97	803	265.5

Change in Violent Crime from Peak Year —St. Lucie County, 2014-2018

Year	Population	Murder	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total Violent Index Crime	Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population
Change From Peak Year to 2018	+6.93% (change from start year)	-10.00%	-14.59%	-28.65%	-11.66%	-13.38%
Peak Year	2018	2014	2014	2015	2014	2015

⁶⁶ Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

Violent Crime Rates by Location by Year:⁶⁸

Violent Crime Rate	St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	Florida	US
2014	226.3	1061.2	457.8	361.6
2015	306.5	929.3	462.5	384.6
2016	281.7	705.0	429.0	398.0
2017	186.0	680.0	408.0	382.9
2018	265.5	614.0	385.0	381.0
Change from Peak Year	-13.4%	-42.1%	-16.8%	-4.3%
Significance FL	7.0463E-05	0.00553782		0.014922777
Significance US	0.00138978	0.00389085	0.009069237	

Significant decline in St. Lucie at alpha 0.05

Significant decline in Fort Pierce at alpha 0.05

Homicide Rate	St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	Florida	US
2014	7.1	27.7	4.9	4.4
2015	4.9	20.5	5.1	5.0
2016	4.4	15.6	5.4	5.4
2017	4.0	17.5	5.3	5.0
2018	6.0	15.2	5.2	5.0
Change from Peak Year	-31.0%	-45.2%	-3.3%	-7.8%
Significance FL	0.29022673	0.00180208		0.103461118
Significance US	0.21965999	0.00166816	0.103461118	

Significant decline in Fort Pierce at alpha 0.05

Aggravated Assault Rate	St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	Florida	US
2014	230.2	710.5	308.7	229.2
2015	210.6	556.7	315.6	238.1
2016	198.4	462.0	290.0	248.0
2017	162.6	427.0	277.0	249.0
2018	190.0	406.0	261.0	247.0
Change from Peak Year	-17.5%	-42.9%	-17.3%	-0.8%
Significance FL	0.00014819	0.00769626		0.00303947
Significance US	0.00716467	0.00414172	0.00303947	

Significant decline in FL at alpha 0.05

Significant increase in US at alpha 0.05

Significant decline in St. Lucie at alpha 0.05

Significant decline in Fort Pierce at alpha 0.05

⁶⁸Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey—St. Lucie County⁶⁹

FYSAS - 30-Day Use	High School		
	2014	2016	2018
Alcohol	29.1%	18.3%	15.2%
Binge Drinking	12.3%	6.5%	7.5%
Cigarettes	9.1%	5.0%	2.4%
Vaporizer	n/a	9.4%	14.6%
Marijuana	20.5%	17.0%	17.8%
Synthetic Marijuana	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%
Inhalants	0.3%	1.8%	1.6%
Flakka	n/a	0.5%	0.3%
Club Drugs	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Cocaine/Crack Cocaine	0.6%	0.8%	0.3%
Depressants	2.0%	1.7%	0.9%
Rx Pain Relievers	1.7%	3.1%	0.2%
Rx Amphetamines	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%
OTC	2.0%	1.1%	1.9%
Any Illicit Drug	23.7%	19.8%	19.8%
Alcohol Only	12.8%	8.9%	7.2%
Illicit Drug Only	7.1%	10.0%	11.6%
Alcohol or Illicit Drug	35.9%	27.7%	26.4%

FYSAS - Engage in delinquent behavior within past 12 months	High School			
	2014	2016	2018	Change
Carrying a handgun	8.6%	5.5%	4.8%	-44.2%
Selling drugs	6.1%	6.5%	4.9%	-19.7%
Attempting to steal a vehicle	2.7%	0.6%	1.2%	-55.6%
Being arrested	3.9%	2.7%	3.0%	-23.1%
Taking a handgun to school	2.4%	0.0%	0.5%	-79.2%
Getting suspended	10.0%	7.5%	8.7%	-13.0%
Attacking someone with intent to harm	7.8%	6.0%	4.8%	-38.5%

Family members or friends in jail/trouble - High School	2016
Family members in jail/prison	49.9%
Friends in trouble because of alcohol/drugs	44.4%

⁶⁹ Ibid.

Involvement with Bullying – High School	2016	2018
Skipped school because of bullying	8.9%	10.2%
Was kicked or shoved in past 30 days	5.5%	19.9%
Was taunted or teased in past 30 days	18.7%	51.6%
Was victim of cyber bullying in past 30 days	3.3%	26.7%
Physically bullied others in past 30 days	3.5%	9.9%
Verbally bullied others in past 30 days	8.3%	25.4%
Cyber bullied others in past 30 days	1.4%	10.2%

Reported gang membership – High School	2016	2018
Have you ever belonged to a gang	2.9%	2.9%
Does that gang have a name	19.7%	13.9%
Are you a gang member now	1.7%	1.6%

