“Partnering with your Public Health Department “

August 2, 2011
2011 COPS Conference

Mallory O’Brien, PhD
Criminal Justice Model
Epidemiological Health Approach to Understanding Violent Injuries

Violent Injury Epidemiological Model

VICTIM

AGENT/VEHICLE

ENVIRONMENT
Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission
Developed In Collaboration with:
Milwaukee Police Department
Mayor’s Office
Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office

Initially Sponsored by:
Wisconsin Partnership Program
(University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health)
Project Safe Neighborhoods
Office of Justice Assistance
(Violence Against Women Act)
Department of Justice
Goals of the MHRC

• To better understand the nature of homicide through comprehensive information sharing

• To develop innovative responses

• To strategically focus limited enforcement and intervention activities on identifiable risks
Overview of the MHRC

- A multi-level, multi-agency homicide review process

- Focused on addressing Milwaukee’s ongoing problem with lethal violence

- Draws on both the criminal justice model of crime incident review and the public health model of death review
MHRC Structure

- **Criminal Justice Homicide Review**
  - Criminal justice professionals meet monthly to review prior month’s homicides

- **Criminal Justice Shooting Review**
  - Criminal justice professionals meet monthly to review prior month’s shootings (north side and south side reviews, focus on hotspot areas)

- **Non Fatal Shooting Reviews**
  - Criminal justice professionals meet monthly to review prior month’s shootings

- **DV Homicide Review**
  - Community service providers, DA’s, MPD meet bi-monthly to review cleared DV and IPV related homicides.
MHRC Structure

- **Community Service Provider Review**
  - Community service providers meet bi-monthly with criminal justice professionals to share information on homicides cleared by arrest

- **Community Meetings**
  - Community members invited to meet semi-annually for reports from reviews

- **Working Group and Executive Committee**
  - Criminal Justice and Social Service administrators participating in MHRC meet monthly to guide and monitor MHRC progress
Criminal Justice Review

- Attended by criminal justice professionals
- Develop a detailed, real-time description of homicide
- Develop innovative violence prevention responses
- Monthly review of previous months' homicides
  - Monthly reviews allow:
    - Tracking the performance of implemented responses, adjusting as necessary
    - Guiding the application of responses to particularly violent groups and violent areas
    - Communication between agencies
Criminal Justice Review

- Milwaukee Police Department
- City Attorney’s Office
- District Attorney’s Office
- Medical Examiner’s Office
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program
- Milwaukee Housing Authority
- Milwaukee Public Schools Public Safety Division
- Delinquency and Court Services Division
- FBI

- Office of the Chief Judge
- US Marshal Service
- WI Department of Corrections (Adult and Juvenile)
- US Attorney’s Office
- US Drug Enforcement Agency
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
- WI Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation
Criminal Justice Review

Victim
- Associates of the victim
- Is the victim part of a group of active offenders?
- What is the social history of victim?

Suspect(s) / offender(s)
- Associates of suspect(s) / offender(s)
- Is the suspect(s) part of a group of active offenders?
- What is the social history of the suspect?

Relationship between victim and suspect(s) / offender(s)

Location of the event (history of calls for service?)

Drug or gang involvement

Relationship to other crimes

Motive
MHRC Progress

• 2005 Homicides (3 Districts)
• 2006 Homicide and Shootings (3 Districts)
• 2006 DV Reviews (Citywide)
• 2007 Homicides and Shootings (4 Districts)
• 2008 Homicides and Shootings (Citywide)
• 2009 Homicides and Shootings (Citywide)
MHRC Recommendations

Strengthening Partnerships and Improving Information Sharing

Increasing Analytic Capacity

Improving Policies and Procedures

Identifying and Developing Homicide Reduction Strategies
Why does it work?

Promotes willingness to share information
Provides opportunity to network
Continuously building trust between agencies
Multi-agency collaboration
Draws on expertise from various disciplines
Value range of perspectives
Acted on recommendations – produced results
Drawing on expertise from various disciplines
Value range of perspectives
Consistent pressure to work together
Ability to provide timely data on violent crime
Based on data
Evaluation

• Formative
  – Document implementation of MHRC through observation and pre-midterm-post interviews with key informants

• Process
  – Document project progress; assess capacity of project to facilitate MPD’s and Milwaukee’s capacity to use strategic problem analysis techniques to reduce violent crime in the City

• Outcome
  – Assess any improvements in data quality resulting from MHRC process
  – Evaluate any changes in homicide and shooting rates occurring in treatment as compared to control districts in the City
Working towards the reduction of violence through innovative interagency collaboration

MPD Districts: Intervention (blue) and Control (grey)
Evaluation

- **Experimental Design**
  - Intervention and Control Districts
  - Intervention Districts
    - 52% decrease in the monthly count of homicide
  - Control Districts
    - 9.2% decrease in the monthly count of homicide
  - MHRC implementation associated with significant decline in homicides in treatment but not control districts
National Homicide Review Training 2011

August 16-17
September 20-21
October 18-19
November 15-16

(Training space is limited.)

Eligible participants include any urban jurisdiction in the U.S. with a demonstrated need and capability.

http://city.milwaukee.gov/hrc