National Institute of Justice

Presentation at the Annual Youth Violence Prevention Conference
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Director
April 7, 2016
Research Leader and Resource Agency

• **Multiple Constituents**

• Research Activities
  - Implementing congressional and Presidential priorities
  - Support of programmatic offices
  - Developing a cumulative body of knowledge
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Keeping Our Schools Safe</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessing internal and external threats</td>
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<td>Improving physical security</td>
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<td>Developing school emergency plans</td>
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<td>Creating a positive school climate</td>
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Implementing effective disciplinary policies
Providing access to behavioral and mental health services
Working with families, law enforcement and educators
Comprehensive School Safety Initiative

- Improve the safety of our nation’s schools and students
- Increase scientific knowledge about school violence
- Evaluate a wide range of school and student safety programs
- Develop and test a comprehensive school safety framework
$140 million invested in school safety research, data collection and evaluations

Focus:

• SRO training and effectiveness
• Mental health and trauma-informed response
• Exclusionary discipline and restorative justice
• Use of social media to prevent student violence
• Wraparound services or other comprehensive approaches

Comprehensive School Safety Initiative

• Rates the effectiveness of programs and practices in achieving criminal justice related outcomes
• Identifies what works, what doesn't, and what's promising in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services
• Features over 130 programs and practices related to school safety
Dr. Espelage - "Bullying, Sexual and Dating Violence Trajectories, from Early to Late Adolescence"

- Youth who bully in middle school are more likely to continue bullying and engage in dating violence in high school

Urban Institute has found **links between bullying, sexual harassment and teen dating violence** online and off

- 17% of students were cyberbullied by a peer
- 26% of dating students reported abuse online or through texts from their partners
Teen Dating Violence

Youth Risk Behavior Survey
• Approximately 1 in 5 female students and 1 in 10 male students reported being a victim of dating violence

National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence
• Over 60% experienced psychological abuse by their partner
Teen Dating Violence

• NIJ has invested **over $15 million in research** on abusive adolescent relationships

• Concept Systems, Inc. - “Teen Dating Relationships”
  - *Peer networks and high school environments* are major sources of influence on dating behaviors
  - Teens *can identify unhealthy dating behavior* in a friend’s relationship, but find it difficult to identify it in their own
**Teen Dating Violence**

![Age Curve for IPV Perpetration](image)

Teen Dating Violence

Dr. Cuevas - “Dating Violence Among Latino Adolescents (DAVILA) Study”

Factors in dating violence victimization

- Social support
- Hostility
- School connectedness
- Number of children in the household
Teen Dating Violence

Prevention Programs

**Center for Court Innovation**
- Fourth R: Strategies for Healthy Youth Relationship

**NORC**
- Shifting Boundaries Program
• A national survey from OJJDP & the CDC found that more than 60% of children were exposed to violence in the past year.

• 1 in 10 children have been exposed to multiple types of violence.
  - Increases the risk & severity of post traumatic injuries & mental health disorders by at least twofold & as much as tenfold.
Former Attorney General Holder created the **National Taskforce on Children Exposed to Violence**

- **Final report:**
  - The “predicted incremental cost of violence and abuse on the healthcare system alone ranges from $333 billion to $750 billion annually, or up to 37.5 cents for every dollar spent on healthcare.”
• Seeks to **prevent and understand the impact of trauma** resulting from children’s exposure to violence

• OJJDP awarded grants to six communities and two tribal nations to:
  – Implement evidence-based treatment programs
  – Develop community-based solutions for violence prevention
  – Revise system policies and practices to serve children and families
Defending Childhood Initiative

• NIJ supported the Center for Court Innovation to evaluate six of these projects.

• Overall themes:
  – Special needs of rural and tribal sites
  – Role of local politics as a barrier or a facilitator
  – Importance of multi-agency collaboration
  – Need for professional training in trauma-informed practices
  – Roles of universal versus targeted prevention.
  – Importance of screening and assessment, treatment and healing, case management and advocacy
Homicide is the second leading cause of death for American adolescents and young adults.

More than 700,000 young people are treated in emergency rooms each year for assault-related injuries.

NIJ partnered with the CDC to publish *Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership.*

- Brought together criminal justice and public health principles to halt the cascading impact of gangs on youth, families, neighborhoods.
Gang and Gun Violence

OJJDP supports the Community-based Violence Prevention Program in 16 sites across the country. Focuses on stopping youth gang and gun violence through evidence-based deterrence and public health approaches. Partnerships among law enforcement, service providers, residents, and community and faith-based organizations.
Most children and teens who engage in delinquent behavior do not continue to offend as adults. Transition to adulthood is a crossroads.
Justice-Involved Youth

• Drs. Schiraldi, Western & Bradner (2015)
  – Brain development continues well into a person’s 20s
  – Young adults have more psychosocial similarities to children than to older adults
  – Recommend **raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 21 years old** with gradually diminishing protections for young adults up to age 25
Justice-Involved Youth

• NIJ is completing a scan of programs, legislative changes, and initiatives that address the development of justice-involved young adults.

• Dr. Dudley – “Childhood Trauma and Its Effects: Implications for Police”
  – Repeated exposure to violence, abuse or neglect during childhood can have long-lasting effects that impair adolescent and young adult functioning
  – Implications for law enforcement and justice agencies
Justice-Involved Youth

• My Brother’s Keeper Initiative
  – Nearly **1 in 2 black men have been arrested** by the time they are 23

• National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention
  – A network of 15 communities and federal agencies
  – Work together to share information and **build local capacity around youth violence prevention**
  – In 2014, 9 out of 10 cities reported reductions in homicide and juvenile violent crime as well as nonfatal shootings
Justice-Involved Youth

• OJJDP and the Corporation for National and Community Service partnered to expand Youth Opportunity AmeriCorps grants to include at-risk and formerly incarcerated youth in national service projects.

• The Office for Victims of Crime has invested $14 million to improve responses to male survivors of violence, particularly boys and young men of color and their families.
  – NIJ is supporting evaluations of these demonstrations
Role of Federal Agencies

• Goal is to support state and local agencies working on early prevention and intervention
  – Ensure programs have access to funding and technical assistance

• The federal government can catalyze change, but local actors must lead on long-term sustainability
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