Reasons for joining a gang, reported by high school students who have belong to a gang	2016
Fun and excitement	5.6%
Protection	5.1%
Friend or relative in a gang	5.4%
Forced to join	1.2%
To get respect	4.2%
Money	4.3%
To fit in better	2.6%
Other reasons	4.1%

Protective Factor Prevalence, High School	2016	2018	Change
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	65	Not available	
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56	58	3.6%
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	56	51	-8.9%
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55	62	12.7%
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	56	46	-17.9%
Religiosity	58	56	-3.4%
Average	58	55	-5.2%
Florida Average	61	56	-8.2%
National Average	59	58	-1.7%

Risk Factor Prevalence, High School	2016	2018	Change
Community Disorganization	41	34	-17.1%
Transitions and Mobility	65	56	-13.8%
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	31	28	-9.7%
Perceived Availability of Drugs	20	21	5.0%
Perceived Availability of Handguns	32	36	12.5%
Poor Family Management	41	38	-7.3%
Family Conflict	36	35	-2.8%
Poor Academic Performance	46	43	-6.5%
Lack of Commitment to School	56	58	3.6%
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	38	33	-13.2%
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	32	28	-12.5%
Early Initiation of Drug Use	18	18	0.0%
Average	38	36	-5.3%
Florida Average	38	38	0.0%
National Average	45	45	0.0%

Gunshot-Related Hospital Admissions⁷⁰

Gunshot Related ER/Hospital Admissions (St. Lucie County)				
	ER Visits	ER Costs	Hospitalizations	Hospitalization Costs
2014	35	\$646,096	44	\$88,843,548
2017	50	\$864,785	34	\$7,550,559
FL Total 2014	2596	\$24,724,833	1909	\$236,978,310
FL Total 2017	3265	\$38,162,940	2131	\$338,594,930

Client Involvement in Criminal Justice System⁷¹

Client Involvement in Criminal Justice System	2017	2018	Adjusted Rate of Change
n	134	187	
Program youth involvement in criminal justice system	40	16	-60.5%
Program youth sentenced to juvenile commitment programs	7	8	14.7%
Program youth sentenced to adult jail/prison	45	19	-57.5%
Program youth sentenced to probation	95	84	-11.5%
Program youth who offended	13	6	-52.2%
Program youth who committed violent gun-related offenses	13	4	-68.2%
Program youth who committed non-violent gun offenses	71	34	-52.2%

⁷⁰ Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Emergency Department Data, 2014-2017.

⁷¹ Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), Participant Facesheet, 2012-2020.

Program youth who re-offend	10	2	-79.5%
Program youth who had a new arrest for a violent gun offense	10	2	-79.5%
Program youth who are victimized	35	52	49.0%
Program youth who experience a violent gun-related victimization	14	31	122.1%
Program youth who experience a non-violent gun-related victimization	8	18	115.0%
Program youth who are re-victimized	15	36	134.5%

St. Lucie County High School Graduation Rates⁷²

Graduation Rates	4-Year Adjusted Cohort Grade Rate
2014-2015	75.0%
2015-2016	86.8%
2016-2017	90.1%
2017-2018	92.0%
2018-2019	90.0%

Comprehensive Gang Model Strategies and Violent Crime Rates⁷³

Inputs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Community Mobilization	375	500	350	560	1000
Opportunities Provision	9	5	6	2	10
Social Intervention	195	272	134	83	133
Suppression	95	95	820	28	37
Organizational Change	9	10	27	70	320
Subtotal	683	882	1337	743	1500
Cumulative Strategies	683	1565	2902	3645	5145
St. Lucie	226.3	306.5	281.7	Not available	
Fort Pierce	1061.2	929.3	n/a		

⁷² 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates. Florida Department of Education; 2014-2015 through 2018-2019 Academic Years.

⁷³ IGNITE Youth Alliance/Apricot Essential Client Case Management System, 2012-2020. ²Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

Violent Crime Significance Calculations—St. Lucie County⁷⁴

Port St. Lucie

Year	Violent Crime	Name	Description	Value
2014	226.3	mu	average value of data before change	226.30
2015	306.5	xbar	average value of data since change	253.20
2016	281.7	s	standard deviation of data since change	47.55
2017	186	n	number of data points since change	39.20
2018	265.5	t	Student's T-Value	3.54
		p	probability that the change you're seeing is only due to chance	0.05%
Year	Homicide Rate	Name	Description	Value
2014	7.1	mu	average value of data before change	7.10
2015	4.9	xbar	average value of data since change	5.28
2016	4.4	s	standard deviation of data since change	1.24
2017	4.0	n	number of data points since change	7.10
2018	6.0	t	Student's T-Value	3.89
		p	probability that the change you're seeing is only due to chance	0.40%
Year	Assault	Name	Description	Value
2014	230.2	mu	average value of data before change	230.20
2015	210.6	xbar	average value of data since change	198.37
2016	198.4	s	standard deviation of data since change	25.06
2017	162.6	n	number of data points since change	40.20
2018	190.0	t	Student's T-Value	8.06
		p	probability that the change you're seeing is only due to chance	0.00%

⁷⁴ Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

Violent Crime Significance Calculations—Fort Pierce⁷⁵

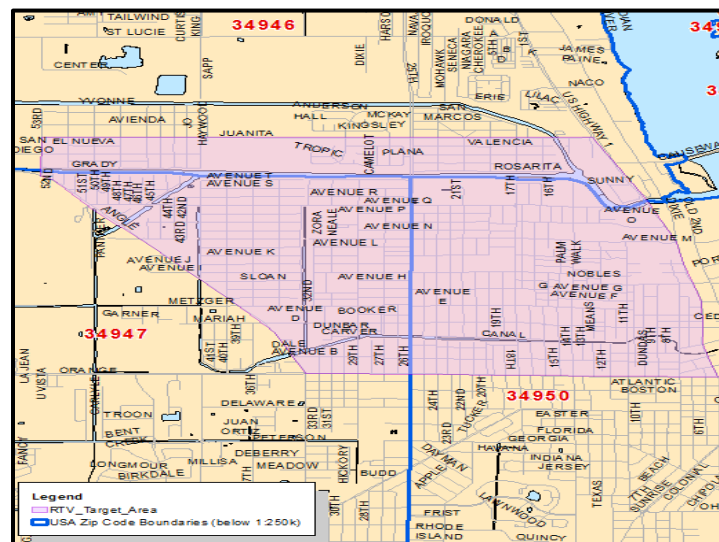
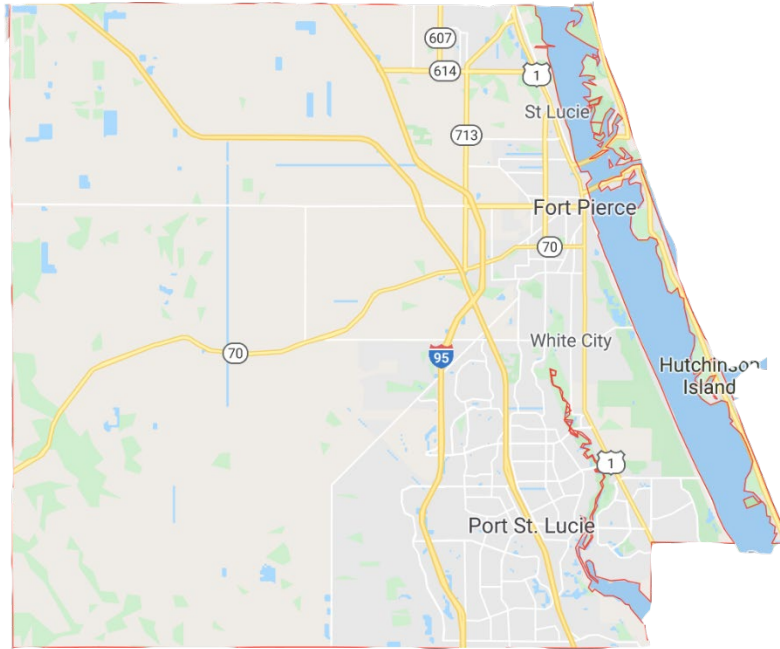
Fort Pierce

Year	Violent Crime	Name	Description	Value
2014	1061.2	mu	average value of data before change	1061.20
2015	929.3	xbar	average value of data since change	797.90
2016	705.0	s	standard deviation of data since change	189.04
2017	680.0	n	number of data points since change	447.20
2018	614.0	t	student's T-Value	29.45
		p	probability that the change you're seeing is only due to chance	0.00%
Year	Homicide Rate	Name	Description	Value
2014	27.7	mu	average value of data before change	27.68
2015	20.5	xbar	average value of data since change	19.26
2016	15.6	s	standard deviation of data since change	5.15
2017	17.5	n	number of data points since change	12.50
2018	15.2	t	student's T-Value	5.78
		p	probability that the change you're seeing is only due to chance	0.01%
Year	Assault	Name	Description	Value
2014	710.5	mu	average value of data before change	710.50
2015	556.7	xbar	average value of data since change	512.44
2016	462.0	s	standard deviation of data since change	124.86
2017	427.0	n	number of data points since change	304.50
2018	406.0	t	student's T-Value	27.68
		p	probability that the change you're seeing is only due to chance	0.00%

⁷⁵ Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1995-2016 [Computer program]. Tallahassee, FL: FDLE. Florida Statistical Analysis Center.

Appendix II: Target Geographical Area

The target area for the IGNITE Youth Alliance program during the period of 2014-2018 was the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Fort Pierce roughly corresponding with Census Tracts 3802 and 3804.⁷⁶



⁷⁶ Restoring the Village Youth Initiative, Comprehensive Gang Assessment: A Report from the Safe Neighborhoods Network and Lincoln Park Advisory Committee of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County; 2016.